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News

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Local Burmese show solidarity, split by misunderstanding



Phan believes "now is the time for change in Burma."

JAMES JANZEN
BEAT REPORTER

As street protests in Burma led by tens of thousands of Buddhist monks were violently suppressed late last month, Burmese nationals in Winnipeg and the world over have been showing solidarity with their families and countrymen back home. However, misunderstandings within the local Burmese community may have hampered the recent actions.

"Now is the time for change in Burma... We want peace, freedom, and self-determination," says Slone Phan, an ethnic Karen-Burmese who spent nine years in a refugee camp in Thailand before being sponsored by the World University Service of Canada to study at the University of Manitoba. Phan now works for the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, an organization which helps refugees settle into the province, striving to promote a sense of community between refugee Burmese families in the Prairies.

"We need to use our freedom in Canada to raise awareness about human rights abuses [in Burma]," says Phan, emphasizing Burmese refugees in Canada have the educational opportunity to "liberate our people from tyranny."

In Burma last month, protests against decades of military rule and an exorbitant increase in fuel prices grew in size for several days as more Burmese citizens joined the marching monks last month. The government launched a crackdown that saw tens of thousands imprisoned and at least nine people dead, although the death toll is thought to be much higher. The streets of Burmese cities have been empty since the crackdown for fear of further hostility.

The protests echo similar events in 1988 where

over 3,000 protestors were killed by government troops.

International response has been considerable. A special UN envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, visited the country after the crackdown, meeting with military leaders and the pro-democracy opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. The United States, European Union, China and other Southeast Asian countries have vocally discouraged any use of violence against the protestors.

Yet there is a concern among some local Burmese that the responses of a Winnipeg Burmese activist group are insincere due to their lack of refugee status. This concern may have led to a low turnout at a rally held at Memorial Park at the beginning of October (see sidebar).

According to Phan, only five of the 95 ethnic Karen-Burmese refugees in Manitoba attended the rally. Phan emphasizes the importance of recognizing the different ethnic communities within Burma and their unity against the junta. This pluralism, he says, exists not only within Burmese borders but also among refugees around the world.

"We believe the unity of all Burmese and all ethnic people is the key to success," says Aung Tun, spokesperson for New Generation of Activism for Burma and a student at the University of Winnipeg. Tun, who has family in Burma, helped plan the Memorial Park rally and spoke at a recent Amnesty International information meeting. He is studying at the university on a student visa and is not a refugee.

Tun regrets that anyone may think their movement is not legitimate because they are not refugees and claims he does not wish to steal any thunder from others who have fled the totalitarian state as refugees. All local Burmese residents were formally invited to the rally, Tun insists, adding he is eager to participate in any peaceful movement that any local Burmese groups initiate.

"We have a responsibility as Burmese citizens. Anyone can do a peaceful demonstration regardless of their background," he says.

Tun and Phan agree that change is a step by step process, requiring both actions by activists within Burma and pressure from the international community.

Phan believes the political crisis in the country needs to be solved first, while solutions to economic and social problems will follow.

"We've got a long way to go," he says.

The NGAB's goals include emphasizing the Burmese issue in the face of the provincial and federal governments, increasing popular awareness, and showing support for people inside Burma. For further information on local activist events, contact Aung Tun at aung.conar@gmail.com.

Local Burmese community organizes protest to condemn attacks on peaceful protesters

COLIN WOLFE

The Winnipeg Burmese community held a demonstration to condemn the oppressive Burmese military junta on Oct 2. Yet the event's planning was fraught with arguments between ethnic factions.

Organizers worked with local students, refugees and non-refugees alike, and Burmese community members throughout the inner-city to stage the demonstration, which was correlated with events in other Canadian cities.

Between 35 and 40 people of mixed background and several saffron-robed Buddhist monks of Lao descent were in attendance in support of the thousands of monks beaten, imprisoned or killed during the crackdowns.

Demonstrators made several rounds of Memorial Park with a megaphone and placards reading "Canada: Do Something!" "Maxine Bernier Please Stand Up" and "Stop the Killing." Many participants expressed concern over Canada's unwillingness to engage the junta and its supporters in the region, while others emphasized the need for international cooperation to aid Burma's transition into democracy.

The event ended with a candlelit vigil, several impromptu speakers in several languages and media interviews.

The difficulties of mobilizing a community divided by ethnic tensions and strong political beliefs were made apparent during a planning meeting at a residence in the Spence neighbourhood. Issues such as the safety of participation were hotly contested, as many Burmese in Winnipeg have experienced firsthand government reprisals for political participation.

The question of China's relationship with the junta ignited a vigorous debate during the meeting, as many participants expressed emphatic disagreement with each other.

Practicalities and planning of the demonstration led to further divisions concerning the choice of wording for the placards, religious connotation, and choice of spokespersons. One recently arrived Burmese man of Karen ethnicity expressed his frustration, joking that he hated how demonstrations can get so political.

After the demonstration, a woman of Burman ethnicity commented that despite all the barriers, the community successfully mobilized in a common voice, a feat that she described as a victory in itself.

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Universities pressure for more funds; may end tuition freeze

CAMERON MACLEAN
BEAT REPORTER

The University of Winnipeg has approached the provincial government with a request for greater funding to meet rising operational costs and pay for new initiatives, a move that could jeopardize the continuation of the tuition freeze.

In their annual submission to the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE), the university requested an increase of \$8.4 million to their provincial operating grant. This money would cover general operating expenses, including salaries, utilities, maintenance and renovations.

"The costs of operating the university have increased at a rate higher than our revenues that are coming in," says Bill Balan, vice-president of finance and administration.

In addition to an increased operating grant, the U of W also requested funding for several new

initiatives. A request for \$6 million was submitted to help pay for new animal labs and greenhouses, as well as to upgrade and retrofit existing labs. They also requested funding for new security proposals, and to help pay for four new graduate programs. COPSE has already approved funding for the MA in aboriginal self-governance, but the university wants funding for all four in order to start them next fall.

Both the University of Manitoba and Brandon University have also requested increases to their operating grants, \$25.4 million and \$2.6 million respectively. They say these increases are necessary in order to avoid cutting jobs and scaling back programs next fall if the government's tuition freeze continues.

Although he supports increased government funding to universities, UWSA president David Jacks questions the wisdom of requesting so much additional funding at one time. With so many capital projects such like the Duckworth expansion coinciding with additional proposals for many new initiatives, Jacks is concerned over where the uni-

versity's priorities lie.

The UWSA made its own presentation to COPSE Friday.

"We are looking to present to COPSE that the university does have enough money, it's just a matter of where the students feel the priorities should be," Jacks says.

However, according to Balan, funding for all previous capital projects came through personal donations and grants from the provincial and municipal governments, unrelated to the operating grant.

"They had nothing to do with it," he says.

When asked if the U of W would consider cutting jobs in programs if their request for funding is refused, Balan replied that it was too early to say.

"That would be the last option we would consider," he says.

Last year, the provincial government increased funding to the U of W by 7 per cent, a figure Advanced Education Minister Dianne McGifford calls generous for last year.

"But I'm not surprised they would be asking for additional funds this year," she says.

These requests for greater funding come just weeks after U of M President Evoke Szathmary called on the province to lift the tuition freeze in an interview with the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

Szathmary says the tuition freeze must be lifted if universities are to maintain quality of education and remain competitive, arguing it is "not a sustainable policy."

As long as it gets the funding it has requested, the U of W does not care whether the money comes through government grants, tuition increases, or some combination of the two, according to communications director Dan Hurley.

"It's a decision government has to make, how they want to proceed with funding our request," he said.

McGifford would not comment on the future of the tuition freeze in this province, because the government is just entering into the budgetary process for next year.

Provincial legislation makes a difference in single parents' lives

JENETTE MARTENS
BEAT REPORTER

Manitoba is taking another step toward helping single parents get accurate child support payments. Changes will be made to the Family Maintenance Act that will make it easier for Manitoba child support recalculation services to update support payments.

Diana Rozos, the director of the UWSA daycare, explained that though many of the daycare's single parents have their fees subsidized by the government, support payments from the other parent are still an important part of their lives.

"I think probably the consistency of [the support payments] is most important," says Rozos. She explains that parents need to be able to budget for payments, knowing they will arrive at a certain time every month.

Once the changes to the Family Maintenance Act are passed, the amount of time that passes between the start of the recalculation process and the update of changes to child support payments will diminish. That means if a paying parent's income rises, the recipient parent will not have to wait as long for their support payments to go up as well, removing the advantage for the paying parent in delaying court procedures. As court procedures can run on for years, this is an important change.

Thirty-four per cent of parents with children at the UWSA daycare are single, and 46 per cent are considered to be low-income families, according to statistics taken in February. Child support



Diana Rozos: Consistency in child support payments will allow parents to improve budgeting of their finances.

payments are an essential part of their lives.

"For me [support payments] aren't important, but for providing for my family they are essential," says Tracy Jankovics, a Manitoba single mother.

Jankovics describes support payments as "the meat and potatoes of the kids." She stresses

the importance of speed in settling disputes and getting the payments back on track.

This is especially true in cases where a parent has stayed at home for a number of years to look after the children and does not have many marketable skills.

"Not being guaranteed that you're going to

see a child support payment from your partner is a huge stress," says Sarah Amyot, general coordinator for the UWSA.

The changes to the legislation also deal with cross-border cases in which the co-parent resides outside of Manitoba, both in helping locate missing partners and also in enforcing obligations.

However, in cross-border cases the government still cannot look into a paying parent's financial records and automatically adjust their support payments to match their income. As of yet, that service is only available if both parents live in Manitoba.

"The changes that are being made are not big new initiatives, they are more fine-tuning programs that are already in existence," says Colette Chelack, the Crown Council with the family law branch of Manitoba Justice.

Manitoba is already working very diligently on ensuring that child support is addressed. The province is considered a national leader on the issue of child support, and it is the first province to give such an encompassing and complete service.

However, there is still more to do in terms of providing for single parents.

"In my opinion, what I see as important is affordable and accessible child care," says Rozos when asked what single parents need most in Manitoba. "There's not enough child care spaces so there're long wait lists."

She suggests the government needs to give more subsidies and more operating grants to help single parents give themselves and their children a better quality of life.

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STREETEER BY KIRAN DHILLON

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF SINGLE PARENTS IN THE PROVINCE AND WHAT CAN THE GOVERNMENT DO TO SUPPORT THEM?

Mike Larson, 3rd year Kinesiology
Single parents need income, mental and emotional support. The government should provide cheap daycare services so single parents can work.

Cody Brasky, 3rd Year Criminal Justice
The government shouldn't help single parents out. What they are already doing is enough. Parents should take responsibility for their own children.

Glenn Hollyoake, 1st Year Administrative Studies
The needs of single parents are affordable housing, childcare and daycare. Daycare should be provided by the government so that single parents can go to work. The government should also put some initiatives in place to train single parents to ameliorate their standards.

Lauren Vnette, 2nd Year Education
Single parents need financial support and assistance with day care. You can't work and take care of your kids at the same time. Daycare is really expensive, especially for a parent with multiple children so the government should help subsidize.

Andy Franczyk, 2nd Year Kinesiology
Single parents need money and a support system from the government. Payments like welfare checks ever month would be great. Free daycare that is funded by the government while the parents are at work would be ideal. On a lighter note, the government should help single parents find partners.

Hayley Grunsten, 4th Year Honours Psychology
Single parents need social support and people around them to help them out. Financial support from the government would be great because there is only one income coming in and some parents would prefer to stay at home with their kids. They also need daycare assistance if the parents want to work.

Local News Briefs

Compiled by Alex Garcia,
Cameron MacLean, Kiran Dhillon



UNIVERSITY TO FINANCE HPV VACCINATIONS

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association has followed its University of Manitoba counterpart in covering the HPV vaccinations under their health plan.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, the Human Papilloma Virus is the leading cause of cervical cancer and an increasing threat among young women. However thanks to preventative treatment now covered under the UWSA health plan, women and girls from the ages of nine to 26 can be vaccinated in hopes of stopping an estimated 70 per cent of HPV types.

While the vaccines will not be fully paid for, UWSA's insurance agency Greenshield has agreed to cover 80 per cent of the costs, says UWSA health plan coordinator Matt Gagne. The vaccines are done in three rounds, with each costing an estimated \$150. With the UWSA coverage, the patient will only pay approximately \$100.

While this treatment is being widely accepted for its benefits in the fight against cancer, health advisors still say the best way to prevent these types of infections is by getting regular pap smears.

Provinces across the country have implemented the vaccine in their provincial health plans but Manitoba has yet to follow.

EXPENSIVE LOONIE BRINGS CHEAPER BOOKS

As the value of the Canadian dollar continues to rise, students will enjoy lower prices on textbooks.

According to Maura Champagne, manager of Beyond Words bookstore, the average textbook price has dropped \$6 over the past year as a result of the soaring loonie.

Champagne does not expect Beyond Words will experience lost profits due to its smaller size and lower operating costs.

But students won't see the lower costs of books reflected on the shelves yet, as they are purchased far in advance and prices reflect the exchange rate at the time of the transaction. However, as more recent purchases find their way onto the shelves, students should expect to enjoy cheaper books.

The University of Manitoba Bookstore is also planning to lower its prices to reflect the current exchange rate.

PROVINCE PAVES THE WAY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The Manitoba Government is taking steps toward a greener province with the introduction of two innovative legislations.

The first proposed legislation will make official previous government policy guaranteeing the purchase of clothing and apparel strictly from legitimate producers in all provincial departments.

The legislation is hoping to eliminate child labour and employment discrimination, in addition to upholding local employment standards.

If passed, this legislation will be the first of its kind in Canada.

The second legislation, *The Organic Agricultural Products Act*, will control the production of organic foods within the province and put in place specific standards for foods with the organic trademark. The act will follow the standards and administrative procedures outlined in the federal *Organic Products Regulations*.

The legislation is meant to secure buyers' confidence in the production of their organic foods. The act will regulate produce, organic livestock feed and aquaculture products.

Manitoba is joining Quebec and British Columbia in monitoring the responsible production of organic foods.

City's panhandling by-law up for court challenge

DAN HUYGHEBAERT
BEAT REPORTER

Mayor Sam Katz's controversial panhandling by-law is meeting a court challenge by the National Anti-Poverty Organization, which is arguing that the law infringes on panhandlers' human rights. NAPO is challenging the "captive audience" component of the by-law, which prohibits panhandling in areas such as bus stops, ATMs, and parked cars. NAPO is claiming the by-law infringes on panhandlers' freedom of expression, liberty and equality as guaranteed by the Charter of Rights. If the challenge is successful, the by-law would still prohibit aggressive, repetitive and obstructive panhandling as well as panhandling in groups.

Tom Carter, Canada research chair in urban change and adaptation, has been asked to be an expert witness at the proceedings by the Public Interest Law Center.

"(Katz) is reacting to a public perception,"

Carter says. While there are some aggressive panhandlers, he says, most are gentle and quiet.

"The vast majority of them are quite passive," says Carter, who is also a member of the geography department at the University of Winnipeg.

Carter notes there is a public perception that panhandlers spend all of their money on drugs and alcohol. In a media release designed to show off the city's 2006 strategy on panhandling, Sam Katz reinforced this perception of substance abuse.

The original Change for the Better program was infamous for its "Feed My Addiction" ad campaign, claiming that 7 out of 10 panhandlers use their money to buy drugs, alcohol or cigarettes.

"I think it was an unfortunate choice of terms," Carter says, adding that his research shows a very different story. While some panhandlers readily admit to buying drugs and alcohol with their money, most of the money panhandlers receive goes to food and housing.

"A lot of the public have a perception of panhandlers that's very misleading," Carter says.

The city's 2006 strategy on panhandling

included an awareness campaign for the Change for the Better program. Money donated to that program goes toward six city social services, including Siloam Mission and the Salvation Army. Katz's argument was to help panhandlers in a "constructive, compassionate manner." While Carter calls this a noble approach, he argues that it sometimes doesn't address the needs of the panhandlers unless they feel comfortable accessing these services. He cites some panhandlers who say they felt threatened at the services.

While Carter is adamant that by-laws do not stop panhandling, he also points out that the public has the right to be protected. "No one should have to put up with an aggressive panhandler," he says, adding that this can be handled through the Criminal Code. "The public has a certain right to protection."

There are people who avoid certain areas of downtown for fear of being approached by panhandlers, which is a concern for businesspeople. Carter thinks that while the business community has some justification for worry, the problem is not an easy one to solve. He states that there is no evidence to suggest that legislation solves the problem on a long term basis.

"It's sweeping the problems under the carpet."

International law expert weighs in on Canada's role in Afghanistan

SANDY KLOWAK

The Conservative Government's expected announcement to prolong Canada's Afghanistan mission past February 2009 was at the centre of clashing opinions nation-wide as a new parliamentary session opened Tuesday.

Dr. Michael Byers, who spoke in Winnipeg on Oct. 4, calls the mission "a fool's errand."

Byers is an international law expert and prominent critic of Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan. In his lecture, hosted by Peace Alliance Winnipeg, Byers advocated for the removal of Canadian troops from their role in Kandahar, where they are currently involved in an increasingly bloody counter-insurgency mission against the Taliban.

Byers refutes the argument that a presence in Kandahar is improving the Afghan quality of life, quoting statistics including a life expectancy of less than 45 years, Kabul's lack of reliable electricity, and Afghan women's increasing risk of rape.

He also believes we may in fact be inspiring terrorist plots on our own country with our presence.

"The Afghan people are not distinguishing between American and Canadian soldiers anymore," says Byers.

Financially, the mission carries huge costs. Byers believes the billions spent "could be used to do good elsewhere."

Approximately 2,500 Canadian troops are currently deployed to Afghanistan, the majority of who are serving in Kandahar. Seventy-one lives have been lost since 2002, while more than 20 NATO countries have refused to deploy to Afghanistan's volatile south.

Byers believes rotating out of Kandahar would free up troops to participate in other missions such as Darfur, as Canada's recent involvement with UN peacekeeping missions has been abysmally low. According to Byers, this jeopardizes the country's international reputation as a "soft power," and citizens' sense of identity as a fair and peace-loving nation.

Canada is a country "that doesn't believe that democracy and freedom comes at the point of a gun," says Byers.

Canada's continuing role in Afghanistan is one of the key issues that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will address this parliamentary session. Based on the Opposition's reaction, this issue may even prompt a new election, as the Liberal and NDP strongly advocate for the removal of Canada's troops.

Byers suggests that Harper's stance on

Afghanistan revolves more around maintaining political credibility than on our "moral obligation," as Harper was quoted saying in a recent *Winnipeg Free Press* article by Andrew Mayeda and Mike Blanchfield. Byers believes Canada needs to assert its ability to make independent decisions on how to deploy troops, rather than blindly following the U.S.'s lead.

"You can't have a moral responsibility to persist in a mission that is destined to fail," he says.

Byers is not alone in his critique. After the talk, several vocal attendees stood up and advocated for an even stronger push to end Canada's Afghan mission. They accused Byers of being a moderate.

"If we're an independent country, we should simply bring the troops home and say we want no part of this," said one participant. "This is wrong, this is immoral, we're taking our people out."

Elsewhere in the country debates have been raging over the issue of a "Support Our Troops" decal used in an official capacity. Ottawa voted last month to place these yellow stickers on all city vehicles. In July, Calgary voted against using the decals, which were a point of contention in at least one other major Canadian city, inciting debates over whether or not "Support Our Troops" is synonymous with "Support the War."

Byers is adamant that one can strongly support our soldiers while also advocating for an end to a Canadian combat role in Afghanistan. As discussed after his lecture, perhaps the best way to support our troops is to get them out of harm's way as soon as possible.

U of M support workers on strike; all U of W unionized employees in negotiations

STACY CARDIGAN SMITH
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Although support workers are striking at the University of Manitoba, faculty put many students at ease Monday when they elected not to walk the line.

Food services, custodial, trades, and maintenance workers from the Canadian Auto Workers union went on strike at U of M last Wednesday. About 480 workers are represented by the CAW. Issues of concern include sick days, seniority rights and job postings, as well as wages, states the CAW website.

At the U of W, no union strikes have ever occurred. Yet all of the university's existing unions are either currently negotiating, or will be starting talks soon.

Over at the University of Manitoba on Monday, CAW union members were picketing peacefully, choosing not to block campus access. But they warned that their demonstrations could

become more aggressive. Students have been given the choice not to cross the picket line, but are responsible for all class material, states a U of M press release.

The U of M Faculty Association, along with the U of M students' union and members of CUPE Local 3909, has shown its support at the picket line.

The University of Manitoba Students' Union held information sessions and set up a Facebook site to educate students about the situation.

Food services are reduced as a result of the strike. U of M administration has promised to keep washrooms clean and is cooking for students in residence, with mixed reviews.

If U of M faculty members and administration had not come to an agreement, strike action would have started today (Thursday).

At the University of Winnipeg, not all employees are unionized. The U of W's maintenance and trade workers are members of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUEO) Local 987.

IUEO, which represents about 25 members at U of W, is presently getting ready for negotia-

tions with the university, says IUEO Local 987 business representative Michael Alberg. Alberg reports negotiations between the two parties generally go smoothly, and there has never been a strike.

"It's never really a contentious issue," he says.

He expects the parties will meet in the next month.

U of W faculty has never taken strike action, says University of Winnipeg Faculty Association president Kristine Hansen.

UWFA has been in negotiations with the university since last spring; however, they have an agreement stating the contract remains in place until a new one is drawn up.

As to when the new contract will be in place or whether faculty will strike, Hansen says that is a "question no one could answer in the middle of negotiations."

The U of W's nearly 400 support staff is represented by the Association of Employees Supporting Education Services (AESES).

AESES has been in negotiations since spring, says AESES contract administrator Barry Barske.

Government legislation seeks to ease immigrants' employment woes

CAMERON MACLEAN
BEAT REPORTER

Immigrants entering Canada encounter numerous challenges and barriers that limit opportunities and prevent them from fully participating in Canadian society.

To address these difficulties the provincial government introduced legislation that would make it easier for immigrant professionals to become certified in Manitoba.

"The people who come here today seem to expect a more easier life," says Theo Ogidan. Ogidan is the president of the Central Park Residents Association, which works with many of the African immigrants living in the area.

Language barriers, poverty, and the difficulty of adjusting to a new culture are just a few of the obstacles that immigrants are forced to overcome.

Yet one of the most frustrating barriers faced by immigrants is the lack of recognition of foreign credentials.

While many immigrants hold degrees and certificates from their home countries, many are not accepted by Canadian regulators. This results in many well-educated individuals forced to either accept work outside their chosen field, or go through the long and tedious process of upgrading their credentials.

Ali Saeed manages the 7-16 Store at Sergeant and Spence, and is the head of the Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg. He arrived in Winnipeg in 1984 after fleeing political persecution in his native Ethiopia where he worked as a textile designer.

Upon arrival Saeed discovered he was unable to work in his previous profession. Fortunately, the then-NDP provincial government under Howard Pawley had established the Core-Area Training and Employment Agency, through which Saeed received training in human development. This led him to a position working with individuals with special needs.

Yet new immigrants like Astewa Barat arrived

to find those programs cancelled. After Pawley's government fell in 1988, funding to the agency was cut.

Since then, successive cuts in government funding to employment development organizations have reduced the capacity of these organizations to help immigrants like Saeed, says Joan Hay,

former director of House of Opportunities. HoO is a Spence neighbourhood employment development agency.

"I think there's more of a need than they can provide for," she says.

Like Saeed, Barat fled political persecution in Ethiopia for Canada. Back home he held a degree in sociology and social anthropology and worked as a social worker.

But since arriving in Canada in June, Barat has been unable to work in his chosen profession due to his refugee claimant status. As a result, he has had to accept low-paying jobs outside his field.

"The lack of support and encouragement from the government, this is the main problem as an immigrant," says Saeed.

The newly stated Fair Registration Practices Act seeks to amend that situation. The act sets out a code of practice for the recognition and acceptance of international qualifications. It also establishes a commissioner who advises regulatory bodies and



While Saeed was unable to find employment in his official field, the Fair Registration Practices Act will make it easier for new immigrants to have their credentials recognized.

enforces compliance with the act.

For Saeed and Ogidan, the act represents a step in the right direction.

"It's better than nothing," says Saeed. "It doesn't mean it would be 100 per cent [better], but for me, I would like to see that commissioner."

Ogidan says he nonetheless tries to impress upon his clients the importance education as a means of improving their conditions.

"You cannot get ahead in this country without really bending down to see what works here," he says.

Unfortunately, according to Saeed, it can be very difficult for immigrants to get an education due to the generally poor conditions that many immigrants live in, as well as the linguistic and cultural barriers.

However, although it is difficult, Barat says he has no choice but to go through these processes.

"If I do not learn, I will remain working in lower jobs," he says.

Waste Reduction Week gives students a shot at learning sustainability

CONRAD SWEATMAN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

The compost deposits implemented in university cafeterias this summer have yet to collect any useable compost as they are getting filled with inorganic materials. The university's environmental groups are combining efforts to spread the word about proper composting procedures, just in time for Waste Reduction Week.

Kisti Thomas, the environmental ethics director for the UWSA, suggests that students in many cases lack the education to practice sustainability. She feels that practicing sustainability is actually quite simple, and "easier at times because it costs less money."

The university had compost deposits installed in its cafeterias in August. Members of ECOMafia claim that when the system is used properly, the amount of waste that goes from this university to the landfill could decrease by almost 50 per cent.

Yet students are failing to make use out of the university's new composting bins. While food and liquid waste such as meat, produce and coffee can be deposited in the bins, products made out of plastics and styrofoam like wrappers, chip bags, and disposable dinner-wear cannot be composted. The mixing of organic and non-renewable compost in a single bin contaminates the bin's entire content, rendering it non-compostable.

To get the system running, members of SUNSET, EcoMAFIA and Campus Sustainability have been approaching students in the buffeteria over lunch hours to inform them how to divide up their food into the appropriate deposits.

In addition to not composting, many people at the university are not recycling. Having seen what

was left over from last year's waste audit, Thomas reports the amount of plastic single-use water bottles and disposable drink cups was "astounding." Beyond the sheer quantity of these products, Thomas was surprised that they mostly ended up in the garbage despite being recyclable.

To drive the point further home, Resource Conservation Manitoba along with ECOMafia and Campus Sustainability hosted a composting workshop Wednesday. The workshop was one of many events happening Oct 15-21 in connection with Waste Reduction Week.

According to the RCM website, Waste Reduction Week is "a national event that promotes waste reduction and resource conservation for communities, businesses, and schools."

The week's events are organized by businesses, schools, and communities, and include clothing drives for non-profit organizations, neighbourhood clean-ups, classroom presentations and film screenings. The RCM website states there will be a number of volunteer "enviro-spies" at the events, attempting to catch unsuspecting people practicing "green acts" like taking the bus, recycling, and using reusable coffee cups.

"Waste reduction week is important because it gets people thinking about their waste, what happens to it, and how it can be reduced or reused," says Thomas.

Thomas believes university students can



Students' lack of knowledge about composting turned the deposits' entire content inoperable / taken by Natasha Peterson

greatly increase their sustainability. Not only can students eating at the university use the compost, but Thomas believes they should also buy biodegradable plates and cups, or use plastic containers and bring lunches from home.

RCM also suggests tips for sustainability that Manitobans can practice, such as leaving cars at home, turning down the thermostat, composting, and the basics: reducing, reusing and recycling. RCM claims that nearly two-thirds of our household waste can be composted.

Students wanting to learn more on sustainability can contact SUNSET, EcoMAFIA, or Campus Sustainability. More information about Resource Conservation Week can be found at www.resourceconservation.mb.ca.

International News Briefs

Compiled by Brooke Dmytriv

GPHONE COULD BOOT IPHONE

SAN FRANCISCO, California: Internet giant Google is developing a mobile phone that the company hopes to launch in 2008.

The Gphone could be competition for the recently launched Apple iPhone.

Google has been quite open about its plans to enter the mobile phone industry. Google believes cellular phones should be free to consumers, allowing profits to be made through advertising and carriers do not have a lock on users.

According to *Fortune*, the launch of a Gphone would see the company's share exceed the \$700 per stock mark.

Potentially preparing for Gphone, Google recently purchased Jaiku, a Finnish firm that creates blogging software for mobile phones.

During the last few years, Google has expanded its services by establishing Gmail, video, mapping and search applications for phones.

POPE DISAPPROVES OF SOUTH KOREA'S USE OF HUMAN EMBRYOS IN RESEARCH

VATICAN CITY, Europe: Pope Benedict XVI appealed to South Korea to reject its resumption of stem cell research.

The Pope did praise the country's "notable successes in scientific research and development," as reported in the *Associated Press*, saying that their research should be continued within an ethical frame and with respect for human life.

The *Associated Press* reported Benedict XVI did go on, praising South Korea's rejection of human cloning, but elaborated that the use of human embryos in research goes against the intent of scientists, politicians and health care officials to promote human welfare.

In September, South Korea resumed its studies on stem cell development through human embryonic cloning. The program was halted after the discovery that the research of leading scientist Hwang Woo-suk was falsified.

KENYAN WASTE DUMP POISONING LOCAL CHILDREN, UN STUDY FOUND

NAIROBI, Kenya: A study ordered by the UN Environmental Program found one of Africa's largest waste dumps is polluting the Kenyan capital. In addition to the pollution, the study found the dump is damaging the health of children living in the vicinity.

Located near the slums of Nairobi, the dump receives 2,000 tons of waste daily.

Al *Jazeera* reported that 328 children examined near the Dandora dump were found to have alarming amounts of lead in their bloodstreams. Additionally, they were diagnosed with respiratory problems including chronic bronchitis, asthma and walking pneumonia.

Dandora is seen as a steady source of income for residents living around it. Kenyan children frequent the dump to collect waste to resell or re-use.

The World Health Organization reports approximately 4.7 million children die annually from environmentally related illnesses, similar to those found at Dandora.

Comments

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The power and pitfalls of “citizen journalism”

JULIENNE ISAACS
(WITH SIMON CHARLES)

“I wanted to have contact with people and now I am related to the entire world.”

These are the words of one of the world’s oldest—and most famous—bloggers, 95-year-old María Amelia López.

Twenty years ago the term “blogging” didn’t exist. Today, Technorati (a website that organizes various forms of citizen media such as blogs, photos or videos) reports that over 175,000 new blogs are launched daily. People are talking across borders, across social and political lines, in an entirely new way. The political economy of the world is shifting.

But not everyone likes it.

“For everyone to have a voice, in the most unpropitious circumstances, is the fulfillment of a dream. Yet the democracy of the web is in danger of becoming a cacophonous nightmare. For every carefully crafted, thoughtful expression of opinion, there are a score of half-baked rants: ignorant, bilious, semi-literate and depressing...” So wrote the *Observer’s* Robert McCrum this September.

McCrumb does have a point—to celebrate the blogosphere is to condone freedom of speech across the board, no matter how that freedom is used by individuals. But whether or not every blogger subscribes to McCrum’s preferred sentence structure or qualifies for his definition of “thoughtful expression,” millions of bloggers are “picking up the pen” every day with a better understanding of what democracy means. For them, democ-

cracy means the ability to express personal views sans censorship, in a virtual space.

There are few rules on the web. Two weeks ago, Burmese bloggers and dissidents used the Internet to leak real-time information to the outside world until Internet access was shut down entirely by the state. Lately, journalists are discovering the cracks in China’s “Great Firewall”: the government has been unable to completely monitor Internet users. And despite increased Internet censorship in countries like Iran, more and more people each year are blogging to vent creative and political ideas. When a country’s only media are state-run, blogs provide an arena for “citizen journalism,” where alternative voices to official party lines spit and simmer under the public surface.

Iran is a hotbed of active blogs. Impressively, Persian (Farsi) is the second-most common language of the blogosphere after English, tied only with French. Iranian youth connect online in ways that prove impossible in the country’s hard-line fundamentalist environment. They blog about politics, or to meet people of the opposite sex, or to speak out about what they see happening in the streets of their cities. Blogging is becoming so common in Iran that the *mullahs*, Iran’s religious leaders, have begun training bloggers in the Holy City of Qom, in an effort to keep the balance of voices in Iran from shifting too far from their agenda.

“Think of it this way,” Iranian blogger Arash Kamangir advised me in an interview last week. “Canadians use Facebook to talk about weddings. In Iran, people blog about

public executions.”

Kamangir’s blog is prominent in the Iranian blogosphere. Besides updating frequently on his English site, Kamangir writes a Persian weblog and runs a photoblog. Almost all of his postings have political or cultural salience, and his growing readership (currently 2,000-3,000 hits daily) attests to the relevance of his favorite subject—Ahmadinejad and his totalitarian regime.

But Kamangir’s blog is not simply about political self-expression, he says; it also allows him to connect with people of diverse beliefs and backgrounds, and learn their perspectives. Through his blog, Kamangir has formed connections with people all over the world.

Networking in itself is crucial for any political or social organization; blogging, specifically, is a fledgling tool for activists seeking to gain support across borders. In early October, a network of Iranian bloggers, including Kamangir and Hamid Tehrani of Global Voices Online, posted urgent messages about a news item Kamangir discovered in the Iranian state-run paper *Qods*. The daily reported that a mother of three had been sentenced to stoning, on the charges of “having sex with another person”—based on taped evidence. Kamangir immediately posted a cry for action on his blog, which has been swiftly taken up by the blogging community. One blogger notified the UN; others posted links about subsequent news coverage.

It is doubtful that increase in publicity will change the woman’s sentence; even Kamangir knows that bloggers have limited influence.

But the point is that governments cannot get away with murder any longer, or at least not with total impunity. Bloggers with ears tuned carefully to political discordances in their home countries can work as “citizen journalists” and get the word out. And once the word is out anything can happen. People can organize. Or they can simply listen to each other.

As catalysts for communication, blogs are powerful. From the level of the everyday to the extremely political, blogs communicate unedited, or self-edited, perspectives on reality. A vibrant, thrilling sort of potential thrives in the absence of censorship. It would be foolish to claim that everything online is worthwhile—McCrumb is at least partially correct when he says that “spontaneity is a virtue, but so is mature reflection.” Some things are said on the Internet, which should never be said precisely because there is so much freedom to speak. Like every freedom, the freedom of speech can be abused.

But it’s got to be worth it. “Democracy... carries the price of permitting the wise and the foolish their say,” argues rhetorician Gerard Hauser. There will always be people willing to slam walls down between cultures, between nations, stopping the flow of conversation and alienating us from each other. But in communication, we have the seeds of mutual understanding.

Viva blogosphere! We wanted to have contact with people, and now we are related to the entire world.

A dangerous drug policy

DAVE ALEXANDER

Recently, Stephen Harper’s Conservative Government introduced a new strategy against illegal drugs. They seek to provide help for addiction and harshly punish those who benefit from it: the dealers and producers of drugs. Harper obviously is attempting to emulate the American “War on Drugs”—but this initiative is doomed to fail. It fails to distinguish between drugs, and fails to distinguish between violent and non-violent drug crime.

It also fails to realize the benefit of treatment programs like the safe injection clinics starting in various Canadian cities.

The PM claims that the previous Liberal government gave children “a mixed message” concerning illegal drugs with its near-legalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use. After all, other drugs are dangerous—“the fact... is they’re unhealthy,” as the minister of health stated in an interview with the CBC—so therefore all drugs are dangerous.

This is absurd, of course. Certainly, some drugs are worse than others—methamphetamines, as an example, sometimes

cause irreparable damage to both the mind and body. On the other hand, the National Academy of Sciences in the United States agrees that marijuana is less dangerous and harmful than tobacco (and people smoke less of it at a time). Following the logic of the Conservatives, the same argument could be used to make automobiles illegal—because people often have accidents when traveling at great speeds.

The problem here is that marijuana isn’t bad enough on its own. The Conservative Government must lump it in with crystal meth, heroin, and crack cocaine so it becomes guilty by association. Recent studies (especially a 12-year-long study done by the University of Pittsburgh) show that the connection between marijuana and harder drugs may be weaker than we assume.

We were often taught in high school about the progression from legal drugs, like alcohol and tobacco, through marijuana use, to the harder drugs like heroin and cocaine. The primary basis for this hypothesis (and that’s what it is) is the fact that only 0.2 per cent of cocaine users have never used marijuana. It’s hardly a surprise that people who use the least popular drugs are also likely to have used the more popular ones. That doesn’t make for any direct association between the two, and ignores the vast majority of marijuana users who have never gone on to anything harder. If it’s shown that only 0.01 per cent of cocaine addicts have never had a drink of pop, does that mean that pop leads to cocaine addiction?

Harper’s attitude about how society should treat addicts is outlined in a 2003 essay he wrote, published in *Report Magazine*. “This descent into nihilism... leads to silliness such as moral neutrality on the use of marijuana or harder drugs mixed with its random moral crusades on tobacco. It explains the lack of moral censure on personal foibles of all kinds, extenuating even criminal behaviour with moral outrage at bourgeois society, which is then blamed for the deviant behaviour.”

Concerning harder drugs, the PM is unsure of the value of harm reduction ideas like the safe injection sites in Vancouver and Winnipeg, but Minister of Health Tony Clement believes they’re a sham. As he says, “enforcement is harm reduction.”

That must be why, a day after Mr. Clement made that comment, over 130 physicians and scientists signed a petition condemning the government’s “potentially deadly” misrepresentation of the overwhelmingly positive evidence for harm reduction programs.

After all, what better way to make sure drug users don’t get a disease from shared needles than to make safe injection sites illegal? And what better way to make sure drug producers’ profits are dried up than to make it even more illegal to produce than it already is? Surely, we can make people stop using drugs by making the profit incentives large enough for organized crime.

After all, it worked for prohibition, didn’t it?



Denis Vrignon-Tessier

Prayer breakfasts: assumptions, accusations and associations

BEN WOOD
COMMENTS EDITOR

Last week, several Members of Parliament dismissed an invitation to a Winnipeg prayer breakfast, similar to those held on Parliament where members of the community provide support in form of prayer for the politicians, business community, and the general public. However, while those held in Ottawa are open to multiple faiths, the one held here was meant to “celebrate the person and purpose of Jesus Christ.”

Obviously, any sort of political event with religious underpinnings should be carefully examined. However, the problem with the Manitoba prayer breakfast was its specificity and exclusivity.

It is not that I believe this event to be crafted by a group of reasonless fundamentalists, but the problem is when these events claim legitimacy in their historical ties with our country, and therefore claim Canada's values as specifically their own.

Pat Martin, NDP MP for Winnipeg Centre, did not attend this prayer breakfast, as he felt it had “all the earmarkings of some neo-conservative, fundamentalist, Christian-right event.” However, ac-

curate or misguided his assumptions are, it was enough for *Free Press* writer Lindor Reynolds to take great offense and accuse Martin's actions of being specific to this Christian event, predicting that the same would not have been said if it had Jewish or Muslim underpinnings.

The question remains, however, why is this something to get so upset about? Surely, Reynolds understands religious freedoms, so why is she not so quick to grant the same freedoms to those who oppose these events? Moreover, what difference would it have made if MPs such as Martin did attend the event? If one does not hold the beliefs of the religion then why should they participate? The message and purpose of the event would not mean anything to them.

Beyond of all this trivial arguing, speculating and accusing lies the fundamental problem of arguing about religious rites; namely, our inability to reason over these metaphysical affairs. Thomas Hobbes, in dealing with the same problems of religious and political ties, posited that “no man can infallibly know by natural reason, that another has had a supernatural revelation of God's will; but only a belief; every one a firmer, or weaker belief.”

In response to some of the criticism regarding the specifically Christian focus, MP Steven Fletcher said, “Canada was

founded on Judeo-Christian values and this is an opportunity to help celebrate those values through fellowship, friends and strangers and people with different backgrounds.”

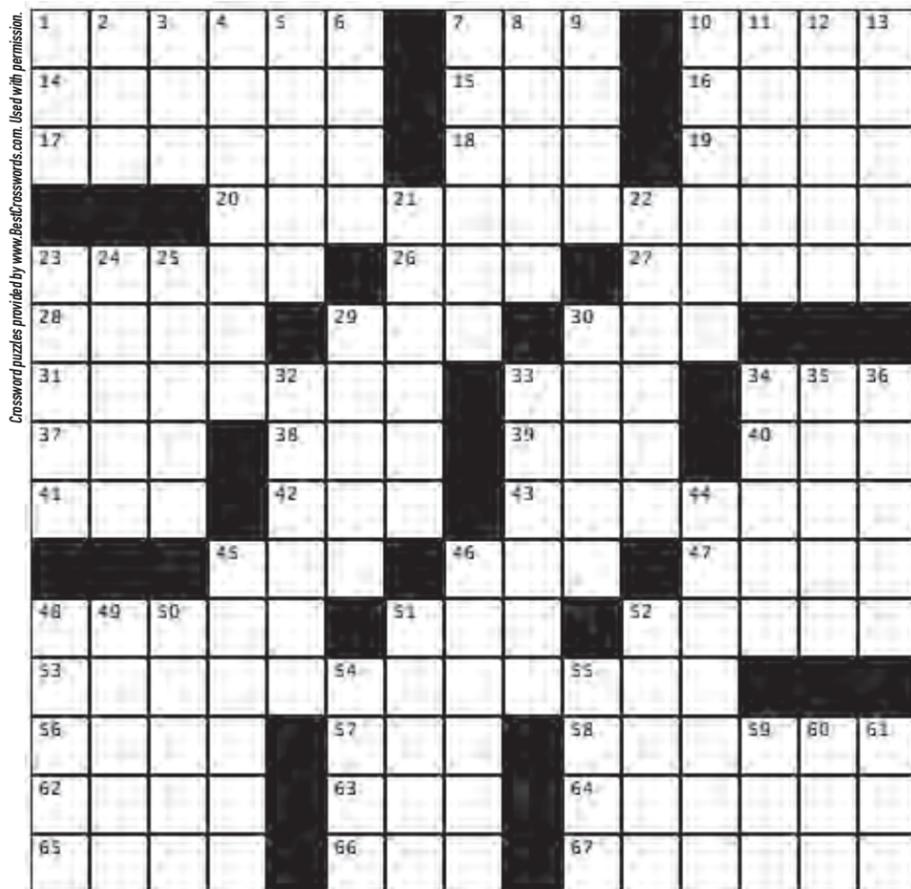
But is the tie between Canada's basic and historic values and a particular religious doctrine necessary? Aren't the basic values enough to stand on their own? It can be argued that a lot of religions have, at their base, this same set of fundamental values or morals that are meant to guide the actions of all persons of this earth. Following these are the more specific ‘rules’ of applying the basic

morals to the doctrine of the religion.

The basic morals or laws are adopted by many, regardless of one or any religious affiliation. Quite simply, they are natural. Such morals as tolerance, understanding, peaceful behaviour, or generosity, among others, are meant to guide our actions for us to live in a peaceful society.

These are the morals and values Canada has adopted as their own and should be considered separate from any specific religion. Certainly, these morals are good enough to be practiced regardless of one's religious ties, if any.

Crossword #6



ACROSS

- 1- Prate;
- 7- Beer;
- 10- Statistics, collection of facts;
- 14- Raise;
- 15- In place of;
- 16- Black, in poetry;
- 17- Pines for;
- 18- Stale air;
- 19- Wise;
- 20- Characteristic of a metropolis;
- 23- Doughnut-shaped surface;
- 26- Exist;
- 27- Excrete;
- 28- Regretted;
- 29- Help;
- 30- Son of Jacob;
- 31- Entrails;
- 33- McCartney title;
- 34- Bleat of a sheep;
- 37- “___ Ventura” was played by Jim Carrey;
- 38- Biblical high priest;
- 39- Light brown color, common to pale sunworshippers;

- 40- Ovum;
- 41- Condensed moisture;
- 42- Metal, often used as a container;
- 43- Collection of weaponry;
- 45- Penpoint;
- 46- Boring;
- 47- Initial stake in a hand of poker;
- 48- Assembly of witches; 51- Wager;
- 52- Welcome;
- 53- Low-power binoculars;
- 56- Increase in height or number;
- 57- “___ and hers”;
- 58- Breathe in;
- 62- Word that can precede war, biotic and climax;
- 63- Black bird;
- 64- Suitable;
- 65- Heavy metal;
- 66- “___ the cows come home”;
- 67- Small sofa;

DOWN

- 1- Purchase;
- 2- Copy;
- 3- Breast-supporting undergarment;
- 4- Group of islands in the Atlantic;
- 5- Ways to the pins;
- 6- Formerly, formerly;
- 7- To meet the expense of;
- 8- Jeweler's tool;
- 9- Therefore;
- 10- Plan;
- 11- Become less intense, die off;
- 12- Roman garments;
- 13- Concerning;
- 21- Dried grape;
- 22- Discovers;
- 23- Threesome;
- 24- Prevention dose;
- 25- Continue a subscription;
- 29- Improvise;
- 30- Daybook;
- 32- Eye membrane;
- 33- Begins;

- 34- Sesame plant;
- 35- Playing marble;
- 36- Shoelace tip;
- 44- Hearing distance;
- 45- Sea nymph;
- 46- Clockwise;
- 48- Marine growth;
- 49- Express opinions;
- 50- Roman goddess of the hearth;
- 51- Small yeast-raised pancake;
- 52- Style;
- 54- Steps down to an Indian river;
- 55- Drinks slowly;
- 59- Appropriate;
- 60- Bruce ___ was a famous kung-fu movie star;
- 61- Before;

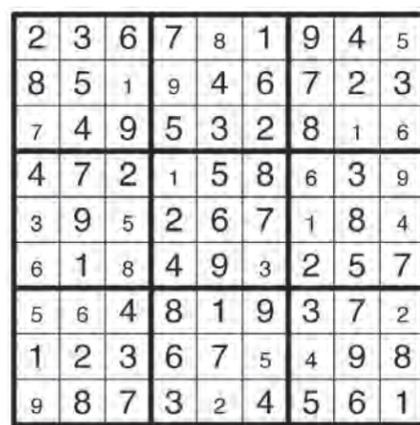
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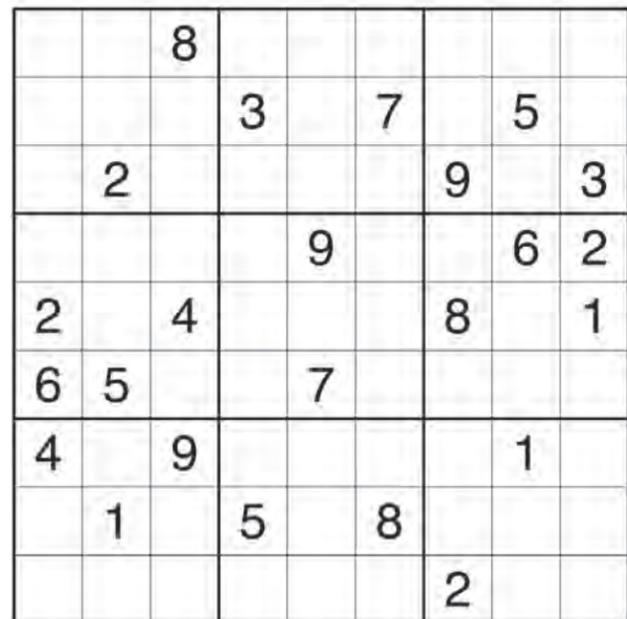
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Sudoku #6



Features

ONE ON ONE WITH WILLIAM GIBSON

TOM LLEWELLIN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

William Gibson is an iconic figure in the world of cyberpunk and avant-garde science fiction. He has gained a reputation as a razor-sharp and thought-provoking writer with an eye for intricate details and unexpected plot twists. His 1984 novel *Neuromancer* helped popularize cyberpunk, a genre characterized by dark, film noir-inspired settings in the near future that explore the underbelly of places and are prophetic about technology, the human condition, and the relationship between the two. He sees them complementing and sometimes battling each other in a constant back and forth for control. Two years earlier, he coined the term “cyberspace” to define this interaction, which he sees as occurring in a separate physical space that is also part of our reality at the same time. Known for writing in trilogies, his new novel *Spook Country* is the sequel to 2005’s *Pattern Recognition*, mostly in terms of its themes, although there are some reappearing characters. The novel is a major break from his established settings: instead of setting it in a technologically sophisticated not-too-distant future as he usually does, it is set in the present day.

The mystery-tinged novel follows journalist Hollis Henry, who is on assignment for a magazine called *Node* that has yet to publish a first issue. She combs through Los Angeles, writing about a new art craze called *locative art* where artists use GPS devices and virtual reality headsets to project alternate images on a physical space. At the same time, a shadowy Russian-Cuban crime family and a kidnapped prescription drug junkie conspire to get a shipping container filled with unknown contents into the Port of Vancouver, and the paths of all three gradually come closer and closer.

The Vancouver-based writer was in town for the Winnipeg International Writers’ Festival at the Forks last week. The tall, soft-spoken author, who seems to carefully choose each syllable of every word, was glad to espouse about his latest release, technology’s effect on society, and how he goes about writing a novel.

TOM: What made you decide to set *Spook Country* in the present day as opposed to the near future of your earlier work?

WILLIAM: Well, the previous one was set in the year prior to its publication, so it wasn’t the first time I had decided to do that, but it always seemed to me that one thing the science fiction “toolkit” was really good for—I especially thought this in the late 70s when I started writing fiction—was examining exactly the sort of present that we find ourselves living in. I mean, this is the new cycle, the new era. And the contents of the new cycle of the present day in 2007 are weirder than anything that any science fiction writer ever dreamed of. And I think that when people watch their little video history of the 21st century [many years from now], it would open on 9/11 and that would be the start of the new century.

T: Was that a defining moment for you, to realize that the 21st century started on September 11?

W: Not really, I didn’t think that thought on September 11, but gradually in retrospect I started to imagine that it looked like the beginning, and it will be unless there’s something unthinkably more vast and hideous that comes along, and I don’t know what that would be.

And when I started publishing science fiction in 1979, people said I was being dystopian, that the future I was describing was not a very good future, but the thing that was weird about that to me was that I was writing in 1979, and [back then] it was wildly optimistic to assume that there was even going to be a future, because the cold war was so established and seemed so incorrigibly there, and as we now know, they came within a hair several times, more or less by accident. And most people tended not to be wildly optimistic about humanity’s most basic chances. There were plenty of people in 1979 thinking that this planet would be a

wasteland. So I thought, when I started writing my early work set in the near future, that I was being wildly optimistic. But no matter what I was describing, it was better than right now.

So it bugged me to be described as dystopian, because by saying that, you’re saying in effect, “who would want to live in a world like the one in my novels?” And what seemed immediately obvious to me was that there were millions of people all over the world who’d like their children and grandchildren to emigrate there right this minute. Like there are people in lots of places in the world today that haven’t got a hope in hell and they’d probably love to live in that world.

I take it for granted from the start that with the economic conditions in the world being what they are, there are lots of people living in relatively dystopian conditions, and a relatively small number of people living in Utopian conditions, and the extremities of this—the difference between the life of a super-rich person with access to every emergent technology, and the life of an utterly impoverished person with access to nothing—are maybe greater than they’ve ever been.

T: Is giving life to your characters something you have to put a bit more conscious effort into?

W: Well it’s really hard to explain how it works, most of the craft of writing for me is doing whatever I have to do to get out of the way of the part of me that writes books. So, the guy who’s sitting here talking with you has to make a deal that he’ll turn up at his computer on a regular basis and sit down, pretend he’s writing a novel, and make words on a word processor. But the part of me that writes novels is much less reliable than that and either will or will not turn up on a given day. I don’t have a whole lot of faith in the part of me that actually does the writing because I don’t have that much time to think about it, I just do it. The whole process of writing a novel is really like watching a movie. Generally there’s a beginning, middle and end; but with *Spook Country*, I didn’t know what was in that shipping container for a long, long time.

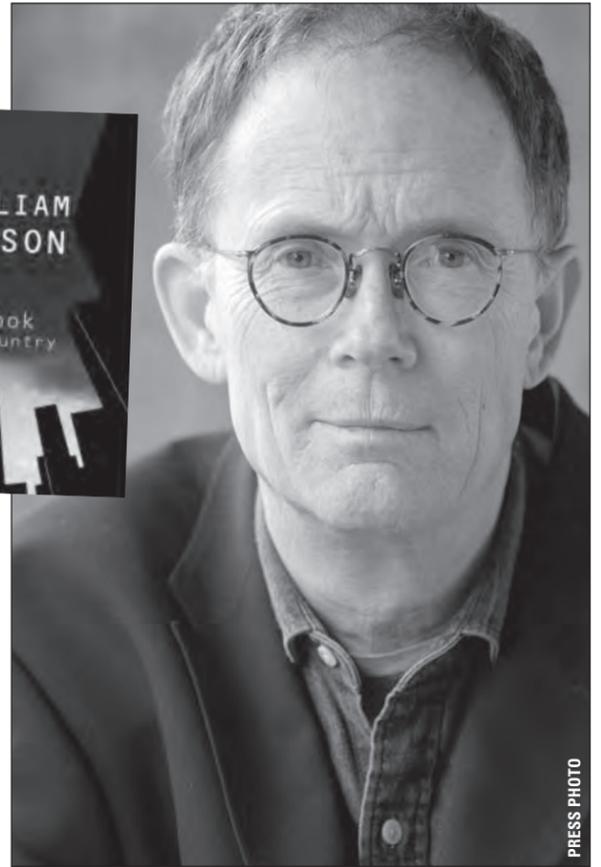
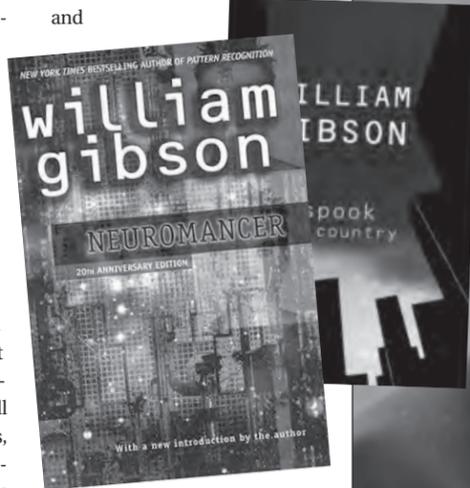
It’s a classic gimmick that there’s a box or something, some size of box, you don’t know what’s in it, and various people are doing drastic things so they can get it. And with that going on, you can go and write almost all of the rest of it without knowing what [the box] is. I filled the box with things that the reasonably informed reader would assume are in the box, and I didn’t even have to suggest those things, they’re just things that people think about today, [weapons of mass destruction] being one.

I don’t feel like I actually had the main idea; rather, I find other people’s ideas. The thing that results in it being weird is what results in the novelty. And novelty is a good thing to have in a novel, that’s why they’re called novels. (laughter) Novelty is the result of crossing the wires; you don’t have to invent new wires, just cross existing ones. When I was taught writing, we’d pass a coffee cup around filled with different slips of paper and everyone had to pick three at random, and then you had to write a story that involved all those three things, and they were really wildly random, and I thought that was a great exercise, it really impressed me, I liked that idea. If I were to teach writing I’d probably be doing that too, because the neat stuff comes from the juxtaposition of existing things, almost every time. And the kind of creativity I have, it works that way. It’s not Apollonian, it doesn’t just emerge from my brow.

T: I got that impression from the whole concept of locative art. None of the technologies in themselves are new, it’s just a different way of looking at existing ones to create a new thing.

W: With what they’re doing with that in the book, I think it would have been doable even before GPS. You could have built your own GPS in a space and had virtual objects. There were people working with that back in the early 80s and they called it “blended reality,” where you could see virtual objects in a setting of reality, and they’d be jumping around on the table. I knew that was around, so

I wanted something that would introduce a more general awareness of the GPS grid, because we all know about it and



William Gibson

PRESS PHOTO

we take it for granted, and I just find it so profoundly peculiar. Maybe one day the squares in the grid will have names. So it’s out there and it’s not going to go away. It’s very odd, it’s like the way people have thought about cyberspace at the start of the 80s, and the way we still think about it, it’s just sort of there. But while we’ve been looking at it that way, it has [taken root] inside us, and there’s a way in which we’re literally in cyberspace. And I find that remarkable, and certainly people do seem to get it. As for the whole locative art thing in the book, with the art of the dead celebrities, I just kinda wanted to get that on the table and see what people would do with it. LA is just so much thinner on the ground. You can knock things down in LA and replace them with something overnight, and people don’t notice it like they would in New York, which is traditional and somehow resistant to that. LA is kinda like a stage set, many people have experienced it in that way, with the feeling that if you went around behind the buildings, the backs of the buildings might not be there.

T: Did you do any sort of location scouting before you decided to set scenes in a particular place?

W: Well, I tried to use places that I know very well, it’s sort of where my imagination will start working, so the location scouting is inadvertent for the most part. But when I needed Bobby Chumbo (a locative artist in LA) to have a studio, I needed to call up this guy in LA and ask him, “Okay, where would it be?” And then that particular person would drive over, and photograph whatever he thought it is, and would email me a bunch of snapshots of it. It’s a very exciting way to work; you get it right there on your computer screen.

When I was writing *Pattern Recognition*, I’d been in all the places except for Moscow, but a friend of mine happened to be in Moscow for a few weeks, and she’d got there a week before the characters in my book were getting there. So we had this amazing back-and-forth correspondence going on, where I was googling pictures of it and looking at maps, and she was emailing me snapshots, and I was writing this imaginary version of this city that she was in but which I had never seen. We had this crazy back and forth thing going on, and she said it made her feel like she was being forced to wear somebody else’s prescription glasses. It doesn’t need to be [completely] accurate and realistic, but it has to be accurate and realistic enough to resonate in a certain way.

T: What have you been reading lately?

W: Mostly non-fiction. I had a bunch of history books about the part of the American South my parents were from, and some of those are recently written books, but with a completely different point of view from any history I accessed growing up. They weren’t so good in themselves, but were important in terms of knowing what people believed. History is extremely specula-

ive, and it changes. Our view of what the past was has changed at least as much as our view of what the future might be like. I always try to be aware of this as I write science fiction—the idea that the past isn’t set in stone, we’re constantly exploring it and trying to change it. And every time we change it, it changes the nature of the present and of the future. The idea that any moment in the present is always somebody else’s past, doesn’t come naturally to everyone; a lot of people have the mindset that the present rules, culturally. “That was the past, and the future doesn’t matter. Right now this is what matters.” It has its good points but it can’t be [the right way]. Even when I was a kid, I didn’t really see that as being a valid position from which to measure the world. I thought that for each moment we’re in, no matter how high-tech, it’s always going to be somebody’s 75 years ago, and to them it would be kinda quaint.

T: Is there anything specific that brought that [insight] on?

W: In the mid-60s, when I was still mostly reading science fiction, the voices that impressed me the most at that time were a group of writers mostly in England who were saying, as JG Ballard said, “Earth is the alien planet.” It was known as the British New Wave of science fiction because the idea on the table was “forget about outer space, just look around you. This stuff is crazier than anything anybody’s ever made up.”

When I look at the state of the world today, I can’t see any part of it that isn’t fully qualified in some way to be not only speculative fiction, but science fiction. Everybody’s living in a science fiction world if you have these sexually transmitted viruses that destroy the human immune system. That’s an inherently science fiction situation. We could have written a science fiction novel about that in 1955 and everyone would have said “ooh, hope that never happens!” (laughter) Or human-caused climate change. Or global climate change period. That’s science fiction. If that’s not science fiction, what is science fiction? So every life on the planet is touched in some way by these science fictional events: we have a weird number of them going on and they increasingly overlap, in a way I don’t really think we’ve seen before. So it’s all science fiction anyway. It doesn’t feel to me now that I have to take my science fiction to meet the world, but that the world just sort of effortlessly morphs into science fiction, and I’m here with the right myth.

Arts & Culture

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR: WHITNEY LIGHT
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WOMEN ON STAGE

FEMFEST SHOWCASES WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THEATRE

MIKALE FENTON
VOLUNTEER STAFF

As a 'cultural hub' of Canada, it's no surprise that Winnipeg offers a slew of fantastic theatre productions and festivals. However, few are sure to engage and provoke as much as the annual FemFest, founded by Winnipeg's Sarasvati Productions.

It's unique: an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements in theatre, to help increase the level of women's involvement in the industry, and to offer a venue for women playwrights, actors and directors. This year's theme, "We've Come a Long Way," has both literal and metaphorical implications. Now in its fifth year, FemFest attracts award-winning plays and playwrights from around the world. Marcia Johnson's *Say Ginger Ale*, for example, offers a fresh perspective on growing up in Canada from a Jamaican-born woman. Another highlight is the full production of *Brownie Points: Boldly Going Where No Brownie Has Gone Before*, a one-woman play written by and starring Nicolle Natrass.

FemFest developed out of a perceived need to acknowledge the disparity in the ratio of men to women working in Canadian theatre. Female playwrights often have fewer opportunities to showcase and produce their



PRESS PHOTO

work. Festivals like Femfest are important, says artistic director Hope McIntyre, because "plays written by men often have less female roles and directors... the representation just isn't there." If we really want to explore women's experiences and lives, material must come from women's voices.

After receiving a travel grant from Canada Council, the renowned playwright and actress Nicolle Natrass will be making her first appearance at FemFest with her award-winning comedy, *Brownie Points*. The play has received much acclaim and recognition, and has been adapted into both a CBC radio plot and a short film that won Best Short Comedy at the 2003 Magnolia Independent Film Festival in Mississippi. *Brownie Points* was also nominated for Outstanding Original Play and Outstanding Performance at the 1998 Jesse Richardson Theater Awards.

The play is an amusing tale about a 28-year-old Brownie who feels she deserves a badge for losing her virginity. It's an insightful coming-of-age story that addresses the pressures surrounding puberty. Natrass says her biggest inspiration for *Brownie Points* was a CBC interview with Naomi Wolfe about her novel *Promiscuities: The Secret Struggle for Womanhood* and the concept of the original source of an individual's sexuality.

"[I] became aware of how young women today were accustomed to viewing sexuality as something imposed on us from outside influences, rather than the notion of it being inherently from the inside, within ourselves," says Natrass. The concept of "inherent sexuality" is a key theme in her play, along with the trials and tribulations of growing up.

With full productions, cabarets, work-

shops, and readings of new scripts, FemFest has a lot to offer, to say the least. Another thing that makes it unique is its freedom to present edgier and more controversial plays than can many theatre companies. There's not much pressure to sell oodles of tickets or achieve mainstream appeal. And, tickets are only \$8



PRESS PHOTO

per show with a variety of package options. So why not check out this year's talent?

Femfest runs Oct. 19-28 at the Colin Jackson Studio Theatre at Prairie Theatre Exchange. For more info call 586-2236 or email info@sarasvati.ca

REEL PRIDE TASTES THE RAINBOW



Still from *Politics of the Heart*

BRONWYN JERRETT-ENNS
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Reel Pride XIV kicked off this week, celebrating 20 years since the LGBT film festival first premiered in Winnipeg. Festival director Len Loewen describes the program of the festival as "a balance between features and shorts that are targeted to all parts of the community to achieve the best representation." Loewen and the group of tireless volunteers that make Reel Pride possible certainly succeeded, and there's something for every colour of the rainbow in this year's line up of films.

The Tuesday premiere started with *Itty-Bitty Titty Committee*, a lesbian love story directed by Jamie Babbitt, the woman behind the cult classic *But I'm a Cheerleader*. Daniela Sea plays Calvin, a member of the radical feminist group Clits In Action, or CIA. Fans of *The L World* will recognize Sea from her role as Max Sweeney, the transgender character in the popular Showcase drama.

Wednesday featured women's short films and Thursday showcases men's short films, followed by the feature length *Outing Riley*. The festival changes venues for the weekend, with screenings at Cinematheque instead of the

Globe Theatre. Friday night includes two family dramas, *Nina's Heavenly Delight* at 7:00 p.m. and *East Side Story* at 9:00 p.m.

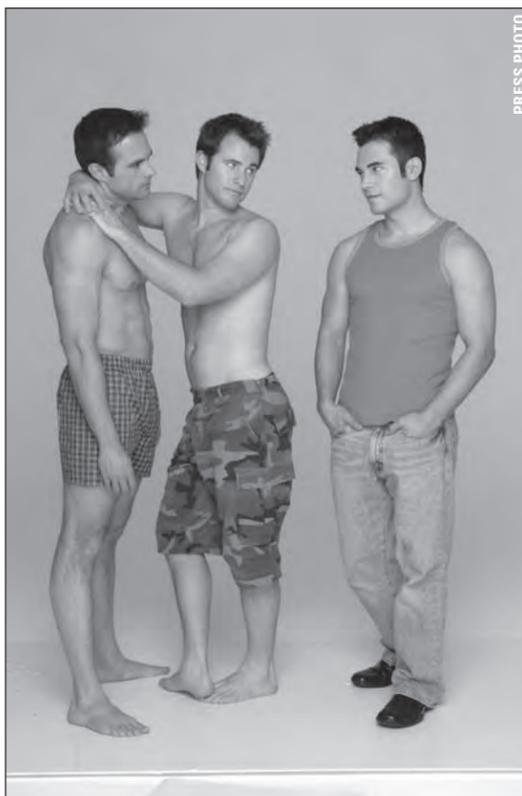
Nina's Heavenly Delight is about a Scottish Asian family that runs a restaurant, but the death of the owner and father of Nina precipitates a change in management and an unexpected love story between Nina and Lisa, the new owner.

East Side Story is a romantic comedy and the film stays true to the genre with its predictable plot, cheesy dialogue and low production value. The film does have noble intentions, tackling tough issues like homophobia in the Latin community, discrimination in the gay community, and the difficulties of coming out when your audience is less than receptive. The film redeems itself with clever one-liners, but stay at home if you despised *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*.

Saturday night is exclusively documentaries, starting with *Red Without Blue* at 7:00 p.m., followed by *Politics of the Heart* at 9:00 p.m. *Red Without Blue* is the story of the Farley family and their children, Mark and Clair. Mark and Clair were born as Mark and Alex, identical twin brothers. Both Mark and Alex came out in their early adolescence, and suffered incredible torment in their early high school years. After a joint suicide attempt, the two were forcibly separated for two and a half years. During this period, Alex made the decision to transition from male to female and became Clair. The film was shot over a period of three years and details the struggle of the family to redefine itself after Clair's transition. In the process, the film delves into the issues surrounding gender identity, sexuality, and the inseparable bond that Mark and Clair share as identical twins.

Red Without Blue depicts the chaotic journey of a family in crisis, but *Politics of the Heart*

offers the sunnier tale of gay and lesbian families becoming recognized as equal under Quebec law. The documentary follows the legal battle that LGBT groups in Quebec faced in order for same-sex partners to be recognized as equal, allowing



Still from *East Side Story*

homosexuals to visit their partners in hospital, to be granted inheritance after the death of their partner, and to adopt and raise children. *Politics of the Heart* is an excellent depiction of the power of grassroots organizations to change the world we live in. The justice minister of Quebec at the time is featured in the film alongside the

members of the LGBT community that fought to change the laws, which provides a rare and humorous view into both sides of the argument. The triumphant story has plenty of joyous moments with toddlers, ensuring that *Politics of the Heart* will warm the cockles of your heart.

Loewen acknowledges that the festival sees many of the same audience members return year after year, but also stresses the importance of "reaching the broadest audience possible." On the challenges that an LGBT festival faces, Loewen says "[b]eing a small festival with a board comprised only of volunteers, we... strive to make every dollar count in getting our word out to the audience. An important message for us is also about bridging the gap that says this festival is only for an LGBT audience. These films contain many universal messages that we hope appeal to people from all backgrounds."

As the festival seeks to expand and grow its audience within Winnipeg and beyond, this weekend is your chance to attend and become one of the returning audience members. Whether you're a member of the LGBT community, an ally, or simply a film buff, Reel Pride is a great opportunity to support films that, as Loewen says, the audience would not be able to see on the big screen otherwise. Eventually, Loewen hopes to see Reel Pride become a destination for people in the surrounding provinces and states.

At Globe Cinema on Thursday night, catch the men's shorts. Or make the trip to Cinematheque at 100 Arthur St. on Friday and Saturday to see the weekend features. More info at www.reelpride.org

SELECTIVE MEMORY

WHITNEY LIGHT
ARTS EDITOR

Local artist Patrick Dunford half-jokes that he's had two shows: one in a hallway and one in a furniture store.

"I've been given some grief about that," he laughs.

But forget what it sounds like. Dunford, a recent grad of the University of Manitoba's School of Fine Arts, is getting some deserved exposure that's not to be sneezed at. The hallway he refers to is Semai Gallery, where his watercolours were shown last spring. The furniture store is Gallery 803 (a furniture store with a partiality for the arts), and where *Do You Remember?*, his show of recent oil paintings, is on now.

For Dunford, both shows were welcome opportunities. Winnipeg has some great contemporary art galleries but, says Dunford, "There aren't that many places to get your foot in the door."

Gallery 803's curator, local artist Collin Zipp, selected Dunford for the show. His art is ideally suited for the space. The medium-size canvases fit comfortably on the walls around the sofas—a more inviting space than most conventional galleries. And though you might sit and contemplate how one of Dunford's paintings would look in your living room, this is much more than art to match the décor.

Playing with ideas about memory, the paint-



Storm on the Sea of Galilee

ings feel personal and removed at the same time. They reference images, from old photographs (a woman on the beach in the 1930s) to movie stills (Alan Resnais's *Last Year at Marienbad*) to historical paintings (Rembrandt's "Storm on the Sea of Galilee"), in a loosely representational way that is as romantic and shadowed as memory itself. Faces completely blur. Other details slip away.

In some, the subject is only suggested by the title: there's no train in "Train," for example, only a forest of vigorous brush strokes. It feels like watching a worn film reel with no sound:



5-4, 4-5

the characters are literally silenced, you're struggling to recall the context, and all that's clear is the record of light. While the paintings get under your skin like poetry, they also seem to caution: memory's hands are slippery.

That idea intrigues Dunford, and he cites Roland Barthes's *Camera Lucida*, a well-known inquiry into the nature of photography and memory, as an influence. Like painting, he says, memory is subjective. "When you remember something, certain things come up. It's not objective. You remember someone's face well or you don't, or you don't remember how you got there that day." And like memory, painting can add, and it can take away.

Why is this worth exploring? "It's the way

we order our life experience, how we create a picture of the world," says Dunford. "And I find it interesting to see how objective experiences can be."

Sometimes, too, playing fast and loose with the details affords Dunford some wiggle room with a subject. It's not obvious that the nine figures with beige thumbs of paint for heads in "5-4, 4-5," for example, is the U.S. Supreme Court. Though Dunford expresses less than warm feelings for the court, he doesn't want that to "smack people in the face." His paintings work on a much subtler level, especially those that could be mistaken for the artist's nostalgic representa-

tions of his own past.

"Grand Beach," for example, the most striking image in the show, turns out to be a portrait of a total stranger. A woman in 1930s bathing gear stands as if for the camera, a string of beads around her neck, the sand blending into the water blending into the sky behind her. Dunford's grandmother? No, a photo found in a used bookstore. In some ways, this makes the painting all the more mysterious. Who is this woman?

"It's a romantic idea, to paint about memory," muses Dunford. "When you look at a painting, it's not the answer to some question...it can be a lot more than that."

Do You Remember? is on show at Gallery 803, at 803 Erin Street, until Nov. 9.

TAKING A GOOD LOOK AROUND

JOHN PASKIEVICH LAUNCHES *THE NORTH END*, A BOOK OF PHOTOS

KATHLEEN GALLAGHER
VOLUNTEER STAFF

For decades, the North End has been known as an impoverished area of Winnipeg. In the early 1900s, almost half of the city's population lived in the North End, which then occupied under a third of the city's footprint. John Paskievich, a local documentary filmmaker and photographer, knows the area like the back of his hand. The North End is where Paskievich grew up and where he's returned many times to document its changes over the years (from the 1970s to the 1990s) with his camera. Now he's published these photos in a book, *The North End*, published by University of Manitoba Press. A slide show and book signing will take place at McNally Robinson Grant Park on Oct. 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Paskievich says he had "no political objective of any kind" while putting together this book. These photographs started as a pet project in 1972. Paskievich was 25 years old



JOHN PASKIEVICH

and returning to the city to visit family and friends after being away for five years traveling

through Europe and the Middle East and then living in Montreal. He always had his camera with him when he visited home. These photos, Paskievich said, were a means of "catch[ing] the transition" the North End was making.

The transition Paskievich describes was a change from the "vibrant community" of his

childhood to one that had "become dangerous in many ways." Through his photos, you can see a once strong community slowly become more somber.

Early photographs depict small business owners inside their stores. A more recent photo depicts a man sleeping outside of the former Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. The store owners usually stand behind a counter, a look of pride on their face. All these stores feel warm and friendly. In contrast, the man sleeping outside of the museum lies alone on concrete. The museum takes up most of the frame. The man lies on the steps in the bottom right of the photograph. If you were walking by, you might not have seen him. Yet this photo doesn't feel sad; it feels eerily 'normal.'

Paskievich says it's not economic reasons that have caused the demise of the community. The neighbourhood has always been relatively poor. Paskievich thinks it's a loss of culture that's been a problem. The North End of Paskievich's youth and his earlier photographic observances was a community of predominately Eastern Europeans who had a strong sense of culture. Paskievich describes a neighbourhood that always had community activities, from sports to church gatherings.

But as Eastern Europeans started to move out of the area, Paskievich explains, finding better financial prospects elsewhere, many aboriginals began to move in. And unfortunately, aboriginal culture has been broken up through the years by many different forces, for instance, the residential school system. "If you send people adrift from their cultural moorings they get lost and they don't know what to do," Paskievich says.

Several of his photographs depict church events. Groups of people are gathered with smiles on their faces as they mingle with their neighbours. Later comes a photograph in which a Payless business sign blocks the view of a church. The Payless seems to symbolize the barriers that arose between neighbours. The same church appears in another photograph, this time obscured by a giant, inflated beer bottle. Needless to say, community events don't predominate in these later photographs.

The North End has long been a poor area, but it has not always been bleak. Paskievich's compassion for his former neighbourhood helps to show us what creates a community and what can break it apart.

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POLITICAL HEAT

THE THERMALS OFFER A SMARTER
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PROMO PHOTO

AARON EPP
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Is there anything more cliché than a punk band rocking against Bush? From Green Day to NOFX, it seems as though everyone who knows three chords has shared their opinion of George W's White House administration, trying to win over those who don't yet share their leftist views. Are Portland, OR punk trio The Thermals any different? Yes. Although their latest CD, *The Body, The Blood, The Machine*, was inspired by the political climate in the US, vocalist/guitarist Hutch Harris, 31, says that telling a good story was his priority—not trying to sway voters one way or the other.

"The main point for me [was] to make the lyrics catchy but be smart and interesting at the same time," he says by phone from Portland. "I know music does affect social change, but I think if you try too hard you might not get results. It's kind of pompous to get up on a soapbox and speak to everyone like you know what's right."

In previous interviews, Harris has described the disc as a paranoid vision of the future. He wanted to explore the connection between politics and the Christian right. If politics and world events keep going their way they're going, he asked himself, what's the worst thing that could happen? The story that unfolds over the course of the CD's 10 songs is the answer to that question. Produced by Fugazi drummer Brendan Canty and released by SubPop in August 2006, *TBTBM* is about a young couple escaping a fascist Christian state and the impending apocalypse. With lines like "Good luck getting God on the phone/Good luck getting even a tone,"

the lyrics on *TBTBM* are highly critical of Christianity and religion. Harris grew up Catholic, but left the church in his early 20s.

"If I had known for sure, or felt for sure I had faith there was a God, I think I maybe would have stuck with the church in some capacity," he says. "I think about God and death a lot, but I don't make my mind up on it... It's just really in my heart, and in my head, I just can't be convinced."

Harris and bandmates Kathy Foster (bass) and Lorin Coleman (drums) are currently touring Canada for the first time. Although they've never been to Winnipeg, the trio are very familiar with one of the city's most famous musicians. Along with The Clash and Weezer, Neil Young is listed as one of the band's influences on their MySpace page. Harris says he enjoys Young's guitar solos and simple playing. "I'm thinking of 'Down By the River' especially, where he just really works one note, like, into the ground," says Harris. "To me, he sounds like a caveman a lot of times on those old records. There's this Neanderthal kinda stomp goin' on—just this really simple, but really effective playing."

In addition to material from their three CDs, The Thermals are playing two or three new songs on the tour. The band is hoping to record their next CD in spring. Harris jokes that it will either be called *Politics is Boring* or *Politics Don't Sell Records*. In any case, he says with a laugh, the point will be to avoid politics and religion. "I think we did that to death on the last record."

See *The Thermals* at the Royal Albert on Oct. 21. Tickets are available at *Into the Music*, *Music Trader*, and *TicketWorkshop.com*. Visit www.thethermals.com.

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Jill Kosmuk

"Right now my style is influenced by '80s casual. I live and work in Osborne, so that may also influence my style."

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WAG'S EXHIBITION OFFERS THE COMPLETE WARHOL EXPERIENCE

KELLY NICKIE
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Andy Warhol was a printmaker, film producer, photographer, fashion designer, music producer, businessman, socialite and provocateur—in short, an artist. And though we know him as the prince of Pop, his subject matter was as diverse as his credentials. There's the *Campbell's Soup Can*, and then there's the *Death and Disaster* series, featuring disturbing images of people in tragic auto accidents and the civil rights movement.

But it's not just the artwork you can appreciate. It's the anecdotes that Warhol provided after the artwork that complete the appreciation of the art. One of the most memorable anecdotes to be found in "Andy Warhol: Larger than Life" at the Winnipeg Art Gallery comes alongside a wall size portrait of Warhol, the sinister red and black image that is popping up on exhibition posters around the city: "If you want to know all about Andy Warhol, just look at the surface of my paintings and films and me, and there I am. There's nothing behind it." Those instructions could be followed to a T here. Visit this exhibition and come to understand Warhol through the 150 screen prints, photographs, drawings, archival material and film on show, all which stir a sense of awe and wonder.

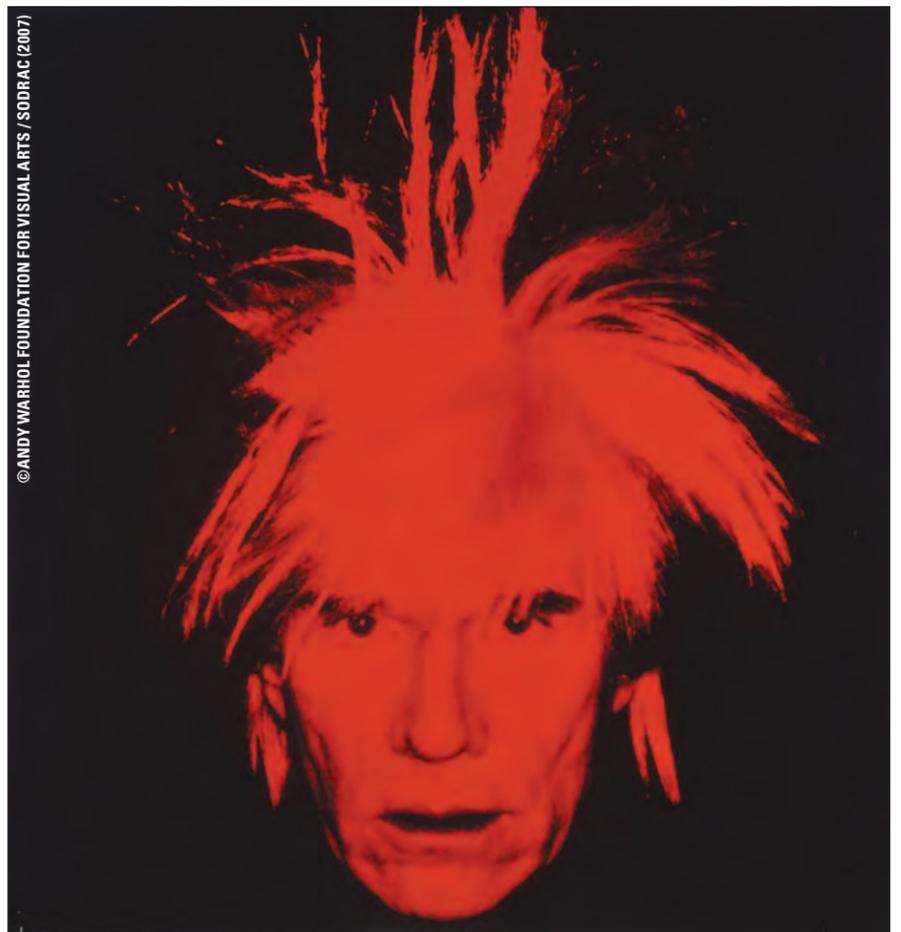
The WAG, in partnership with the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, selected the majority of the works presented in the exhibition with the exception of some archival documents and the gallery's own Canadian inspired works of Warhol. The exhibition took over two years of organization by WAG director Pierre Arpin and curator Helen Delacretaz, an effort well worth

the wait. Delacretaz explains that the exhibition covers three main aspects of Warhol's busy career: the elevation of everyday subject matter into art, the re-creation of celebrities through a larger than life existence, and the artist's metamorphosis from Andrew Warhola, the sick, young boy from a poor neighbourhood, to one of the most important artists of the twentieth century.

The exhibition is separated into those three fronts. It begins with Warhol's early works stemming from art school and designs from his initial success as a commercial artist. The majority of Warhol's Pop art is displayed in the middle of the gallery. Here the mood shifts from the delicate, intricate drawings of the young artist in the 1950s to the colorful, provocative works of the artist in the 1960s. The sheer number of works and their variety could overwhelm you, but the transitions were well considered.

The back of the gallery is where you'll find photos and self-portraits of Warhol, literally behind the art. This final space ends the show well, exposing the man who lurked behind the scene. There are also plenty of activities for the visitor to enhance the Warhol experience, including a photo booth where you can pose for your own "Warholesque" self-portrait (early self-portraits of Warhol were taken in a photo booth). Also included is a mini-theatre projection of Warhol's films where you can sit and view many of his films throughout the day including "Eat" (fellow Pop artist Robert Indiana eating a mushroom for 45 minutes).

Andy Warhol: Larger than Life is on exhibition at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until Jan. 6, 2008. Student admission with student card is \$10.



Andy Warhol, *Self-portrait*, 1986. Acrylic and silkscreen ink on linen. Founding Collection, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.



Andy Warhol, *Silver Liz (Ferus Type)*, 1963. Silkscreen ink, acrylic, and spray paint on linen. Founding Collection, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.

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ANIME FILM DIVES INTO PSYCHOLOGY OF DREAMS

PAPRIKA

Directed by Satoshi Kon

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3 out of 4 mice



DAN HUYGHEBAERT
BEAT REPORTER

It is a strange wonder that Hollywood does not use dreams as a dramatic device more often. When they do, it usually involves a twisted plot that tries incredibly hard to cleverly mix the dream/reality dichotomy, with no other payoff. Perhaps this is a good thing, judging by what the Japanese animation feature *Paprika* brings to the table—not just a kaleidoscope of dream/reality imagery, but Freudian interpretation layered on a story that would make Michael

Bay cringe with delight.

The film centers on a machine called the DC Mini. It allows psychiatrists, through an alter ego, to access their patients' dreams in order to facilitate their treatment. Paprika is the redheaded dream version of the company's star therapist, who is helping a local cop solve his subconscious problems, which he hopes will help him crack an unsolved murder case.

The problem arises when the machine is stolen, and Paprika and her colleagues set out to find the culprit amidst a potpourri of Freudian and movie imagery (and incredibly stunning imagery it is) that begins to threaten the reality of everyday life. This combination allows director Satoshi Kon to comment on the sanctity of our minds, and the commonalities between films and dreams as means of escape.

While Kon seems to stress the importance of interpretation in the policeman's dream imagery, he doesn't go quite that far with the refrigerators and vacuum cleaners that seem to be prevalent in every character's dreams. There are some gaps in the dream imagery as well as the plot, but Kon



Still from *Paprika*

seems unconcerned by this. Not all dreams make sense.

When the dream world does merge with reality, the whole fabric of time and space is in jeopardy and the film starts a small downward spiral into *Godzilla* territory, complete with an antagonist who dwarfs the surrounding buildings.

It is through Paprika's lucid dreaming, and the policeman's fascination with her, that we see how powerful dreams can

be, not just as an intangible goal, but as a means of transcendence to gain control over one's life. The film's quasi-spiritual overtones will muddle your already murky understanding of the merging of dreams and reality in this film, but maybe that was a Freudian slip.

Paprika shows at Cinematheque Sept 7 to 13 at 9:00 p.m.

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DANCE REVOLUTION

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AARON EPP
VOLUNTEER STAFF

I can't dance. Secretly, I've always felt as though my lack of dance skills is the source of all my problems: why I'm single, why I'm unemployed, why I can't understand Foucault... everything.

UnIte Dance Company formed recently under the direction of Romeo M. Suban, Jr., a 22-year-old U of W education student. When Romeo invited a representative from the *Uniter* to take part in their beginner dance classes, I jumped at the chance.

Here are some excerpts from the notes I took:

6:00 p.m. First up? One hour of beginner hip-hop. While my body type is closer to that of Notorious B.I.G., I'm hoping that in sixty minutes I'll be able to move like Usher.

6:05 p.m. Class begins. The instructors are Andrew Castro, 19, and Immanuel Ledesima, 15. Andrew and Immanuel lead the class, which on this particular Tuesday evening, consists of five males and 18 females, in some warm-up exercises: jumping jacks and a few laps around the small studio. So far, so good. I can do jumping jacks.

6:09 p.m. Immanuel tells us we'll be doing some moves that are "simpler and easier" than the moves the class learned last week. He and Andrew show us eight steps that involve a few slides to the left and right, some arm movements, and a Michael Jackson-style hip thrust.

6:20 p.m. We put all eight moves together to the beat of the song "If I Was Your Man," by Joe. Although I have never heard this song before, I will become intimately familiar with its opening bars, which we listen to roughly 437 times.

6:32 p.m. There is only one person in the class who appears to be having as much trouble



Work that body!

as me, and for some reason he has started to do the Cabbage Patch. His name is James Warren, he is 17, and he will later tell me he is taking the class to "impress my friend Joanne—I'm doin' it for the ladies." You and me both, James. You and me both.

6:40 p.m. Andrew and Immanuel show us eight more moves. "Who's lost?" Andrew asks. I feel hopelessly lost and fear that I am holding the rest of the class back, but I dare not say a word. "You're not going to have fun if you're lost and frustrated," Andrew adds. Touché.

6:48 p.m. They're splitting us up by gender. I'm going to humiliate myself in front of the girls! This is just like high school gym class all over again. I execute every move, but with very little finesse.

6:56 p.m. We use the remaining minutes of

the class to practice our sixteen steps. I almost crush a petite girl with my slide to the right. I'm pretty sure Usher has never crushed a girl with any of his sweet moves. This is embarrassing.

7:00 p.m. Contemporary dance class, which UnIte describes as a mix of jazz, lyrical and modern, begins right on time. For 20 minutes, 22-year-old instructor Sarah Sebastian leads us through various stretches. When "Girlfriend" by Avril Lavigne comes on the PA., Sarah wisely skips to the next track. I like her immediately.

7:19 p.m. I seem to be the only person in the class, which consists of four males and eight females, who requires assistance from Sarah during the stretches. Admittedly, I haven't stretched since the end of July when I was tree-planting.

7:23 p.m. Sarah leads the class through various ballet-like kicks. I'm having a surprising amount of fun. I thought I'd be a lot worse at this than I actually am.

7:35 p.m. Using more ballet-like movements, we "step, step, cross" our way from one end of the studio to the next while listening to "Goodbye My Lover" by James Blunt. I do not have the coordination to simultaneously do the steps and arm movements that Sarah has shown us. It's kind of like patting your head and rubbing your stomach at the same time, except WAY harder. Once again, I seem to be the only person requiring special one-on-one instruction from Sarah. "You've almost got it," she tells me. Everyone here is so nice and friendly.

7:41 p.m. "Does anyone have any questions?" Sarah asks. Yeah, I do: What's up with girls and James Blunt?

7:45 p.m. We take a water break. "Sometimes [instead of 'step, step, cross'] it helps to think of it as 'up, up, down,'" one of my classmates, a 21-year-old U of W education student, tells me. She is blonde and cute, and my heart breaks just a little bit when she tells me she doesn't know what the *Uniter* is.

7:59 p.m. The class is over. "You did really good," Sarah tells me, assuring me she's not trying to suck up just so she'll look good in the paper. "For someone who's never danced before, you really kept up." So there you have it. I was anticipating a lot of fun, and my experience at UnIte Dance Company exceeded my expectations. I used to dread dancing, but not anymore. Now, not unlike the female protagonist in a 1985 hit by Don Henley, all I want to do is dance, dance, dance. After 23 long years, "expressing myself with my body" is no longer limited to just playing football.

UnIte Dance Company is based in the Nafro Dance Center (109 Pulford Street). Classes are \$5 per person and open to anyone. They take place every Tuesday evening. 6:00-7:00 p.m. is Beginner Hip Hop. 7:00-8:00 p.m. is Beginner Contemporary. 8:00-9:00 p.m. is Advanced Hip Hop, and 9:00-10:00 p.m. is Advanced Contemporary. E-mail unitedance@hotmail.com for more information.

ARTS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY AARON EPP
AND BROOKE DMYTRIW

WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES CANADIAN LIBRARY MONTH

Remember before you got all your textbooks and reading was actually fun? All month long, libraries across the country are celebrating their commitment to enhancing the quality of life of all Canadians. This year's theme, "Libraries: The World at Your Fingertips," illustrates the variety of programs, services and resources that libraries provide across Canada. Winnipeg public libraries are offering a number of programs—some of them for free—for people of all ages. For more information, visit <http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library>. So take a look—it's in a book!

PATRICK WATSON WINS THE POLARIS PRIZE

Montreal art-rockers Patrick Watson won the second annual Polaris Music Prize at the end of last month for the album *Close to Paradise*, beating out the likes of Miracle Fortress and Julie Doiron. Watson wins \$20,000, the largest cash prize for a full-length album in Canada. The Polaris Music Prize is a not-for-profit organization that annually honours, celebrates and rewards bands that hipsters enjoy, but that the rest of us are only vaguely aware of.

FOLKFEST ONE OF TOP 100 EVENTS

The American Bus Association has chosen the Winnipeg Folk Festival as one of the top 100 events happening in North America in 2008. The ABA is the North American trade organization representing the intercity bus industry. To get on the list, FolkFest competed against every type of tourism event in the U.S. and Canada. The events are ranked by the time of year when they occur, and not by how much the judges like them. So, unfortunately for Winnipeg, there's no way of knowing for sure whether FolkFest is truly better than the Strawberry Banke Museum Candlelight Stroll in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

LOCAL CURATOR APPOINTED TO NEW POST

Steven Loft, curator for the Urban Shaman Gallery, has been appointed the first aboriginal curator-in-residence at the National Gallery of Canada. He will take his post December 2007 and remain in residence for two years. The National Gallery recently established a new program focusing on indigenous art, creating a position for a curator. Loft, who has run the Urban Shaman Gallery since 2002, has concentrated on contemporary aboriginal art and its development in the national art world. The National Gallery began purchasing native art in 1986. According to *CBC News*, Loft plans on preparing a touring exhibit that will likely include new media and video.

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MOUSELAND PRESS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NO. 2
NOVEMBER 7, 2007

SCHEDULED TIME: 12:30PM – 2:30PM
 LOCATION: UWSA BOARD ROOM, ORM06

- All members have the right and responsibility to attend the meeting.
- All members have voting and speaking rights.
- The election of members to the Mouseland Press Incorporated Board of Directors will take place at this meeting.
- The deadline to for nomination to the Board is October 24, 2007. Please see Article 10 of Mouseland Press Inc By-Law No. 1 for the procedures of the Election of Directors.
- All nominations of members for election must be provided to the Chair by the nomination deadline.
- Motions concerning changes to Mouseland Press Inc. By-Law No. 1 will be debated and voted on at this meeting.
- All motions to amend the By-Law must be submitted to the Chair by October 17, 2007.
- All questions should be directed to the Chair of the Board of Directors, Ben Wickström, at board@uniter.ca or by phone at 801-4271.

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Apostle of Hustle
 [Featuring members of Broken Social Scene]

WEDNESDAY
October 24
 ROYAL ALBERT ARMS
 Doors 8:00 PM / 18+



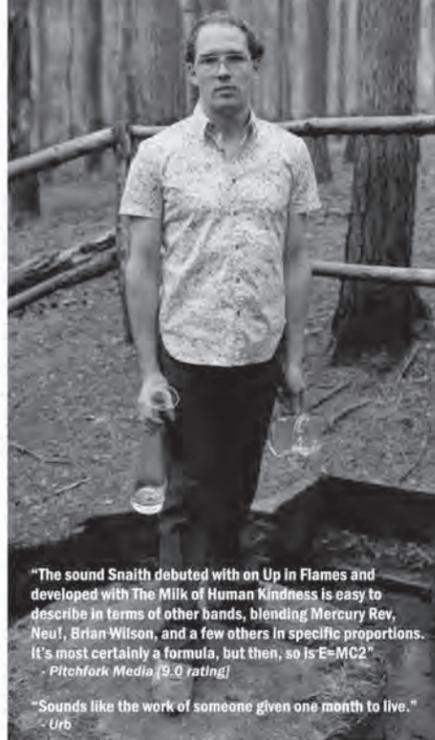
"Lush, poetic and beautifully disorienting, Broken Social Scene guitar guru Andrew Whiteman's long awaited solo spin is like smoking hash and eating mangoes on a beach in Xanadu... where bossa meets Buckley and Ribot rolls dice with beat poets." - *Now Magazine*

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"The sound Snailth debuted with on *Up in Flames* and developed with *The Milk of Human Kindness* is easy to describe in terms of other bands, blending Mercury Rev, Neu!, Brian Wilson, and a few others in specific proportions. It's most certainly a formula, but then, so is E=MC²" - *Pitchfork Media* (9.0 rating)

"Sounds like the work of someone given one month to live." - *Urb*

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CD REVIEWS

REBEKAH HIGGS

Rebekah Higgs
 Outside Music



The debut record from Halifax's Rebekah Higgs showcases her brand of dreamy, artsy, acoustic folk.

Higgs' sandy voice is filled with character and comparisons to Cat Power or Feist could easily be made—perhaps too easily in some places, where the sound comes across as somewhat contrived. The album's strength lies in the colourful bursts of sound that are draped over fairly straightforward songs. Choruses erupt with layers of guitars, creating a kaleidoscopic sound before they trail off into the more intimate verses. "Wedding One" is simply beautiful. On this standout ballad, reverberated guitars shimmer beneath Higgs' tender voice, which becomes another instrument. Higgs loops her voice as she is singing, producing an ethereal effect. Unfortunately, moments like this are only occasional. Keep an eye out for Rebekah Higgs nonetheless; this debut shows promise.

Curran Faris
 2.5 out of 5 mice



VARIOUS ARTISTS

Gilles Peterson Digs America Vol. 2
 Ubiquity Records



Digging describes how some of the rare soul, funk, and jazz tracks on

this album were found by renowned BBC radio host Gilles Peterson. In a mansion in Brownswood, England is his huge collection of rare, some-not-yet-played music found at soon to be extinct artifact record shops. The flow of music and genre on this album creates a hip, funky '50s/'60s vibe that will surely bring new fans to this forgotten sound. Favorites include the cosmically funky sounds of the Diddy's with their "Intergalactic Love Song" and the gentle singing/upbeat blues tempo of "Make Love to Me." This album would best be played over any party lacking excitement. It'll set a cosmopolitan and yet funky mood, with you looking like you know your stuff.

Kelly Nickie
 4 out of 5 mice



AMIINA

Kurr
 Ever Records



Amiina, the four-woman band from Iceland, has released their first international album.

Kurr. Sirn Sunarlidadttir, Mara Sigstttir, Edda Olafsdottir and Hildur Rslsdttir have created a beautiful masterpiece. Amiina's website explains their approach and the meaning behind the name of their album: *Kurr*, which refers to the sound birds are said to make in Iceland, is an eclectic mixture of an assortment of instruments that range from the acoustic guitar to the saw. No musician is assigned to one particular instrument. Each song has a different person behind each instrument, making the energy of every song a bit different. Each song flows into the next one beautifully, as though the album were one long song with various parts. And every song is haunting yet comforting, relaxing yet engaging. It sometimes felt as if Amiina's creative energy was channeling my own.

Kathleen Gallagher
 4 out of 5 mice

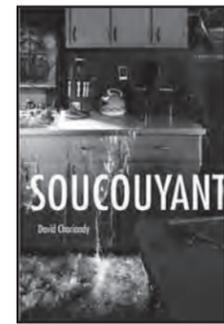


BOOK REVIEW

SOUCOUYANT

By David Chariandy Arsenal Pulp Press
 \$19.95

KELLY NICKIE
 VOLUNTEER STAFF



Have you been looking for a fiction book lately that speaks to the poetic soul? *Soucouyant* by David Chariandy, is the right book for anyone looking for a new take on fiction writing.

A professor of English at Simon Fraser University, this is Chariandy's first novel. He writes the sensitive story of a Canadian-born son who comes home to Scarborough Bluffs, ON, to take care of his Caribbean-born mother who suffers from dementia, after having abandoned her for two years. He returns home with a reason: to learn about his mother's life through her memories before she sinks too deep into her condition. The son believes his mother was taken over by a "soucouyant," an evil spirit in Caribbean folklore that takes over the soul and causes a person to forget their past. The book explores the past and present of the mother, providing insight into the struggles of a woman from an ethnic minority in the 1960s as well as the struggles of early onset dementia.

Chariandy tells the story through a first person narrative, so most characters in the book are referred to only by their relation to the speaker. This way of writing comforts the reader and fits well with the story being told. Chariandy has the main character speak personally on his account of his mother's life using words lovingly woven throughout, for example, this description of his mother's condition: "Was this a turning point in her life? The moment when she first realized that something was wrong with her? That something more serious than cutlery or bangles had gone missing? That so many other things were getting lost? This man beside her, for instance. Her husband. She knows his name, of course. It's Roger. But what else does she know?"

Just as sensitively written and deeply thought, Chariandy writes the character of the storyteller. He is woven into his mother's life. Other characters, such as the father, the older brother and the nurse who takes care of his mother, play significant roles as well. For me, the best aspect of *Soucouyant* is Chariandy's use of language; it speaks clearly in a way that much other prose cannot. Thus, although the story follows an ethnic family, all readers will likely be able to relate to it. Chariandy communicates the frustration and struggle of not only living with someone that has dementia, but also of the slow process of losing life's precious moments, the ones you thought you would never forget. I found, also, that this book is profound in its ability to help readers understand more about dementia. The story builds at a steady pace, leading the reader to an ending that is settling, and unforgettable.

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

LW	TW	Artist	Recording	Label
1	1	!Weakerthans	Reunion Tour	Anti/Epitaph
8	2	!Scott Nolan	Receiver/Reflector	Transistor 66
2	3	!Paperbacks	An Illusion Against Death	Parliament of Trees
10	4	!Details	Draw a Distance	Parliament of Trees
3	5	Bjork	Volta	Atlantic
4	6	*Emily Haines/Soft Skeleton	What is Free...	Last Gang
5	7	*Stars	In Our Bedroom	Arts & Crafts
7	8	Gaudi + Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan	Dub Qawwali	Six Degrees
12	9	Caribou	Andorra	Merge
6	10	!Grand Analog	Calligraffiti	Slo Coach

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The Uniter is looking for a hard-working, creative, and talented individual to take on the responsibilities of Production Manager. The successful applicant will be responsible for the overall design and final layout of the newspaper, in cooperation with the section editors and Managing Editor, on a weekly basis. This person must be proficient with Adobe Creative Suite, comfortable using a Mac OS X platform and a sound understanding of design principles for a weekly print publication. The Production Manager must be available to work Saturday-Tuesday. Some additional ad design will be required and paid accordingly. Some office hours are required. Time commitment is 20+ hours per week.

**Please send your resume and a cover letter to editor@uniter.ca.
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*date has been extended. Start date for this job is Nov. 1.



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Laurence Kayaleh

EVENTS VIRTUOSI CONCERT OCT. 27

VIRTUOSI CONCERTS Laurence Kayaleh, violin & Paul Stewart, piano. Sat, Oct 27, 8 p.m. Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Programme: SMETANA Asu Der Heimat, STRAUSS Sonata in E flat major, op.18, MEDTNER Three "Skazi" (Fairy Tales) (solo piano) MEDTNER Sonata in G major, op.44 no. 2 Tickets: Adult \$29/ seniors \$27 / students \$14.50. For more information please visit www.virtuosi.mb.ca

TOXIC TRESPASS: MFB FILM SCREENING w/ PRODUCER DOROTHY GOLDIN ROSENBERG The story of a mother and daughter looking for answers after being part of a Canada-wide study measuring pervasive, man-made toxins in our bodies. It relates the knowledge scientists and community activists have uncovered on these chemicals, and the serious repercussions they pose to human health. Executive producer and principle research consultant for the film, Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, MES, PhD, will discuss her work, along with local panelists, following the film. Mon, Oct 29, 7 p.m. Eckhardt-Grammatte Hall. Free admission, all welcome.

GALLERY 1C03 Show + Tell: Notions of Home and Place by Alumni, until Oct 27. Organized in conjunction with the University of Winnipeg's 40th anniversary, Show + Tell features art in various media by 13 UW graduates. New work by Steve Bates, Richard Dyck, Richard Hines, Leah Fontaine, Allan Geske, Glen Johnson, Blair Marten, Kegan McFadden, Solomon Nagler, Freya Bjorg Olafson, Paul Robles, Donna Szoke and Racheal Tycoles. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri: noon-4 p.m. Sat: 1-4 p.m. Opportunities

COUNSELLING & CAREER SERVICES INFORMATION SESSIONS Successful Interviewing Thurs, Oct 18, 11:15-12:15. Career Exploration Wed, Oct 24, 12:30-1:20. All students, alumni and staff are welcome to attend and must pre-register by calling 786-9231. Off campus event: Bioscience Future Leaders Program Conference. Thurs, Oct 25, 1:30-5:30 p.m. at The Fairmont Winnipeg. Manitoba Business of Science Symposium 2007 welcomes post-secondary students to a free conference opportunity. Register online at www.businessofscience.org/futureleaders

LOOKING FOR A GREAT IDEA FOR YOUR TERM PAPER? The Experiential Learning Program offers research topics to students based on the needs of our University and local community. We partner with offices on campus and non-profit organizations working towards social justice and environmental sustainability. These projects range from helping refugees settle in Winnipeg, to protecting our waterways from environmental degradation. Current proposals are listed on our website for your consideration, at www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/sus-student-initiatives. Interested? Contact the SUNSET (Sustainable University Now, Sustainable Earth Together) student group office at 789-1435 or email uwsunset@yahoo.ca.

MEAL EXCHANGE VOLUNTEERS WANTED Groups of costumed volunteers will walk door to door on Halloween night on pre-assigned streets asking for donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items. Students will also help count and sort donations, then visit community organizations to drop off our collections. Meal Exchange (MX) is a student founded, student run, registered charitable organization that has grown to 48 campuses across Canada. The mandate of the University of Winnipeg Chapter is to promote civic engagement through the development of hunger solutions. MX implements programs and events that transform students from passive contributors to active agents in the fight against hunger. Contact mealexchange@hotmail.com

FROM OUTRAGE TO ACTION HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP SERIES Sessions include An Introduction to International Law, Beyond Letter Writing, Corporate Social Responsibility, Refugee Claimants in Winnipeg, Racial Profiling in Canada, Activism 101. Dates from Oct 30-Dec 6. Free admission. Space is limited - priority will be given to those who register for all six sessions. To register contact Louise at outrage2oaction@mts.net or call 475-4565.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS & WRITERS' COLLECTIVE NON-FICTION CONTEST Do you have a story that needs to be told? The theme this year is "I knew I wasn't in Kansas anymore, when..." and there's a total of nine hundred dollars to be won. Deadline Oct 31. For details, call 786-9468 or email writerscollective.uwinnipeg.ca or visit <http://writerscollective.uwinnipeg.ca/nfict.html>

WRITERS COLLECTIVE POETRY CONTEST Attention poets! Over five hundred dollars to be won. Deadline is Oct 31. For details, call 786-9468 or email writerscollective.uwinnipeg.ca

2008 STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION celebrates the commitment, determination and achievements of student entrepreneurs. Through this annual program, ACE and CIBC create a platform for young business leaders to network with like-minded students, showcase their business on a regional and national stage to top executives and leading entrepreneurs, receive relevant training and leverage valuable mentorship opportunities to accelerate the growth of their business. Nominations and self nominations are being accepted through the ACE website, www.acecanada.ca, and will close on Dec 7. The competition is open to full-time students at Canadian universities or colleges who are running their own businesses.

BEST STUDENT WRITER AWARD The National Magazine Awards Foundation (NMAF) is now accepting applications for the 3rd annual Best Student Writer award. Full-time, post-secondary students who have published a non-fiction piece in a Canadian consumer or university magazine in 2007 are eligible. The winner will receive \$1000 and tickets to the National Magazine Awards gala next June. Visit www.magazineawards.com for more information. Deadline is Jan 11, 2008.

LECTURES & SEMINARS

MYSTERY WRITING WORKSHOP with Catherine Hunter. Sat, Oct 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. room 3M50. Participants will discuss the basic elements of the mystery novel and each draft a "discovery" scene for their own mystery. Each participant will have the chance to come away from the workshop with a plan for a mystery novel of their own. \$15 for WC members, \$30 for non-members. To register, email writerscollective@uwinnipeg.ca or call 786-9468.

AROUND TOWN

CONCERTS

MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA presents Dmitri Shostakovich's almighty Symphony no. 14, op. 135. Tues, Oct 23, 7:30 p.m. Westminster United Church, 745 Westminster at Maryland. Tickets \$26.50 for adults, \$24 for seniors and \$7.50 for students available at McNally Robinson, Ticketmaster (780-3333) or MCO's Ticketline (783-7377).

GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS w/ JUSTIN RUTLEDGE Thurs, Oct 25 at the West End Cultural Centre. Doors 7:15, Show 8. Tickets \$12 in advance @ Ticketmaster, WECC, Into the Music, and Music Trader.

JACKS ARE BETTER Feat. Jack Semple and Jack Dekeyzer. Fri, Oct 26 at The Pyramid Cabaret 176 Fort Street. Doors 7, show 8. Tickets \$20 at 219-6004.

HALLOWEEN FUNKADELIC GHOST SHIP Fri, Oct 26, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Manitoba Museum. For tickets, visit www.manitobamuseum.ca

CRAID CARDIFF w/ local openers Jacob and Lily Oct 29, 8:30 p.m. The Cyrk, 254 Young St. Tickets \$10

JULLY BLACK Nov 7, WECC. Doors 7:15 p.m. Show 8 p.m. Tickets \$14 in advance Available at WECC and Ticketmaster

FILM

TINSLEY ELLIS Nov 2 Silverado's. Tickets \$14.15 + GST by calling 694-SHOW(7469) **CUFF THE DUKE** w/ LAND OF TALK Thurs, Nov 8 WECC. Doors 7:15 p.m. Show 8 p.m. Tickets \$12 in advance on sale now at WECC, Ticketmaster, Into the Music, and Music Trader **THE MOST SERENE REPUBLIC** w/ DRAGONETTE and MOTHER MOTHER Fri, Nov 9 at the Pyramid. Tickets \$12 advance / \$15 door, available at Into the Music, Kustom Kulture and Kitsch on Broadway

REEL PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL Oct 16-19 @ Globe Cinema and 20-21 @ Cinemathèque. Screenings at 7 and 9 p.m. Tickets: \$7 each or 6 for \$35 Advance tickets: 775-6457. Full details of the festival are available at www.reelpride.org. **CINEMATHEQUE** 100 Arthur St. Oct 20 & 21: Reel Pride Film Festival. Oct 22 & 23: Paprika. Oct 24 & 25: NFB Get Animated. **GLOBE CINEMA** Portage Place Now playing: Feast of Love, In the Valley of Elah, Silk. Call 69-GLOBE for details.

PARK THEATRE 698 Osborne St. 478-7275 Oct 18, 7:30: Classic Horror Night Oct 19, 7:00: Spanish Film Night Oct 21, 7:30: Lost in Transmission w/ Entropy and Andrew Hedlin

THEATRE & DANCE

DERRING-DO FUNDRAISER Presented by Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and Urban Shaman Gallery. Performances by Santee Smith, Julia Sasso, and many others. Cash bar, refreshments, auction, music, dance. Sat, Oct 20, 7:30 p.m. WCD Studio Theatre, 211 Bannatyne Ave. Tickets \$25 at 452-0229 or tickets@winnipegcontemporarydancers.ca

MUMBI KAIGWA TRANSFORMATIVE ART A workshop using theatre and performance to work toward social change. Facilitated by Mumbi Kaigwa from Nairobi, Kenya, participants will be led through exercises and discussions on how art could produce change and address social issues in their own communities. Tues, Oct 23, 1-4 p.m. Graffiti Gallery, 109 Higgins Ave. Admission is free, donations to food bank appreciated. Seating is limited so call to register: 927-ARTS (2787) Toll free: 1-866-802-1104

THEATRE BY THE RIVER PRESENT OEDIPUS REX Oct 16-20. For information and tickets visit www.theatrebytheriver.com or call 770-0093.

MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE 174 Market Ave 942-6537. Oct 18-Nov 10: Our Town

PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE Portage Place 942-5483. Oct 17-Nov 4: Chimera.

LITERARY

2007 PRAIRIE FIRE PRESS - MCNALLY ROBINSON WRITING CONTESTS Bliss Carman Poetry Award - Judge: Barry Dempster, Short Fiction - Judge: Bill Gaston,

Creative Non-Fiction - Judge: Mark Anthony Jarman. \$6,000 in prizes. First prize in each category \$1,250, 2nd prize \$500, 3rd prize \$250. Deadline: Nov 30. For information contact 943-9066, prfire@mts.net, or check out our web site for guidelines at www.prairiefire.ca.

FERNWOOD PUBLISHING BOOK LAUNCH Doing Community Economic Development, edited by Jim Silver (professor in the new Dept. of Urban and Inner City Studies at the U of W), John Loxley (professor of economics and co-ordinator of research for the Global Political Economy Program at the University of Manitoba), and Kathy Sexsmith (a student at the University of Oxford). Nov 1, 7:00 p.m. at Mondragon Café and Bookstore, 91 Albert St.

MCNALLY ROBINSON GRANT PARK Adrian De Hoog Oct 18, 7 p.m. reading and signing **Borderless Deceit**. Roland Penner Oct 18, 8 p.m. in **A Glowing Dream: A Memoir**. Kathy Reichs Oct 19, 6:30 pm. reading and signing **Bones to Ashes**. Marsha Skrypuch Oct 21, 1 p.m. reading & signing **Prisoners in the Promised Land: The Ukrainian Internment Diary of Anya Soloniuk**, Spirit Lake, Quebec 1914. Heather Summerhayes Carious Oct 22, 7 p.m. reading & signing **Sixty-five Roses**. Scott Morisson Oct 22, 8 p.m. presentation & signing of **Hockey Night in Canada By the Numbers: 00 to 99**. Jogn Paskievich Tues, Oct 23, 7 p.m. slide-show & signing of **The North End**. Susan Riley Oct 23, 8 p.m. Launch of **We Watch The Waves; Unravelling the Mystery of a Father's Death**. Linda Moore Oct 24, 7:00 p.m. reading and signing of **Foul Deeds**. Arthur Motyer, Oct 25, 7:00 p.m. reading from **The Staircase Letters: An Extraordinary Friendship at the End of Life**. Bob Mersereau Oct 25, 8 p.m. Launch of **The Top 100 Canadian Albums**.

COMEDY

COMEDY LOSER King's Head Pub, 120 King St Oct 23, 9 p.m. Winnipeg's Alternative Comedy Showcase. All solo acts, no standup comedy. Video, improv, sketch, multimedia, music, and monologues. Featuring: Ryan McMahon, John B. Duff, J. Williams, Robyn Slade, Devin McKracken, and more. FREE admission. www.comedyloser.com

SOAP SCUM PRODUCTIONS presents Space Quest, an improvised space comedy on Mondays at the Park Theater 698 Osborne St. at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door.



GALLERIES WAYNE ARTHUR GALLERY

ART TOMORROW: FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF CONTEMPORARY ART INSTITUTIONS Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art presents a forum exploring the future and role of contemporary visual arts institutions in Canada. All welcome to attend discussions with local and international guest speakers at the Fort Garry Hotel on Nov 2 and 3. An opening reception will be held on Nov 1 at Plug In and a Cabaret on Nov 2 at the Fort Garry Hotel. For more information and registration, contact Plug In at 943-1043 and visit our website www.plugin.org.

A LABEL FOR ARTISTS is currently accepting submissions for our next exhibition *Homage to Picasso*. We are looking to salute Pablo Picasso by showing works by you that have his influence. This can be collages, paintings, drawings, sculpture or photos. If you wish to participate please email alabelforartists@gmail.com or phone 772-5165 to make drop off arrangements. We ask that all works be labeled with name, title, and contact info. Paper works should be framed.

ACEARTINC 2nd floor, 290 McDermot Ave 944-9763

GRAFFITI GALLERY 109 Higgins 667-9960. Not-for-profit community youth art centre. Transformative Art: Using arts-based projects to work toward social change, facilitated by Mumbi Kaigwa from Kenya, Oct 23, 1-4 p.m. Until Dec 6: Drawing Attention.

KEEPSAKES GALLERY 264 McDermot Ave 257-0374 Non-profit art gallery. Handmade art, pottery, candles, cards, paintings, photography.

GALLERY LACOSSE 169 Lilac St. 284-0726 Studies in Contrast feat. the work of Michael Cox, Jim Corbett, and Terry Lacosse.

PLATFORM CENTRE FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DIGITAL ARTS 121-100 Arthur St (Artspace) 942-8183 Until Oct 19: soft ground: Sarah Small + Elaine Stocki.

OUTWORKS GALLERY 290 McDermot Ave 949-0274. Vistas by Grey Matters, a collective of women artists. Hours: Oct 19, 20, 21, Noon-6 p.m.

PLUG IN INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART 286 McDermot Ave *Scratching the Surface: The Post-Prairie Landscape* feat. 19 Winnipeg artists. Until Nov 17.

URBAN SHAMAN 203-290 McDermot Ave 942-2674. Until Nov 10: *Rockstars & Wannabes*, video and installation feat. Warren Arcand, Kevin Ei-Ichi deForest, Skawennati Fragnito, and Benny Nemerofsky Ramsay.

VAULT GALLERY 2181 Portage Ave *Kundalini Rising*, a group exhibition that explores the inner workings of Yoga practice and Zen philosophy, until Nov 3. Gallery hours 11-5 Tues-Sat

WAH-SA GALLERY 130-25 Forks Market Rd

WAYNE ARTHUR GALLERY 186 Provencher Blvd. Until Oct 31: *Trees inside and outside the box*.

WINNIPEG ART GALLERY 300 Memorial Blvd. 789-1760. *Warhol: Larger than Life*, until Jan 6. *John Hartman: Cities. Into the Collection: Will Gorlitz*, until Nov 8. *Around Here: Scenes of Manitoba from the Historical Collection*, until Nov 10. *Inuit Games*, ongoing. *Into the Collection: Highlights of Historical Painting From 15th century panel paintings to Post-Impressionism*, ongoing.



BARS, CAFES & VENUES OCT. 18 AT THE PYRAMID

ACADEMY BAR & EATERY 414 Academy Rd. Oct 18: Mike Petkau, Rob Szabo, and Peter Katz Oct 19: Madge Clement Oct 20: Jeremy Proctor Oct 25 Andrew Hedlin and Friends Oct 26 Kim Reimer and Inna Riddim

ACADEMY FOOD DRINKS MUSIC 437 Stradbrook Oct 18: Greg Lowe Trio Oct 20: *The Fighting Hellfish* Oct 22: *Open Mic with Little Black Dress* Oct 23: Nicole Byblow and Don Amero Oct 24: Lindsay White Oct 25: Greg Lowe Trio 8-10 **KING'S HEAD PUB** 100 King St. Every Sunday: All the Kings Men

MCNALLY ROBINSON PORTAGE PLACE MUSIC Oct 19: Mercy Mercy (folk/blues). Oct 26: Sister Dorothy (Solo Acoustic). Shows at 6:30.

MCNALLY ROBINSON GRANT PARK MUSIC Oct 19: Fred Redekop & Jay Taylor (mandolin, bass). Oct 20: *A Taste of New Orleans (Jazz)*. Oct 26: Marie-Josée Clement (Jazz trio). Shows at 8.

OZZY'S 160 Osborne Downstairs Oct 19: *Thine Eyes Bleed, F*ck The Facts, Damascus*, with guests. Oct 20: *The Ball (Double levels, Double dungeons!)*

PYRAMID CABARET 176 Fort St. Oct 18: *New Meanies w/ Burnthe8Track and D-Rangers*. Oct 23: *The Sadies w/ Young Rivals, \$15 advance/ \$16 door* available at Ticketmaster, The Pyramid, Kustom Kulture, Into the Music and Kitsch on Broadway. Oct 26: Jack Semple w/ Jack DeKeyzer.

REGAL BEAGLE 331 Smith St. Oct 19, 20: Suzanne Mariani Oct 26, 27: Kathy Kennedy. Every Wed at 9 p.m. *The Marlborough Men*. Thurs at 9 p.m. Shandra and Jason.

ROYAL ALBERT ARMS 48 Albert St. Oct 21: *The Thermals* Oct 24: *Do Make Say Think, The Apostle of Hustle*

SHANNON'S 175 Carlton St. Oct 18: *Jazz Night with Pittman/Bradford/McIntyre Trio* Oct 19 & 20: *Dust Rhinos* Oct 22: J. Williams Oct 23: Mike Petkau Oct 24: Blair Hordeski

THE ZOO Osborne Village Inn 160 Osborne St. Oct 19: *Amid Valhalla demo* release feat. *Civil Disobedients*, with special guests. Oct 20: *The Ball (Double levels, Double dungeons!)* Oct 23: *Sideline Productions* presents: *TBA* Oct 24: *Straight Faced Liars*.

WEST END CULTURAL CENTRE 586 Ellice Ave Oct 18: *Athavale CD* release. Doors 7:15 Show 8. Tickets \$10 in advance at Ticketmaster, WECC, McNally Robinson Booksellers. Oct 20: *The WECC's 20th Anniversary Party* feat. James Keelaghan, Keith & Renee, Veda Hille, and Spirit of the West's John Mann. Doors 7:15 Show 8:00. Tickets \$20 in advance @ Ticketmaster & WECC

COMMUNITY EVENTS

A DAY OF MYSTERY WRITING Presented by Manitoba's Writers' Guild and the Winnipeg Public Library. Sat, Oct 20, 2007, 11 a.m.-4:30pm. Millennium Library. For more information, call 942-6134 or visit www.mbwriter.mb.ca/mystery.html

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME...TO DO BUSINESS CONFERENCE Join home based business owners for the annual Manitoba Home Business Advisory Council conference on Fri, Oct 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Winnipeg Convention Centre. Cost: \$25, coffee & lunch included. Attend 7 sessions and talk to over 20 displayers. Registration: 771-7280 or visit www.homebusinessmanitoba.com.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD presents "A dialogue on Women's Wellness" luncheon with Dr. Anne Katz, PhD, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, CancerCare Manitoba. She will present an informative discussion on the top ten women health issues. Wed, Oct 24, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 1330 Pembina Highway. Tickets: \$35 at 339-0075 or wow3@mts.net

SKYWALK CONCERTS & LECTURES A co-presentation of Wpg Public Library, the U of W and Virtuosi Concerts Inc. All events take place from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. in the Carol Shields Auditorium, second floor of the Millennium Library, 251 Donald St. Admission is free. Oct 18: *The Virtuoso Fiddle* with Sierra Noble. Oct 24: Phil Cyrenne, U of W Economics, on *What Determines the Reputations of Universities in Canada?*

REGIONAL CALL FOR ARTISTS The Winnipeg Arts Council invites artists to submit Expressions of Interest to create a permanent Gateway and Transit-related public art project developed in conjunction with The University of Winnipeg/Spence St. Redevelopment. The selected artist will develop a proposal in consultation with City of Winnipeg, University of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Arts Council staff that will include a transit shelter for the Ellice Ave transit stop and associated public art elements at the Ellice Ave and at the Portage Ave stops. Interested artists must submit a complete application package. Please visit www.winnipegarts.ca for full details. Deadline for application is Oct 26.

ATTENTION ARTISTS OF ALL DISCIPLINES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS The Winnipeg Arts Council Public Art Program invites applications for WITH ART, a program for collaborative art projects between community groups and artists in Winnipeg. Artists working in all art forms such as visual, performing and literary arts, and community groups from diverse sectors who have a history working together are welcome to apply. Please see our website for full eligibility criteria and application requirements and for any further information. Deadline is Dec 3. Call Tricia Wasney at 943-7668 or visit www.winnipegarts.ca for full details.

GORDON BELL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI CHOIR Practices are Monday evenings at 6:45 in the Gordon Bell Music Room. Contact Don Askholm at 489-5584 for more information.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? Discover the 5 W's of your family history. The Southeast & Winnipeg Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society is hosting the MGS Seminar 2007 Oct 19-21 at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Please visit our website at www.mbgenealogy.com for details.

100 MINUTES WITH AN AUTHOR The Writers' Collective and the Millennium Library are pleased to offer Tuesday night lectures with different authors. Oct 23: *Picture Book* Author Kevin Shortleeve. Oct 30: *Non-Fiction* author Chris Rutkowski. All events are free and open to the public and are being held from 7-9 p.m. in the Carol Shields auditorium at the Millennium Library. Call 986-4294 for more info.

FREE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLASS An opportunity to meet with other students and Canadian friends while learning English and the Bible. Elim Chapel 546 Portage Ave at Spence St. (enter from rear parking lot) Sundays noon-1:30 p.m. For information call Val & Veda Chacko 257-1670.

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Tues, Nov 20, 7 p.m. The Red Road Lodge, (formerly the New Occidental) 631 Main St (the corner of Logan and Main). A day to remember and commemorate those who have been killed because of their gender expression. Following the Candlelit Vigil, there will be refreshments and a celebratory Gender F*#! Dance Party! This is a free all ages event. All are welcome!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LOOKING TO WORK WITH CHILDREN/YOUTH? The International Centre (406 Edmonton St) needs volunteers to work with recent newcomer children and youth from the inner-city in the following programs: 1. Sports Club - Tuesdays from 5-7 pm @ Victoria Albert School/Central Park 2. After School Education (ESL) - Wednesdays from 5-7pm @ 511 Ellice Ave. 3. Youth Empowerment (cooking/art classes) - Fridays from 5-7:30pm @ International Centre 4. Youth Leadership Training (team games, volunteer/job skills) - Saturdays from 1-5pm @ UofW For more info, contact Si il: siilp@international-centre.ca or 943-9158 ext. 285 To apply contact Marsha: marshap@internal-centre.ca or 943-9158 ext. 260

CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION October is Residential Campaign Month. This campaign is an annual event where Canadian Diabetes Association volunteers canvass door-to-door in neighbourhoods to seek and collect donations for Association research, education, service and advocacy. If you meet one of our canvassers in your neighbourhood, please give what you can for a better tomorrow. For more information, contact Michelle Perera, Development Coordinator, Individual Giving at 925-3800 (ext. 240) or email michelle.perera@diabetes.ca

BE A VOLUNTEER LITERACY TUTOR WITH FRONTIER COLLEGE! Work with children, youth and adults in schools and community centres around the University of Winnipeg. The commitment is one hour per week through the school year. Call 253-7993 or email cgarts@frontiercollege.ca for more information. Literacy is an essential skill in today's world. At Frontier College, we believe it's a fundamental right. 42% of adult Canadians have trouble with everyday tasks that involve reading. Through a network of thousands of volunteers, Frontier College is helping people to realize their potential and seize the opportunities that come their way. See www.frontiercollege.ca.

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

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

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

INTERNAL AWARDS:

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG TUITION BURSARY PROGRAM 2007-08

This bursary program has been developed for the 2007-08 academic year to assist students, primarily those in their first year of university study, who are experiencing financial difficulties because of tuition costs and books and supplies expenses. Financial need caused by living expenses may also be considered in exceptional circumstances.

The maximum award will be equivalent of tuition and books/supplies costs for the

current academic year. To be eligible the student must meet the following criteria:

must be registered in an undergraduate degree program or pre-professional program in Arts, Science, or Education at the University of Winnipeg during the 2007-08 academic year. Registration may be on either a full-time or part-time basis. Student should have financial need. Student should be making satisfactory academic progress. Applications are available in the Awards office located in Graham Hall and at Student Central in Centennial Hall.

Deadline date: December 3, 2007.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG GENERAL BURSARY APPLICATIONS

General Bursary Application Forms are now in the Awards office located in Graham Hall or at Student Central 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. These University of Winnipeg bursaries are available to our students in any year of their program.

Deadline date: January 31, 2008.

EXTERNAL AWARDS:

AUCC AWARDS:

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada provides 150 scholarship programs on behalf of the Federal Government, domestic and foreign agencies, and private sector companies. Check out website www.aucc.ca Look under the heading Scholarships open to the public.

Deadlines: various

DENNIS LYSTER LEADERSHIP 2007 BURSARY:

This bursary will provide a maximum of \$5000 to a student whose work-study background and leadership potential is helping (or will help) develop the co-operative system. To be eligible, the student must be a Canadian citizen, have a demonstrated financial need and be 40 years of age or less as of January 1, 2008.

Applicants for the bursary will be assessed on the following criteria:

- 1) member of a credit union or co-operative.
- 2) co-operative leadership potential.
- 3) academic and professional excellence.
- 4) values that support the achievement of excellence.
- 5) community spirit.

For further information, please contact Marketing & Communications at 306-956-1904 or email to marketing@concentrafinancial.ca

Deadline: October 20, 2007

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION:

NAAF scholarship applications for 2007-2008 provide a variety of awards for Canadian Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal Students (First Nations, Métis or Inuit), studying in the area of Information Technologies are encouraged to apply for one of three remaining \$4000 bursaries.

Applications are available on-line at www.naaf.ca or for pick up in the Awards office located in Graham Hall. For more information call 1-800-329-9780 or email rhill@naaf.ca

Deadline: until they are gone.

MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

These scholarships are given annually via an essay contest for Manitoba students in journalism and communications. The contest is open to any Manitoba resident enrolled full-time or part-time in a post-secondary program in journalism, communications or broadcasting anywhere in Canada. First prize includes a \$1000 scholarship and a paid one-year membership in the Manitoba Farm Writers and Broadcasters Association. Second and Third prizes of \$150 will be awarded. Applicants must submit an original essay of no more than 1250 words on the following topics:

- What does the agriculture industry - including farming, research, agribusiness and other sectors - need to do to attract and maintain young people in its professions?

- To what extent is the hog industry to blame for Lake Winnipeg's current state of water quality?

- Farming is a business, not a way of life, and should be treated that way. Do you agree or disagree, and why?

Submit essays by either mailing it to "Manitoba Co-operator Scholarships", Box 9800, Winnipeg MB, R3C 3K7 or fax it to 204-954-1422 or email to news@fbcpublishing.com

Deadline date: November 1, 2007.

MARIN MOSER SOCIETY FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

This new bursary is available to lay men and women who are studying theology in preparation for ministry within the Canadian Church. To be eligible the student must meet the following criteria:

- be a lay man or woman of any Christian denomination who is enrolled in a recognized Canadian theological school

- pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in theology or theological studies in preparation for ministry in the Canadian Church

Note: This bursary is not intended for those preparing for ordained ministry.

Applications are available in the Awards Office in Graham Hall.

Deadline: November 15, 2007

JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP FOR NATIVE CANADIANS:

The Gil Purcell Memorial Journalism Scholarship for Native Canadians is now being offered by the Canadian Press. Valued at \$4000, the purpose is to encourage aboriginal Canadians to enter the field of journalism through study at a Canadian post-secondary institution. In addition to the monetary award, there is a possibility of summer employment. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Native Canadian (status or non-status Indian, Métis, or Inuit)

- Registered at a Canadian university or community college

- Enrolled in a journalism program or actively involved in a volunteer capacity with a student newspaper or broadcast station.

- Open to both French and English speaking native Canadian.

Applications are available from schools of journalism, native organizations or from Deborah McCartney, HR, The Canadian Press, 36 King Street East, Toronto Ontario, M5C 2L9. Her email address is dmccartney@cp.org

Deadline date: November 15, 2007.

UKRAINIAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Applications are now being accepted for the following awards offered by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC).

The International Initiatives in Deaf Studies Award (\$500) to enable a post-secondary student (full or part-time) to pursue his/her interest in deaf studies and/or hearing impairment as it relates to an international context.

The Roger Charest Sr. Award for Broadcast & Media Arts (two awards of \$500 or one award of \$1000) to create create a special program or series which may later be suitable for broadcast and may further the cause of multiculturalism in Canada.

The Roman Soltykewych Music Scholarship (\$500) is available to applicants (individual or group) determined to pursue further studies in the field of Ukrainian choral or vocal music.

The Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers (\$1000) is available annually to a novice writer for a work on a Ukrainian Canadian theme. Submissions for this year's award must be in English.

Wm. & Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts (\$1000) is offered to a novice writer for a work promoting Ukrainian Canadian identity through the medium of film, video or multimedia (i.e. d.v.d)

Applications are available from URDC. Phone (780) 497-4374 or email chumera@macewan.ca

Deadline: November 30, 2007.

NEADS: EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION AWARDS:

The BMO Capital Markets, and the National Educational Association of Disabled Students is proud to introduce the NEADS Equity Through Education Awards Program.

These awards are being offered to encourage full access to post-secondary education for persons with disabilities. Awards will be granted to outstanding applicants who meet the criteria of the program. Visit www.neads.ca for full details.

Deadline: December 1, 2007.

SOROPTIMIST WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY AWARDS:

Do you find yourself going back to school later in life? Do you need financial assistant to complete your education? Women's Opportunity Awards are cash awards that assist women in obtaining the skills and education they need to improve their employment status. Recipients may use the awards for any expenses related to their educational pursuits.

To be eligible you must meet the following criteria:

- be a female head of household (single or married, with the primary responsibility of supporting yourself and your dependents)

- attend an undergraduate degree program or a vocational/skills training program.

- have financial need.

If you have further questions, contact Heather Menzies, 1204 - One Evergreen Place, Winnipeg MB, R3L 0E9 or phone 475-2526. Applications are available in the Awards office located in Graham Hall.

Deadline: December 15, 2007

FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AWARDS: Countries- Chile, Colombia, Korea, Russia and Philippines

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. Applications must be submitted on-line via the website, www.scholarships.gc.ca

Please note that 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.

Deadline: January 28, 2008 for awards beginning academic year 2008-2009

MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM (MSAP)

DID YOU KNOW..... You can still apply for a 2007/2008 government student loan online at website www.manitobastudentaid.ca

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

DID YOU KNOW.... If you are a student who has had past Government Student Loans and you are currently a full-time student, please fill out a Schedule 2 document to remain in non-payment status. Please come to Student Services in Graham hall, were front counter staff can help you with this form.

DID YOU KNOW.... Manitoba Student Aid staff is on campus on Fridays from 1 - 4p.m. To set up an appointment time, phone 786-9458.

The Awards and Financial Aid staff at the University of Winnipeg will continue to keep you informed of available awards, scholarships and bursary opportunities.

Other Award Websites

Canlearn Site www.canlearn.ca

Manitoba Student Aid Program www.manitobastudentaid.ca

Surfing for dollars? Try these two websites.

www.studentawards.com
www.scholarshipscanada.com

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Sports

SPORTS EDITOR: **KALEN QUALLY**
E-MAIL: SPORTS@UNITER.CA

WESMEN KICK OFF SEASON ON TOP

WESMEN MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM PREVIEW

JOSH BOULDING
VOLUNTEER STAFF

As most of us prepare for the onslaught of midterms, the Wesmen men's basketball team prepares to open their regular 2007/2008 season.

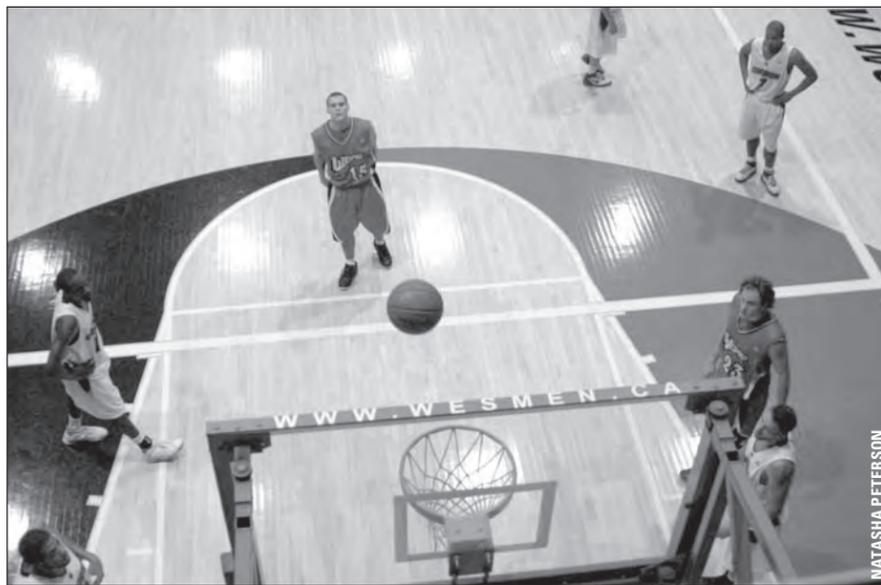
After a disappointing end to last year, ending with a three game playoff berth that never made it past the first round, the Wesmen men have been looking to step up and shape up for the coming year.

"The guys were disappointed with last year's finish," says head coach Dave Crook.

But no disappointment lingers in this team, at least not on its surface. After an entertaining finish at the Pembina Chrysler Invitational last weekend, the Wesmen have to look forward to the three more pre-season match-ups over the next two weeks before starting into the regular games on Nov. 1.

Even with the loss of two starters in Ryan Roper at guard and Ivan Saric at post, the Wesmen went toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the country on the weekend. After meeting with the Simon Fraser Cascades and keeping the game well in hand with an 85-74 win, the Wesmen had the challenge of taking on the Concordia Stingers on Saturday.

If their play in the first half of Saturday's game is any indication of their attitude this year, perhaps we'll see them getting further



Nick Lothar drains the free throw and sends the game to overtime.

than the first round in March 2008.

An exciting finish pulled the best out of the Wesmen, and Saturday's game ended the tournament with a 94-93 overtime victory for the Wesmen over the Stingers, who had handily defeated our city rivals, the Manitoba Bisons, 79-69 the night before.

Despite being down one of their best players, the Stingers still made the Wesmen look average in the second half, closing a 16-point

gap to take a lead into the fourth quarter. The game came down to the very last three seconds when the Wesmen's Nick Lothar tied the game at the free throw line.

With a total of nine blocks, five coming from fifth-year player Dan Shynkaryk, the only number the Wesmen were demolished in were total rebounds. Every team has something to work on, and this is it for the Wesmen.

"It was good to play a real good team right

off the start," says second-year James Horaska. Horaska finished the weekend with 25 minutes on the court and had a couple of timely field goals near the end of regulation and in overtime.

"We usually start slow," says tournament MVP Erfan Nasajpour.

"The one thing we've been talking about the last couple years is playing consistent," says fifth-year post Matt Opalko, who is new to the position and filling in the place of the departed Ivan Saric.

Consistent play will have to come from the entire team and expect to see some big things from Lothar and Peter Lomuro who both started on the weekend.

"Michael Passley did well...guarding [#10 Dwayne] Buckley," says Crook. "Ben Kingdon made the little plays... [and] Mike James went four for four, playing very well."

The Wesmen still have work to do, but if the last weekend was any indication, the men's basketball team might just have something going for them this year. With this being the final year for some of their best players in Shynkaryk, Nasajpour and Opalko, the Wesmen had better make something of it before another set of exams comes around and they see nothing come of their work.

The Wesmen play away this week but are back next weekend for their final preseason game against the Royal Military College on Thursday, Oct. 25, at the Duckworth Centre.

NEW FACES BRING FRESH LOOK TO WESMEN

WESMEN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM PREVIEW

SCOTT CHRISTIANSEN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Some choose to call it "developing," others "rebuilding," and Coach Tanya McKay prefers "learning." Whichever word you pick to describe this year's women's basketball team, they all point to a year of ups, downs and more than a few rookie mistakes.

Last season, the team finished atop the Great Plains Division and challenged for a spot in the National Championships before losing to Simon Fraser in the West Bronze Medal game. However, this year may be different as several of the key pieces to that powerful playoff run are now graduated or have moved programs.

Jae Pirnie, Nicki Schutz, Jennie Ezirim, Stephanie Timmerman and Uzo Asagwara, one of the nation's top players last year, played their final games for the red and white in 2006-07. So heading into this season everyone was wondering where Coach Tanya McKay would go to fill the enormous gap left by the graduating class. It turned out that she didn't need to go far. She recruited an astonishing seven rookies, the majority of whom came from Winnipeg high schools, to play for the team this season. These talented first-year players are expected to develop quickly and help the team win games immediately.

"They all have strengths, but now it's finding their strengths within that we're doing," says McKay.

Among the notable acquisitions include Amy Ogidan from Oak Park High School. She is

expected to start for the team and was named an all-star in the season-opening BOB FM tournament at the Duckworth Centre. Dawna Wright of Fort Lauderdale, Fl. is expected to contribute immediately, as is Mackenzie Prasek of Vincent Massey Collegiate. These players are generating some buzz around the Wesmen community.

"[Ogidan and Wright] are two rookies right away that have made an impact. Prasek has come off the bench and done an incredible job at the point," says McKay.

Veteran forward Jessica Stromberg agrees, saying that "(We) really have a lot of good rookies coming off the bench."

However, with youth comes inexperience, and the Wesmen are sure to feel some of that pain, especially in the first half of the season. Most rookie classes are not leaned on quite as heavily as these seven will be, which should provide a stern test for the group.

Another worry for the Wesmen this year is the competition. With the West Conference cluttered with such powerhouses as UBC and Simon Fraser, there seems to be little room for a young squad like Winnipeg's. With their early season wins against Regina and Brandon, however, things are looking up for them in their division. They believe that they can hold off the charging Bisons in 2007.

"With Manitoba, Regina and Brandon, I believe that we can win our division and go on to the Canada West Final Four," says McKay. "We have enough talent, we just need to teach our young players to jump to this level immediately."

And there is good reason to believe her, because there are still several stars on the verge of breaking out on the Wesmen team.

Most notably is second-year guard Catie Gooch, who earned MVP honours at the Bob FM Shootout highlighted by a 22-point effort against Regina.

"She can score, she can drive, she can defend, and she's just a great team player," says McKay.

Another second-year player looking to become a team leader this season is Alex MacIver. She is expected to fill a lot of the holes at post for the Wesmen.

"She's really come along. Alex is our post in the paint and she's doing a great job," McKay says of MacIver, who is obviously the key to the team's inside game.

For the team to have any success in 07-08, the second and third year Wesmen will have to lead, a fact of which they are well aware.

"The biggest thing is just keeping composure on the court, even when things are going wrong, just stay under control," says third-year forward Jessica Stromberg. "It's just to give everyone else a sense of calm."

Even though this Wesmen team may not win the national championship this season, it may very well in years to come. The large number of new players brings an optimism and confidence that is obvious from each Wesmen player. Coach McKay sums the



Caity Purvis-Collins puts one up from beyond the arc in game against Lakehead.

season up perfectly: "This going to be a real year to learn and get better, challenge ourselves and compete against those teams, and now we just need to keep improving."

The season will no doubt be an interesting one to follow.

Michael Passley crosses over against Concordia

(see "WESMEN KICK OFF SEASON ON TOP" - p.22)

Photo: Natasha Peterson



DON'T YANK MY CHAIN

NEW YORK TEAMS BOTH FLAME OUT IN FABULOUS FASHION

DANIEL FALLOON
VOLUNTEER STAFF

What a time to be a New York baseball fan. First, the Mets blow a seven-game lead with 17 games remaining to hand the Philadelphia Phillies the NL East title. Then the Yankees played dead in their 3-1 series loss to the Cleveland Indians.

At the start of the season, many fans had visions of the second Subway Series of the decade with a pair of stacked rosters on both Big Apple benches. With established stars in Carlos Beltran, Carlos Delgado and Tom Glavine, as well as incredible young talents David Wright and Jose Reyes, the Mets should have waltzed into the playoffs with at least the wild card. Looking back to the beginning of the season, the Yankees appeared to be in a bit tougher position to make the playoffs with challenges expected from Detroit and Toronto. However, the American League wild card race was less of the death match the National League was, and the Bronx Bombers had a playoff spot wrapped up much earlier.

Alas, plagued by Alex Rodriguez's bat (which doubles in weight in the postseason), the Indians' domination of Yanks' ace Chien-Ming Wang, and even a swarm of Ohio insects, the Yankees were left taking the subway home and not across town to challenge for the World Series. At press time, speculation was still abounding as to whether manager Joe Torre would return for another season and whether Rodriguez would opt out of his contract to become a free agent. The debate about what owner George Steinbrenner should do with Torre is raging on. When a team has as much talent as the Yankees have had in recent years, there is little excuse that the team hasn't reached the World Series since 2001, or won it since 2000. There is also the possibility that Torre just doesn't have the ear of the bench anymore.

On the other hand, Torre helmed the championship teams of the 90s, and four titles in five seasons is more than just a fluke.

The future may be bright. The Yankees seem to have expanded their wealth of developed talent to accompany their many big name acquisitions. Phil Hughes and Joba Chamberlain were both drafted by the team, while Wang, Robinson Cano and Melky Cabrera were all signed as undrafted free agents. Given the tendency of the Yankees' higher paid players to fall below expectations, building from within may restore some hope to Yankee fans and attempt to temper the resentment of Yankee-haters.

SPORTS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY KALEN QUALLY



BIRD SHIT BREWSKIS

What's the only thing more annoying than the obnoxious drunk at a football game? Getting pooped on by pigeons. According to SI.com, fans at Cincinnati's Paul Brown Stadium had been complaining about pigeon droppings coming from the stadium's rafters during games. Stadium attendants have been forced to use laser pointers during games to shoo the birds. According to team spokesman Jack Brennan on SI.com, "(The Bengals) hope the pigeons will become so irritated by the lasers that they'll fly away from the beams and pipes above the stands." The Bengals asked city officials' permission to use air powered rifles to kill pigeons. City manager Milton Dohoney granted permission to shoot the birds if other methods failed to discourage the pigeons. (SI.com)

BUSH BRIBES

Reggie Bush has been followed by accusations that he accepted money from boosters while playing college at USC, which is against the rules of the NCAA. According to a report by espn.com on Oct. 11, Lloyd Lake of New Era Sports & Entertainment will give NCAA investigators financial records linking Bush and his family to nearly \$280,000 in benefits he received while in college. The sports agency allegedly solicited marketing and memorabilia deals on behalf of the running back. Bush has said repeatedly that he and his family did nothing wrong in dealing with New Era. Potential punishments for USC and Reggie Bush, if proven guilty, are future forfeited games by USC and having Bush's 2005 Heisman trophy revoked. Does losing to Stanford count as a forfeited game? (espn.com)

BULLS MAKE LIKE BARRY

Steroids are again the subject of suspicion, but in the most unlikely of athletes. According to Yahoo! Sports, some bull owners are allegedly injecting their animals with anabolic steroids. One of the world's top bull owners, Jim Nielson, says, "Oh, I think damn near everybody's doing it. It ain't going to slow down. It's just like baseball, football, whatever. It's not going to slow down until you legislate (against) it." The Professional Bull Riding board of directors met on Sept. 20 to discuss implementation of an anti-doping policy, tour CEO Randy Bernard has said. Gilbert Carilla, a former rider who now raises bulls, also said on the subject, "How can I make my bull perform better? The first thing that comes to mind is steroids. (Bull owners) think steroids will make a bull jump over the moon." (Yahoo! Sports)

SENS AND PENS TO OPEN '08 SEASON ACROSS THE POND

Just as the Anaheim Ducks and Los Angeles Kings began the 2007-08 season in England, according to TSN.ca, the Ottawa Senators and Pittsburgh Penguins will be following suit. The Senators and Penguins will cross the pond to kick off the 2008-09 regular season in Prague, Czech Republic. The 2008-09 season will not be starting until Oct. 9 or 10 next season due to the compressed schedule the NHL will be implementing next year. Note: Currently Petr Sykora is the only player from either team born in the Czech Republic. The NHL should consider sending the Rangers, who lead the league with five Czechs. (TSN.ca)

NFL PICKS

2007 GRIDIRON GURUS

STANDINGS

Scott C	18-7	.720
Tom A	17-8	.680
Jonathan V	17-8	.680
Kalen Q	16-9	.640
Steven K	14-11	.560
Dan V	13-12	.520



Tom Asselin is the co-host of the Ultra Mega Sports Show and is also the defending NFL Picks champion.

Kalen Qually is the Sports Editor at the Uniter, appears regularly on the Ultra Mega Sports Show, and is a former NFL Picks champ.

Steven Kotelniski is a regular contributor to Uniter Sports, a rookie to NFL Picks, and a former Fantasy League Champion.

Jonathan Villaverde is a long time football player, first year NFL Picks member, and regular contributor to Uniter Sports.

Dan Verville is a contributor to Uniter Sports and is making his first appearance in NFL Picks this season.

Scott Christiansen is a rookie to NFL Picks and is also a contributing member of Uniter Sports.

Game #1: Arizona Cardinals @ Washington Redskins

"With both these teams coming off of losses and having nearly the same record, logic says that this one's a tossup right? No way. Just have a gander at each team's current QB sitch. Rattay throws three INTs against the Panthers' la Romo (except he forgot to throw two more and they lost). Who's behind him? Kurt Warner. I'm sorry but it's not '99 anymore. The 'Skins have Jason Campbell, who has consistently looked good all season and has an opportunity to make a name for himself here in the third year of his NFL career. All the Redskins have to do is make sure James doesn't rack a whole bunch of yards on the ground and they should be good."

-Dan Verville

- Tom picks: Redskins
- Kalen picks: Redskins
- Steven picks: Redskins
- Jonathan picks: Redskins
- Dan picks: Redskins
- Scott picks: Redskins

Game #2: Tennessee Titans @ Houston Texans

"Some people are choosing the Texans to be the Cinderella story of 2007, but I just don't see it happening. Two of the Texans' three wins came against the winless Dolphins and lowly Chiefs (they were bad at the time anyway). Vince Young should be over the injury that forced him out of last week's game against Tampa Bay, and he'll get the offence back on track. Look for LenDale White and Chris Brown to have big games as the Texans are giving up an average of 117 yards per game on the ground. They're pretty evenly matched, but I'll take the Titans in a squeaker."

-Scott Christiansen

- Tom picks: Texans
- Kalen picks: Titans
- Steven picks: Titans
- Jonathan picks: Titans
- Dan picks: Titans
- Scott picks: Titans

Game #3: Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ Detroit Lions

"No team, in my opinion, has been harder to explain than the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. I was ready to write them off before week one, then after a surprise start I nearly wrote them off as just a 'pretender' (Foo Fighters, who!). Now in week seven they're still competing and even without Cadillac Williams and their starting left tackle. How are they doing it? The same way they always have; defence and discipline. They have the fifth-ranked pass defence in the league, which spells doom for the one-dimensional offence of Detroit."

-Kalen Qually

- Tom picks: Lions
- Kalen picks: Buccaneers
- Steven picks: Lions
- Jonathan picks: Buccaneers
- Dan picks: Buccaneers
- Scott picks: Lions

Game #4: Chicago Bears @ Philadelphia Eagles

"I think this is a very good matchup. You got Griese who looks like he is getting comfortable back there and McNabb is looking not as good as he's ever been, but has been very consistent. Although the Eagles won last week and the Bears lost, I thought Chicago looked better. So based on that (and the x-factor that is Devin Hester) I believe the Bears will come out on top 17-10."

-Jonathan Villaverde

- Tom picks: Eagles
- Kalen picks: Eagles
- Steven picks: Eagles
- Jonathan picks: Bears
- Dan picks: Eagles
- Scott picks: Eagles

Game #5: Pittsburgh Steelers @ Denver Broncos

"Both teams are coming off the bye week, the Steelers took advantage of that time to get some bodies healthy and prepare for a Broncos team that is reeling after a blowout loss at home to the San Diego Chargers. Both teams will be looking at this one as a must-win; the Steelers can feel the Ravens breathing down their necks in the AFC North race while the Broncos may fall too far behind the leaders in the AFC West with another loss. Teams have been running through Denver lately and the Steelers have a darn good back in Willie Parker who should have his best rushing total yet this season. Steelers 23, Broncos 16."

-Tom Asselin

- Tom picks: Steelers
- Kalen picks: Steelers
- Steven picks: Steelers
- Jonathan picks: Steelers
- Dan picks: Steelers
- Scott picks: Steelers

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