

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

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ONE HATE CITY! LOCAL PHOTOBLOGGER BRYAN SCOTT RELEASES BOOK **ARTS & CULTURE** ➔ page 18

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*COVER IMAGE

"Mammatus Clouds Over Winnipeg"

BY BRYAN SCOTT

Photo taken on Aug. 12, 2009 from St. Boniface, Winnipeg.

See more of Bryan's work at www.winnipeglovehate.com

See story on page 18.

News

Ryerson profs create music for the deaf

New devices allow the hearing-impaired to experience song

MATTHEW BRAGA

THE EYEOPENER (RYERSON UNIVERSITY)

TORONTO (CUP) — By generating different types of vibration, a team of Ryerson University professors has developed a number of devices that allow the hard of hearing to experience sound and music.

"It's looking at ways of making music accessible (and) experiencing music without sound," explained Frank Russo, director of the university's Science of Music, Auditory Research and Technology lab.

He's quick to point out that this isn't a new trend; Beethoven had the same idea when he began to lose his hearing, playing piano close to the ground so he could "feel" the notes vibrate through the floor.

What has changed, however, is how the technology is used to harness that sensation, resulting in a more effective experience for those unable to hear.

One of those devices is dubbed the Emoti-chair, and was first conceived over two years ago

By feeding wire through its hollow centre, the noodle can be turned into a makeshift speaker that transmits sound through "the skin instead of vibrations through the air."

What the team finds most impressive with these devices is not just the ability for deaf or hard-of-hearing users to detect change in tone or pitch, but differences between voices or instruments as well, all thanks to subtle variances in the pattern of vibration.

"There are certain gestures that work very well, like sweeps in frequencies that move up and down," explained Paul Swoger-Ruston, who

"It is quite remarkable that the deaf can actually discern differences in vocal tambour through vibrations."

-PAUL SWOGER-RUSTON, COMPOSER

composed some of the Emoti-chair's music.

"You have to kind of think in larger intervals than traditional music."

While the human ear is capable of hearing a very wide range of frequencies, those that can be interpreted through vibration are far less — only between 1 and 1000Hz, approximately.

That means composers like Swoger-Ruston must be particularly careful to compose pieces that translate well into a vibratory experience.

Beethoven had the same idea when he began to lose his hearing, playing piano close to the ground so he could "feel" the notes vibrate through the floor

by Russo and two other Ryerson professors.

By applying vibrations of varying size and power to a user's back, the chair attempts to produce physical representations of rhythm and voice.

"The solution with the chair is to separate the low and the high, to put different frequency channels on different part of the bodies," explained Russo. "And that really is the essence of why this thing seems to work."

The same theory has been applied to another one of Russo's devices, a modified foam pool noodle called a vibe worm.

"Obviously, rhythmically-charged stuff is most readily apparent, so anything with a regular pulse most obviously comes through," he said. "But it is quite remarkable that the deaf can actually discern differences in vocal tambour through vibrations, so it's richer than I ever expected."

So rich, in fact, that one of the chair's creators, Maria Karam, is currently working to produce a commercialized version of the chair that can be purchased by deaf users, or even musical enthusiasts like Swoger-Ruston.

The Emoti-chair debuted to the public at



MATTHEW BRAGA/THE EYEOPENER

Ryerson professor Frank Russo is helping the hard of hearing experience sound and music.

Toronto's annual Nuit Blanche festival on Saturday, Oct. 2.

"What (was) particularly interesting about this performance, is the fact that no-one (heard) the music," explained Gwen Dobie, a theatre professor at York University.

Dobie is one of the deaf performers involved in the exhibition.

"The public (was) placed in a position to feel the vibrations, to experience music as the deaf or hard of hearing."



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STREETER

BY LAUREN PARSONS

Q: REPORTS INDICATE CRIME DOWNTOWN IS DECREASING. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?



Junko Yamamota, first-year English Language Program (ELP) student
"No, I don't think. Actually, my friend just last week walked downtown and got attacked. Luckily there was a kind man who helped her. It was a scary experience."



Sanjay Beharry, second-year chemistry student
"Personally I feel really good about it. I can stay at the university late and study and it feels safe."



Brent McAughey, second-year geography student
"Enlightened. I spend a lot of time around here. We are kind of renowned for having a 'dirty' downtown, but I feel good."



George Halaett, labourer, Canadian National Railway
"I don't think it's decreasing or increasing - I think it's bad enough right now."



Renee Leneveu, first-year social work student, College Université St. Boniface
"I guess so. But I'd question what the specifics of what those reports are indicating are. I generally feel pretty safe downtown be it during the day or night or whatever - but my friends might disagree."



Sylvia Martens, downtown resident
"I don't find it too bad. We've been starting to see more police officers walking around. But I don't think it matters where you live - it could be Tuxedo or Downtown, there's no real difference."

Prostitution in the 'Peg

Mayoral candidates weigh in on the prostitution debate

ETHAN CABEL
BEAT REPORTER

A landmark Ontario Superior Court ruling on the state of prostitution in Canada has lurched into the municipal campaign, with incumbent mayor Sam Katz and challenger Judy Wasylycia-Leis offering radically different approaches to the issue.

"There is no doubt in my mind that prostitution is an unfortunate curse on our society," said mayor Sam Katz.

The Superior Court decision struck down three criminal code provisions: solicitation of prostitution, operating a "common bawdy house" and pimping. These items were ruled to be in violation of Section 7, the right to security of the person, in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The current criminal code provisions also make prostitution out of a bawdy house an indictable offense. Street solicitation, a summary offense, leads to softer penalties like fines.

The judge argued that these provisions endanger women who are forced onto the street rather than the relative safety of a group setting.

The Crown was given 30 days to request an extended stay on the decision and mount an appeal.

According to federal justice minister Rob Nicholson, an extended stay, as well as an appeal, is imminent.

"...Prostitution is an unfortunate curse on our society."

- SAM KATZ

Katz believes that "prostitution is prostitution" regardless of where it is done.

"My personal opinion is that if you eliminate the johns, you eliminate prostitution," he said.

The mayor did not make any specific commitments on how the city can work with the police to help eliminate johns, however.

Division 40 (Vice) of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) would not comment on the Ontario Superior Court ruling or on any



JORDAN JANISSE

strategies used to crackdown on johns in the city.

However, Constable Robert Carver, acting public information officer for the WPS, highlighted the distinction between street solicitation and the operation of a bawdy house.

"Anyone can decide to stand on a street corner and solicit," he said. "It takes a more organized commitment to the crime to operate out of a bawdy house and the criminal code provisions reflect that."

Judy Wasylycia-Leis has a far different view of prostitution in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

"I'm disappointed that the federal government has decided to appeal it (the Ontario decision)," she said.

"I think putting their resources toward women's organizations and to supports for women would make for a more positive outcome than an appeal."

Wasylycia-Leis wants to see a better relationship between the police and the organizations that support women in the sex trade.

She was short on specifics, however, and reiterated her pledge to establish an anonymous crime tip line, similar to the Powerline in south Point Douglas.

The tip line would make it easier for prostitutes to report assault and rape without the fear of a criminal prosecution against them, she said.

Neither Katz or Wasylycia-Leis made any mention of the Salvation Army Prostitution Diversion Program (PDP), a program that introduces women to the resources needed to transition out of the sex trade.

Through their website, the Salvation Army recently expressed the need for housing and community support for the program within Winnipeg.

"Just charging the prostitutes for soliciting and just charging the johns for procuring isn't going to address the fundamental issues," said Colleen Allan, a consultant with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, adding that prostitution is inextricably linked to poverty and addiction.

The stigma associated with prostitution has kept it out of the municipal campaign, according to Allan. It has ensured that politicians talk about the issue in a two-dimensional way, she said.

WHO ARE WINNIPEG'S PROSTITUTES?

There are an estimated 300, mostly young and aboriginal, prostitutes working on the streets of Winnipeg.

According to a 2004 Amnesty International report, Canadian aboriginal women between the ages of 25 and 44 are five times more likely to die a violent death than non-aboriginals in the same age group. Over the last two decades, 75 aboriginal women have gone missing in Manitoba.

Sources: *The Winnipeg Free Press* and *Stolen Sisters: Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada*

Less rent increase, more work for local landlords

Manitoba's rent remains low at higher cost for property managers

LAUREN PARSONS
BEAT REPORTER

The same government regulation that caps your yearly rent increase creates more work for landlords, according to some local property managers.

Each year the provincial government sets the rent increase guideline, the maximum percentage a landlord can increase rent that year without making an appeal to the Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB).

For 2011, Premier Greg Selinger and his cabinet have set the guideline at one and a half per cent, up from the 2010 guideline of one per cent.

"It is intended as a guideline to cover operating expenses," said Laura Gowerluk, the director of the RTB. "The provincial government cabinet takes into account things related to property."

The expenses Gowerluk refers to include the cost of Hydro, water, natural gas and general repairs and installations.

Gowerluk said that regarding the process, things are fair in terms of rights to appeal a decision between landlord and tenant.

"As a tenant you can object to an increase below, at or above the guideline – you have the right to object to any rent increase," she said.

The process of making an appeal can take several months. There are some who feel the process does not need to be regulated.

"The government should not be involved," said Wally Ruban, chair of the Professional Property Managers Association.

The operations manager for GEM Equities Inc. feels as though the guidelines set by the government are artificially low.

Even with the rent increase guideline set at one per cent, the average increase across Manitoba in 2010 was actually four and a half per cent.

Ruban said that by setting the rent increase guideline low it creates a substantial amount of work for landlords.

If a landlord wants to raise a suite's rent above the guideline they must submit an application.

The application on average will cost \$500 and could take months to process by the RTB. Ruban said a lot of landlords either do not want to deal with the application process or don't know how and in turn lose profit.

"There does need to be regulation – but to be 100 per cent regulated is unreasonable," he said.

Ruban also thinks that the reason that bigger rental companies will not build in Manitoba is because of the low rent increase guidelines.



CINDY TITUS

Your monthly rent may be going up this year, but a government cap is only allowing landlords to hike it 1.5 per cent for 2011.

He believes this is a problem because there is no real opportunity for people who are living well below their means to move elsewhere and let students and others move into their low rent apartments.

As long as the increase is within reason most renters are generally understanding.

Jesse Bercier, a local musician, has lived in his current apartment for just over a year and said his landlord is raising the rent below the 2011 guideline of one and a half per cent.

"They've got to cover maintenance costs ... considering it was such a small increase, I've no reason to argue or disagree with it," he said.

"I have lived in apartments where there has been a substantial increase with very dissatisfactory landlord work, too."

Local News Briefs

Compiled by Dylon Martin

NEW FRANCOPHONE MÉTIS SCHOOL

On Oct. 7, provincial Education Minister Nancy Allan announced the opening of École communautaire Aurèle-Lemoine, a French language school in St. Laurent, Man. According to a media release, the \$9.3 million and 28, 632 square foot school serves the francophone and Métis community in St. Laurent and meets the provinces Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver building standard. The province gave \$7 million to a new energy-efficient green facility, while the federal government granted \$2.3 million to provide community and cultural space. The new K-12 school can serve 125 students and grew out of a bilingual school in St. Laurent.

VOTE EARLY WHERE YOU SHOP

Advanced civic voting began at several shopping centres on Oct. 8 and will continue until Oct. 17. Election officials hope it will make voting more accessible and increase voter turnout numbers. The dates and locations of advanced polls include:

- Portage Place Shopping Centre: Oct. 15 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Polo Park Shopping Centre: Oct. 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 17 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Kildonan Place Shopping Centre: Oct. 17 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

THEFT ADDS UP TO MORE THAN A BUCK OR TWO

Darlene Appleyard, owner of A Buck or Two in Portage Place, said theft cost her \$100,000 last year, as reported by CBC. Much of the theft occurred on low price items, which the shop owner claimed thieves used as a defence. "It's a fight, every day," Appleyard told CBC, commenting on dealing with thieves who become combative when caught. Attributing this to a "sense of entitlement to steal," she thinks it would be helpful for the city to eliminate the \$4,200 business tax so she can invest more money for store security. Appleyard brought the issue up at the mayoral forum on downtown issues.

DAYCARE WORKERS TO GET PENSIONS

Family services and consumer affairs minister Gord Mackintosh announced that Manitoba will provide all full-time and home-based daycare workers with pension benefits, starting in December. According to a report by CBC, daycare workers will contribute four per cent of their salaries to the program and the province will match it. Pat Wege, executive director of the Manitoba Child Care Association, is happy that a policy her organization has lobbied for over years has been implemented. According to Wege, the benefit will make it easier to attract and retain workers, which she said was getting harder to do. The only other province with a similar program is Quebec.

PREMIER IN WASHINGTON FOR DEVILS LAKE TALK

Manitoba premier Greg Selinger met with North Dakota officials in Washington to talk about a solution to the Devils Lake flood threat. The province fears that the uncontrolled discharge of water from an artificial outlet could bring foreign biota into Lake Winnipeg and the Red River Valley, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported. Devils Lake is at risk of flooding due to the lack of a natural outlet. Selinger met with Senator Byron Dorgan, North Dakota's governor and several other officials including Canada's ambassador to the U.S., Gary Doer. There was agreement to work on the quantity and quality of water released and to develop a basin-wide nutrient management plan. Selinger and Dorgan jointly announced plans for a future meeting.

International News Briefs

Compiled by Aaron Snider

CUBAN COMMUNISTS: FREE RIDE IS OVER

CUBA: In the first round of major layoffs since the 1960s, Cuba's communist government will eliminate 10 per cent of government jobs by April 2011, Reuters reported last week. The move is an attempt to increase efficiency while reducing budget deficits and will involve a total of approximately 500,000 job cuts. The news comes as a shock to many in Cuba where the socialist system has historically guaranteed employment. Jobs affected by the cuts include security personnel, healthcare workers and some parts of Cuba's hospitality sector. Those who lose their jobs will be offered new positions. The Cuban government employs more than five million people.

ISRAEL MOVES CLOSER TO ADOPTING 'LOYALTY LAWS'

ISRAEL: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave his support last week to a new law that would require all new citizens to declare their loyalty to "a Jewish and democratic state," CNN reported. The proposed "loyalty law" comes as a follow-up to a recent demand by the Israeli government that Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish nation state. Opponents to the law say that it discriminates against the 20 per cent of Israel's population that are Arab and does not represent a democratic stance. Officials point to similar laws in many western nations - such as Britain, France and the U.S. - where new citizens are also required to swear loyalty.

WHO IS GOING TO PAY?

UGANDA: Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, has announced his country's willingness to send peacekeeping troops to Somalia if the UN Security Council approves funding, Al-Jazeera reported last week. Uganda has an interest in seeing Somalia return to stable operations after an attack by a Somali rebel group killed more than 80 people in Uganda in July. Somalia has been without an effective central government for nearly two decades. Museveni said he does not care where the funding comes from, but believes his nation's armed forces are the best equipped to handle the situation.

POLITICAL PRISONER WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

CHINA: The CBC reported last week that Chinese officials were upset with the choice of Liu Xiaobo as winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. Xiaobo is a political prisoner in China, convicted of subverting the government after advocating for China to move from one-party rule to a democratic system. The Chinese government condemned the Nobel committee's decision to award the prize to a criminal. News of the award was censored in the Chinese state media and on the Internet. Meanwhile, world leaders including Barack Obama and Steven Harper congratulated Xiaobo and urged China to change its approach to human rights.

VIVALDI FOUND IN SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND: A lost flute concerto written by Vivaldi has been found in Scotland, the BBC reported. The piece, titled *Il Gran Mogol*, is one of four missing concertos from the famous composer who died in 1741. Experts have completed some slight reconstruction of missing parts of the concerto and a premiere has been scheduled for January 2011. While it remains unclear how a piece by an Italian composer ended up in the Scottish National Archives, some believe it was transported by a flute-playing Scottish lord who obtained it while touring Europe early in the 18th century.

Reflecting back: Twenty years after Meech Lake

Academic conference ends on note of optimism

ETHAN CABEL
BEAT REPORTER

Twenty years ago, a Manitoba MLA named Elijah Harper altered the course of Canadian democracy.

Grasping his now iconic eagle feather, Harper steadfastly delayed a legislative vote on the Meech Lake Accord, a package of federal reforms meant to integrate Quebec into the "constitutional family."

"Harper deliberately delayed the vote because Canadian politicians had ignored aboriginal peoples for far too long," said Kiera Ladner, an expert in constitutional politics and a professor at the University of Manitoba.

The Prairie Political Science Association (PPSA), in conjunction with the U of M, organized their third annual PPSA conference around the theme: "20 Years After Meech Lake: The Accord and Its Legacy."

The conference, which was held at the Fort Garry Hotel Oct. 1 and 2, brought together a cross-section of academics and politicians directly involved in the high-stakes constitutional debate.

"Meech Lake put aboriginal issues on the map."

- KIERA LADNER, POLITICS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

"Meech Lake was a shift for the aboriginal community across Canada," said Jared Wesley, a politics professor at the U of M who organized the conference.

"(When Harper delayed the Meech Lake vote) there was the sense that aboriginals ... could break into the white stream political system."

Shaneen Robinson is a former CTV re-



AYAME ULRICH

porter and the daughter of NDP MLA Eric Robinson. She is now running for city council in the Elmwood-East Kildonan ward.

If elected, she will be the first aboriginal woman to sit on Winnipeg's city council.

"(Harper's decision) broke down barriers," she said, adding that she was profoundly politically influenced by Harper. "1990 was a time of revolution for First Nations across Canada."

In northwestern British Columbia in 1990, the Gitksan First Nations erected blockades on several roads leading to their 33,000 square kilometre property. The blockades were meant to keep loggers off their land.

The Gitksan continue to fight against the disparity between abundant foreign resource development on their land and unemployment on their reserves, which sits at 60 to 90 per cent.

In Oka, Quebec (known to aboriginals as Kanesatake) in 1990, the Mohawks set up a barricade against developers who wanted

their ancestral land for the construction of a golf course.

The conflict precipitated a stand-off between the Mohawks and the Quebec provincial police, resulting in the death of a police officer.

Over the course of the conference, academics and others reflected that Harper's actions simultaneously brought these aboriginal concerns into the mainstream political arena and changed how politics is done in Canada.

"Meech Lake put aboriginal issues on the map," said Ladner, adding that the federal and provincial governments are now forced to consult aboriginal people on resource development.

"Constitutions don't evolve just through negotiations, but through incremental change."

Ladner added that since 1990 politics is no longer centered around high-stakes, executive negotiations. The focus has shifted to consultative and incremental legislative change.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD

In April 1987, then-prime minister Brian Mulroney and the premiers of each of the 10 provinces agreed to pass a constitutional reform package known as the Meech Lake Accord.

Meech Lake was meant to meet the demands of Quebec in the aftermath of the Canadian Constitution in 1982. All of the new constitutional provisions, most notably the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, were passed in 1982 without Quebec's consent.

As a result, the province had five key constitutional demands in 1987: a say in who gets appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada, limits to federal spending power in areas of provincial jurisdiction, a role in Canadian immigration policy, the power to veto constitutional amendments that would affect the province and recognition of Quebec as a "distinct society."

The unanimous consent of the premiers in 1987 would have to translate into unanimous consent among MLAs within the legislature of each province. The ratification date for the Meech Lake Accord was June 23, 1990.

Neither the Manitoba nor the Newfoundland legislature passed the necessary resolution before that date and the Meech Lake Accord failed.

In the aftermath of this failure, the federal Progressive Conservative caucus was torn apart, precipitating the formation of the Bloc Québécois, a Quebec separatist party at the federal level.

The Bloc continues to win the most seats and the largest percentage of the popular vote in the province.

Hepatitis breakthrough at University of Alberta

Hepatitis C affects brain as well as liver, say researchers

TANNARA YELLAND
CUP PRAIRIES & NORTHERN BUREAU CHIEF

SASKATOON (CUP) — University of Alberta researchers have pioneered a breakthrough in the fight against hepatitis C.

It has long been known that the disease attacks the liver, causing insulation and cirrhosis of the liver, and eventually liver cancer if left long enough. However, after just under two years of research, Christopher Power's team of researchers has discovered that hepatitis C is also a disease of the brain.

"We've known for a long time patients who have hepatitis C have symptoms of poor concentration, poor memory, sense of apathy, fatigue — pointing to problems with the brain as well," said Power.

This discovery could lead to new forms of treatment and, possibly, to the development of a vaccine or even a cure, said Power.

Studies done on groups of hepatitis C sufferers have shown that 15 per cent of people

infected with the virus show qualitative levels of difficulty with concentration and memory, according to Power.

For a symptom to reach a qualitative level it must be measurable by those observing a study group member rather than being self-reported. Qualitative results are more scientifically rigorous than quantitative findings.

Power said the two questions he and his team set out to answer were: Does hepatitis C affect the brain, and if so, what are the consequences?

The group succeeded in infecting human brain cells with hepatitis C in experiments, which had never been done before. The cells in questions are glia cells, what Power called the "maintenance cells" of the brain.

Glia cells are similar to blood cells. Because Hep C is spread through infected blood, Power said this is "not a big conceptual jump" biologically.

After discovering that the virus can take up residence in the brain, Power's team set out to ascertain the significance of this. Specifically, they wanted to find out how the presence of the hepatitis C virus in the brain would affect memory, concentration and even motor skills.

The team discovered that viral proteins such as the hepatitis C virus is composed of are toxic to neurons, the brain cells respon-

sible for thinking and emotion, along with many other integral human behaviours.

"That had never been shown before," Power said.

Viral proteins attack neurons' ability to destroy unwanted molecules, a process known as autophagy. This process is essential to neuronal operation.

"When they can't perform that," Power explained, "they're in trouble. They can't get rid of excess debris."

This debris makes it difficult for neurons to function properly and eventually kills the cells, which causes the memory and concentration problems present in many hepatitis C patients.

Power said the importance of his team's research is "two-fold: It raises awareness of brain problems in people with hep C infection. Often neurological problems are ignored in people with other medical problems.

"It also provides some understanding for moving forward to develop new treatments to stop the virus getting into the brain, or maybe even to develop a vaccine — a vaccine would be great."

Hepatitis C, which infects 170 million people globally and at least 250,000 people in Canada, is spread through blood-to-blood contact with infected blood.



Gangs at the top of mayoral candidates' crime agendas

Critics question value of hiring more police officers

SONYA HOWARD
BEAT REPORTER

Crime is a hot-button issue in Winnipeg's civic election, especially with the release of Statistics Canada data that finds Winnipeg is still the homicide capital of Canada.

While Winnipeg's crime rate has fallen by five per cent since this time last year according to Winnipeg Police Service's CrimeStat, Statistics Canada reports that Winnipeg's police-reported crime severity index rose in relation to the rest of Canada's.

Gang-related crimes are a common concern shared by most of the mayoral candidates.

On Oct. 7, incumbent Sam Katz announced a pledge of \$2 million to the University of Winnipeg for an indoor soccer recreation complex to help reduce gang activity.

"It certainly helps when you are giving inner-city youth recreation centres in an opportunity to move forward," said Katz, who has been endorsed by the Winnipeg Police Association.

"You need to give children hope and if you don't give children hope, gangs can prey on young people."

Judy Wasylycia-Leis also finds gang-related

"As a person who's been mugged and lived with eight years of physical violence, I don't want to see those people locked up and hurt by the system ... I want to see them getting help instead."

- STEPHANIE MANFIELD, UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG COLLEGIATE STUDENT

crimes the most worrisome.

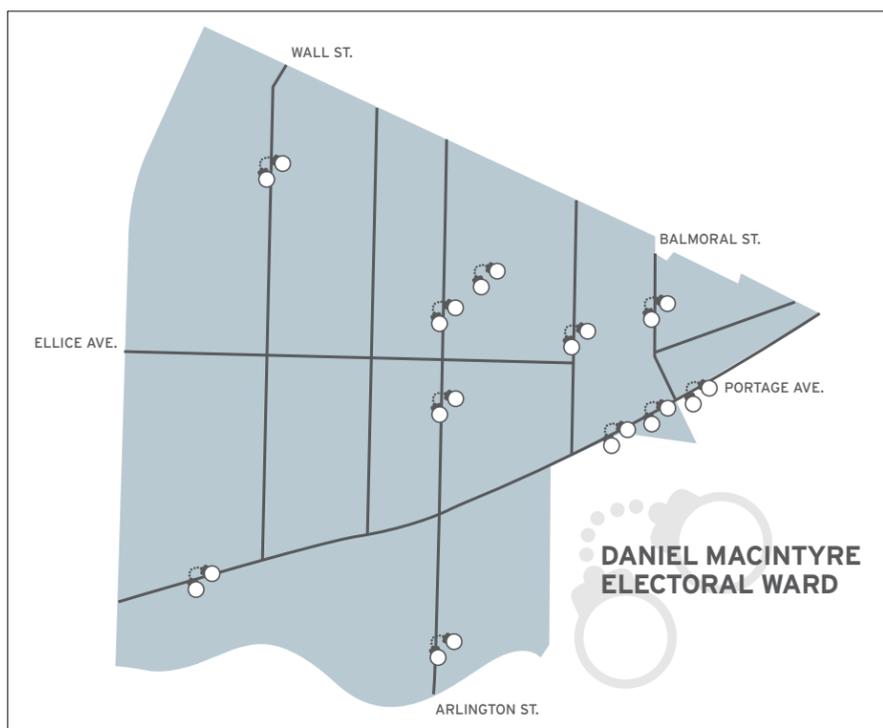
"It is a deadly combination when alienated youth living in marginal situations are exposed to gang culture," said Wasylycia-Leis.

"We need programs like sports, music, skateboarding and arts so that youth can not only have greater opportunities but also a safe place away from the clutches of gangs."

Most importantly, notes Wasylycia-Leis, there needs to be a comprehensive crime and safety plan that addresses not just policing, but also protection and prevention that helps residents take back their neighbourhoods through community policing.

University of Winnipeg Collegiate student Stephanie Manfield supports this approach.

"As a person who's been mugged and lived



"The mayor has bragged about police hires, so where's the reduction in crime? Why should we believe his increase of police officers will decrease crime?"

- MICHAEL WEINRATH, CHAIR, U OF W CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

with eight years of physical violence, I don't want to see those people locked up and hurt by the system," Manfield said. "I want to see them getting help instead."

Mayoral candidate Rav Gill calls for a police task force on gangs and a crime-free housing program that would evict gang members who use houses as drug dens.

"We'll be the first ones there to help gang members turn their life around through education, job training and support and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder," Gill said.

Petty crime is the biggest issue for Brad Gross, particularly the breaking of car windows in the downtown area.

To prevent this, he calls for the installation of cameras that would be paid for through business taxes.

"We'd only be putting cameras up in places of public property, which would help alleviate the stigma that the downtown is not a safe place," Gross said.

Michael Weinrath, chair of the U of W criminal justice department, questions whether crime is actually a major issue or if this is just a matter of the public's perception.

He notes that most crimes happen when police officers are not present and are often solved by investigative networks.

"The mayor has bragged about police hires, so where's the reduction in crime?" Weinrath

asked.

"Why should we believe his increase of police officers will decrease crime?"

With files from Ethan Cabel.

OPPOSING VIEWS ON GUN AMNESTY FROM MAYORAL CONTENDERS

During October, which has been proclaimed gun amnesty month in Manitoba, people can turn in firearms without facing criminal charges, unless the gun was stolen or used in a crime.

Rav Gill believes that this program does cut down on crime in Winnipeg.

"Especially for people trying to get out of the gang lifestyle, giving up their gun is a big step," Gill said.

Brad Gross has doubts about the impact of this program.

"It's good in case someone breaks into a house and steals an unsecured gun," Gross said.

"I don't think a criminal will turn in a gun, though."

This week on the campaign trail...

KRISTY RYDZ
NEWS PRODUCTION EDITOR

Trouble brewing for Swandel thanks to Bomber stadium

According to Mary Agnes Welch, the *Winnipeg Free Press's* public policy reporter, St. Norbert councillor Justin Swandel may be a city hall casualty in the upcoming civic election thanks to the new Bomber stadium.

In her latest blog entry, Welch explains that she has seen the group of angry residents grow to 300 over the past few months and become more educated and vocal on the issue of their neighbourhood's traffic increasing without public consultation.

While she calls Swandel, "one of the smartest, hardest-working and most detail-oriented councillors at city hall," the veteran political and former city hall reporter believes that he has come off poorly in interviews recently.

She writes that this issue may combine with the stadium concerns and lead to a win by ward challenger Louise May.

No more barriers at Portage and Main: Wasylycia-Leis

Former MP and MLA Judy Wasylycia-Leis took her election promises to the heart of Winnipeg's downtown last week.

During a forum on downtown issues held last Thursday, Wasylycia-Leis pledged to work with businesses to hammer out a deal to remove the

concrete barriers that have been in place at the Portage Avenue and Main Street intersection for the past 31 years, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported.

The last attempt to remove the barriers was in 2007 when six of the seven property owners involved had signed on to a plan that would see the concrete replaced with movable options that would allow pedestrians to cross during evenings and weekends.

Mayor Sam Katz said he doesn't really believe the crossing is an issue for Winnipeggers but he believes evenings and weekends are a "reasonable compromise" and may look into it if he is re-elected.

Mayoral candidate spotlight

Getting to know Brad Gross

KRISTY RYDZ
NEWS PRODUCTION EDITOR

For mayoral candidate Brad Gross, being Winnipeg's mayor is a lot like being a real estate developer.

"When you go into developing you go in with doing the project right the first time so it saves you money," he explained.

"You go in with a knowledgeable understanding of what it's going to cost to do the project. You cut the corners where you can but you still have to create a quality product, and that's how I'd run the city."

The 44-year old realtor and developer with two daughters, aged seven and nine, draws on his role as dad to dictate how to he would govern the city.

"I bring a lot of passion," Gross contends. "I'm a parent. I'm a parent before a politician so I don't make false promises."

While Gross has never run for any level of office before, he is unhappy with current mayor Sam Katz, and believes Winnipeg deserves a leader that listens and takes action for citizens.

"I don't think he (Katz) really works hard enough to do the things that really matter to the people of Winnipeg," Gross contended.

After living in Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton over the years, Gross has returned home to Winnipeg with knowledge and experiences that he hopes to parlay into progress for the 'Peg.

"I'm sort of just taking bits and pieces of all those cities and trying to implement them to a better Winnipeg," he said. "I moved back here because I love it here. People are way more friendly here than all those three cities combined."

"I'm going to lower taxes, I'm going to create jobs and I'm going to save the city money. But I believe in karma so it's not always about the cash."

- BRAD GROSS, MAYORAL CANDIDATE

With ideas to spur tourism through media, reduce petty crime downtown with security cameras and save money by installing solar street lights, Gross feels that he is candidate to bring common sense to the mayoral position through his platform.

"I'm going to lower taxes, I'm going to create jobs and I'm going to save the city money. But I believe in karma so it's not always about the cash," he said.

The Uniter's Better Voter Series

Sept. 16	Fringe candidates
Sept. 23	Accountability
Sept. 30	Education
Last week	Public-private partnerships
This week	Crime
Next week	Urban issues

More Better Voter articles in this issue:

- ➔ Page 3: "Prostitution in the 'Peg"
- ➔ Page 10: "Now is not the time to refuse to vote"
- ➔ Page 11: "Being smart trumps being tough"
- ➔ Page 11: "Crime in Winnipeg: real and imagined"

Campus News Briefs

Compiled by Arlen Kasdorf

SAM KATZ TO KICK \$2 MILLION TOWARD U OF W SOCCER COMPLEX, IF HE WINS

If elected on Oct. 27, Katz promises to drop \$2 million toward a University of Winnipeg soccer facility. The recreation complex will cost around \$20 million, as reported by the Winnipeg Free Press, and will be put along the Spence Street Promenade. It will be complete with an indoor soccer field and a sports training centre. U of W President Lloyd Axworthy sees the project as a self-financing enterprise that would not affect the U of W's on-going operations. A similar commitment was made to the school by Manitoba's NDP government back in the 2007 provincial election. Axworthy believes that the timing of this promise is pure coincidence.

BATS ARE DYING, U OF W PROFESSOR GETS BIG GRANT TO STUDY

U of W's Dr. Craig Willis, associate professor of biology, has been given \$293,000 in grant money to study diseased bats. He will be the principal investigator in a study examining the strains of *geomyces destructans* in cave bats, tree bats, and mammalian hibernators. This disease, called White Noise Syndrome (WNS), was discovered in 2006 and named after the white fungus that grows on their skin. Since that time, over one million bats have died due to WNS, making this one of the fastest reductions in animal population in history. This could mean a local disappearance of these creatures unless the death rates slow.

MASTER'S GRADS HAVE ECLECTIC BACKGROUNDS

Various new master's degrees have been established at the U of W and on Sunday, Oct. 17 some of these students will be presented with their degrees at autumn convocation. Siavash Darbandi is getting his MSc in bioscience, and said in a U of W media release that "the master's degree opened a whole new chapter for (him)." He is now pursuing his doctorate at the University of Ottawa. Another recipient, Damian Tryon, took a year off of teaching to join the cultural studies program. Maria de Guadalupe Seranno Diez, originally from Mexico City, focused on children's culture. She wanted to learn more about digital culture and children's literature and is now pursuing a job in Winnipeg working with children.

U OF W HONOURING TWO WOMEN OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

The U of W will give special recognition to two esteemed individuals at 2010's autumn convocation. Beata Biernacka will receive the Marsha Hanen Award for Excellence in Creating Community Awareness. She had been instrumental in building the Science Outreach program, which helps U of W students to build a better understanding of the scientific process for inner-city teachers and their classes. Judy Graham will be given The Robin H. Farquhar Award for Excellence in Contributing to Self-Governance. Graham had a commitment to improving the quality of student life by ensuring that committee decisions made would be in the interest of both the students and the university.

ABORIGINAL TECHNOLOGY GRADS EXCITED ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES

The Aboriginal Information & Communication Technologies Diploma program will be graduating its first class on Saturday, Oct. 16. Grace Redhead, originally from Shamattawa First Nation, is graduating from the program and is already applying her new skills at IDfusion Software, a Winnipeg software company. "For me the best part was web development because it was so hands-on and creative," she said in a U of W media release. Grads also have career options such as junior web programmers, network support technicians and help desk support professionals.

Campus News

Improvements planned for U of W Wi-Fi

Second router being installed in November

KARLENE OOTO-STUBBS
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

The University of Winnipeg's Wi-Fi network has many students wondering why they can't connect more quickly.

Last year, many U of W students had difficulty accessing the Internet from their laptops due to a virus that confused the wireless network. Since then, that problem has been solved but students still struggle daily with myriad connection and speed issues.

The university asserts that improvements are being made to accelerate student connections this year.

"Overall, our Internet capacity has been more than doubled and our Wi-Fi capacity is actually slightly increased from last fall," said Richard Nakoneczny, chief operating officer of the Technology Solutions Centre for the University of Winnipeg.

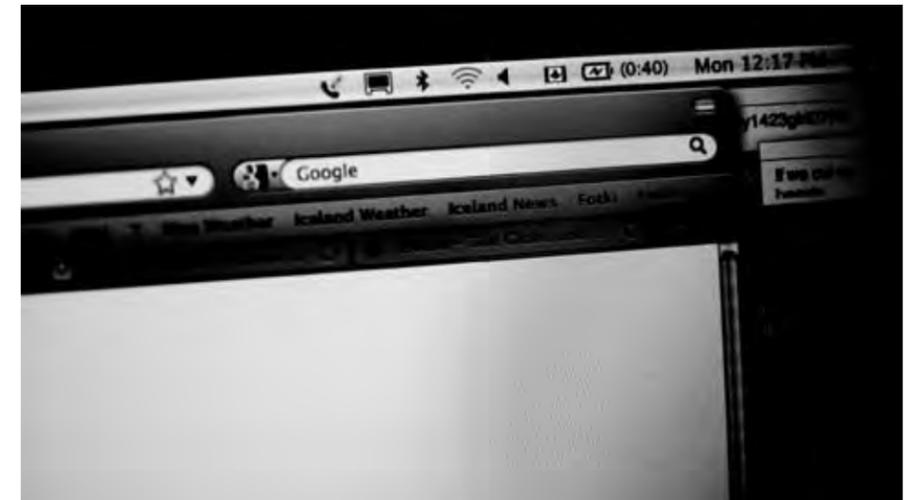
"Overall, our Internet capacity has been more than doubled and our Wi-Fi capacity is actually slightly increased from last fall."

- RICHARD NAKONECZNY, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, U OF W TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS CENTRE

This comes as a shock to some students who are unsatisfied with the current system.

"I don't even bother bringing my laptop to school most of the time, since I know downloading will be slow," said first-year student Dallian Sephton. "It's not worth the hassle."

The U of W has one large router, providing access to students, faculty and guests, but



CINDY TITUS

Connectivity and speed issues are still slowing down U of W students trying to get onto the campus wireless network.

plans on expanding to two.

"What we have is fundamentally a very large capacity, very sophisticated version of a home Wi-Fi router," Nakoneczny said.

"At the moment, we have one of those controllers which we have had for a number of years. A second unit – part of the generous donation from Cisco Systems – will be installed in November. At that time, the current unit will be upgraded."

He added that the second unit will share the capacity and provide backup, should one unit fail.

All Wi-Fi traffic is carried on a single network, even for the new buildings like the Buhler Centre.

"Once the new buildings are operational, the student population will be spread over a larger geographic area and a larger number of network access points," Nakoneczny said. "That should reduce contention for network access."

U of W vice-president academic John Corlett adds that updating information tech-

nology is an expensive undertaking.

"We want students to go online and find all the information they need," he said. "We're working on a lot of these things but it means we need a lot of investment into our IT system."

Issues with the U of W student e-mail accounts have also occurred. Last week, the spam filter malfunctioned and users' messages were quarantined inappropriately.

However, Nakoneczny notes these problems are usually fixed within a few days.

Some professors prefer if students send them e-mails through the university provided accounts because Hotmail and Gmail accounts are sources of spam.

As for having another e-mail account to monitor, Sephton finds it annoying.

"To be honest, I don't even remember how to get on it," she said.

For more information, visit the Technology Solutions Centre's website at www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/tsc-index.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Winnipeg Model Railroad Club is hosting their GREAT WINNIPEG ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW AND FLEA MARKET at the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate on Saturday, Oct. 16 and Sunday, Oct. 17.

The MANITOBA CRAFTS MUSEUM & LIBRARY is holding a Made By You brunch and fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m.

The Council of Women of Winnipeg are holding a MAYORALTY FORUM with the candidates on Wednesday, Oct. 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Broadway Disciples United Church.

The Graffiti Gallery is seeking a DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY INSTRUCTOR to manage the drop-in darkroom and Intro to Photography workshops.

FREE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLASS. A free class for international students will be held on Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Elim Chapel, 546 Portage Ave. It will be an opportunity to meet with other students and Canadian friends while learning English and the Bible. For more information contact Val and Veda Chacko at 257-1670 or vtchacko@shaw.ca

ON CAMPUS

For three days in mid-October, people will gather at the University of Winnipeg to discuss the legacy of one of our most important thinkers at a conference entitled MARSHALL MCLUHAN IN A POST MODERN WORLD: IS THE MEDIUM THE MESSAGE? Thursday, Oct. 14 to Saturday, Oct. 16. The conference is free and open to the public.

Keynote speakers include DOUGLAS COUPLAND on Friday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in Riddell Hall, giving a talk entitled "You Know Nothing of My Work!" ROBERT LOGAN will speak that same day at 12:30 p.m. in 2M70 on the topic "Understanding Media: Extending Marshall McLuhan."

Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/mcluhan-conf-index for complete details.

The Honourable Vic Toews, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Member of Parliament for Provencher, will be given an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the University of Winnipeg's upcoming AUTUMN CONVOCATION on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer positions at the University of Winnipeg:

- PEER SUPPORT - e-mail uofwpeersupport@gmail.com, or grab an application from their office (ORM13), or from the UWSA.
- UWSA FOODBANK - e-mail foodbank@theuwsa.ca, or grab an application from the UWSA.
- THE U OF W GLOBAL WELCOME CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES - call 258-2946, or e-mail globalwelcomecentre@uwinnipeg.ca.
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE TUTOR - e-mail uwcjsa@live.ca.

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is introducing a new and improved SOUNDHECK program, an easy and affordable way to take in WSO concerts throughout the season for students and those aged 15 to 30. Visit www.wso.ca for more information.

THE HUMANITARIAN ISSUES PROGRAM of the Canadian Red Cross seeks youth volunteers ages 15 to 25 to work on campaigns and events around themes such as children in conflict, refugee and migrant issues and international development. For more information, e-mail mb.volunteer@redcross.ca or call 982-6731.

THE UNITER, the weekly rag you are holding right now, is looking for contributors. See your words in print or your photos and drawings on the page. E-mail Aaron at editor@uniter.ca.

Volunteers are needed for the after-school HOMEWORK CLUBS held at the MILLENNIUM LIBRARY. The clubs are drop-in programs where children and youth receive help with homework and play literacy-based activities and games. To get involved, please call Frontier College at 253-7993 and ask for Megan.

'Tis the season to volunteer and nothing's better than good karma right before Christmas. Get into the holiday spirit and put a smile on stranger's face this season by supporting St. Amant and joining the VOLUNTEER GIFT WRAPPING TEAM at St. Vital Mall. Volunteers are needed for Dec. 1 to Dec. 24. Please e-mail volunteer@stamant.mb.ca.

CKUW 95.9 FM is seeking volunteers for the music and news departments, and hosts for programs. E-mail ckuw@uwinnipeg.ca.

THE WEST BROADWAY YOUTH OUTREACH CENTRE is always looking for more volunteers to help with a variety of programs including sports, tutoring and other programs to benefit inner city youth. Call 774-0451 or stop by 222 Furby St. to offer your skills.

Ford engineer helps U of M students build hybrid car

Vehicle will be entered in the Formula Hybrid competition next May

CHUTHAN PONNAMPALAM
THE MANITOBAN (UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA)

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Paul Aldighieri is helping engineering students build hybrid hot rods.

Aldighieri, a top engineer at Ford, delivered a seminar at the University of Manitoba on Friday, Sept. 24 on the award-winning technology he helped Ford develop. After he was on hand to help students on the Formula Hybrid team of the University of Manitoba's Society of Automotive Engineers (UMSAE).

The team is comprised of a group of approximately 30 engineering students, who compete against universities across North America in the Formula Hybrid competition.

The focus of the competition is to design a top-notch hybrid autocross vehicle for the next competition in May 2011.

"It's a battery powered electric vehicle, so that's the major focus of the project," explained Robbie Brar, a member of the U of M's Formula Hybrid team.

"This is purely for learning, developing skills and hopefully getting a job in the field one day."

Aldighieri was part of the developmental team behind award-winning technologies such as "MyFord" and "Sync."

While researching how to develop these technologies, he found that many people establish relationships with their vehicles. This

is particularly relevant in Western Canada where many people own trucks, which they use for their businesses.

"Here in Western Canada, trucks are important and we talked to truckers, and people who use trucks for a living, and it's not just their means of transportation. They depend on it to feed their family," explained Aldighieri.

Aldighieri is advising the Formula Hybrid team on how to better build a relationship between their hybrid racer and its driver, and what information is critical for the driver of the hybrid vehicle to have.

Engineer in residence and faculty advisor to UMSAE, Malcolm Symonds explained that the SAE and its competition are vital to engineering students because they provide students with practical, hands-on experience.

U of W's urban and inner-city studies program moves to Selkirk Avenue

Students gain unique ground-level view of subject at hand

SONYA HOWARD
BEAT REPORTER

As elders smudged the site of the new playground and daycare for the University of Winnipeg's urban and inner-city studies program on Selkirk Avenue, empty beer bottles clanked from the Merchant's Hotel.

"This is a symbolically powerful contrast," said Jim Silver, professor and director of the four-year-old program. "Inner-city residents are reclaiming their community, and the University of Winnipeg is thrilled to be a part of this process."

In July 2010, the program moved in with the Urban Circle Training Centre, an adult education centre with 20 years experience in helping aboriginal people graduate high school and move on to careers.

The recent increase in the number of community and economic development organizations in the North End, Silver notes, makes Selkirk Avenue a uniquely ideal location for U of W students to study and engage with these issues.

Michael Zacharias, long-time North End resident and part-time student currently on break from the program, agrees.

"Studying in the community setting allows you to see directly what's going on in the community," Zacharias said.

Both Silver and Zacharias note that the move helps to break down stereotypes about the neighbourhood and its residents.

"Just being here, at the Urban Circle Training Centre, is a learning experience for



CHARMAINE MALLARI

Director of U of W's urban and inner city studies program Jim Silver and co-director of Urban Circle Training Centre Sharon Slater both see the program's move as an chance to provide new learning opportunities.

U of W students," Silver said. "Students see aboriginal people who are smiling, laughing and joking and doing well."

However, for U of W students who travel from the main campus, getting up to Selkirk Avenue on time for class may prove challenging.

To help students in this position, Zacharias

suggests staggering class times or providing a shuttle from downtown to Selkirk Avenue.

Sharon Slater, co-director of the Urban Circle Training Centre, hopes this move will also enhance the education offerings available to local residents.

"A number of our Urban Circle students have fears about entering the large U of W

campus downtown," Slater said. "They will now have the opportunity to talk with students who are in university who can help address some of those fears."

The program has made arrangements with the U of W Registrar's Office and financial aid to help non-traditional students access the program, notes Silver, as well as ensure that class sizes remain small and personalized, with tutoring, mentorship and access to el-

"Just being here, at the Urban Circle Training Centre, is a learning experience for U of W students ... Students see aboriginal people who are smiling, laughing and joking and doing well."

- JIM SILVER, DIRECTOR OF URBAN AND INNER-CITY STUDIES PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

ders for guidance.

"It's more viable for local residents to take part in this university program if it is located here," Slater said.

"Not only is there is a range of personal, academic and emotional supports on Selkirk Avenue, but it's easier when the campus is within walking distance, your kids are in school in the area and you're comfortable in your neighbourhood."

Local residents like Roxane Dorvault are taking the U of W up on this offer.

"The campus location on Selkirk is ideal for me because I work full-time in community development and I happen to work right on Selkirk Avenue," said Dorvault, co-ordinator of tutoring and mentoring with the Community Education Development Association Pathways to Education program.

"This is also the community I live in so I feel quite comfortable at Urban Circle."

Degree in dance allows those passionate about their art to get university credit

U of W and Contemporary School co-op program combines the best of academic and artistic educations

AARON SNIDER
STAFF WRITER

While all students get tired of sitting through class, for most it is a minor nuisance.

However, for a few it is a big deal.

"We always do laps around the building on break to pump ourselves up again," said Amy Webb, a second-year student at the University of Winnipeg. "I couldn't do university all day - I'd die."

Thankfully for people like Webb there is a solution. Offered in co-operation with the Contemporary School of Dancers, a degree in dance offers intense physical training for those dedicated enough to get in.

On an average day, dancers begin with personal warm-ups and conditioning before classes start at 9:30 a.m.

Two technique classes focus on different general dance skills and last about three hours. The students may then get a break before beginning afternoon rehearsals.

"Sometimes I don't get to eat lunch until about three in the afternoon," said Webb. "I'm usually gone (from home) for about 14 hours a day. By five o'clock I pack everything

"One time I went to see an academic advisor and they didn't even know my program existed."

- AMY WEBB, SECOND-YEAR DANCE STUDENT

up and then at six I start university class."

Students usually take two classes a semester, and though they're not limited to any specific academic area, they must satisfy the



CINDY TITUS

The University of Winnipeg offers a degree in dance in co-operation with the Contemporary School of Dancers. According to students, the program is demanding but also rewarding.

same requirements as all other majors.

The dance program has much less visibility than other programs offered by the U of W, mostly because the dance classes take place at the Contemporary School of Dance in the Exchange District.

"One time I went to see an academic advisor and they didn't even know my program existed," said Webb.

Sam Penner, also in her second year of dance, explained why she opted for the joint program rather than only dance courses.

"It's great to just focus on dance and put everything into that, but that's not what a normal life is like, and you're never going to actually be able to sustain yourself on dancing alone."

While this highlights the tragic reality for

dancers, Penner sees the university portion of her education as an advantage to her dance career.

"Choreographers want people with open minds and with more knowledge. It's a more interesting personality, more informed."

Her teachers certainly agree.

Faye Thomson, who has co-directed the Contemporary School of Dance with Odette Heyn-Penner for about 30 years, believes her students get something from their university courses that dance alone cannot give them.

"A liberal arts education complements their development as artists. So it's an important part of their development as dancers," she said.

There is also a more pragmatic perspective. A university degree as a fallback plan in a ca-

reer that is so highly dependent on physical fitness.

"A degree allows for career transition later on, after a performing career," Thomson said.

Perhaps most importantly of all, those who stick with the program see it not as a burden, but a way to get a degree while pursuing a passion.

"It's my favourite thing to do," Webb said.

The contemporary dance students will be performing four shows at the Gas Station Theatre from Dec. 9 to 12 at 7:30 each night. For more information visit www.schoolofcontemporary-dancers.ca.

Wesmen women finish 2-1 at BOB FM Tournament

Over the weekend, team gelled and set the stage for successful season

SARAH REILLY
STAFF WRITER

The Wesmen women's basketball team kicked off their season by hosting the BOB FM tournament Friday, Oct. 8 to Sunday, Oct. 10.

Their first game of the year was a thrilling Friday night contest against the Lakehead Thunderwolves.

Rookie guard Stephanie Kleysen had an impressive start to her Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) career with a double-double of 16 points and 14 rebounds.

"It was a good experience," she commented. "The whole competitive environment is very different from high school. I love it!"

After the first half, Lakehead was trailing 27-17. They came out strong in the third quarter, and outscored the Wesmen 32-27 in the second half.

Despite the Thunderwolves efforts, they could not overcome the Wesmen's lead, and Winnipeg won their first game of the tournament, 54-49.

The next day the Wesmen took on cross-town rivals the Manitoba Bisons.

Winnipeg started the game strong and took an early lead, which they held onto for the majority of the game. It was a battle throughout, but the Wesmen re-



Alyssa Grant (left) and Amy Ogidan (right) were two of the Wesmen's big scorers at the BOB FM basketball tournament at the U of W Oct. 8-10. COURTESY WESMEN

mained in control for the first three quarters.

Wesmen captains, fifth-year Catie Gooch and fourth-year Amy Ogidan, led their team with 16 and 23 points respectively.

On the other side, Bisons' fifth-year captain Kayla Klassen had 21 points and Lauren Mortier added another 14.

The Wesmen lost steam in the final 10 minutes, allowing the Bisons to dominate the last quarter of the game and outscore the Wesmen 17-4.

When the final buzzer rang, the Bisons defeated the Wesmen, 69-60.

Ogidan reflected on the game as a learning experience for the team, which helped them against the Brandon Bobcats the next day.

"We knew that we needed to play four hard quarters," she said. "We focused on starting the game strong and ending it strong, because against Manitoba we didn't have a strong fourth quarter and it cost us the game."

On Sunday, in their final game

of the tournament, the Wesmen knew they had to bring the same intensity and focus to the floor for the full 40 minutes.

Coming out strong from the tip-off, the Wesmen dominated the entire game against the Bobcats.

They took an early lead, and finished the first quarter leading 20-11.

In the second quarter, they put on a show, outscoring the Bobcats 23-9. At the half, the Wesmen were up 43-20, and they maintained a substantial lead throughout the rest of the game.

The final score read 70-41.

Winnipeg's Alyssa Grant had 15 points and 10 boards, while Ogidan added 13 points, and Kleysen added another 12.

Grant said that the weekend was great for the team, and over the three games they showed improvement.

"By Sunday we had settled down and come together as a team," she said. "There were still mistakes, but we're learning, and we can see a lot of potential for this year."

WESMEN PLAYER PROFILE

Veteran forward brings long-time love of the game to the court

Getting to know Ontario-import Justin Phillips

SARAH REILLY
STAFF WRITER



Justin Phillips. COURTESY WESMEN

Third-year forward Justin Phillips is one of only five returning players to the Wesmen men's basketball team this season. Originally from Ontario, Phillips has been playing basketball for so long that he can't remember when he began.

"I started playing basketball in my neighbourhood back in Toronto," he said. "I was always more athletic than all my friends, but never got a handle on the game until high school."

"I'm glad I came to Winnipeg. I grew up fast living out here and having to deal with the busy university-athlete lifestyle."

- JUSTIN PHILLIPS, WESMEN MEN'S BASKETBALL

He joined his first team in Grade 9 and has been playing competitively ever since.

Phillips finished his high school career at Newtonbrook Secondary School and in both 2007 and 2008 he was named senior high school basketball MVP. It was a great experience and Phillips wasn't ready

to stop playing basketball at a competitive level.

He remembers when then-Wesmen head coach Dave Crook recruited him, and was excited by the opportunity to play in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport league (CIS).

"I had only heard good things about the 'Peg. I was excited to come to Winnipeg," he said.

Phillips also remembers that as a child and into his high school days he always dreamed of playing basketball at the university level.

He says that although it was a big change for him, he is happy the decision he made to join the Wesmen.

"I'm glad I came to Winnipeg," he explained. "I grew up fast living out here and having to deal with the busy university-athlete lifestyle."

Phillips plans to continue to play for the Wesmen while he finishes his Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and then move back to Toronto for law school.

WESMEN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BOB FM TOURNAMENT

Friday, Oct. 8

WINNIPEG WESMEN **54**
LAKEHEAD THUNDERWOLVES **49**

Saturday, Oct. 9

MANITOBA BISON **69**
WINNIPEG WESMEN **60**

Sunday, Oct. 10

WINNIPEG WESMEN **70**
BRANDON BOBCATS **41**

Men's basketball squad struggles in Montreal

SARAH REILLY
STAFF WRITER

The University of Winnipeg men's basketball team travelled to Montreal Oct. 8-9 to take part in Concordia University's Invitational Tournament.

They began the weekend playing against the home team, the Concordia Stingers, on Friday, Oct. 8.

It was a close contest and the Wesmen remained in the game throughout, but unfortunately were unable to overcome the Stingers in the last quarter.

The Wesmen were lead by Kenny Perry, who had 19 points in the night, along with Wesmen captain Nick Lothar, who also scored in the double digits with 15 points.

The final score was, 85-80, in favour of Concordia.

The following night, the game

was not as close. The Wesmen took on Ryerson University at 5 p.m. in the consolation final.

Ryerson came out strong and never let up throughout the game, despite Winnipeg's efforts to take control.

Lynden Drayton Barrow had 17 points for the Wesmen, but the team fell to Ryerson 80-65 in their final game of the weekend.

Check out the latest from *The Uniter's* blog:

"Not the message Katz was hoping for"

by Andrew Tod

"An educational trip down memory lane"

by Lauren Parsons

"Vancouver's clampdown on rock 'n' roll"

by Matt Preprost

"Eroding democracy in the 'Peg"

by Ethan Cabel

"Is your degree just a ticket to better wages?"

by Sonya Howard

The Uniter's blog. Updated daily.

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History department protests library's book cuts

Library intends on spending money for technology resources

KARLENE OOTO-STUBBS
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

In September, the University of Winnipeg's department of history passed a motion protesting the university library's decision to cut departmental book budgets.

"Our concerns are that there was no consultation about the cuts and that these deep budgetary books cuts will affect our student population and the university as a research place," said Eliakim Sibanda, chair of the history department.

The library plans on taking the money that would traditionally have been spent on books to purchase new computers and create three new learning commons on campus.

"The library is committed to fulfilling every prong of academic excellence and equity of access to technology for all students," said Jane Duffy, dean of the library at the University of Winnipeg. "Seeing students waiting in lines to access course materials online is unacceptable."

Duffy hopes to modernize the library and provide students who can't afford computers access to Internet databases for their courses.

But the history department questions the sustainability of the project.

"Computers are a tool, not knowledge in themselves," Wall said. "They have to be continually replaced, which means that every few years they may cut our budget again."

The history department is encouraging other departments to protest alongside them.



CINDY TITUS

The decision to invest in more technology and less books this year has the U of W library under fire.

"We understand the library wants to make improvements, but going at it by taking funds from the book budget makes no sense," said Sibanda.

The library supports its decision by saying that print material is not used as often as its

electronic counterpart.

"I looked at what had been spent in the past five years on books (and) didn't see the value of print material," Duffy said. "I did see the usage of online material go through the roof and its value to students rise."

Duffy and her colleagues found this information by conducting surveys that tracked the circulation of the library's books.

"There's a lot of hidden circulation that the library's survey doesn't see," Wall said.

"There are many people who use books in the library who never sign them out or

"We understand the library wants to make improvements, but going at it by taking funds from the book budget makes no sense."

- ELIAKIM SIBANDA, CHAIR, U OF W HISTORY DEPARTMENT

professors who copy a chapter and provide it for their students online. Those 48 students in a class all used that book, but it's not recorded."

Duffy understands the department's concerns with the book budget.

"This is a part of a much bigger story," she said. "Their initial reaction is shock, but in a few months they will see the academic benefits to their students that access to technology provides."

A part of the library's plan is to provide students with three moveable work pods with ergonomic furniture. They hope it will eliminate the need for students to share computers, a sight Duffy often sees.

"Wealthier students have no problem accessing their professor's online material, but for others this is almost impossible," she said.

History student Hayley Caldwell would like to see more material posted online as an alternative to hard copies of material.

"In my classes we have to use a lot of the library's books, but online would be easier," she said.

Campus water: unbottled

Water ban still holding strong with new initiatives in store for the future

LAUREN PARSONS
BEAT REPORTER

On March 23, 2009, the University of Winnipeg became the first "bottle-free" campus in Canada in an effort to stop the privatization of water for students.

After a year-and-a-half, the ban is still in effect and University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) president Jason Syvixay believes there is more progress to be made.

"We always see a cycle of first-year students coming in who believe that bottled water is the only clean water source," he said.

Since the ban, the UWSA has provided first-year students with water bottles and encourages students to refill their bottles at the newly modified water refill stations around campus.

"We should not have to pay for bottled water if we don't have enough money to pay for tuition in the first place."

- JASON SYVIXAY, UWSA PRESIDENT

Environmentally, some are wondering why other bottled beverages continue to be sold on campus.

"Our campaign was centred around the issues of water being a basic human right," Syvixay explained. "The fact that we've eliminated 38,400 (bottles from being sold) is a bonus."

On July 28 of this year, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared that water is a human right worldwide. It's estimated that before the ban, students were spending over \$48,000 on bottled water,



CINDY TITUS

Water bottle refill stations are only one part of UWSA's multi-faceted plan to getting students to think differently about water.

whereas public drinking water in Canada is free.

"We should not have to pay for bottled water if we don't have enough money to pay for tuition in the first place," said Syvixay.

Syvixay said the next step in the initiative is to get rid of flavoured and vitamin waters.

Diversity Foods, who sell food and beverages to students every day on campus, are not surprised that students accept the bottled water ban.

"We have people ask every now and again - maybe a little bit more at the beginning of each school year," said Lydia Warkentin, manager of campus living (food services) for the University of Winnipeg.

"Nobody has been hostile. A lot of kids find it very interesting."

As to why vitamin and flavoured bottled water is still being sold, Warkentin said that she trusts that the senior administration of the university will use their best negotiating skills when it comes time to renew the contract with campus drink supplier, PepsiCo.

"The university should be a hotbed for ideas and a response to world issues," she said. "To participate in that has been great for Diversity. (Even) if the ban were to be lifted, we would not sell bottled water."

Other ways Diversity is helping to maintain a sustainable campus for students is by using local and organic food when possible, using compostable take-out packaging and supplying clean reusable cups for drinking water.

Laura Butler, a fourth-year English major, does not have any issues with the ban.

But she does not think it's necessary to apply it to flavoured or vitamin waters.

"It's not exactly water, there's a lot of sugar and ingredients added," she said. "If they applied it to them, they'd have to apply it to every drink be it juice, pop or anything really."

For more information on the ban, visit www.insidethebottle.org.

AN ABRIDGED TIMELINE OF THE BOTTLED WATER BAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

January 2008 - UWSA opens Soma Caf  at U of W. Soma is immediately bottled water free.

February 2009 - UWSA, Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) meet with Ecological People in Action (EcoPIA), campus Sustainability Office; bottled water working group established, meetings planned to discuss campaign.

February/March 2009 - Working group distributes information from Polaris Institute to students on campus, gauges student feedback.

February 26, 2009 - Working group meets with U of W Administration. U of W Admin agrees to principles of banning bottled water sales, establishes Water Safety Audit through Canada Research Chair and expert on water toxicity.

March 11, 2009 - Campus Sustainability Office provides brief report to U of W Admin and Working Group.

March 16-20, 2009 - EcoPIA tables on campus, providing information to students. Solicits 500 signatures to implement a referendum question; UWSA Board of Directors votes to ban bottled water sales from all UWSA facilities.

March 19, 2009 - UWSA created a referendum question to students during the UWSA general Election; referendum passed with 74.8 per cent in favour, with the highest voter turnout in a decade.

March 23, 2009 - U of W announces bottled water ban as part of World Water Day (March 22).

Source: University of Winnipeg: Case Study of a Campus Bottled Water Ban from www.insidethebottle.org



Comments

Now is not the time to refuse to vote

An appeal to young voters



LEAH BORCHERT
VOLUNTEER

As you all hopefully know, we have a municipal election coming up on Wednesday, Oct. 27. I have a few friends who, for various reasons, are planning on not voting or spoiling their ballot. I wanted to share some thoughts.

In my experience, there are three main reasons why people choose not to vote, or choose to spoil their ballot.

They are: not caring or not knowing enough to make an informed decision; believing that there is a fundamental flaw in our political and electoral system; and disliking all of the candidates and/or not wanting to be represented by any of them.

I assume that anyone reading this article already cares at least somewhat about the municipal election, so I won't address the issue of not caring or not being politically informed. I do want to address the other two reasons why people choose not to vote.

Our political system is in desperate need of change. This is especially true at the federal level, but the municipal level certainly has problems as well.

If your reason for spoiling your ballot or not voting is because you don't want to participate in a system you don't believe in, or because you want to send a message that the system needs to change, that is understandable.



AYAME ULRICH

No matter how many of us don't vote, spoil our ballots, or even vote for a fringe candidate, one of these two people will be the next mayor of Winnipeg

However, refusing to vote is not the best way to accomplish this and it's extremely unlikely that spoiling your ballot will make a difference.

It may, if enough people do it, send a mes-

sage. But, there are many more effective ways to send a message. Protests, letter writing, or songwriting – to name a few – will send more of a message than spoiling your ballot.

After this election, either Sam Katz or Judy

Wasylycia-Leis will be mayor. The latest polls are pretty clear on this point.

No matter how many of us don't vote, spoil our ballots, or even vote for a fringe candidate, one of these two people will be the next mayor of Winnipeg. It is up to the age-eligible citizenry to decide which one of them it will be.

The final reason people choose not to vote or to spoil their ballot – not liking any of the candidates – is also understandable.

But in this case, even if none of the candidates appeal to you, ask yourself this: is there one candidate you would choose over the other? Better yet, is there one candidate that you would really not like to see in office?

It all comes down to one thing – one question: whether or not you personally want Sam Katz to win the mayoral election.

It's generally the young and politically informed that choose to spoil ballots or to not vote out of protest. And if the young, informed and politically active aren't voting, then the other side wins the election.

Leah Borchert is a psychology, theatre and German studies student at the University of Winnipeg.

The downtown is no laughing matter

Negative and passive attitudes proliferate regarding the area



MATT AUSTMAN
STAFF WRITER

Winnipeg has a long history of group segregation. City districts are divided economically, politically, racially and socially. But a few things do unite Winnipeggers, one of which is our regressive views on crime, homelessness and the downtown.

Walking around downtown Winnipeg on a weekend night is a thought-provoking experience.

Downtown revitalization efforts can only be mildly effective without people making an effort to get to know their downtown

Although there are waves of exceptions in the summer, you can walk a city block during the other three seasons and not pass anybody. It's shocking and certainly isn't true for most other urban centres in Canada.

Many Winnipeggers seem to think this is because downtown is not a safe place to be.

Downtown is seen as a shitty place not worth the risk to one's safety. There is too much crime, too many homeless people, and not enough cops at the city's disposal to deal with the violence.

Regardless of class or race, Winnipegger's self-deprecation is seen as legitimate, as something which we all share.

When people hear about a crime that has been committed downtown they will frequently respond "of course" or "wouldn't be Winnipeg without it." Even locking up your bike on Portage Avenue can cause people to question your judgement.

In turn, people avoid going downtown, but then out of sheer hypocrisy wonder why it's so dead.

Downtown would be a lively place to go if people didn't hold such attitudes.

If we expect violence to occur regularly in the downtown, then it will continue to happen. As each crime is reported, it allows people to reinforce their stereotypes regarding downtown's safety, or lack thereof.

Fixing downtown and reducing crime rates could be done more effectively if we all made an effort to go there and stopped mocking ourselves about it

Regressive services like the Downtown Watch are fuelled by these attitudes. Its existence is clearly tied to Winnipeg's embarrassment of homeless people and fear of crime (there is an illogical connection between the two, but that's another whole issue beyond this article). They're a sweeping service meant to keep up the appearance of safety to Winnipeggers' eyes.

Fixing downtown and reducing crime rates could be done more effectively if we all made an effort to go there and stopped mocking ourselves about it.

Waiting for business ventures to attract people and revitalize downtown is a far slower and imperfect process.

Business, recreation and culture ultimately thrive where people spend their time and, it follows, their money.

Winnipeg is notorious for having lazy capitalists. Our business leaders rarely invest without knowing for sure that they will see positive feedback.

Even with guarantees they tend to take their time. Because of this, extra work is required to get them to invest in downtown.

Aside from the potential, there are already affordable, safe and enjoyable places to spend time and money downtown.

Crime is reduced as jobs are created and communities finds a sense of pride. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has been advocating this for years in their policy reports.

Moreover, the self-deprecating norms

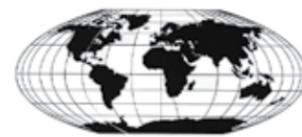
Winnipeggers share actually only fuel our own segregation from one another.

Regardless of who is elected in the upcoming municipal election, downtown revitalization efforts can only be mildly effective without people making an effort to get to know their downtown.

It is imperative that this happens. A great first start is changing our passive and self-deprecating attitudes about crime in the area.

Matt Austman is a politics student at the University of Winnipeg.

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The essay should be between 750 and 1,000 words in length. The essay must be submitted to the Canada West Foundation via e-mail no later than March 15, 2011.

See Canada West Foundation website (www.cwf.ca) for full contest details.

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Being smart trumps being tough when it comes to dealing with crime

Mayoral candidate Judy Wasylycia-Leis offers an effective and comprehensive crime prevention strategy



BRITTANY MARIA THIESSEN
VOLUNTEER

With the Winnipeg municipal election nearing, the issues of crime and safety have been at the forefront of the policies proposed by mayoral candidates Sam Katz and Judy Wasylycia-Leis.

Both candidates have different approaches regarding how they believe crime prevention can best be accomplished.

Katz's approach is focused primarily on reactionary responses to crime, such as his proposal to hire 58 additional police officers.

Katz has also promised to devote 20 new officers to the Winnipeg Police gang unit, who would track and monitor prominent gang members in an effort to increase public safety.

These "get tough" approaches are not long-term solutions to crime.

Adding more police officers is not a bad idea, but it must be balanced with community policing initiatives and more crime prevention programs. More police alone will not significantly reduce or prevent crime.

Additional police officers mean more arrests, more cases being sent to court, more convictions and ultimately, an increase in the prison population.

To reduce gang violence, we need to address the root causes of gang involvement,

turn seek other social groups to fulfill their needs.

Winnipeg does need an anti-gang plan, but we also need a plan to reduce poverty. Social conditions surrounding poverty such as unemployment and lack of education are often contributing factors to deviance and crime.

Wasylycia-Leis has unveiled more proactive and preventative approaches to crime, which have been proven in research to be more effective at crime prevention and reduction.

The effectiveness of the "tough on crime" approach has not been proven in research. Responding to crime in a "smart" manner will help to create safer communities in the long term.

Wasylycia-Leis unveiled the Community Works program last month, aimed at helping to end the cycle of re-offending through job training and employment opportunities.

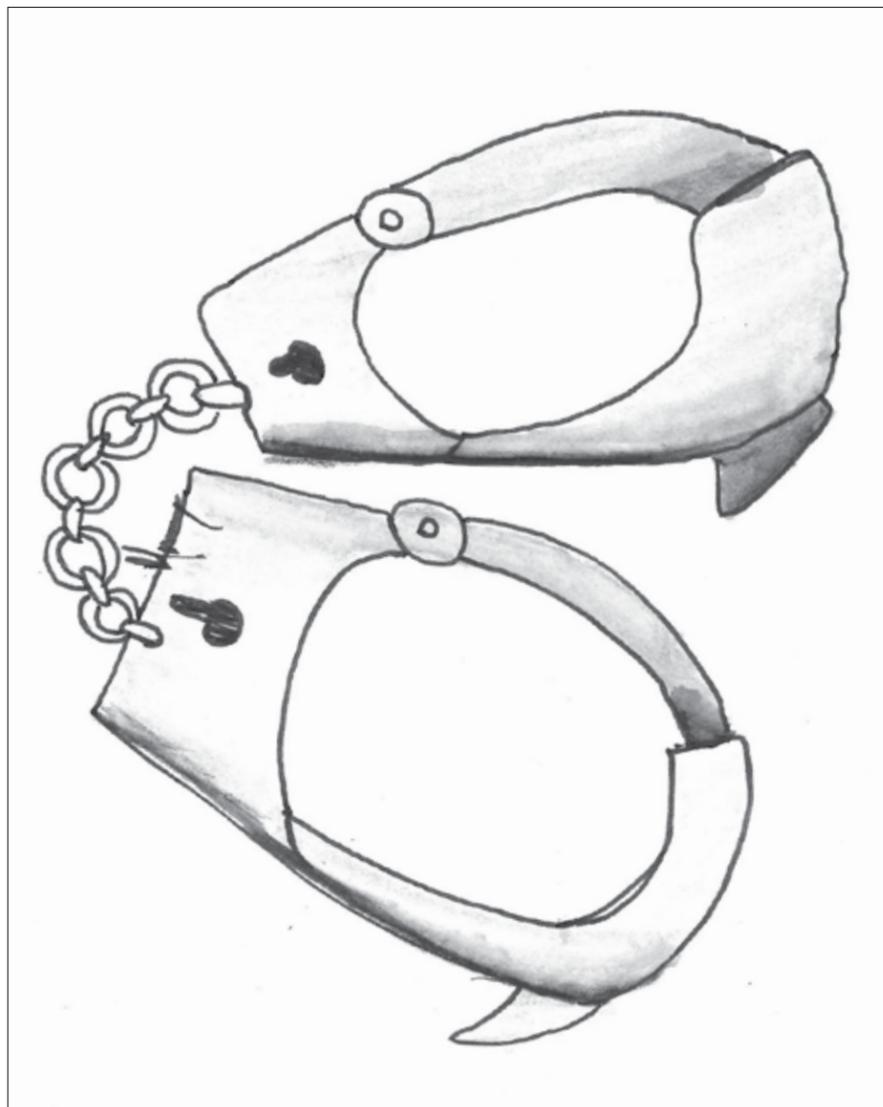
The program would create 120 job training positions in an effort to encourage young people to leave gangs or prevent at-risk youth from initial gang involvement.

Ex-offenders and at-risk youth would help to improve the city's infrastructure by pruning trees, repaving back lanes and boarding up derelict houses, amongst other duties.

This strategy would provide individuals with structured, supervised employment programs, as well as marketable skills in order for them to secure meaningful job opportunities in the future.

When provided with an encouraging and supportive environment where they can succeed, and by developing a sense of accomplishment and achievement, these youths might lose the desire to be part of a gang since employment offers an alternative to the gang lifestyle.

Simply hiring more police officers is a "band aid" solution, according to Wasylycia-Leis.



RYAN JANZ

Adding more police officers is not a bad idea, but it must be balanced with community policing initiatives and more crime prevention programs. More police alone will not significantly reduce or prevent crime

such as a youth's real or perceived lack of belonging, acceptance, nurture and support.

These needs are often unmet in an at-risk youth's home environment. These youths in

"We have a choice," she said in September. "We can leave highly vulnerable young people to continue the cycle of violence in our neighbourhoods, or we can work to stop the

To reduce gang violence, we need to address the root causes of gang involvement

cycle, break down the barriers to employment and get people going to work and contributing to their communities."

Wasylycia-Leis is on the right path in terms of the focus of her crime platform. Crime prevention is an effective response to the causes of crime.

Getting "tough on crime" has had little proven impact on crime rates.

What Winnipeg needs is a comprehensive crime prevention plan and currently the only mayoral candidate offering this approach is Wasylycia-Leis.

Brittany Maria Thiessen is the communications officer for the University of Winnipeg Criminal Justice Association.

Crime in Winnipeg: real and imagined

Katz continues façade



GREGORY FURMANIUK
VOLUNTEER

There are two ways to deal with crime: the irrational way and the rational way.

The way promoted by the right – the irrational way – is fueled by fear. This fear is accompanied by a black-and-white view of the world, a perspective so ideologically distorted that it views people in two categories: the bad guys and the good guys.

In this right-wing vision, the best way to deal with the bad guys – mostly the poor, recent immigrants, and aboriginals – is very simple: more police, longer jail sentences and helicopters.

Instead of primarily focusing on an objective analysis of crime, Katz and his Conservative buddies like Fletcher offer an easy solution to their black-and-white problem: more punishment

Basically, they advocate any draconian measure they can think up.

Mayor Sam Katz boasts the promise of 58 more police officers to Winnipeg's police force, bringing a helicopter to Winnipeg and creating a new SWAT team.

He has stated that "(Winnipeggers) no longer want to be prisoners in their own homes."

Like a magician waving his wand, he conjures up a fantasy Winnipeg where good citi-

Like a magician waving his wand, Katz conjures up a fantasy Winnipeg where good citizens are locked inside, afraid of the villainous and chaotic wilderness outside

zens are locked inside, afraid of the villainous and chaotic wilderness outside.

This kind of fear-mongering is a cynical manipulation of reality, an example of demagoguery you might find in a dictionary.

Katz is endorsed by Conservative Member of Parliament Steven Fletcher, who once said, "I am happy to be part of the government that is leading the charge against those who would threaten the safety of our communities."

The federal Conservative government has introduced harsher punishments for youth offenders, even though youth crime has gone down in recent years.

Fletcher is a man very proud of the fact that his party has spent between \$10 and 13 billion dollars on completely unnecessary and useless super-prisons, amongst other measures, in the recently instituted Bill C-25.

Instead of primarily focusing on an objective analysis of crime, Katz and his Conservative buddies like Fletcher offer an easy solution to their black-and-white problem: more punishment.

The illusion is very enticing – it helped Katz win the mayoral election in 2004 and a landslide re-election in 2006.

The trouble for Katz et al is that they base such arguments upon an illusion. People can't be fooled forever and as they hear more

about the exaggerated nature of violence and crime, they begin to catch on.

In the real world, people don't commit crimes because of any inherent tendency to do so – they do so because of external social

and economic pressures.

For instance, impoverished youth who lack jobs, community services and after-school programs are inclined to engage in gang activity.

The best way to deal with crime is not to be hard on the individual – an individual pressured by social and economic forces beyond his or her control – but rather to be hard on crime itself.

On Oct. 27 we will not be choosing between two candidates, but rather between two Winnipegs: an imaginary Winnipeg made up of fear and prejudice, and a Winnipeg that exists in the real world.

I hope we make the right decision.

Gregory Furmaniuk is a first year student at the University of Winnipeg involved in local progressive politics.

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Letters

Re: Robert McGregor's letter (Oct. 7, page 10)

When I responded to Robert McGregor's concerns about corporate sponsors, I misappropriated his stance and maintained that he wished to prevent corporate sponsors from occupying campus space.

Perhaps it was the giant box he was in labeled "SHAME ON THE UWSA!" "... CORPORATIONS ARE PREDATORS" "... STOP THE CORPORATE TAKEOVER!" Or just simply "DOWN WITH CORPORATIZATION!"

Subtle position. Very subtle.

Put simply, only current students have seen their tuition rise by the second highest rate in Canada for the past two years.

In addition, the UWSA faces a budget deficit and should not refuse opportunities to raise funds.

In an ideal world, sponsors would not be required to raise money. Congruently, in an ideal world, corporations would follow

strictly-guided principles to prevent negative externalities.

My question is how many ant-hills are we prepared to make into mountains, based on a purely idealistic view, rather than a logistical one.

Perhaps Mr. McGregor should think outside of the box.

*Respectfully,
Travis Turenne*

Be proud, U of W

The University of Winnipeg has routinely upheld high standards in the services and assistance they provide for students with disabilities.

Case in point: earlier this year, the U of W was commended for offering Manitoba's first ever Interdisciplinary Bachelor's in Disabilities Studies program, a joint course with Red River College.

More recently, though, an internal memo

informed staff that, due to a 20 per cent increase in the registration of students with disabilities, certain resources for these students would be cut.

To this I say: U of W, be proud that students with disabilities recognize your services as a cut above the rest.

Students with disabilities are making a statement of trust when they register with you. Thank you for not letting them down now.

I have had the honour of befriending and working with a wide range of students with various disabilities whose lives have been changed by the services provided at U of W.

These services ultimately empower them, and allow them to produce their best work, uninhibited by physical or social barricades.

In the workplace these students are then able to be effective and make a difference.

Keep up the good work, U of W!

Veronica Neufeld

Re: Ethan Cabel's blog entry "Eroding democracy in the 'Peg" (Oct. 7, www.uniter.ca/blog/entry/4884)

For your information, all of the nomination signatures (348) I gathered were on the preliminary voters list which is the only list I was provided with.

The legislation stipulates that I, as a mayoral candidate, am entitled to the final updated voters list. The City denied me access, so there was no way for me to ensure the eligibility of the people.

I believe that if a person is eligible to vote they must also be eligible to nominate the candidate(s) of their choice. The process happening here is not one of a free and democratic society.

*Nancy Thomas
via www.uniter.ca*

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO: EDITOR@UNITER.CA.



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Thank You students, staff, faculty and guests for attending the Creole breakfast fundraiser and making a contribution to help our newest students from Haiti.



UWinnipeg's newest students from Haiti: Jean Widny Pervil, Vanessa Laurent, Samy Archille, Héléna Vickaina Lafleur and Jaquet Duval.

photo by Paul Ruban

UWinnipeg is covering significant costs to allow the five students, all in their twenties, to continue their studies including airfare, tuition, residence fees, meal plans and counselling.

UWinnipeg is spearheading a public appeal to raise \$50,000 to cover additional costs such as clothing, books and school supplies, medical supports, monthly allowances and return airfares to Haiti. The University is committed to supporting these five students for a minimum two year period. Any monies raised beyond the \$50,000 will go to support the students in year two of their studies at UWinnipeg.

Donations can be made to the Haitian Student Bursary Support anytime by contacting the University of Winnipeg Foundation at 204-786-9995, or toll free 1-866-394-6050, or donate on-line at www.uwinnipegfoundation.ca



Arts & Culture

Bison b.c.: James Farwell's father knows best

AARON EPP
MANAGING EDITOR

The last time crushing, riff-heavy Vancouver metal band Bison b.c. was in Winnipeg, singer-guitarist James Farwell's 80-year-old father came to the show.

"That was awesome," Farwell – who is originally from this city – explained by phone while en route on a North Carolina highway this past April.

"He came up to me after the show (and said), 'Well, I see why you have long hair now.' He hadn't seen me perform since 1989 at the Royal Albert."

A lot has happened since the 37-year-old was playing in punk bands at the Exchange District venue.

After moving to Vancouver in 1991, Farwell helped form the seminal skate-thrash band S.T.R.E.E.T.S. (Skating Totally Rules, Everything Else Totally Sucks).

When that group disbanded, he put together his current project with singer-guitarist Dan And, bassist Masa Anzai and drummer Brad Mackinnon.

The group released its debut full-length, *Quiet Earth*, in 2008 on Metal Blade Records.

The follow-up, *Dark Ages*, came out in April. Farwell has described it as "a fucking depressing album," adding that he gets bummed out listening to it.

"I don't know if that's just my personal attachment to it, but it's got a bit of a melancholic vibe to it, a bit of a depressing vibe," he said.

Farwell added that when he was writing lyrics for the disc, he drew from his experiences working at a homeless shelter in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

"The way people deal with living in the world, existing in sort of a world that's becoming consistently more loveless and hard to exist in on an emotional level" was a lyrical



COURTESY METAL BLADE

inspiration, Farwell said.

Musically, Farwell sees the seven songs on *Dark Ages* as a step up from those on *Quiet Earth*.

The emphasis on well-written guitar riffs is still there, as well as the tempo changes and the gruff, shouted vocals. But, the songwriting is stronger.

"The arrangements are improved and more mature," Farwell said. "They're more thought-out and more interesting."

"When you're writing an eight-minute-

long song, the arrangement becomes that much more important."

Bison b.c. brings *Dark Ages* to the Royal Albert this weekend. Whether Farwell's father will be there or not remains to be seen.

All he knows is that the last Winnipeg gig was meaningful as a result of the paternal presence.

"My parents have always been very supportive with my choices, and to make a go in this business, it's a lot of work and a lot of empty wallets, so to speak. So I think the

fact that he came out and was very excited for me..." Farwell trailed off.

"You want your parents to be happy for you, and I think he was genuinely happy. It was great."

⇒ Bison b.c. will perform at the Albert on Saturday, Oct. 16

⇒ Everyone's Fired and Scab Smoker will also perform

⇒ Tickets \$10 in advance at Into the Music, Music Trader and www.ticketworkshop.com

⇒ Visit www.myspace.com/bisoneastvan

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Lorne Cardinal
in *Thunderstick*
by Kenneth T. Williams
Photo By: Liam Richards



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FASHION STREETER

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



Karen

"The cheaper, the better. It's up to the person to make it look like a million bucks."

CHARMAINE MALLARI

MUSIC LISTINGS

**Stand Alone Complex**

Prolific doesn't even begin to describe local musician Michael Lewis. On Thursday, Oct. 14 at Aqua Books (274 Garry St.), he'll release not one but three recordings by his moody electronica/industrial project, Stand Alone Complex.

"I do write a lot because I work on (music) a lot and I'm inspired a lot," the 32-year-old told *The Uniter* this past summer. "There's two-month stretches where I really just couldn't give a fuck about picking up a guitar or touching a keyboard, but then there are two-month stretches where it's like, every day I have an idea."

MUSIC FOR SUICIDES is a full-length that has previously been available only digitally, *RECONSTRUCTING SUICIDE* is an EP of remixes and *TOO FAR GONE* is a newly-recorded EP.

Preview tracks at www.myspace.com/standalonesongs and read more about Michael Lewis at www.uniter.ca/blog.

THURSDAY, OCT. 14

LIBRARY VOICES, PAPER LIONS and BEND SINISTER perform at the Royal Albert Arms.

Shake your rump to UNKNOWN PLEASURES at the Lo Pub.

ROCK THE VOTE with MAGNUM K.I., ENJOY YOUR PUMAS, LEBEATO, NOMA SIBANDA & THE GUERRILLAS OF SOUL, DJs CO-OP & HUNNICUTT and A VERY LARGE HOUSECAT at the Pyramid Cabaret. 8 p.m.

Drum and bass legend DIESEL BOY is party rockin' at the Republic.

The Rock Box at the Zoo features the MYSTICS, LIL OLIVIA and FOOTWERK.

STAND ALONE COMPLEX will hold a triple album release show at Aqua Books. 7:30 p.m.

JUSTIN RUTLEDGE and JENN GRANT play at the

West End Cultural Centre.

CHRIS FROOME plays at Shannon's Irish Pub.

SLOW MOTION WALTER is at the Royal George Hotel.

THE FAST FLYING VIRGINIAN JAM NIGHT at the Standard.

CAROLYN DAWN JOHNSON at Club Regent Casino.

Blues Jam with MIDNIGHT TRAIN at the Windsor Hotel.

There is a JAM NIGHT at the Belgian Club.

Thursday is Jam Night with ROUTE 59 at the Cavern.

Big Dancing with PAUL DEVRO at Ozzy's.

FRIDAY, OCT. 15

Punk rock legends D.O.A. play the Zoo with the TERRIBLES and The MORLORDS opening.

Local hip hop M.C. THE GUMSHOE STRUT is releasing an EP at the Academy.

SONS OF YORK play at Shannon's Irish Pub.

THE TERRY SPENCER TRIALS and FARLER'S FURY play at the Cavern.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival's OPEN MIC night is being hosted by DOMINIQUE REYNOLDS at the Folk Exchange. 7 p.m.

THE DEAD LETTERS, GREGOR and JESSE HILL perform at Freud's Bathhouse & Diner. 9 p.m.

THE SCARLET UNION and JOHN K. SAMSON play on Kelly Hughes Live! at Aqua Books.

2Pac proteges OUTLAWZ play at the Pyramid Cabaret.

BOG RIVER plays over at Sam's Place.

THE SULTANS OF STRING perform at McNally Robinson.

KATHY KENNEDY plays at the Windsor Hotel.

SATURDAY, OCT. 16

Awesomely loud BISON B.C. hit the stage at the Royal Albert Arms.

Dream Love Cure Centre fundraiser featuring DJs CO-OP and HUNNICUTT, THE LYTICS, PIP SKID and LEN BOWEN at the Pyramid Cabaret.

Punk rock legends D.O.A. play the Zoo with the ANIMALISTICS and BOTH LEGS BROKEN opening.

Notes & Numbers at the Graffiti Gallery features new works by PHILIA and CAMERON JOHNSON and performances by MT. NOLAN and GRUF.

JUSTIN LACROIX releases his latest album at the Park Theatre.

ROYAL WOOD and HANNAH GEORGAS perform at the West End Cultural Centre.

The Women in Blues concert at the Windsor Hotel features KATHY KENNEDY, TRACY K, ANGEL CALNEK and CLAIRE STILL.

JON MCPHAIL & HIS FAMILY BAND play at Sam's Place.

THE KNUCKLEDRAGGERS release a CD at the Cavern with guests KIDS ON FIRE, HIGH CLASS LOWLIFES and KIDS & HEROES.

Southern Manitoba songwriters will be featured at the Folk Exchange, hosted by LINDA HIEBERT with performances by THE OTHER BROTHERS, BILL DOWLING and JANESSA FREEHEART. 8 p.m.

BROKEN ROADIE play at Shannon's Irish Pub.

Folk for Families at the Millennium Library features AARON BURNETT at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 17

Hard rock bands FAME, PROPHET, PMPR, LIVING IN RED and METHOD play at the Park Theatre. 6:30 p.m.

It's Student Night with KID KASSETTE at the Academy.

ALL THE KING'S MEN play weekly at The King's Head.

Blues Jam with BIG DAVE MCLEAN at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club.

BAD COUNTRY is back to their old tricks at the Standard.

MONDAY, OCT. 18

The MACLEAN BROTHERS do their weekly gig at the Royal George Hotel.

The Blues Jam with TIM BUTLER is at the Academy.

Sift through record crates filled with K-Tel gold

at the VINYL DRIP at the Cavern.

Join the open mic at Le Garage Café hosted by MELISSA PLETT.

THE MAGICIAN plays at the King's Head.

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

SCYTHIA, NORTHERN SHADOWS, MARCHING MIND and MIDNIGHT DAWN fill the Osborne Village Zoo with sound.

Soul-nite is at the Cavern with DR. HOTBOTTOM & THE SOUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

GARY GACH AND THE BANNED play at the Royal George.

Mardi Jazz goes down at Le Foyer in the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre.

Blues Jam with the DEBRA LYN BAND at Le Garage Café.

NATHAN ROGERS plays at Shannon's Irish Pub.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

Manitoba Music's BLUEBIRD NORTH SHOWCASE features songwriters who also do record production: ISMAILIA ALFA, ARUN CHATURVEDI, MIKE PETKAU FALK and CHRIS BURKE-GAFFNEY. 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre.

ANDREW NEVILLE AND THE POOR CHOICES play at the Standard.

SASSY JACK plays at the Royal George.

CHRIS CARMICHAEL plays at the Yellow Dog Tavern.

The Windsor Hotel is holding a JIMI HENDRIX TRIBUTE NIGHT.

JAZZ is on the menu at THE HANG at the Orbit Room.

MYLES PALMQUIST plays at Shannon's Irish Pub.

THE MAGICIAN plays at the King's Head.

THURSDAY, OCT. 21

ANBERLIN, CRASH KINGS and CIVIL TWILIGHT perform at the Garrick.

ROXY COTTONTAIL, BITCHIN', JUBILEE and B. TRAITS play at the Pyramid Cabaret.

The LITTLE HOUSE BAND is playing at the Royal Albert Arms.

THE TREWS play at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

SLOW MOTION WALTER is at the Royal George Hotel.

DE LA ROSA releases an album at the Republic Nightclub.

NATHAN ROGERS plays at Shannon's Irish Pub.

THE FAST FLYING VIRGINIAN JAM NIGHT at the Standard.

CAROLYN DAWN JOHNSON at Club Regent Casino.

Blues Jam with MIDNIGHT TRAIN at the Windsor Hotel.

There is a JAM NIGHT at the Belgian Club.

Thursday is Jam Night with ROUTE 59 at the Cavern.

Big Dancing with RIC HARD & THE HOSERS every Thursday night at Ozzy's.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE PEACHES release a CD at the Royal Albert Arms. Friday, Oct. 22.

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH is being performed at the Royal Albert Arms. Saturday, Oct. 23.

COHEED AND CAMBRIA with FANG ISLAND at the Garrick Centre. Sunday, Oct. 24.

NASHVILLE PUSSY at the Royal Albert Arms. Wednesday, Oct. 27.

SHOUT OUT OUT OUT at the Pyramid Cabaret. Wednesday, Oct. 27.

RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE at the West End Cultural Centre. Wednesday, Oct. 27.

OWEN PALLET at the Gas Station Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 28.

STARS and YOUNG GALAXY at the Burton Cummings Theatre. Friday, Oct. 29.

HOLLERADO at the Pyramid. Wednesday, Nov. 17.

WINTERSLEEP and RA RA RIOT at the Garrick Centre. Saturday, Nov. 20.

ALEXISONFIRE and NORMA JEAN at the Burton Cummings Theatre. Saturday, Dec. 4.

**PAPER LIONS**

Love and the animal kingdom?

John MacPhee isn't saying he was trying to write the next number one radio single in the world when he was 10 years old. But every musician has to start somewhere, and MacPhee makes no apologies.

"Fortunately I was young enough I don't need to be embarrassed by it," the guitarist and vocalist for Paper Lions laughed over the phone in Charlottetown, PEI, where the band was getting ready to release their new album, *Trophies*.

"The song was called *Love* and I don't quite remember what inspired me to write it, but it went, 'Love, love, love. I love love.' That was the chorus.

"Then the verses go on about love existing in the animal kingdom," he laughed. "The song has stuck. We sing it at most of our family gatherings now."

Now 25, MacPhee embraces his matured songwriter role and explores the larger themes of life with his band.

And for him, translating it all into lyrics, chord progressions and melodies is entrenched in his East Coast upbringing.

"There's something about the East Coast. It's in our blood. It sounds cliché, but most people are singing or playing some instrument from a very early age," he said. "The easy answer is that the winters are long, it's cold, there's not much to do.

"We all just sort of grow up with instruments in our hands."

See Paper Lions perform Thursday, Oct. 14 at the Royal Albert with Library Voices and Bend Sinister. Visit www.myspace.com/paperlionsmusic.

—MATT PREPOST

**BEND SINISTER**

Things Will Get Better leads off Bend Sinister's latest album *Spring Romance*. This bouncy piano-driven progressive popster piece drives home the refrain, "It might take forever but things will get better."

It's that optimism that carried them through their third place showing at Vancouver's marathon contest Peak Music Project, where the band lost out to another *Uniter* favourite, We Are The City.

Of course, their prize of \$50,000 is no small potatoes.

"It was bittersweet to lose (the Peak contest), but after playing a ton of showcases for the contest with (WATC) we figured that if not us, then they would be great winners. They are just really good dudes," said Joseph Blood, guitarist and vocalist, from a pit stop in Quebec City on a brutal cross-country sprint to the Maritimes.

Losing a label might also make a band wish for better days. "(The debut) was supposed to be released on Last Gang Records but the label felt the timing wasn't right," said Blood. "Everyone at Distort is a fan and they are looking forward to putting out the new album."

The result continues Dan Moxon's (vocals and piano) incredibly infectious pop take on life and love, fostering their subtle sense of humour and Queen-like flare for dramatic musicianship and songwriting.

The thought that things will get better for Bend Sinister seems to be a given.

Check them out on Thursday, Oct. 14 at the Royal Albert Arms Hotel. Paper Lions and Library Voices will also perform. Visit www.myspace.com/bendsinisterband.

—LEE REPKO

**ROYAL WOOD**

First order of business: yes, Royal Wood is actually Royal Wood's real name.

Named after his great-grandfather, the Toronto singer-songwriter has more than his unique name going for him.

Wood's smooth-like-butter voice and groovy pop prowess caught the ears of Pierre Marchand (Rufus Wainwright, Sarah McLachlan), who helped produce some of the songs on Wood's third full-length, *The Waiting*.

The album was released in May.

"I'm really proud of it and I would play it for anyone," Wood said over the phone before a sound check in Cumberland, B.C.

"It's my first real label release with all guns blazing. I've definitely entered a new level of a budget, but the most drastic change is that I didn't self-produce something.

"With this record I really wanted to have someone else's opinion, and the band that I played with for so long to really have a part in it."

Rounded out live by guitarist Joel Schwartz, bassist Steve Zsirai and drummer Adam Warner, Wood's Saturday, Oct. 16 stop in Winnipeg is part of his second headlining tour, and his first with a full band.

"I've had a lot of opportunities to be the support act to tour across Canada, it finally got to the point I could have headline tours," said Wood, whose last two tours were only as a duo.

"I'm really excited about having the band."

See Royal Wood live this Saturday, Oct. 16 at the West End Cultural Centre. Hannah Georgas will also perform. Visit www.myspace.com/royalwood.

—MATT PREPOST

CD REVIEWS

HIGH WATT ELECTROCUTIONS

The Bermuda Triangle
Introspection Records

★★★★☆

The Bermuda Triangle is like nothing you've heard before. Consisting of a single 40-minute instrumental track, this music is about as inaccessible as it gets. And that's just the point. Jumping in halfway would be confusing and turning it off before the end would be giving up. This recording demands to be listened to in its entirety, immediately eliminating most potential listeners. Those who commit to the time requirement will experience something that seems to shift between Sigur Ros and Pink Floyd, but without any vocals and at times more cerebral than both. The feel of the music changes occasionally, moving to a more sombre feel or a harsher tone before returning to familiar motifs and completely changing again. High Watt Electrocutions has succeeded in creating a very believable soundscape that will engage the attentive listener, but overall excitement will unfortunately relegate their product to the role of background music.

- Aaron Snider



LOCAL

Stream a portion of the song *The Bermuda Triangle* at www.uniter.ca

EFFECT AND CAUSE

Effect & Cause

★★★★☆

Independent

Effect and Cause's self-titled EP, a follow-up to last year's debut *Gavroche*, is a six-track collection that sounds like it comes from much further south than their hometown of Brandon, Man. While there are some interesting rhythm lines and a few catchy guitar riffs, the band's best trait is lead singer Katlin Mathison's appropriately raw yet surprisingly melodious voice. It's not so much what he says, but how he says it. This isn't a band winning fans over with their lyrics, but luckily their goal isn't to whisper poetry in your ear - it's to hit you with some good-old ball-out "southern rock from the north." On tracks like *Lost* - when they actually embrace the foot-stompin' sound that they only flirt with for most of the other tracks - it works, but it leaves you wishing they did it more often.

- Alex Krosney



LOCAL

Stream the song *The Suit* at www.uniter.ca

MURDER PLANS

Good Omens

★★★★☆

Independent

Ottawa band The Murder Plans recently released their first full-length album of awe-inspiring lyrics and mellow sounds. The deep and somewhat raspy voice of lead vocalist Connor McGuire adds maturity to a band that sounds like it's already made up of musical veterans. The highly anticipated album is nothing fancy but sometimes simplicity is best. The music does speak for itself when it comes to these rockers, which leaves no need for flashy sounds and outrageous lyrics. *Tell A Lie* discusses self-struggle and the album as a whole mixes up life experiences: "I think there's something wrong with me / I cannot tell a lie and that's a lie." The Murder Plans have toured with the likes of The Sadies and Hey Rosetta! to name a couple. The mellow sounds are sure to lure you in regardless of your familiarity with this rock genre.

- Kathleen Cerrer



SCOTT DUNBAR

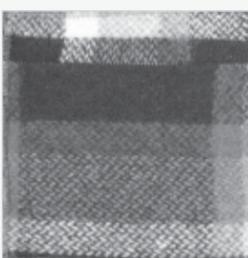
Philosophies of a Moth Vol. 3:
Two Years to Live

★★★★★

Independent

Scott Dunbar is a one-man band who performs his songs on the street corners of Montreal with an acoustic guitar and an accordion. He recorded his entire 24-track album (of which he wrote all but one song) in one week. He doesn't rely on a single genre, and therefore does not cater to an exclusive audience. He obliterates the predictability of mainstream music and I want to hug him for it. His third album *Two Years to Live* is unpolished, whimsical, satirical, admirably transparent at times and philosophically enigmatic at others. Many songs are concerned with corporations and how our politicians operate, such as *Ain't Mama* and *I'm Dick Cheney*, while *Tuning Fork* is the most genuinely sweet love song I have heard in years. It is incredibly refreshing to hear a musician doing something that comments on our culture's problems rather than contributes to them.

- Catherine van Reenen



THE APACHE

Yosarian Lives or Peter Weir (1944)

★★★☆☆

Independent

If you check out The Apache's Facebook page, don't let them fool you. Behind the decidedly haunting imagery they've crafted for themselves ahead of their Oct. 31 album release, lies a harmless band, with music more whimsical and peaceful than an all-out assault on your ears. The band's second single *Yosarian Lives or Peter Weir (1944)* opens up with a pleasing jazz-funk guitar lick, a sound that elicits feelings of summer memories long past, and is hard not to tap your feet and hands along to. The only thing the track suffers from is a lack of production. But that might just be the whole point. A good song doesn't need to hide behind glossy production, but it would be great to have all the instrumentation and vocals louder in the mix. Still, this is a good track and is always a pleasant surprise when it comes up on shuffle on your iTunes. Download it for free at www.tinyurl.com/Uniter-Apache.

- Matt Preprost



FREE DOWNLOAD

Songs for a blues guitar



COURTESY KAT KENNEDY

Baby, I've got the blues: Kat Kennedy has made it her mission to raise the profile of female blues musicians in Winnipeg with her Women in Blues concert series.

Women in Blues series tuning up for fourth concert

ROBIN DUDGEON
CULTURE REPORTER

Kathy Kennedy has a deep-seated love for the blues, and a special place in her heart for the blues in Winnipeg.

A fourth concert in the Women in Blues series will draw some of Manitoba's best into the premier blues room in the city.

The fourth installment of the WIB series will take place at the Windsor Hotel, and will feature Manitoba's own Angel Calnek, Tracy K, newcomer Claire Still, and of course Kennedy herself.

The show will be recorded live, and is in part sponsored by renowned blues fanatic Dan Aykroyd.

"Every woman on this lineup has a story to tell. It's a very interesting lineup and it comes across in the show, the material they write - they're very sincere about it."

- KAT KENNEDY, BLUES MUSICIAN

Kennedy created the series when she moved back to Winnipeg from Ottawa in 2005, and has organized and promoted all the shows.

Kennedy wanted to bring opportunity to local women of blues in a concert setting and highlight the genre and the women who love it.

"I just wanted to make the concert to get myself into the blues scene immediately and so I promoted it and it seemed to grab. It's something that really promotes itself," said Kennedy.

The three previous show have included

talented locals Shelley Lynne Hardinge and Debra Lyn Neufeld.

"I just did it when I could, you know, working between day jobs, gigs and three different bands. There's not many musicians who want to do this kind of thing because it takes all your time," she said.

But for Kennedy it's a labour of love.

Along with three previous concerts she has also released a Women in Blues CD that was recorded live in October 2008 and released in February 2009.

The CD, which featured Shelley Lynne Hardinge, Angel Calnek and Kennedy, was recorded at the Windsor Hotel.

It's since received a lot of national and international attention, including a permanent place in John Einarson's Manitoba Music Experience.

"The reason I chose to have it at the Windsor (was) because I wanted to prove the worth of the Windsor - people really do love it," Kennedy said.

"Lots of good people come in to these concerts - you get all types of personalities and all walks of life and that's what the blues is about.

"No matter which room you go into across the country and all over the world, if you go into a blues room you're going to see all types sitting down to enjoy the same music," she continued.

"Every woman on this lineup has a story to tell. It's a very interesting lineup and it comes across in the show, the material they write - they're very sincere about it."

Fans of the series can expect a CD release in the near future, as well as a possible outdoor show in June 2011.

Kennedy says she would really like to make the Women in Blues series into a festival with headliners like Sue Foley, Rita Chiarelli or Roxanne Potvin.

⇒ The fourth Women in Blues concert happens at the Windsor on Saturday, Oct. 16

⇒ Kathy Kennedy, Angel Calnek, Tracy K and Claire Still will perform

⇒ Doors open at 8 p.m.

⇒ Visit www.katblues.ca

FILM



Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Film *THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES* screens at Cinematheque Friday, Oct. 15, and Saturday, Oct. 16 at 9:30 p.m. It also plays on Sunday, Oct. 17 and Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

BREATH/LIGHT/BIRTH, a series of shorts on spirituality in experimental cinema curated by Heidi Phillips, is at Cinematheque at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14.

SALT WATER BODIES AND TURNING TIDES: Moving Pictures by Women on the East Coast screens at Cinematheque at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15.

The films of Amanda Dawn Christie in the series *DIVIDING ROADMAPS BY TIMEZONES* are at Cinematheque on Saturday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

LITERATURE

DR. BENJAMIN PERRIN will be speaking and signing copies of his latest book, *Invisible Chains: Canada's Underground World of Human Trafficking*, at McNally Robinson on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.

put head shot of comments contributor Robert Galston near this Kelly Hughes Live listing

This Friday, Oct. 15 on Kelly Hughes Live: Publisher and Weakerthans frontman JOHN K. SAMSON, 92.9 Kick-FM's MARTY GOLD and Rise and Sprawl's ROBERT GALSTON, with music by THE SCARLET UNION. KHLI is a weekly live talk show on Fridays at 7 p.m.

LARRY VERSTRAETE's *S is for Scientists: A Discovery Alphabet* will be launched at McNally Robinson on Saturday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. The book explores the origins behind some of the most important scientific discoveries.

On Sunday, Oct. 17, the book launch for MICHELLE BERRY's *This Book Will Not Save Your Life* will be held at McNally Robinson at 2 p.m.

Prairie Fire Press in conjunction with McNally Robinson Booksellers is hosting its annual POETRY, FICTION AND CREATIVE NON-FICTION CONTESTS with a deadline of November 30, 2010.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

CHRONOGRAM OF INEXISTENT TIME, a film and video installation by MALENA SZLAM SALAZAR, is on at the Black Lodge (third floor artspace upstairs at Cinematheque). The installation will be on display until Friday, Oct. 15.

The Wayne Arthur Gallery presents HERSTORY: Paintings and Stories by Naomi Gerrard and Lori Zébière. The exhibit will be on display until Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Ingrid McMillan is holding an exhibition of her works entitled SLOW MOVEMENT: A CULTURAL REVERSAL is opening at the Cre8ery on Friday, Oct. 15 and runs until Tuesday, Oct. 26.

The Semai Gallery will host a collection of GARY SHAPIRA'S paintings entitled FANTASY LANDSCAPES until Saturday, Oct. 30. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Oct. 15.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival presents the photo exhibition GRAFFITI GALLERY PHOTOGRAPHY: THE WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL 2010, which features the works of five young photographers from the Graffiti Gallery's program. The photographs are from the 2010 Winnipeg Folk Festival and are on display at the Folk Exchange until Oct. 21.

An art exhibit featuring illustrators BETH FREY (Toronto) and SBK & TRIUMPHENE (Montreal) will be on display at Freud's Bathhouse and Diner until Monday, Nov. 1.



The Graffiti Gallery and Bike To The Future present PUSH, PEDAL, STRIDE: An Art Show Inspired By Active Transportation. The artwork will be on display at the Graffiti Gallery until Thursday, Nov. 4.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery is holding an exhibition of Canadian painter WANDA KOOP until Sunday, Nov. 21.

Out at the pictures

Queer film festival Reel Pride brings LGBT* flicks to the Gas Station Theatre

BRIETTA O'LEARY
VOLUNTEER

Picking out a good movie can be hard enough. But when you're queer, finding a movie that you can identify with presents a new set of challenges, ones that can't always be filled from the racks at the local Blockbuster.

"While you can kind of seek out these films on your own, it's a real difficult process," said Carman Johnston, festival organizer for local LGBT* film festival Reel Pride, which has screened a series of queer films annually for 17 years.

"People often think that if they're not gay or lesbian, that this isn't a film festival for them. There are a lot of films that people of all orientations can relate to."

- CARMAN JOHNSTON, FESTIVAL ORGANIZER, REEL PRIDE

"It's nice to have a festival collect a 'best of.'" This year, Reel Pride is taking place over two weekends. It ran two films a night from Thursday, Oct. 7 to Saturday, Oct. 9 and will continue Thursday, Oct. 14 to Saturday, Oct. 16,



A scene from *Violet Tendencies*.

COURTESY REEL PRIDE

departing from its previous weeklong format.

"We found with having the five - to six-day festival that people like to come out, but it's hard to make it more than once or twice," Johnston said. "(Having the festival over two weekends) will make it easier for people to come see more films."

Over the six nights, the festival will screen nine feature films and two compilations of documentaries.

On Oct. 14, multimedia artist Paul Wong will be at the screening of his piece, *home-style*, co-presented with Platform Gallery. Johnston cites this as a highlight of the festival.

"I'm not sure exactly what you'd call his work, but it's more experimental shorts he's doing," he said.

The festival will take place entirely at the

recently renamed Gas Station Arts Centre, although previous years have seen films screened at the Globe Cinema, Imax and Cinematheque.

Johnston says the move to the Gas Station and Osborne Village will create more of a street presence for Reel Pride.

While the festival aims to increase accessibility of LGBT* films for queer audiences, Johnston also points out that Reel Pride can be enjoyed by a wider demographic.

"People often think that if they're not gay or lesbian, that this isn't a film festival for them," he said.

"There (are) a lot of films that people of all orientations can relate to."

Reel Pride continues at the Gas Station Arts Centre Thursday, Oct. 14 to Saturday, Oct. 16.

REEL PRIDE MUST-SEE TOP THREE

Role/Play

Thursday, Oct. 14, 9 p.m.

A former soap opera star crosses paths with a recently divorced gay marriage activist at a Palm Springs resort after his sexuality is revealed in a sex tape.

My Normal

Friday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

The comedic story of 20-something lesbian Natalie, who dreams of being a filmmaker, but works as a dominatrix. When her dream job lands in her lap, Natalie questions what she really wants out of life.

Violet Tendencies

Saturday, Oct. 16, 9 p.m.

Stars *Facts of Life*'s Mindy Cohn as the self-proclaimed "oldest living fag hag" who realizes that her search for Mr. Right won't be fruitful if all the men she hangs out with are busy looking for their Mr. Right.

Tickets are \$8 per show, and are available at the door or by reservation. For more information and to see film previews, visit www.reelpride.org.

The whimsical landscapes of Gary Shapira

The mix of ink and watercolours make *Fantasy Landscapes* pop out from the wall

ELLIE EINARSON
VOLUNTEER

Although Gary Shapira himself is humble and subdued, his colourful landscapes are anything but.

Fantasy Landscapes, his current exhibition at the Semai Gallery, displays his drawings of play-

"I look at a landscape and then I let my imagination go rampant. I work with what I have. I think that's what art is."

- GARY SHAPIRA, ARTIST

ful, intricately detailed landscapes.

Vibrant red and orange buildings jut out from lush green foliage. His skilled use of negative space causes the landscapes to pop out from the wall, inviting the viewer into Shapira's whimsical world.

Since the age of six, drawing has been second nature to Shapira and has been his escape from reality.

"I like the immediacy of drawing," he said. "You just have your drawing material, your paper, and that's it. There's no other technology involved."

While studying art at the University of Manitoba, Shapira was inspired by his professors Ivan Eyre and George Swinton.

"I just learned a lot by watching and talking to others. George Swinton used to get excited if you spilled some paint. He just made you feel good about whatever you did."

Although a professor jokingly told him to go to Paris and work in a garret, Shapira chose to become an elementary school teacher.

Between family and work, Shapira had little



Water's Edge by Gary Shapira.

COURTESY SHEILA SHAPIRA

time for art.

Now that he has retired, he has more time to devote to his passion.

"I look at a landscape and then I let my imagination go rampant," he said. "I work with what I have. I think that's what art is."

Shapira hopes that others can emotionally connect to his work as well.

"I just hope that people can get some sort of feeling out of my art, whether it be positive or negative."

Fantasy Landscapes is on display at the Semai Gallery at 264 McDermot Ave. until Saturday, Oct. 30. Visit www.garyshapira.com.

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Sensory overload

Film and video installation explores photography as a medium of time and space

CATHERINE VAN REENEN
STAFF WRITER

Chronogram of Inexistent Time is a film and video installation by Chilean born artist Malena Szlam Salazar that focuses on photography as a medium of time and space.

Salazar, who now lives in Montreal, built two projectors out of scrapped pieces and used them to project still and moving images onto a multi-surfaced wall.

Occasionally an image will remain fixed for a few seconds and your brain feels at ease again, but it quickly turns back to chaos with the incessant flow of photographs.

Salazar is part of a group of video, film and installation artists called the Double Negative Collective, and is interested in disseminating cinema and experimenting with its possibilities.

For this project, she was not so concerned with the images themselves but with how a camera can capture time and how to represent it.

Salazar said that this project is a culmination of her research in cinema and that the piece unifies a long process of trying to capture the incomprehensibility of time.

Remember the scene in *A Clockwork Orange* with the brainwashing movie? This video installation's constant flashing images reminded me of that scene without the psychological negativity and the crying in fear.

This exhibit made me realize how much our brains crave a context of time and space.

Salazar's exhibit forces your brain to stop focusing on a single point in time and space, as the projectors relentlessly pump out image after image, many of which your brain does not have enough time to process.

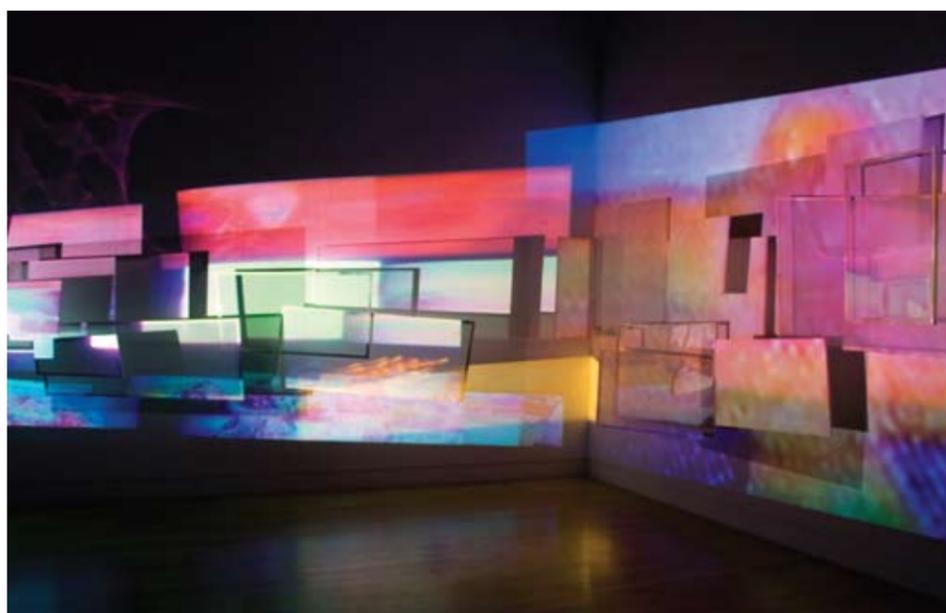
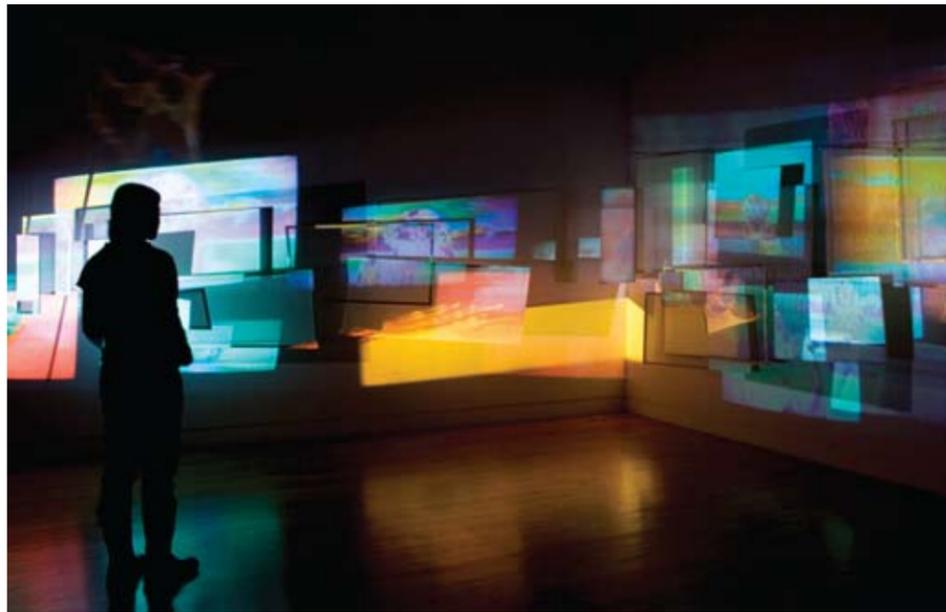
Occasionally an image will remain fixed for a few seconds and your brain feels at ease again, but it quickly turns back to chaos with the incessant flow of photographs.

The multi-surfaced walls add to this effect of inexistent time because your brain can't focus on a single point in space either.

The surfaces, whether it was the artist's intention or not, resemble the architecture of a cityscape.

This effect seems to reflect time and space from a modern perspective, which suggests that human beings' conceptions of time and space can be altered by culture.

The Winnipeg Film Group has Chronogram of Inexistent Time on display until Friday, Oct. 15, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Black Lodge (third floor, 100 Arthur St.).



COURTESY WINNIPEG FILM GROUP

Like *A Clockwork Orange* minus the psychological negativity; the flashing colours of *Chronogram of Inexistent Time* are certain to leave your thoughts in tangles.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS



The controversial *BODIES...THE EXHIBITION* is the first display at the MTS Centre Exhibition Hall.

THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

The MTC kicks off its theatre season with a production of *ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST*. Based on the novel by Ken Kesey that follows life inside a mental institution, this production is starring Shaun Smyth as McMurphy. There will be performances until Saturday, Nov. 6.

ADHERE AND DENY is presenting Dostoevsky's *THE GRAND INQUISITOR* in its pocket theatre at 315-70 Albert St. on Oct. 15 and Oct. 16 at 8 p.m.

Evan Smith's religious comedy *The SAVANNAH DISPUTATION* is being performed at the Prairie Theatre Exchange from Thursday, Oct. 14 until Sunday, Oct. 31.

The Manitoba Theatre for Young People bring together dance, nature and technology to tell the story of a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly. Running from Thursday, Oct. 14 until Sunday, Oct. 24, *BUTTERFLIES* is theatre like you've never experienced before.

The open mic comedy night at the Standard is hosted by JON DORE every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Comedy night with SCOOT'S MCTAVISH every Thursday at Shannon's Irish Pub.

Sunday night open mic comedy at the Cavern, featuring JOHN B. DUFF.

Every Tuesday night head down to the King's Head Pub for a free comedy performance.

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Want to see your event in The Uniter?

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The beautiful and the repulsive

Winnipeg photoblogger's new book offers intimate, unabashed look at Winnipeg

SARA SHYIAK
VOLUNTEER

With over two-and-a-half years worth of beautiful and repulsive photos, Bryan Scott has filled his computer, the Internet and now 318 glossy pages with his work, covering just about every building, street and gorgeous winter night ever known to Winnipeg.

It's no wonder the iconic local photoblogger has built a vast following with his blog, Winnipeglovehate.com.

Scott released his self-published book, *Winnipeg Love Hate: Selected Photographs By Bryan Scott* on Monday, Sept. 27.

"(I) had a hard time cutting down the pile of photos to go in the book," Scott said in a phone interview.

It's hard to blame him – the pictures are all phenomenal and definitely bring out more appreciation, if not love, for Winnipeg in its viewers.

"Bryan Scott shows a city that stands as the physical expression of more than a century of dreams, triumphs, failures, and things forgotten – often in the same photograph," local blogger Robert Galston writes in the book's foreword.

And there is no doubt the man has talent. Scott has an eye for the perfect lighting, composition and focus.

He frequently shoots architecture, full street views and panoramas, but has also shot some striking photos of Winnipeggers themselves.

"I feel like I have covered downtown really well," he said, and now plans to expand to the outskirts.

Born and bred in Winnipeg, it's hard to believe Scott has never had any training in photography.

"In some form or another I have been doing it since I was nine or 10," he said.

A few years ago, he started capturing photos of Winnipeg and putting them on Flickr, then on his blog. The blog received upwards of 200 visitors each day and was voted Winnipeg's best blog in *Uptown* magazine's 2010 Best of Winnipeg poll.

The blog has a very honest, comical,

"I get a lot of comments from people who have moved from Winnipeg saying my photos brought back great and sometimes emotional memories."

- BRYAN SCOTT, PHOTOGRAPHER

tongue-in-cheek attitude when he comments, and when he doesn't, the photos say volumes



BRYAN SCOTT

"Back Lane" is one of local blogger Bryan Scott's many photos of downtown Winnipeg.

all on their own.

"I definitely want Winnipeggers to buy the book," said Scott.

But even more, he wants those who have never been to Winnipeg to pick it up.

"I get a lot of comments from people who have moved from Winnipeg saying my photos brought back great and sometimes emotional memories," he said.

"It would be a fantastic honour for (the book) to reach people without any emotional ties to Winnipeg, because it would mean the photos are actually good."

To see Scott's work, visit www.winnipeglovehate.com. There is a link to preview and purchase his book on the site.

consultation firm Sixth Scents.

"There are some who are attracted to multiple classifications, but this is usually based on trend rather than personal style. Most people stick with the classifications that are familiar and comforting."

Bendeth states that another type of consumer is one that truly reflects who we are.

"Scents that reflect our self esteem and who we are as a complement to our fashion sense, careers, positive extravert personalities and spiritual beliefs," she explained.

"Fragrances that we aspire to based on advertising, marketing, and idyllic notions (speak to) our hopes and dreams of fame, financial gain, better taste in fashion, décor ... and leading the life of a celebrity, movie star (or) sports athlete."

But getting to know how a fragrance smells on your own skin is crucial before purchasing a scent.

The conventional rules of where to apply fragrances aren't necessarily true. Depending on what kind of fragrance you are wearing, the application may differ.

"Applying fragrance to your pulse points

applies only to perfume because perfume has a higher oil percentage and oil needs heat to diffuse it," said Driver.

The pulse points on your body are generally warmer areas where the perfume would be worn best.

In hotter climates, a suggestion is applying the fragrance on the lower half of your body since there are fumes in fragrance, which will rise.

As for classic fragrances such as Hermès and Chanel No. 5, Driver says that the simplicity of the older fragrances is what made them classic.

"The classic fragrances were simple, easy to understand and everyone wore them well," she said.

Driver believes that there are too many rules when it comes to fragrance and the individual should decide what works best for them.

Have fun with fragrance and don't be afraid to explore different scents, which may include swapping your women's perfume for a light citrus men's cologne.

BOOK REVIEW

CATHERINE VAN REENEN
STAFF WRITER

I Still Don't Even Know You

Michelle Berry
211 pages
Turnstone Press, 2010

Canadian author Michelle Berry says that the underlying theme in her collection of short stories is how even the people closest to you are ultimately strangers you will never truly know.



Perhaps Berry has had some pretty horrible relationships, but making the broad assumption that people are incapable of truly knowing others is cynical and reductionist.

Nearly all of the protagonists in her stories are impossible to empathize with; they are irresponsible, self-absorbed and morally corrupt.

In *Hunting for Something*, protagonist Tom opens a religious paraphernalia store solely to capitalize on a particular niche.

In *Drowning*, Laura goes into labour and decides that she and her boyfriend should discuss their relationship problems instead of going to the hospital.

In *Five Old Crows*, five lazy gold-diggers plot their elderly husbands deaths so that they can live like irresponsible teenagers forever.

Why would anyone want to truly know these people?

Even if it were true that you could never know another person, that is not the theme that is conveyed throughout this collection. These stories provide examples of how people are usually at fault for their own relationship problems.

I was mildly interested yet uncommitted to Berry's characters in a very familiar way. I understood the familiarity when I read a quotation from Berry in *Quill and Quire*: "I think of my writing as a movie even as I write it. I'm always picturing how a scene would be played out on film."

Berry's characters are insubstantial because she is supplying them for a movie in her head, rather than for pages in a book.

I felt mild amusement at Berry's characters' conflicts, such as I would in response to the people on *Real Housewives of Orange County* and *16 and Pregnant*. It's painful to see a writer degrade the powerful potential of writing to the superfluous entertainment of an indulgence in voyeurism.

If you can never truly know another human being then any attempt you make to know someone is futile and you no longer have to take responsibility for the mistakes you make in relationships. This sounds like the reasoning of a character in a romantic comedy or a reality television star.

Since the book is better than the movie 99.9 per cent of the time, writing a book as if it's a movie is completely illogical in terms of the craft itself, and quite frankly, lazy.

Michelle Berry's attempt to address the complex nature of human relationships failed as soon as she reduced her characters to onscreen stars.

Next week in *The Uniter*

➔ Our *Better Voter Series* continues with an article on how urban sprawl contributes to problems with parking and development downtown.

➔ Find out how you could be harming your fellow students without even knowing it.

➔ Interviews with the bands Take Me To The Pilot, Anberlin and The Acorn.

➔ Your chance to win tickets to see Rural Alberta Advantage live at the West End Cultural Centre on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

WWW.UNITER.CA



Sushi in the city



JUSTIN CURRIE

The Japanese dish is more popular than ever in Manitoba's capital, but why?

ROBIN DUDGEON
CULTURE REPORTER

The seven blocks that make up Corydon Avenue used to be full of Italian restaurants, but now it seems that Little Italy is taking on a decidedly different flavour.

For every Italian spot that closes, a sushi bar opens.

So, why is Little Italy becoming Little Japan?

The Japanese department of agriculture has organized the "sushi police" to award certification to Japanese restaurants in other countries who meet their standard of "pure Japanese"

The popular Japanese dish – made with vinegared rice, topped with other ingredients, mostly seafood but also sometimes vegetables or other meats, and then wrapped with dried and pressed seaweed – has gained popularity in the West in recent years.

In fact it's become such an epidemic the Japanese department of agriculture has orga-

For every Italian spot that closes on Corydon Avenue, a sushi bar opens. Why is Little Italy becoming Little Japan?

nized the "sushi police" to award certification to Japanese restaurants in other countries who meet their standard of "pure Japanese."

In Winnipeg, sushi places have sprung up across the city faster than rice in a rice paddy. While there are restaurants that have had firm roots planted in Winnipeg for years, consider some of the restaurants that have opened recently.

Yiho Sushi opened on Sherbrook Street and is part of a revitalization of that West Broadway strip.

In St. James, Sei Sushi's bold, black façade and signage is impossible to miss on Portage Avenue, while Dae Gill Sushi sits quietly, tucked at the back of a small parking lot on Ness Avenue just before Polo Park.

Asahi opened up in Charleswood last year.

Just to name a few.

"I suspect that its popularity has something to do with an emphasis on healthy and low-calorie eating, but that's only a guess," said Marion Warhaft, the stealthy food critic for the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

But what does it say about Corydon's disappearing dominance as the hotbed for all things Italian?

"It is not the case of the original owners switching to something different, but of the original owners getting older and retiring, owners getting older and in some cases dying and consequently businesses being sold," Katia von Stackelberg, the executive director of the Corydon Avenue BIZ, explained in an e-mail.

"Presently we have a couple of Italian businesses which are on the market for sale, one of them because the owners are getting older and want to retire."

Von Stackelberg explained the fate of three Corydon Avenue businesses: the original owner of Mamma Mia's Ristorante died, and the restaurant was sold to another Italian family, and then sold to Kenko Sushi who also subsequently sold it.

The 74-year-old owner of Monviso Ristorante Italiano retired and sold his restaurant to Kahans Mongolian B.B.Q. Grill, and the owner of Ciao Caffé retired and sold his business to Hanabi Japanese Restaurant.

Terry Gereta, owner of Mise Restaurant, seemed to agree with von Stackelberg's conclusion that business is business.

"It could be that people move on. I mean, there used to be a lot of delis in the North End and now there's none," he said.

"Now they're sort of scattered around the city where they used to be concentrated, just like the Italian restaurants used to be concentrated in the Corydon area. But maybe they're scattered and maybe the same thing will happen to sushi."

Gereta adds that the proliferation of sushi on the strip hasn't affected Mise's business at all.

"Because we're not a sushi restaurant and there are so many sushi restaurants when you're driving down the strip, you know, we're not in competition with them."

If business is business, and sushi is the food trend of the moment, sushi could go the way of the delis in the North End.

Case in point: the Lobby on York.

When the swanky restaurant first opened in May 2009, it had a stylish sushi bar.

It stopped serving the Japanese dish back in January, according to Shan Shuwer, the restaurant's general manager.

If you're looking to make your own sushi, join the father of the sushi craze in Winnipeg, chef Sadao Ono of Edohei Restaurant, for an evening of authentic Japanese appetizers, soup and hands-on sushi making. Oct. 18, Nov. 22 or Jan. 24 at the Food Studio at 3200 Roblin Blvd. from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$68.25 per person. Visit www.foodstudio.net for info.

FOOD REVIEW

Sushi and service excellent at new West Broadway sushi café

ALEX KROSNEY
VOLUNTEER

Yiho Sushi Café
126 Sherbrook St.

"Sushi" and "café" aren't two words you'd usually think to put together, but for Yiho Sushi Café the odd juxtaposition works just fine.

Yiho is a charming, renovated two-story with wide street-facing windows that has a pool table on the second floor and offers free Wi-Fi. (Although it still feels too much like a restaurant to pull out your laptop and textbook, that option is definitely open).

The menu is varied and appealing, if not particularly exotic.

With more than 50 different rolls to choose from, as well as a few noodle dishes and starters and sides, there's bound to be something to please everyone.

Prices are reasonable, with nothing over \$15 and plenty to choose from in the \$4-\$8 range – your wallet will be thanking you along with your stomach.



KIMBERLY TRIEU

Chef Yiho Park shows off some of Yiho Sushi Cafe's signature rolls.

Between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. every day you can order the lunch special bento boxes (\$8.99 to \$11.99) as well.

The rolls (from \$2.99 to \$8.99 for an average of six pieces) aren't especially unique, but are flavourful and prepared with some of the

best sushi rice I've ever had.

The calamari roll (\$5.99) was typical of the rolls ordered – well balanced with the calamari, and fresh and subtle enough to not overpower the other ingredients.

The appropriately named Wolsley roll was delightfully flavourful and refreshing, with the avocado and sweet bean curd on top offering contrast to the crunch of the cucumbers

The California roll (\$3.99) was more disappointing. It was uninspired and lacked crab. There are many other restaurants that do it better.

There are also some creative house rolls to choose from.

The red dragon roll (\$10.99) topped with salmon sashimi was a good combination of temperatures and textures, and the sweet chilli-esque house sauce for dipping that accompanied it was a nice touch.

Appropriate for its West Broadway location, one of Yiho's best features is its extensive vegan and vegetarian choices.

The appropriately named Wolsley roll (\$5.99) was delightfully flavourful and refreshing, with the avocado and sweet bean curd on top offering contrast to the crunch of the cucumbers.

Offerings like the asparagus maki (\$3.99) and the veggie caterpillar roll with zucchini (\$10.99) are about as traditional as the décor but looked delicious as well.

The service was excellent. We were seated promptly and with a smile, well attended to (my water glass was never less than half-full) and served less than 10 minutes after placing our orders.

There's no pressure to clear your table, reinforcing the café feel. We continued to be waited on well after we'd finished our rolls until we chose to move to the counter to pay.

While Yiho might not replace Starbucks as your new favourite studying spot, if you're looking for well-prepared, affordable sushi in a nice atmosphere, you're in luck.

SOLIDARITY AND DIVERSITY IN A SECULAR AGE

CHARLES TAYLOR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.

CONVOCATION HALL | THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG | 515 PORTAGE AVE.

FREE ADMISSION

Globally renowned Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Philosophy at McGill University. Taylor was the co-chair of the Taylor-Bouchard Commission on Reasonable Accommodation in Quebec. His books include *A Secular Age*, which highly respected sociologist of religion Robert Bellah called "one of the most important books to be written in my lifetime."

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THE **UNITER**

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

Douglas Coupland on communication, technology and whether or not we'll ever make it to Mars

MATT PREPROST
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Oil prices are skyrocketing hundreds of dollars by the barrel. Explosions sound off. The sky blackens. Earth falls under siege.

And somewhere in the midst of all this, a group of strangers have barricaded themselves in an airport cocktail lounge, hiding from the watchful eye of a sharpshooter bent on revenge.

Welcome to Douglas Coupland's future – the future, at least, in his new book *Player One: What Is To Become of Us*.

Written as part of the 2010 CBC Massey Lecture series, *Player One* was recently long-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Almost 20 years displaced from his breakthrough novel *Generation X* (mention it and

he'll leave to grab a sandwich and skip the question), Coupland is as sharp as ever.

His delicate way of being both profound and humorous, quite often in the same sentence, is still intact.

His characters are new, but it feels like we've met them all before – lost, jaded, disillusioned and inquisitive.

While Coupland, 48, travels across Canada with the book as part of the Massey Lectures, he stops at the University of Winnipeg on Friday, Oct. 15 to talk about Marshall McLuhan.

While we hope his idea of the Apocalypse is purely fictional, *The Uniter* sent Coupland some questions by e-mail asking what he truly thinks of what will become of us.

The Uniter: Storytelling and communication are often big themes in your writing. However, with technology pushing communication in new directions, we're ultimately allowing ourselves to be reduced to speaking in 140 characters or less.

Douglas Coupland: I have a theory that the normal human attention span for anything is about the length of a Beatles song, which is just about how much time passes when you're at a computer before your brain feels the need to skip to another window or go to a new link. Coincidence? No. It's how we're wired.

E-mail replaced the letter.

It certainly did. I hear Canada Post is imploding. And I'm guessing that because you're in university, you've probably never received a paper letter in your life.

"People invented all of this technology, not aliens – so whatever we do is only going to magnify or amplify or squelch some dimension of our humanity. Having said that, we are a wretched species and we should all be beaten with sticks."

Where do you see communication going in the next decade?

Shorter. More targeted. And if you're asking me to describe the next Google or something, it's not going to happen here. ☺ See? I used an emoticon.

What do you think is in store the next decade?

At the moment humanity reminds me of those dogs you see leashed to the front railing of the supermarket, staring at the door with misty eyes waiting for the owners to return and complete them. Whenever a plane lands, the MOMENT it hits the ground, out come the PDAs. Whenever people meet for dinner, the FIRST thing they do is put their PDA on the table... it's like a new form of courtesy.

And we're only going to see more of this. Frankly, I like having Google at the table – it makes for richer conversations and gives the truth instead of urban-legendy nothingness.

What will be the technology or event that defines us?

Probably an event fostered by technology. I was at a writers retreat in Florida and every day drove past the flight school while those 9-11 guys were in there learning how to fly jets. (But not land – didn't that ring anyone's alarm bells?) So you never know.

What new technologies do you envision in the future?

Ah... you're again trying to trick me into revealing the next Google. Not here. Not today.

How do you see the next generation adapting to all of this change?

I don't really think in generations. The whole X/Y thing has always been a big question mark floating above my head. But I think that people in general will cope just fine. They always do. People invented all of this technology, not aliens – so whatever we do is only going to magnify or amplify or squelch some dimension of our humanity. Having said that, we are a wretched species and we should all be beaten with sticks.

Are we bored as a species?

Ask yourself this: Could you tolerate living, say, 20 years ago, with (comparatively) zero information, slow expensive everything, a nascent Internet (that had nowhere to go to, even if you were on it,) and I could go on and on. In 1990, rock videos were still considered cutting edge. I mean, once you upgrade computers you can never go back to your sack-of-shit former computer. Once you get used to a certain sense of hyper connectedness, you can't go back to a lessened state. The train only goes forward.

Will we ever reach Mars?

The problem with Mars isn't distance. It's time. Science just can't figure out how to locate or create human beings who won't go apeshit crazy being locked inside a juice box for 24 months each way. The only way Mars will ever happen is if we perfect hibernation.

"At the moment humanity reminds me of those dogs you see leashed to the front railing of the supermarket, staring at the door with misty eyes waiting for the owners to return and complete them."

What's next in the human evolution process?

It's going to have to be scientific selection. We have no choice. It's 150 years ahead (and it kills me I won't be there to see it play out) but the planet can't sustain six billion carnivorous primates, so something's got to give. You know it. I know it.

Douglas Coupland's recent work includes a biography of Marshall McLuhan, published this past spring as part of Penguin's "Extraordinary Canadians" series (edited by John Ralston Saul). Coupland will appear at the University of Winnipeg on Friday, Oct. 15 as part of the conference "Marshall McLuhan in a Post Modern World: Is the Medium the Message?" hosted by the UW Department of Rhetoric, Writing and Communications. He will give his keynote address, "You Know Nothing of My Work!" in Riddell Hall at 7:30 p.m. The event is open to the public and admission is free. Visit www.tinyurl.com/UWMcLuhan for a full conference schedule.

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG AWARDS:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards>

WORK STUDY PROGRAM

Project descriptions and applications for the 2010-11 Work Study Program are available in Student Services (first floor, Graham Hall) or at Student Central (first floor, Centennial Hall). You can also obtain project descriptions and application forms from the Awards & Financial Aid website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards-work-study-program>.

To be eligible for the Work Study Program, you must:

1. Be registered in a degree program at the University of Winnipeg in the 2010-11 academic year on a full-time basis as defined by the Manitoba Student Assistance Program (18 credit hour minimum)
2. Have successfully completed 30 credit hours (GPA of 2.0 or higher)
3. Be on Regular Status at The University of Winnipeg
4. Receive a government student loan of at least \$1000 for 2010/11 as a result of the financial need assessment done by the Manitoba Student Financial Assistance Program or another province's student aid office OR obtain a student line-of-credit or student bank loan for 2010-11 of at least \$1000.

Deadline: Oct. 20, 2010 (Late applications may be accepted.)

Note: You can apply for a maximum of four positions, but cannot be hired for more than one.

AWARDS OFFERED BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ABORIGINAL YOUTH (FAAY) AWARDS

Canadian residents of First Nation (Status or Non-Status), Métis or Inuit heritage who are attending either high school or a post-secondary institution full-time and within Canada are eligible to apply for financial support. Mature students and adult education programs are included. The FAAY Selection Committee looks for: demonstrated financial need; academic and career commitment; contributions to family and community; and leadership and role model qualities. Application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid office (Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall) or on their website: http://www.ccab.com/faay_application.html.

Deadline: Oct. 15, 2010

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

For more than a century, the Rhodes Trust has funded scholarships for exceptional Canadian students for two and possibly three years of study at the University of Oxford. A Rhodes Scholarship includes tuition, college fees, and a stipend covering living expenses. The Rhodes Scholarships have come to be recognized as one of the highest honours available to any student, but they represent much more than an academic award. The Rhodes Scholarship requires that the candidate be a well-rounded individual, having shown not only academic excellence, but also active engagement in their community and evidence of a strong commitment to leadership in improving the state of the world. The scholarship also requires evidence of physical vitality, whether in sports, theatre, music or other pursuits. It is this multifaceted approach, combined with the opportunity to meet similarly exceptional students at Oxford, which has defined the scholarship as the beginning of a life long commitment to community service, and a demonstration of willingness to make use of academic credentials to improve the state of our society.

For information on how to apply, visit their website: www.canadianrhodes.org.

Deadline: Oct. 15, 2010

THE PRINCESS ROYAL PAN AM SCHOLARSHIP

The Princess Royal Pan Am Scholarship Endowment Fund provides financial support for Manitoba's high performance athletes in their pursuit of excellence at the national and international levels of competition while serving as a tribute to commemorate the Manitoba visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in 1999.

The Princess Royal Pan Am Scholarship awards two scholarships per year valued up to \$3,000 each to one male and one female high performance athlete enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Manitoba. Application information is available from the Awards & Financial Aid office (Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall) or on their website: www.sportmanitoba.ca/scholarships.php.

Deadline: Oct. 22, 2010

YES I CAN! AWARDS

The Yes I Can! Awards were established to honor children and youth with disabilities who have excelled. Thousands of children and youth have been recognized since the program's inception in 1982. Each year, the Council for Exceptional Children selects approximately 27 winners for their outstanding achievements in one of nine categories: academics, arts, athletics, community service, employment, extracurricular activities, independent living skills, self-advocacy, and technology. Candidates must be between two and 21 years of age when they are nominated. For more information, please visit their website: www.ccc.sped.org.

Nomination deadline: Oct. 22, 2010

DAVID L. SQUIRES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Squires Foundation was created 1994, in honour of David L. Squires by his Data Processing Management Association (DPMA) peers to promote excellence in the study of informatics by individuals; conduct or sponsor research in informatics education; and sponsor informatics educational offerings to the public. This year we are offering two \$1,000 scholarships to Computer Science students who have completed at least one year of full-time schooling. For more information on eligibility or to apply, visit their website: www.iticanada.ca/squires.

Deadline: Oct. 31, 2010

THE JOSEPHINE LAVEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Josephine Lavey was a dedicated member of the Order Sons of Italy since 1947. Besides her work for the Order, she was the Deputy Treasurer for the City of Welland. Her untiring efforts on behalf of the Italian immigrants stand out as her greatest contribution to the community. She worked indefatigably to interpret, translate, assist and find employment for newcomers in their desire to achieve Canadian Citizenship. All her life, Josephine Lavey served others, her family, community and other organizations. An Award of \$1,000 shall be given in the name of the Order Sons of Italy Josephine Lavey Award. To qualify, the applicant must be a son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, step-children or step-grandchildren of a member of the Order Sons of Italy of Canada, and at least one parent of the applicant must be of Italian origin. The applicant must be a full-time student enrolled in either first, second or third year at a post-secondary institution of learning (university, college, etc.). The award will be given for general proficiency in general studies, and in the case of a tie average, the award shall be given to the applicant with Italian studies. Application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid office (Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall) or their website: www.ordersonsofitalycanada.com/scholarships.html.

Deadline: Oct. 31, 2010

THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & ABORIGINAL HEALTH CAREERS BURSARIES

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has evolved into the largest non-governmental funding body for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis post-secondary students across Canada. Bursary and scholarship awards are provided to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students annually across a diverse range of disciplines. The Post-Secondary Bursary is open to aboriginal students with financial need studying Business, Science, Law, Engineering, Technical Studies, Computer Science, Education, Social Work, or Social Sciences. The Aboriginal Health Careers Bursary is open to aboriginal students with financial need studying health sciences such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, biology, chemistry, clinical psychology, physiotherapy, pharmacy, laboratory research and any other health field in which a study of hard sciences is a prerequisite. More information or application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid office (Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall) or from their website: www.naaf.ca.

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2010

ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY OF BLIND CANADIANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBBC) is dedicated to providing blind, deaf-blind and partially sighted individuals with the opportunities they need to compete on an equal basis with other members of Canadian society. Through public education and advocacy, our organization works to improve the lives of these Canadians by providing a forum for mentorship, discussion and action on issues of common concern. Each year, the AEBBC offers scholarships to recognize outstanding blind, deaf-blind, and partially sighted post-secondary school students. This year there will be two \$1,000 scholarships. Each scholarship will be accompanied by a year's free membership to AEBBC. All scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance, community involvement and overcoming adversity.

The Scholarship Committee reviews all applications and selects the scholarship recipients. These recipients will be notified of their selection by December 15, 2010. Scholarship monies will be sent to the recipients no later than December 31, 2010. For more information on how to apply, please visit their website: www.blindcanadians.ca.

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2010

THE GILL PURCELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Gillis Purcell Memorial Journalism Scholarship for Native Canadians is offered annually by The Canadian Press. Scholarship recipients, who must be pursuing a career in journalism through studies at a post-secondary institution, receive \$4,000 and an offer of summer employment at The Canadian Press or one of its affiliated companies. Application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid office (Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall).

Deadline: Nov. 15, 2010

THE UKRAINIAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AWARDS

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) is offering five award opportunities to students this year briefly described below. Application forms and guidelines are available from URDC.

1. The **Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) Award** (\$500) is offered annually for a project that fosters a greater awareness of Ukrainian art in Alberta. This project may be in the form of an exhibit, festival, educational program, or special project.
2. The **Roger Charest Sr. Award for Broadcast & Media Arts** (\$500) is offered annually to applicants (individual or group) for an initiative to create a special program or series which may later be suitable for broadcast and may further the cause of multiculturalism in Canada.
3. The **Roman Soltykewych Music Scholarship** (\$500) is offered annually to applicants (individual or group) determined to pursue further studies in the field of Ukrainian choral or vocal music.
4. The **Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers** (\$1,000) is available annually to a novice writer for a work on a Ukrainian-Canadian theme. Submissions for this year's award must be in Ukrainian. Previous award recipients of this award are not eligible.
5. The **Wm. & Mary Kostash Award for Film & Video Arts** (\$1,000) is available to a novice writer for a work promoting Ukrainian-Canadian identity through the medium of film, video or new media.

For application forms and guidelines, contact the URDC: hayduk1@macewan.ca.

Deadline: Nov. 30, 2010

HOLSTEIN CANADA AWARDS

Six bursaries of \$750 will be awarded as such: Western Canada (1), Ontario (2), Quebec (2) and Atlantic Canada (1). Consideration will be given to each category as follows:

1. 20 points, farm involvement
2. 30 points, youth program involvement
3. 30 points, career choice
4. 20 points, points scholastic record

Other accomplishments may influence the Selection Committee in the event of a close decision. Winners will be notified immediately upon the Committee's decision in December. A general announcement will be made through the Info Holstein publication at a later date.

To be eligible to apply you must:

- 1) be a regular or junior member of Holstein Canada, or a son/daughter of a member,
- 2) have completed at least one year of university/college (or Cégep in Québec),
- 3) submit an official, original transcript (faxed and photocopied submissions will not be accepted) and a copy of your resumé,
- 4) be returning to school within the calendar year.

Submissions may be typed or made via Holstein Canada's website: www.holstein.ca. For more information, contact: sgregson@holstein.ca.

Deadline: Nov. 30, 2010

FRANK KNOX MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Up to three Frank Knox Memorial Fellowships will be awarded to students from Canada for graduate study at Harvard University in the academic year 2011-12. The Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship program was established by Annie Reid Knox who sought to honour her late husband and his lifelong commitment to America. Mrs. Knox expressed the hope that the holders of the fellowships return to their homes and become leaders in their chosen field once they had gained knowledge and experience from their study away from Canada.

Eligibility:

1. Open to Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who are normally residing in Canada.
2. Have graduated no earlier than 2009 or will graduate before September 2011 from an institution in Canada, which is a member or affiliated to a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).
3. Applicants to the Harvard Law School should have completed their resident university education and hold a basic degree in Law before applying for an advanced degree program such as the Master of Laws (LLM).
4. Candidates are responsible for gaining admission to Harvard University by the deadline set by the various faculties.
5. Applications from students presently studying in the United States will not be considered.

Value: A Knox Fellowship pays full Harvard tuition and mandatory health insurance fees and provides a stipend sufficient to cover the living expenses of a single Fellow for a 10-month academic year. Knox Fellows who plan to bring spouses, partners or other family members with them to Harvard must secure additional sources of funding to support their families. Knox Fellowship funding is guaranteed for up to two years of study at Harvard for students in degree programs requiring more than one year of study. The Committee on General Scholarships will consider Knox Fellowship renewals after the second year on a case-by-case basis. **Please note:** All applications and supporting documents must be submitted in **English** only.

For more information and the application form, please visit Harvard University's website: www.frankknox.harvard.edu/welcome.html or contact awards@aucc.ca.

Deadline: Nov. 30, 2010

MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM (MSAP):

The deadline to apply for Manitoba Student Aid for the 2010 Fall Term only is Oct. 31. Applications for 2010-11 Fall/Winter or 2011 Winter Session is open until Feb. 21, 2011. Students can apply online at www.manitobastudentaid.ca.

*New to the Student Aid program this year are a series of grants and bursaries:

1. Canada Student Grant for Students from Low-income Families
2. Canada Student Grant for Students from Middle-income Families
3. Canada Student Grant for Students with Dependents
4. Rural/Northern Bursary

These grants are the first money students will receive in their financial aid packages, before any loans are awarded. Many students may, in fact, receive the majority of their financial assistance in the form of grants. Be sure to apply early and to submit all requested documentation as soon as possible to ensure that you receive all the grant funds for which you are eligible.

PROCEDURES

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT & RELEASE OF GOVERNMENT STUDENT AID DOCUMENTS

Approximately 3 weeks before classes began, the Manitoba Student Aid Program (MSAP) started printing official assistance documents for students whose MSAP documentation and University course registration are in order. MSAP mailed the documents to students at the addresses they provided on their MSAP applications. The document you received will have been electronically approved by the Awards & Financial Aid Office. It will indicate the fees you owe to the University of Winnipeg. These fees will be deducted from your student aid.

1. If the document is a Canada Student Financial Assistance document, you should take it to an approved Canada Post outlet for forwarding to the National Student Loan Centre.

2. If the document is a Manitoba Student Aid document, you should forward it to the MSAP Loan Administration Department.

The National Student Loan Centre of the MSAP Loan Administration Department will process the document, transferring the fee payment portion directly to the University and depositing any additional balance to your account. Instructions on these processes will be included in your student aid document package.

COURSE LOAD

The minimum course load for which you must register to be eligible for any form of government student assistance is 60 per cent of the maximum course load required for your study period:

1. Fall or Winter Term only - 9 credit hours minimum
2. Fall/Winter Session - 18 credit hours minimum

You must maintain the appropriate minimum course load for your study period in order to retain your student assistance eligibility.

REGISTRATION AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION

If, in addition to University of Winnipeg courses, you are registered and taking courses elsewhere during the academic year for credit towards your University of Winnipeg degree, you must present proof of registration to the Awards & Financial Aid Office before your student assistance document can be authorized and released to you.

FEE PAYMENT

Your fees will be deducted from the student assistance document when it is electronically approved by the university. Government Student Aid is used first to meet educational costs. All overdue fees and emergency loans as well as fees for the current study period will be deducted from the student aid document. If your student assistance does not cover your required fee payment, you will have to make payment on your own by the fee payment deadline. Credits for scholarships you may be receiving will be will to reduce the amount of fees deducted from the student aid document.

FEE DEFERRAL

The Awards & Financial Aid Office can defer your fees if you have applied for Government Student Aid but have not received your confirmed assistance document by the fee payment deadline.

· Fee deferral means that your registration will not be cancelled because of your failure to pay by the deadline.

If your name is on the Awards & Financial Aid fee deferral list but you withdraw from university courses, you will be responsible for the fees you owe until your actual date of withdrawal.

DID YOU KNOW... That Manitoba Student Aid staff can be on campus on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. To meet with them, you need to set up an appointment time. Come to student services and book an appointment, or phone 786-9458 or 789-1420.

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 online? Go to www.manitobastudentaid.ca and then to MySAO to log into your existing account.

DID YOU KNOW... If you are a student who has had past Government Student Loans and are currently a full-time student but do not have a student loan this year, please fill out a Schedule 2 document to remain in non-payment status. Please come to Student Services in Graham Hall, where front counter staff can help you with this form.

OTHER AWARD WEBSITES:

Canada Student Loan program & other important information on finances and budgeting: www.canlearn.ca

Surfing for dollars? Try www.studentawards.com and www.scholarshipscanada.com.

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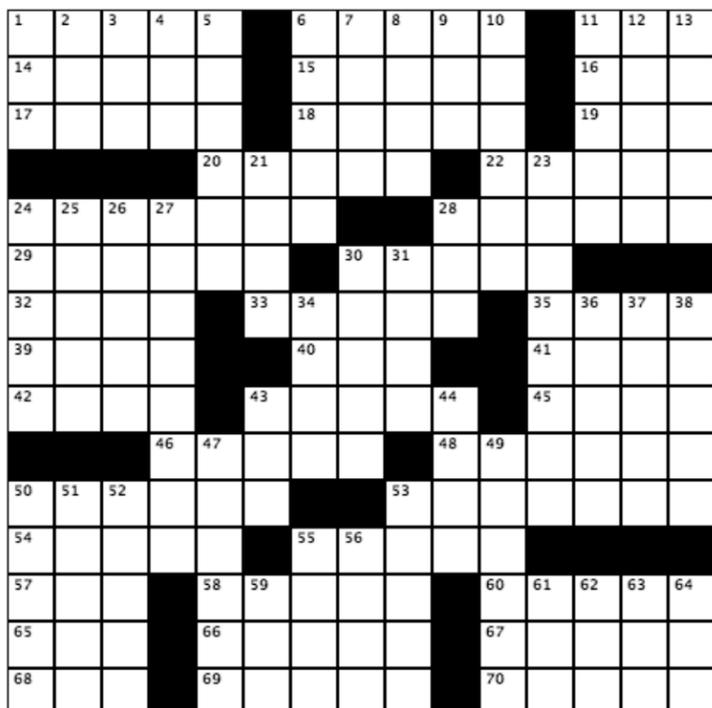
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Crossword Puzzle 7

Solutions to this week's crossword and sudoku in next week's issue.



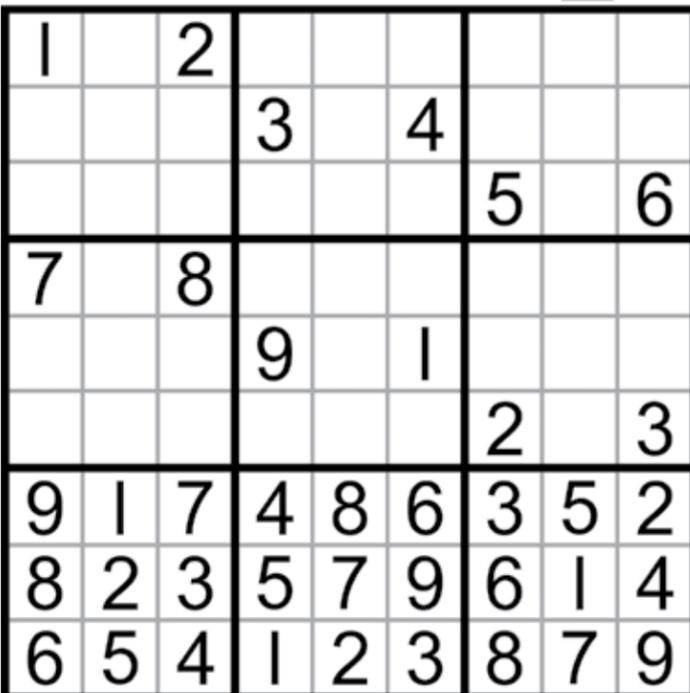
BESTCROSSWORDS.COM

Across

- 1 - Blandly urbane;
- 6 - Overcharge;
- 11 - Bran source;
- 14 - Collection of maps;
- 15 - Alleviates;
- 16 - Day-__;
- 17 - Brewer's need;
- 18 - Article of bedding;
- 19 - Albanian coin;
- 20 - Pianist Rubinstein;
- 22 - Abrasive mineral;
- 24 - Encase;
- 28 - Takes care of;
- 29 - Perfectly;
- 30 - Joins;
- 32 - Hammett hound;
- 33 - "The covers of this book are too far ___" - Bierce;
- 35 - Ad word;
- 39 - Lecherous look;
- 40 - Genetic messenger;

- 41 - Arguing;
- 42 - Actress Turner;
- 43 - Raccoon-like carnivore;
- 45 - Deep wound;
- 46 - Language with click consonants;
- 48 - Rules for Burr and Hamilton?;
- 50 - Simpler;
- 53 - Rubella;
- 54 - Communion table;
- 55 - Talk;
- 57 - Sprechen ___ Deutsch?;
- 58 - Actor Hawke;
- 60 - Senator Specter;
- 65 - Skater Babilonia;
- 66 - Prophets;
- 67 - Gives a 9.8, say;
- 68 - Nine-digit ID;
- 69 - Seaport in the Crimea;
- 70 - Chief of the Vedic gods;

Sudoku Octagon



will.octagon.gibson@gmail.com

Down

- 1 - Express;
- 2 - Salt Lake City athlete;
- 3 - According to;
- 4 - Anatomical duct;
- 5 - Fancy home;
- 6 - Beau ___;
- 7 - Island of Hawaii;
- 8 - Consumer;
- 9 - "Fancy that!";
- 10 - Prize;
- 11 - Leers at;
- 12 - Attentive, warning of danger;
- 13 - Capital of Japan;
- 21 - Greek fertility goddess, flightless bird;
- 23 - Errands;
- 24 - Stable compartment;
- 25 - Old Testament book;
- 26 - Consumed;
- 27 - Tranquillity;
- 28 - Convened;

- 30 - Capital city of Yemen;
- 31 - Part of Q.E.D.;
- 34 - Career golfers;
- 36 - In the least;
- 37 - Cotton thread used for hosiery;
- 38 - Group character;
- 43 - ___ anglais (English horn);
- 44 - Brain wave;
- 47 - Religious dissent;
- 49 - Naked-faced Amazon monkey;
- 50 - Bridge positions;
- 51 - AKA;
- 52 - Beer mug;
- 53 - Brainy bunch;
- 55 - Author Silverstein;
- 56 - Constituent;
- 59 - Beverage commonly drunk in England;
- 61 - Campaigned;
- 62 - Old Ford;
- 63 - Always;
- 64 - Code-breaking org.;



Exploring the morbid side of birthdays

Birthdays are a funny thing. Once a year, those of us who celebrate our birthdays throw a party to mark the passing of another year of our lives.

We bask in the knowledge that it is our special day, without ever thinking of exactly what we're celebrating, or who it might affect.

Essentially, the birthday is a celebration of not having died for a period of one year. Some people seem to feel that this is a praiseworthy feat, and that they are entitled to all the customary congratulations and gifts that accompany the average birthday celebration.

I, on the other hand, find it strange to be rewarded with gifts every year for having gone 365 days in a row without having been lethally struck by a minivan or city bus.

Don't get me wrong, I'll still take the presents - I just don't really get it.

There are a few ways in particular that people seem to like to spend their birthdays that really confuse me.

One is by going out to an American-chain-style restaurant where the serving staff sings an unenthusiastic corporate birthday song.

If I needed revenge on a friend badly enough to take him to one of those restaurants for his birthday, I would probably just stab him, as this would be a lot easier on both of us.

Another strange way to spend a birthday (which happens to be my personal favourite) is to spend the night with friends getting blackout drunk by drinking anything anyone puts in front of them.

In this scenario, the celebration is not for the person celebrating their birthday, but rather for his or her friends. It's the one night per year they can almost kill their friend with alcohol and not feel responsible.

The person whose birthday it is usually ends up covered in vomit and a thin layer of bad decisions in the morning; a great way to start another year of life.

One thing many people don't consider is how birthday celebrations affect their moms.

Think about it. When you celebrate your birthday, you're essentially taking one of the most painful experiences in your mom's life, and rubbing that memory in her face one day a year, with balloons.

Basically, you are saying: "Hey Mom, remember what I did to your vagina when I was zero? Have some cake!"

If you really care about your mom, you might think of changing what you choose to celebrate.

Maybe instead of birthday celebrations, we could have conception day celebrations. You could still have a yearly party, but instead of giving your mom excruciating flashbacks, it would remind her of something pleasant.

Granted, that would mean that every year your party would remind you of your dad pumping away, penetrating and impregnating your mom as both of them are covered in sweat in the backseat of the car they had while you were growing up.

Maybe we should stick to birthdays.

Next up for J. is giving the "Happy Birthday" song the Williams treatment.

Tackling the sticky issue of food labelling



LIVING WELL



SAGAN MORROW
VOLUNTEER STAFF

"Grocery shopping" is a phrase that strikes fear in the hearts of many consumers. As if the price tags and the crowds weren't bad enough, navigating through the food itself can be a huge hassle.

Current food labelling regulations leave a lot to be desired.

There is no standard for serving sizes, which makes it difficult to compare the health benefits (or drawbacks) between brands. Ingredient lists are often written in tiny print at the bottom of the package and squinting at names that are nearly impossible to pronounce becomes frustrating.

A major problem is that consumers often don't even know what they're looking for when they read ingredient lists on food packages.

For example, there are over 50 different names

In order for consumers to understand what we are eating and to improve their health, we need to have a complete overhaul of the current food labelling regulations

for sugar alone. Among them are corn syrup and cane juice crystals, which most can probably recognize as sugar.

But there are also others that you might be surprised to learn are really just fancy names for sugar:

barley malt, dextrose, ethyl maltol and panocha.

The current food labels, which include the front of the food package, the nutrition facts table and the ingredient list, are contributing to the declining health of Canadians.

In order for consumers to understand what they are eating and to improve their health, we need to have a complete overhaul of the current food labelling regulations.

And that's where the Food Label Movement, an organization I founded with Nicole Choptain, comes in.

The Food Label Movement seeks to increase transparency between food manufacturers and consumers by appealing to the Canadian government to re-think the current food labelling laws and improve them.

At present, there are too many consumers who are frustrated by food packages and who are unaware of what - and how much - they are eating.

In an effort to promote awareness and to see changes at the governmental level, the movement has created a petition for consumers who want to see improved nutrition labels to sign. You can sign this petition at www.tinyurl.com/food-petition.

The organization is also planning a march around Winnipeg's Legislative building in the spring or summer of 2011.

In the months leading up to the march, we'll be hosting events and attending conferences in keeping with the mission.

Among a list of 15 other suggestions, the Food Label Movement recommends listing all separate sugary ingredients in a bracketed list under the heading of "sugar" in the ingredient lists on food packages.

Amounts of sodium, mandatory nutrition labelling at restaurants and disclosure of caffeine content and genetically modified ingredients are also changes that we'd like to see made.

For more information about nutrition labels and how they can be improved, go to www.the-foodlabelmovement.org.

Sagan Morrow is a freelance writer and editor. Check out her health and wellness blog at www.livingintherealworld.net/healthy.

Solutions to puzzles from October 7.



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