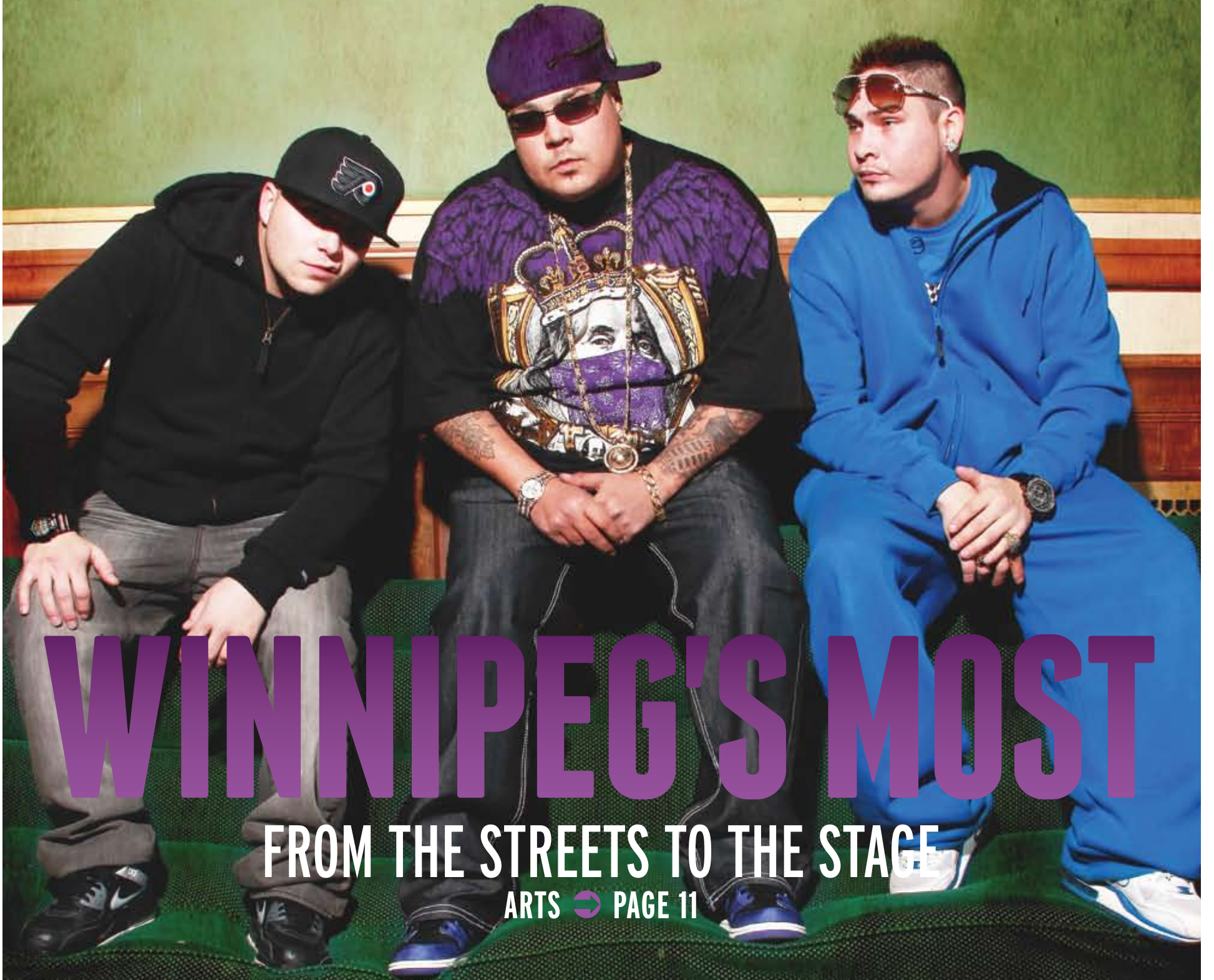


THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF GENDER-BASED TOY MARKETING NEWS ➔ PAGE 2

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

THE UNITER

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24
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WINNIPEG'S MOST

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*COVER IMAGE

Local hip-hop trio
WINNIPEG'S MOST
PHOTO BY THOSH
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Ad campaigns for toys accused of gender-stereotype reinforcement

Experts raise concern over social implications of gender-based toy marketing

CARSON HAMMOND
BEAT REPORTER

Even in the enlightened age of 2012, it appears that, for the most part, G.I. Joe still gets to do all of the fun out-of-house work and bad-guy-killing while Polly Pocket stays inside and bakes cakes.

This troubling situation has sparked discussion over the potentially negative implications of gender-based marketing with respect to children's toys, drawing commentary from experts across a wide range of fields.

Anita Sarkeesian, a Master's degree-holding blogger, recently posted a two-part video series taking issue with this phenomenon on her website, FeministFrequency.com, with a specific interest in everyone's favourite multi-coloured plastic blocks.

"Research has consistently shown that playing with LEGO accelerates childhood development," she says in one of the two videos. "Sadly, as a consequence of LEGO's decision to design and market their products almost exclusively to boys over the past few decades, girls have been largely left out."

Sarkeesian goes on to explore the continuing evolution of LEGO's marketing strategy with respect to gender. She explains that LEGO gradually shifted from a gender-neutral marketing strategy in the '50s, '60s and '70s to a primarily male-focused approach in subsequent years.

Sarkeesian's video-blog also takes aim at one of the company's newest product-lines: an expensively researched attempt to capture the female demographic branded simply as "LEGO Friends."

"The Friends theme sets focus on traditionally female identified



KAITLYN EMSLIE FARRELL

Some critics argue culturally-imposed gender roles is still being perpetuated by children's toys and their respective marketing campaigns. Marketers counter that they are not responsible for controlling such societal debate.

tasks including baking at the City Park Café, getting your hair done at the Butterfly Beauty Shop, taking care of pets at the Heartlake Vet or homemaking at Olivia's House," she says.

Sarkeesian explains that, while there's nothing inherently wrong with featuring these types of domestic activities in toys marketed to girls, what's problematic is the fact that LEGO's female-marketed sets are so thoroughly devoid of anything that *doesn't* appeal directly to unfair gender stereotypes.

She also points out that the female-marketed products tend to de-emphasize the focus on creativity that makes the company's other toys so much fun.

"LEGO needs to go back to the drawing board and create products that foster creativity and imagination that children of all genders will adore," she says.

Fiona Green, former chair of the University of Winnipeg's depart-

ment of women's and gender studies and expert in gender socialization, commented on the issue of gender-based marketing with respect to children's toys.

"Toys are huge in the socialization process," she said. "(This type of marketing) is actually what I would call the 'domestication' of girls and women. It's about teaching girls how to play a certain role in the household and how to have relationships with men and their families."

These culturally imposed gender roles tend to be mistaken for natural, sex-based dispositions - a problem which is perpetuated in part by some children's toys and their respective marketing campaigns, Green said.

Fabrizio DiMuro, a professor of marketing at the University of Winnipeg, provided another point of view regarding the issue.

"As marketers, you kind of have to go with what's going to get you

the best result," he explained. "If you don't do that, you're not going to be able to keep your job. This might sound harsh, but as a marketer, it's not your job to sort out society's debates."

DiMuro pointed out that issues with gender socialization are extremely complex, and that it would be unfair to only implicate marketers in the problem.

"I don't think that what (marketers) are doing is the definitive thing that casts people in one gender role or another," said DiMuro. "(Gender-based marketing) might help push things in that direction, but there are so many other components of society working to that end as well."

"Marketers have to deal with a certain reality, and in dealing with that they might also inadvertently create bigger gaps in that reality," he added. "But, unfortunately, they're kind of stuck."

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STREETER

BY CARSON HAMMOND

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ELLICE AVENUE?



Frank Kowalski, Amethyst Crystal Ore & Boulders
"I think Ellice Avenue has got prime residential potential. I would invest in this area without hesitation."



Na Bj, owner, Y-Not Foods
"It's better now because the university is growing day after day."



Laura Kasdorf, first-year student, business
"I really don't know anything about it."



Martha Terffa, second-year student, economics and finance
"It could be a very culturally diverse street. Having the small, cultural restaurants, I think it could grow into downtown's 'it' place."



Thomas Kroeker, employee, Black Sheep Diner
"I think Ellice is probably becoming more inviting as a place to live and spend time in - mostly because of the hard-working community development groups and local people."



Kelsey Vieira, second-year student, criminal justice
"I think, in terms of an urban area, Ellice Avenue has a lot of potential. University expansion helps, but I think there's a long way to go with respect to creating a safer, more pedestrian-friendly downtown."

The Uniter is the official student newspaper of the University of Winnipeg and is published by Mouseland Press Inc. Mouseland Press Inc. is a membership based organization in which students and community members are invited to participate. For more information on how to become a member go to www.uniter.ca, or call the office at 786-9790.

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News

Local sushi institution closes, building to be re-developed

Winnipeggers discuss implications for development of Ellice Avenue



DYLAN HEWLETT

The former Edohei restaurant on Ellice Avenue will be redeveloped to include a pharmacy and medical offices.

CARSON HAMMOND
BEAT REPORTER

Edohei Restaurant - Winnipeg's original sushi joint - has closed the doors of its humble Ellice Avenue location for good after nearly 25 years of serving up what's come to be regarded as some of the city's best Japanese cuisine.

Edohei's former owner, world-renowned chef Sadao Ohno, 61, explained the closure of his business coincided nicely with an offer for the purchase of its building, and that he was happy to hear that the buyer intended to re-develop the property.

He also confirmed redevelopment would begin with the demolition of the building in which Edohei resided - a two-level, multi-tenant structure situated at the corner of Ellice and Carlton - and that the new building would house a pharmacy and medical offices.

While the cherished restaurant's closure after a fruitful lifetime is certainly no tragic tale, the event has sparked conversation

regarding the overall state of Ellice Avenue and its prospects for development.

Walter Krawec, who blogs about civic issues at OneManCommittee.com, commented on the matter.

"Looking at Ellice in the downtown area, what it really suffers from is a lack of the basic structure of what creates an urban environment," he said, referring to the stretch's many visually unappealing street-level parking lots.

"Experience in observing what goes on (in downtown Winnipeg) tells me that, quite often when you lose a building like (Edohei's), what ends up replacing it just isn't as good.

"I'm a little guarded in my optimism here," he added. "I don't know if I would bet that what we're going to end up with as a community (regarding the Edohei property's redevelopment) is going to be what could be described as a 'net improvement' overall."

Krawec also explained that, in terms of developing Ellice Avenue and other similar routes in downtown Winnipeg, a major obstacle currently comes in the form of a general lack of financial incentive for devel-

opers to focus on density and verticality.

"In my mind, I think there will be true progress when you can count the number of empty buildings and surface parking lots on Ellice - some of which have been there since literally the 1950s - and see that those numbers have started to go down," he said.

"Looking at Ellice in the downtown area, what it really suffers from is a lack of the basic structure of what creates an urban environment."

- WALTER KRAWEC, BLOGGER, ONEMANCOMMITTEE.COM

Recently, the West End Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) proposed Ellice Avenue be considered for official designation as an "image route" - a term that has recently been used by the city government in labeling roadways that will receive an increase in funding for purposes of beautification.

When city council released the updated list of designated routes this February - which includes Main Street, Pembina Highway, Portage Avenue, St. Mary's Road, St. Anne's Road and others - the BIZ protested Ellice's exclusion from the initiative.

"(Ellice) is a direct link between the airport area and the downtown, and we believe that it's a significant entry-route into the city," explained Gloria Cardwell-Hoepfner, executive director of the BIZ.

The new airport will see an estimated three million passengers each year, Cardwell-Hoepfner added, and the BIZ thinks that designating Ellice Avenue as an image route because of this is a very good option.

She noted that the downtown segment of Ellice, which was home to Edohei, does not fall into the area of the BIZ's responsibility, and that the West End portion of the street has seen remarkable improvements in recent years - many of which are due to the organization.

"Ellice is a key component to this city," Cardwell-Hoepfner said. "And we feel that it has a lot to offer."

Manitoba receives low grade on women's equality

Childcare scores low, health ranks high

JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI
BEAT REPORTER

Manitoba has made little improvement in the areas of women's equality, according to a new report.

The UN Platform for Action Committee (UNPAC), a provincial women's group, released their second Manitoba Equality Report Card March 8, leveling the province with a C+ grade - the same grade it received two years ago.

Jennifer deGroot, executive director for UNPAC, said a lot of people either don't know the problems facing women in Manitoba, or just don't talk about it.

"People assume that women have equality in Canada. It's not something that we hear talked about in the media - it's just not a very nice topic at the moment," deGroot said.

"Women as a group make up more than half the population, and they face much

inequality here in Manitoba. The government has taken some good steps, but we think that the government can speak louder about our needs and what has to be done at a policy level."

The report, released in conjunction with International Women's Day, is based off of the progress the province has made towards equality. The report card grades the provincial government on their progress in providing equal treatment of men and women, as set out by the United Nations.

The lowest grade the province received was in childcare, which received a grade of "incomplete."

According to the report, childcare access remains at 24 per cent for preschool children and just 10 per cent for school-aged children.

Michelle Hendrix, a 27-year-old student with a son, said she applied for daycare while she was pregnant, but didn't get in.

"I've heard how hard it was to get into

the daycare system, but I didn't realize until I saw the waiting list," Hendrix said. "I had to make special arrangements to keep my kid safe while I go to school."

The province, however, did score better in health, jumping to an A grade from a B in 2010.

According to the report, most women reported to be in "excellent" or "very good" health.

The report noted the province's Women's Health Strategy for the improved score.

Released in June 2011, the strategy is based on consultations with women across the province. It aims to expand women-focused healthcare, including increased options for birthing and supporting specific populations like new immigrants and aboriginal women.

The Women's Health Clinic was also completed last year, which is supposed to address many of the special needs that women require or want. The centre delivered its first baby in December last year.

Fiona Green, professor of women's and gender studies at the University of Winnipeg, said there is a great deal the government needs to do before we have equality.

For example, she argued, there is still a shortage of midwives in the province, despite the new birthing centre.

"I would argue with the report giving an 'A' in Health," she said.

"The government needs to support families in whatever form they take, and not just supporting certain kinds of families. And the (way they) should support families (should be a way that) doesn't seem like they are under surveillance - people worry that child services will swoop in and take their kids if they ask for help."

Jennifer Howard, provincial minister of family services and labour, was to meet on Monday, March 19 with deGroot and UNPAC to discuss the results of the report.

The province could not be reached for a comment.

Local News Briefs

Compiled by Peyton Veitch

KELVIN MELEE LEAVES FIVE INJURED

A large brawl outside Kelvin High School resulted in five youths being taken to hospital on March 15. Four of the five youths arrived in stable condition, with one initially unstable but later upgraded to stable condition. The fracas involved 15 to 20 students wielding baseball bats, a machete, a baton and a BB gun, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported. Winnipeg police were called to the scene at about 1 p.m. Police spokeswoman Const. Natalie Aiken told reporters three male suspects were taken into custody. The school was locked down during the brawl but by 1:30 p.m., police declared the area safe and classes resumed.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES MAKE PROVINCIAL PITCH

School trustees from across the province are calling for increased funding among a host of other requests. The annual Manitoba School Boards Association provides trustees with a perfect venue to articulate their wishes to Education Minister Nancy Allan. In addition to greater funding, the trustees are calling on Allan to end a 2008 moratorium on school closures, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported. Trustees argue such a decision is necessary as closing schools with small and declining enrolment will cut costs. Other proposed resolutions include improved Internet access for schools and asking the province to fully cover the costs of special-needs education.

RECORD-BREAKING WEATHER

Tee times were booked solid and patios were packed last weekend (March 16-18) as Manitoba enjoyed days of record-breaking heat. On St. Patrick's Day, the former record was set in 1938 at 12 C - this year it was a sunny 19 C. The next day saw a high of 20 C, while the previous record was a mere 8.8 C in 2000. Although they usually open a month later, the links were busy at the John Blumberg Golf Course near Headingly, according to the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Patios at local watering holes such as Bar Italia and the Winnipeg Free Press News Café also opened prematurely and were a popular destination over the weekend.

RED RIVER COLLEGE TRAINS NEW GENERATION OF RAIL WORKERS

A Red River College course is giving students practical experience in the rail trades, providing an ideal launching pad for a future career in the field. Utilizing a special section of the Transcona Rail Yards, students engage in physically demanding and rigorous work. The rewards however, are well worth it for students who graduate from the course. Red River College proudly proclaims that those who complete the training program have a 96 per cent chance of getting hired by a rail company. Tuition is pegged at \$9,900 but a starting salary of \$65,000 a year awaits graduates.

ABORIGINAL LEADERS BRACE FOR IMPACT OF OXYCONTIN WITHDRAWAL

The cessation of production for the painkiller OxyContin has chiefs worried on both sides of the Manitoba-Ontario border, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported. In northwestern Ontario, it is estimated that 9,000 aboriginal residents out of 25,000 are addicted to the pills. Mike Metatawabin, deputy grand chief of the Nishinawbe First Nation, fears a mass withdrawal from OxyContin. Without adequate treatment, withdrawal causes agonizing pain. Although the problem is not as widespread in Manitoba, Winnipeg gangs supply northern Ontario communities with much of the supply. Health centres in northwestern Ontario are bracing for the outcome by stockpiling Graval and ibuprofen for addicts.

International News Briefs

Compiled by Eva Wasney

FOREIGN ACCESS TO IRANIAN MILITARY COMPLEX DENIED

IRAN: International nuclear inspectors have been denied total access to Parchin, a restricted military complex in the Iranian desert. According to the *New York Times* there is suspicion that a chamber within Parchin is designed to test explosives used in atomic weapons triggers. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman denied these accusations, as well as suggestions that the government intends to rid the military complex of trace nuclear materials. Iran claims an inspection was not denied, rather an agreement was not reached about the scope of inspectors' examination. This will complicate upcoming talks with the United Nations Security Council about Iran's nuclear energy program.

SURPRISE ELECTIONS IN THE MIDST OF BLOODSHED

SYRIA: In the midst of worsening conflict, Syrian president Bashar al-Assad has announced a surprise parliamentary election will be held in May, under the country's new constitution. According to the *Mail and Guardian*, opponents of the regime are calling the elections illegitimate while Assad clings to power. After recent talks with Assad, the UN Security Council is awaiting news of what

the Syrian government intends to do. Meanwhile, tensions are rising within the council as Russian representatives are calling for a simultaneous ceasefire between the government and armed rebels, while western powers say Assad's government needs to make the first move.

TIBETAN SELF-SACRIFICE IN PROTEST

BEIJING: In the past year, 24 Tibetans have set themselves on fire to protest ongoing oppression from the Chinese government. Self-immolation as protest began in Tibetan monasteries and has since been adopted by the public, reports the *Los Angeles Times*. Tensions have been rising as China tries to instill "patriotic values" in Tibetan youth through communist education and forced renouncement of the Dalai Lama. In response to the protests the Chinese government is incorrectly portraying these suicides as impulses of criminals and the mentally ill; in reality, the majority of these enraged protesters are young, educated Tibetans.

NO EARLY EXIT FROM AFGHANISTAN AFTER VIOLENCE

AFGHANISTAN: Recent violence between Afghan forces and U.S. troops has raised questions about the safety of the current mission

and gradual drawdown of troops in Afghanistan. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, President Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron are rejecting ideas coalition troops will be brought out of Afghanistan early. Tensions have been rising in the area after Korans were burned at a U.S. base, and following the shooting rampage of a U.S. soldier that left 16 Afghan civilians dead. Remaining U.S. and British troops are training Afghan soldiers in the hopes the country will be able to manage its own security.

TRIBAL VIOLENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN WORSENS

SOUTH SUDAN: Ongoing tribal violence is threatening to push the newly independent South Sudan into a humanitarian disaster. The *Los Angeles Times* reports that fighting between the Nuer and Murle tribes is one of several issues plaguing South Sudan, including a lack of infrastructure, a war on the disputed border with Sudan and regional claims to oil reserves. With a re-emergence of Nuer militia and the White Army, the South Sudan government has deployed 12,000 troops to disarm both sides. Former attacks of revenge left 600 Murle dead and 200 abducted after Nuer fighters descended on their unarmed camp.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF WINNIPEG?

Answer that question in 250 words starting with the phrase, "If I was mayor, I would..." and submit it to *The Uniter*.

We'll select some of our favourite responses to appear in *The Uniter's* annual Urban Issue, on newsstands and online Thursday, April 5.

Email your response to mayor@uniter.ca by Friday, March 30 at 12 noon.

Please include your full name, age, phone number and occupation or area of study.

IF YOU HAD SAM KATZ'S JOB, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE CITY?

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Campus

Tight competition sees Bosc re-elected president with new executive team

Winners announced in highly-contested UWSA election

AMY GROENING
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

Cheers went up as the winning candidates of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association general election were announced last week.

Three of four executive positions were contested, with Lauren Bosc re-elected president, Zach Fleisher elected vice-president advocate, Laura Sexsmith elected vice-president student services and Andrée Forest selected for vice-president internal.

Bosc is happy to be able to continue her work as president.

"I think it's really exciting that students have put their faith in me to do this for another year," she said.

Bosc already has plans for several initiatives on campus, including better maintenance of the microwaves in Riddell Hall and the Bufeteria, and improved wireless Internet and cell phone access.

Wireless and phone access could easily be a year-long process, said Bosc. The UWSA executive will negotiate with university administration for upgrades to Wi-Fi and the installation of cell phone boosters.

"This is a project that is near and dear to my heart and I'm willing to dedicate the next year to really make a difference on this issue," she said.

Bosc said she will incorporate criticisms leveled at her campaign into her vision for next year's UWSA, to "make sure that everything we do this year is really consultative and student-based."

Fleisher carried out an impressive 77 classroom presentations during campaign season, and looks forward to continue reaching out to students.

"The entire campaign has been called 'Let's Talk,' and we want to connect with

students," he said.

According to Fleisher, students need to be aware of campus issues and how the UWSA can defend student rights.

"I need to make people who aren't in housing aware of housing; I need to make people who aren't international students aware of what's going on with international students. If we all work together, we can get stuff done," he said.

Sexsmith, who ran alongside Fleisher in the "Let's Talk" campaign and joined him for many of the classroom presentations, wants to make sure students get the most out of the UWSA.

Even though tuition fees pay for these services, many students are not aware the UWSA is responsible for their health plan, Petrified Sole or student groups, she said.

"Everyone pays a fee, this is part of it, you can use these services - it's not some part of an elite club," said Sexsmith.

Sexsmith plans to increase student activity on campus, engage students from all aspects of the campus and encourage student group activity.

As a candidate for the one uncontested executive position, Forest has been planning ways to enhance the internal workings of the UWSA.

"I know (current VP Internal) Kaitie (Haig-Anderson) did a lot of great work and some shifts to the budget that are going to be really good for next year," said Forest.

Forest looks forward to seeing Soma Café move to Lockhart, and intends to ensure the café will break even next year, instead of running a deficit.

"The space guarantees traffic and guarantees sales just by the nature of where it's located," she said.

Forest plans to promote communication with students through an initiative she calls The Kitchen Table, where she will set up a



DYLAN HEWLETT

Incumbent Lauren Bosc was re-elected president of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association. Zach Fleisher, along with his campaign partner Laura Sexsmith, were elected vice-president advocate and vice-president student services, respectively. Andrée Forest was elected vice-president internal.

table (borrowed from her own kitchen) in an open space so students can easily contact her.

Andri Shchudlo, chief elections commissioner for the UWSA, said voter turnout was approximately 11.5 per cent. This is an improvement over 2011 general election voter turnout of just under 10 per cent. The all-time record for voter turnout was 13.3 per cent.

Shchudlo attributes the improved turnout to the contested positions, hard-working polling officers and outreach to overlooked demographics such as business and science students.

"It's a combination of a lot of great candidates, especially a lot of really competitive races for the executive positions. It got lots of people out," said Shchudlo.

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Riddell Atrium

Self Defense Workshops
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Bulman Student Centre MPR (Below Riddell Cafeteria)

Cheap Vintage Clothing Sale
March 27th 11:00-3:00pm
Riddell Atrium

Sex Positive Training
March 27th 1:00-3:00pm
UWSA Boardroom

Teaching Sweat Lodge
March 28th 10:00-12:30pm
To register please contact Jeff Booth
P. 204.786.9818 or j.booth@uwinnipeg.ca

Yoga
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March 28th 12:30-1:30pm
3M67 (Third Floor Manitoba Hall)

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Special thanks to: The UWS Sustainability Office, Winnipeg Yoga Shala, Winnipeg Therapy Students' Association, Free the Children Student Group, The UWSA LGBT+ Centre, the Aboriginal Student Services Centre, The Best Defense Program, Mindfulness Meditation Collective, UWSA Peer Support, UWSA Leaders, the Kinology Student Association, Addictions Foundation MB, Clinic, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Positive Mental Health Promotion, Wesmen, Carbons, Ten Thousand Villages, Office of the Vice President Academic, Office of Graduate Studies, and the University of Winnipeg Students' Association.

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THE UNITER



THERE ARE FOUR MORE ISSUES OF THE UNITER STILL COMING OUT THIS SEMESTER, INCLUDING OUR ANNUAL URBAN ISSUE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 5.

DID YOU MISS AN ISSUE OF THE UNITER?
Visit www.uniter.ca to download a PDF of any of our issues.

Bylaws breached in UWSA election

Complaints were filed over bylaw contraventions; calls for academic amnesty circulate

AMY GROENING
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

Intense competition in this year's University of Winnipeg Students' Association general election brought an increase in complaints filed against candidates and an expressed need for academic amnesty during campaign season.

Andri Shchudlo, the chief elections commissioner for the UWSA, said there were more complaints filed during this election than last year.

Four candidates for executive positions filed appeals against former vice-president advocate (VPA) Tyler Blashko for openly supporting candidates, according to Shchudlo.

Bylaws prohibit current UWSA members from endorsing candidates.

Blashko reportedly posted a list of candidates on his Facebook page and encouraged UWSA members to vote for them.

"I'm sure it was an innocent oversight on his part, but it's absolutely prohibited," said Shchudlo.

Complaints were also filed against VPA candidate Ro Mills, who was spotted near polling stations in a Vote for Ro T-shirt, but these were overturned.

"There's nothing that prohibits a candidate from wearing a partisan T-shirt or walking by polling stations," said Shchudlo.

Shchudlo said the subjects of the complaints accepted the commission's decisions with dignity.

"All the candidates were very respectful of the elections commission. There were some complaints filed, but there were no appeals," said Shchudlo.

Blashko concedes he endorsed several candidates, and stopped when the conflict with policy was brought to his attention.

He noted there are grey areas in the policy, which he hopes will be clarified by the board of directors and bylaws and policies committee next year.

"There's quite a bit of conversation about how these policies could be clearer," said Blashko.

Zach Fleisher, newly elected vice-president advocate, raised concerns that limited workloads give incumbents an unfair advantage during campaign season.

Incumbents are "encouraged to remove themselves from the UWSA general office



DYLAN HEWLETT

Newly-elected vice-president advocate Zach Fleisher would like to see candidates in future student elections to be given academic amnesty to better run their campaigns. The amnesty would grant candidates extended deadlines on projects, tests and exams for candidates, "to ensure a fair democratic election for all parties involved," Fleisher says.

while actively campaigning" according to bylaws.

Office hours are peak campaign hours, when the most students are on campus, said Fleisher.

"I think it's a huge advantage. If I could move all my classes to the evening when no students were around, I could campaign (during the day), too," said Fleisher.

All candidates running for contested executive directorships should be given academic amnesty, said Fleisher. This means extended deadlines on projects, tests and exams for candidates, and the understanding they would miss some classes.

"I think the policy is something we need to ensure a fair democratic election for all parties involved," said Fleisher.

Returning president Lauren Bosc said the bylaw is intended to ensure incumbents can't use general office resources for campaigning.

"I really like the idea of moving forward with a discussion with the university itself to talk about academic amnesty," she said.

Bosc notes that while she could not be in the office while campaigning, she continued to attend committee meetings and carry out other duties during the election.

Dr. Dwight Vincent, chair of the physics department, warned extensions mean excessive amounts of catch-up work.

"It doesn't matter if you get amnesty or not, you still have to make up for the classes you miss. You'll just fall farther behind," he said.

Sorpong Peou, chair of the politics department, said an overarching amnesty policy would complicate the very different course loads and academic responsibilities that students have.

"We accommodate their needs on an individual, informal basis. It shouldn't become a policy but a matter between students and teachers," Peou said.

The Canadian Federation of Students does not have an official policy on academic amnesty during elections, according to deputy chairperson Adam Awad.

LISTINGS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CISA's Shindelman Family Lecture presents HANNAH ROSENTHAL, the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy to combat and monitor anti-Semitism on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Garry Hotel. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

On a very special KELLY HUGHES LIVE! Hughes hosts VPW 11 REUNION SPECIAL featuring MAGIC MIKE LIKEY, MATH WITH MARTY GREEN, NEIL SCHIPPER and MARION from the COSMOPOLITANS on Friday, March 23 at Aqua Books.

The fourth annual TREK FOR TOURETTE is on Sunday, March 25 at Assiniboine Park, 2355 Corydon Ave., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is at 10 a.m. For more info contact www.tourette.ca or 204-257-3802.

The 17th annual Manitoba Robot Games begin on Saturday, March 27 at 10 a.m. at Tech Voc High School, 1555 Wall St. The public is welcome to attend, and admission is free. See Manitoba's youngest mechanics, engineers, designers and technicians put their robotic creations to the ultimate test.

ON CAMPUS

Gallery 1C03 and Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre present a free panel discussion related to the exhibition CHRIS REID: I LIKE TO BELIEVE I AM TELLING THE TRUTH on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in Eckhardt-Grammatté Hall.

The Alumni Association will host its inaugural Past Presidents Speaker MARGO GOODHAND, editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press* on Thursday, March 22 in Convocation Hall at 7:30 p.m. The event will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Club, 4th floor of Wesley Hall. Tickets are \$25, or \$10 for students.

Iqbo Educational Lecture series presents LINES IN THE SAND: ARE WE FORCING AT RISK STUDENTS OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS? with Dr. Ken McCluskey on Friday, March 23 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Eckhardt-Grammatté Hall.

The TAKE 5 FESTIVAL, a festival to promote overall well being, will be on campus Monday, March 26 until Friday, March 30.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The UWSA BIKE LAB is open! Pop by between 10 a.m. and 3

p.m., Monday to Friday, to say hello or get involved. Email bikelab@theuwsa.ca for more information, or join the Facebook group at www.facebook.com/uwsabikelab.

The UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION WOMYN'S CENTRE provides a space where womyn can build community with other womyn. To volunteer phone 204-786-9788 or email womynsctr@theuwsa.ca.

To volunteer for the UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION fill out an application on their website, theUWSA.ca, or grab an application from their office in the Bulman Centre.

To volunteer for PEER SUPPORT, email uofwpeersupport@gmail.com, or grab an application from their office (ORM13) or from the UWSA.

To volunteer for UWSA FOODBANK, email foodbank@theuwsa.ca, or grab an application from the UWSA.

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. Email Aaron at editor@uniter.ca.

CKUW 95.9 FM is seeking volunteers for the music and news departments, and as hosts for programs. Email ckuw@uwinipeg.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 204-774-0451 or stop by 222 Furby St. to offer your skills.

THE SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION is looking for volunteers to help with their programming. Interested volunteers can download a volunteer application form at www.spenceighbourhood.org or call 204-783-5000 for more information.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is looking to assemble an experienced team of volunteers to assist with the salvaging and safe removal of a wide variety of donated items. For more information please call Greg at 204-223-5160 or email gmallett@habitat.mb.ca.

THE SALVATION ARMY on Logan Avenue needs KITCHEN HELPERS to assist in the preparation and serving of meals at their children's program on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call Breanne at 204-946-9490 or email youthworker@mymts.net.

RUPERT'S LAND CAREGIVER SERVICES RING A RIDE program needs drivers to take clients residing in Southwest Winnipeg to appointments, shopping and social outings. Compensation for gasoline and parking is provided. For more information please call 204-452-9491 or email us at rics_vol@mts.net.

IRCOM is seeking three more committed individuals to help out with its Newcomer Literacy Initiative (NLI) program from now until the end of the school year. Volunteer EAL classroom assistants with our NLI classes work with students under the direction of the NLI Teacher in one-on-one, small group and whole class settings. Volunteers generally help one day per week for two and half hours each shift. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information contact Erin at erina@ircom.ca or 943-8765, ext 23.

The NEEDS (Newcomer Employment & Education Development Services) CENTRE is looking for VOLUNTEER MENTORS. It only takes six hours a month to make a difference in the life of a refugee youth new to Winnipeg. Mentors connect newcomer youth to the community and engage them in educational and recreational activities. For more information contact Steph Minor at steph@needsinc.ca or 204-940-1275.

STUDENTS OFFERING SUPPORT (SOS) is an international charitable organization that raises marks, money and roofs. SOS is looking for a set of exceptional university student leaders to launch a chapter on campus. If you are interested in gaining exposure to the world of social entrepreneurship please visit www.studentsofferingsupport.ca.

The Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library (MCML) is dedicated to the study, preservation and understanding of craft and the promotion of the work of craft artists. They are seeking a website manager. To apply contact curator@mcml.ca.

The English Language Department is looking for LANGUAGE PARTNER VOLUNTEERS - people that would be matched with a student learning English and meet with them once a week for 12 weeks. The benefits are positive for both the volunteer and the student. Interested in being a Language Partner? Find out more about the program at www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-partner.

Campus News Briefs

Compiled by Clara Buelow

U OF W INTRODUCES YOUTH IN CARE TUITION WAIVER

The University of Winnipeg is set to offer a Youth in Care Tuition Waiver program starting in September 2012. Young people who have grown up in care homes under the child welfare system will now be given the chance to attend the university without worrying about debt. The program, believed to be the first of its kind in Manitoba, will start as a pilot project in the fall. Ten students will be supported with free tuition, which the university will cover from its Opportunity Fund. Food and housing costs will be paid by the Province of Manitoba Authorities. "I want all our children to be able to look forward to a future full of opportunities. With this initiative the University of Winnipeg is setting an important example of looking past hardship to the potential in each young person," said Children and Youth Opportunities Minister Kevin Chief.

DR. JAMES CURRIE NAMED NEW DEAN OF SCIENCE

Longtime faculty member Dr. James Currie has been appointed the new dean of science. Currie joined the faculty in 1988 and during his time at the university has held a strong academic record, worked as the chair of the mathematics and statistics department, and most recently as served as associate dean of science. "This is an exciting time to be studying science at the University of Winnipeg, with our state-of-the-art Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex attracting world-class faculty and students at both the undergraduate and graduate level," university president Lloyd Axworthy said in a release.

CANADA AWARDS AND RENEWS RESEARCH CHAIRS

The federal government has selected the University of Winnipeg to house a new Canada Research Chair in Subatomic Physics, while renewing a second chair devoted to exploring science learning in indigenous settings. The new Canada Research Chair in Fundamental Symmetries in Subatomic Physics was given to Dr. Jeffery Martin and consists of \$200,000 per year for seven years. Dr. Dawn Sutherland, Research Chair in Science Education and Cultural Contexts, was renewed for a stretch of five years and consists of \$100,000 per year. Both researchers are highly regarded within their fields and have backgrounds laden with pertinent research and collaborative efforts, inside and outside Canada. U of W now has five Canada research chairs.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

The University of Winnipeg Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for distinguished alumni that have made an impact in their field and their community. Each year the association honours two alumni at the spring and fall convocation ceremonies, recognizing the impact these people have made on others at a local, national and international level. Past recipients include Winnipeg filmmaker Guy Maddin, children's entertainer Fred Penner and many more. A speaker's series is also being launched. The first speaker, *Winnipeg Free Press* editor Margo Goodhand, was one of last year's award recipients. For more information, email alumni@uwinnipeg.ca or call 204-988-7118.

Comments

Out of the black and into the blue

The Jets aren't just a hockey team, they're Winnipeg incarnate



SAM HAGENLOCHER
VOLUNTEER

If I had a time machine, the first place I'd see would be Winnipeg a hundred years ago.

The reason is simple: I want to know what it was like to live in a Winnipeg that never needed defending.

I want to experience my hometown as the place where everyone wanted to be. The place that other cities not only envied, but wanted to emulate.

I want to see what Winnipeg was, with the knowledge of what it now is.

*"It's not the years, honey, it's the mileage."
- Indiana Jones, Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Winnipeg's identity and, in a sense, its character has changed so much since its inception that it's hard to even imagine what it was like such a short time ago.

In some ways, we're like a fighting prodigy who ascends the ranks only to be knocked out in the title match.

We try desperately to return to that glory, only to get knocked down again and again. The more we try, the older we get, and the bigger the challenge becomes.

The media tells us we should give up. After all, few people get more than one shot.

The story of Winnipeg is eerily similar to that of its hockey team, the Winnipeg Jets.

As the city was born with resounding promise, so was the team.

We know we're the underdogs, but that's just the way we like it. We know the importance of staying in the fight, and now that we're back in the ring, we won't be lying down anytime soon

Those old enough to remember will tell of the day Bobby Hull was signed and paraded down Portage Avenue. They'll tell of the dream team of Hull, Hedberg, Ulf Nilsson and Kent Nilsson.

They'll talk of the three WHA AVCO Championships in four years, and they'll tell of the day it all ended.

For the city, our defining year was 1915, when the Panama Canal opened and ended



AYAME ULRICH

our promise as a transportation hub.

For the Jets, it was 1979, when the team was assimilated by the NHL, and all but three of our players were poached by the league, never to be champions again.

Those old timers will also tell of the miserable '80-'81 season when our Jets posted a 30-game losing streak, and only won nine games all season.

This is where Winnipeg's now-famous underdog status became solidified.

*"The dead know only one thing: it is better to be alive."
- Pvt Joker, Full Metal Jacket*

When the Jets inevitably packed their bags and headed south in 1996, I remember the feeling of being erased.

In many ways, it felt like the Jets were our representatives on the world's stage, and now we had nothing to fill that void.

Everywhere it felt like we were having a wake for our dearly departed friend, and trying to make sense of where to go from here.

The Jets were no longer a hockey team, but a symbol of Winnipeg as a whole. As we fought to bring back the Jets, it felt like we were fighting to bring back Winnipeg.

As we yelled "Go Jets Go" at any and every sporting event we could find, we weren't just cheering on a deceased team, but a forgotten city.

We needed to prove that we were still alive, even if we weren't in the fight anymore.

*"I've been dead before."
- Spock, Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*

The unthinkable has happened - the Jets have returned.

Now when I see a Jets logo, it's different. For 15 years, the oft-reprinted and proudly worn Jets logo was a symbol to me of Winnipeg's refusal to give up on itself, even when it felt that everyone else had.

It was a symbol of our fighting spirit that would never be defeated.

Today it is a symbol of what we can

achieve if we never give up fighting. It's a symbol of Winnipeg's rebirth, and defiance against those who dismissed us.

More so, I'm experiencing something I haven't felt in a while: childish optimism.

When I see young kids now lining up to get an autograph from their favorite Jet, I think back to when I was 10 years old and getting to meet Bob Essensa at the mall.

The future was so bright then.

It didn't matter that the Jets were having a dismal season that year. What mattered was that we were in the fight.

Now Winnipeg's back.

We know we're the underdogs, but that's just the way we like it. We know the importance of staying in the fight, and now that we're back in the ring, we won't be lying down anytime soon.

The gloves are off. Win or lose, I can't think of a brighter future than that.

Sam Hagenlocher still has Bob Essensa's autograph.

An interesting month in Afghanistan

Taliban peace talks were meaningless from the start



STEVE CURRIE
VOLUNTEER STAFF

It has been an excellent month for the Taliban.

A month of crimes by American forces ranging from the imbecilic to the psychopathic has increased their political capital to a level they have not enjoyed since they were ousted in 2001.

The crimes have been so severe that they have prompted even President Karzai to call for an accelerated NATO withdrawal, and for American forces to be confined to bases.

When even a satrap like Karzai feels he could do better without American support, times are indeed tough for the good guys.

Coinciding with the pullback was the Taliban announcement to withdraw from the preliminary peace negotiations that were beginning in Qatar.

Apparently the Koran burning, corpse desecration and murder spree were turning enough hearts and minds to their cause, without requiring further concessions.

However, before the cancelled talks

become accepted as proof of the impossibility of NATO's mission, to which Canada commits 910 troops in a training capacity, a few things must be understood.

First is that the cancellation is a delaying tactic.

Commentators suggest that the Taliban leadership need to negotiate at least a prisoner exchange in the near future to maintain credibility. Walking away from the talks now will force the U.S. to come to the table with more concessions.

The futility of peace talks, and the backlash of anti-Americanism, makes the task of empowering Afghan forces more pressing and necessary than ever

More importantly, however, is that beyond the exchange of prisoners (five fighters in Guantanamo for one American soldier) these negotiations are almost certainly not going to be worth the Qatari real estate

they're occupying.

The Taliban refuse to accept Karzai's government, and will not allow them to participate in the negotiations.

Referring to any internal peace process as "a waste of time," the Taliban statement stressed that they considered Karzai to be a mouthpiece for the U.S., and impotent to effect change or wield power.

I must say, it's not often that I find myself agreeing with the Taliban, but this point seemed remarkably astute.

However, whether we consider the purpose of the diplomatic missions to be a genuine reconciliation of Taliban fighters, or merely a cease-fire at the time of NATO withdrawal, both are impossible if the Taliban refuses to recognize the Afghan government.

It is clear that these peace talks were meaningless from the start. What negotiations could be made to an organization that is prepared to wage the war forever, to the last faithful standing?

What common ground can be found with a political system that identifies the West as the source of all evil and discord in

the world?

Prisoner exchanges are important, but to equivocate this with a genuine peace process is disingenuous.

The Taliban wants most what it's already been given this month. The crimes of the American soldiers are gifts to them, and they will use them cravenly and greedily.

They built their government on the deaths of their countrymen, they profit by those deaths today, and they will seek them in the future. With such an opposition, failures at the negotiating table are the norm, not the aberration.

The futility of peace talks, and the backlash of anti-Americanism, makes the task of empowering Afghan forces more pressing and necessary than ever.

Canada's leading role in this aspect of the NATO mission should not be undervalued. These last two years before the withdrawal of the West will shape the fate of the government we leave behind for many years after it's ceased making headlines here.

Steve Currie blogs at <http://alotoftinyrobots.blogspot.com>.

NDP LEADERSHIP SERIES

NDP leadership race is on as party battles over its soul

Mulcair the only candidate that can form New Democratic government



ARANDA ADAMS



ETHAN CABEL
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Over the last two months, I have been conducting interviews with each of the federal NDP leadership candidates in the lead-up to this weekend's (March 23-24) historic convention, where the party will choose its new leader.

Six out of seven of the candidates have responded promptly and have graciously spent 20 to 30 minutes of their time speaking with me.

The only candidate not to do so is Quebec MP Thomas Mulcair, the perceived front-runner in this highly contested race.

In late February, Mr. Mulcair visited the University of Winnipeg and gave a lecture to a large classroom of politics students.

The NDP needs to expand beyond its traditional base, he said, to appeal to young people, students and new Canadians with a message of hope.

He then proceeded to take questions from the group of inquisitive young students. The tone of his responses can only be described as bizarre - he was confrontational and less than gracious with those who asked questions.

When I approached him after the uncomfortable question and answer period, I asked who I should speak with to arrange an interview. He said he was not giving interviews that day and could not give an interview at any time before the convention.

I attempted repeatedly after that to get in touch with his campaign manager, Raoul Gebert.

The only response I received from Gebert over the last three weeks was this, when I initially contacted him: "We appreciate your interest in the campaign, however Mr. Mulcair's schedule is wall-to-wall for the moment. Should anything open up, we'll let you know."

It is startlingly hypocritical to claim to be reaching out to young people while acting confrontational when faced with their questions during what should have been a standard PR exercise and then refusing to speak with student journalists.

It doesn't just take a candidate with good French speaking skills and a charismatic personality who can spout boilerplate rhetoric in the fashion of unsuccessful leaders in the 1990s. This undertaking requires a politician with strategic acumen to rival Stephen Harper

However, hypocrisy alone has never disqualified any politician.

The NDP has been in a battle over its soul for the last six months.

Going into the leadership convention this weekend, party members are struggling with far more than just electing a likeable leader.

New Democrats are grappling with how

to amend party policies in order to gain the confidence of average Canadians to manage the economy while simultaneously not sacrificing the party's socialist soul to big business or big oil.

They seek to connect burgeoning British Columbia, where the party has firm provincial roots, with Quebec, where the party has only saplings, despite 58 MPs and a massive popular mandate from the province.

All the while they talk of building in Ontario and reuniting with the party's birthplace in the middle, on the Prairies, where voters may support the NDP provincially while remaining solidly blue federally.

New Democrats are attempting to build this coalition in the face of a now strong, almost insurmountable Conservative coalition between economically bleak Ontario on the one hand, and oil-rich Alberta on the other.

And these are not the only challenges the next leader will face.

In the event of a Parti Quebecois win in the upcoming Quebec provincial election, the next leader will have to deal with the awkward consequences of a hostile provincial government, which may agree with the party on policy, but which seeks ultimately to break up the country.

In such an event, the new NDP leader will have to stave off the inevitable uptick in Bloc Quebecois support that would arise from such a victory.

And then, all across the country, there are those damn Liberals to squeeze out or take on.

This is an undertaking of gargantuan proportions.

It doesn't just take a candidate with good French speaking skills and a charismatic personality who can spout boilerplate rhetoric in the fashion of unsuccessful leaders in the 1990s.

This undertaking requires a politician with strategic acumen to rival Stephen Harper.

Since becoming Conservative leader in 2004, the prime minister has attempted to build a Conservative coalition between soft Quebec nationalists, Western populists and traditional Tories, including right-leaning Liberals.

He may have failed to woo Quebec, but it was not for lack of trying. And he succeeded, through a meticulous and incremental war of attrition (and a bit of luck), to unite the right, and many right-leaning centrists, back into the new Conservative fold.

Thomas Mulcair, unfortunately for NDP hardliners, is the only candidate who possesses strategic acumen of this magnitude, exemplified by his experience as the Quebec lieutenant for the New Democrats.

Additionally, as a former Quebec Liberal MNA and cabinet minister, he has the political experience and the sufficient Quebec profile to put it in practice.

A cockeyed optimist or traditional socialist in the vein of Peggy Nash or Paul Dewar just won't cut it for the NDP if it seeks to win government in 2015.

They need a fighter. And Mulcair can punch well above his weight.

Ethan Cabel is a politics student at the University of Winnipeg and The Uniter's news assignment editor.

Getting back on track

Winnipeg a long way from Greece



ANDREW PODOLECKI
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Is Manitoba the new Greece?

Conservative commentators and bloggers would say so.

They would say that Manitoba is in the shambles of crushing debt and deep austerity - and harsh crackdowns on labour and social programs while giving massive corporate taxes is the only way back to prosperity.

I may be exaggerating, but only a little bit.

I do not condone the provincial government for running a \$1.12 billion deficit in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

However, I do take issue when right-wing commentators say we are worse off than we actually are and that we should be grabbing our pitchforks and storming the Manitoba Legislature asking for the Premier and finance ministers' heads on a platter.

Shall we look deeper into these numbers

as to why we have this deficit and how we are far from being Greece?

This past year's flood in regions across southern Manitoba accounts for \$491 million of this deficit.

Most of that money was spent on flood protection, and reaction to the flooding and issues at hand - this is an expense you cannot forecast or prepare for, especially a cost of that magnitude.

While many believe our deficits will not shrink, this upcoming year we won't have to worry about flooding due to the warm winter and lack of precipitation.

When it comes to comparing ourselves to Greece, we are not similar in any way when it comes to finances and economics.

Greece's debt-to-GDP ratio is 160 per cent and is still growing out of control. Even the new debt swap deal may not even solve their woes.

In Manitoba, with this budget deficit coming into account our debt-to-GDP ratio is just under 23 per cent. Our debt is just

under \$13 billion, while our GDP is valued at over \$56 billion.

The Greek economy is expected to contract by at least five per cent, while most private banks and economists agree Manitoba's will grow by 2.5 per cent this year and the next respectfully.

Greece's bond rating is considered "junk status," while Manitoba's rate is "AA" or higher by all three major creditors like Standards and Poor's.

These high credit scores lower our credit costs and make it more affordable to borrow as a province. Thus, we become more of a safe haven for investors wishing to invest money in bonds.

When the markets sneezed in 2008 with the housing crash, Manitoba barely caught the sniffles, while the rest of the world caught a cold.

Conservative commentators are making extremes over a situation that is not dire.

They do not even give credit to this government for running 10 consecutive bal-

anced budgets from 1999 to 2009.

If Manitoba has struggles economically, then why is mining, natural gas, oil, manufacturing and aerospace booming again?

In addition, our real estate sector is stronger than ever.

Centreport is making massive expansions along with roadway projects for Kenaston Boulevard, Chief Peguis Trail and Centreport Way. We are constructing a new rapid transit system and constructing an IKEA store along with a shipping centre.

A testament to our strong economics can be simply put by the Winnipeg Jets' return to Winnipeg. If our economy had problems, the Winnipeg Jets would not have come back - they would have stayed in Atlanta.

I have full faith that the provincial government will get us back on track by running a surplus by their projected 2015.

Have a little faith in our government.

Andrew Podolecki is a second-year politics student.

Your new fitness appointment

Approaching your workout like anything else in your day planner will help you succeed



JOHNNY FUKUMOTO
VOLUNTEER

Chances are you've used the word "appointment" more than once in your vocabulary so far this year.

You've had one for the yearly check-up with your doctor or dentist. They can be made in your day-to-day activities with the bank, auto shop or chiropractor.

Remember that act of teenage rebellion at the tattoo parlour? That was an appointment.

Realistically, you will be on your own for some of your workouts. Take that as an opportunity to develop some "fitness maturity" - don't make it an excuse for not making things happen

On occasion, you've probably made one with the barber or hairstylist.

The truth about appointments is that most of us make it a priority to get to them. The act of booking an appointment gives it some kind of importance.

It is an official meeting. Someone expects you somewhere at a certain time and it reflects on your integrity to be there.

So why not book a fitness appointment?

No, I'm not talking about that time the young stud at the local big box gym put you on a scale and then showed you how to use the leg press machine. I mean that you should start looking at your workouts as appoint-

ments.

To further make the case, here are a few simple questions:

How many doctor's appointments or hair appointments have you skipped?

And how many workouts have you bailed on?

The numbers for most of us are not even close.

THE FITNESS APPOINTMENT CIRCLE OF LIFE

By treating your workout as a fitness appointment, you may begin to look at your health in a whole new light.

- Planning for success in this way will become second nature.

- This new habit will increase your chances of getting your workouts in.

- More regular workouts will lead to a variety of positive results.

- Positive results will motivate you to keep booking fitness appointments.

This is a beautiful circle of life (key music from *The Lion King*, please).

HOW TO MAKE A FITNESS APPOINTMENT

Here is your action plan:

1. Take out your daily planner or your phone.

2. For the next week, write in the time of your fitness appointments (i.e. workouts).

3. Feel free to include location, duration and any other workout details.

4. If using a phone, set an alert for that day reminding you of your appointment.

5. Go to your appointments and kick butt.

This is going to be a lot more challenging if you do all of your workouts by yourself as you are in effect booking an appointment with yourself.

Booking an appointment with a good



DYLAN HEWLETT

coach, group class or workout buddy has more built-in accountability than booking an appointment with yourself.

However, realistically, you will be on your own for some of your workouts. Take that as an opportunity to develop some "fitness maturity" - don't make it an excuse for not making things happen.

Here is the bottom line: if you fail to plan, you're planning to fail.

This little tip is very simple but it may just be what you need to head in a new fit direction.

Book your appointment today!

A lifelong athlete, Johnny Fukumoto has a degree in kinesiology from Wilfrid Laurier University. He is the owner of, and head trainer at Fukumoto Fitness, Winnipeg's "anti-gym." Visit www.fukumotofitness.com.

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"Not Just The Year's Best Family Film, It's One Of The Year's Best Films - Period."
- Jake Hamilton, FOX TV

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PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN
For Some MUM, Rude Humor

THE MUPPETS BLU-RAY COMBO PACK
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Kylie

"Bender from *The Breakfast Club* inspires how I dress!"

FASHION STREETER

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

Arts & Culture

Winnipeg's Most: From the streets to the stage



DONALD LITTLE

Straight outta Winnipeg: Charlie Fettah (from left), Jon-C and Brooklyn make up Winnipeg's Most, one of Western Canada's hottest hip-hop acts.

AARON EPP
MANAGING EDITOR

Since debuting in 2010, local hip-hop trio Winnipeg's Most has released two albums and a mixtape, earned hit singles, garnered thousands of YouTube views, was featured prominently in a *Maclean's* article on hip hop in Winnipeg and won more awards than Meryl Streep has Oscars.

MCs Jon-C (Billy Pierson), Charlie Fettah (Tyler Rogers) and Brooklyn (Jamie Prefontaine) make up the popular group.

Although Brooklyn is in jail right now, Fettah and Jon-C are preparing for a Winnipeg's Most show at the Marquee Lounge & Event Centre (1875 Pembina Hwy.) this Friday, March 23.

After that, the duo hit the road for a month-long tour across Western Canada in support of the group's most recent release, *GoodFellaz*, which came out last June.

"It's going to be interesting spending that much time with Jon-C in a van and hotel rooms," 26-year-old Fettah says with a laugh over a late dinner at Moxie's in the MTS Centre.

He adds that the group's members are close.

"We're really like a family, and the music reflects it."

What the music also reflects are the realities of growing up as young First Nations and Metis men in Winnipeg's North End. Jon-C is Aboriginal, and Fettah and Brooklyn are Metis.

The name of the record label the group started is Heatbag - slang for "flagrant criminal" - but the members of Winnipeg's Most aren't full of hot air when it comes to talking about gang life and breaking the law. They've lived it.

Still, Fettah insists they're trying to make sure their illicit behaviour remains a thing of the past.

Writing rhymes, then, is a struggle between accurately portraying their life experiences and glorifying a lifestyle they're not necessarily proud of.

"I think the way that we were all living at a certain part in our lives, it's hard to forget that stuff," Fettah says.

"I have a great loving family ... but I made the choices that I made to make money because I wanted fast money. And then to see the death, the destruction, the pain, the joy - everything that comes along with making that kind of money from the street - it influences everything that I say now, and it's the same with all three of us."

"I would be lying to my listeners if I said it wasn't fun to go make a few thousand dollars in a day and then go out that night and spend it," he adds. "But at the same time ... we tell both sides of the story. Yeah, it's fun and you might get some money and some girls and some good times, but when you're sitting in that cell doing five-and-a-half years, it's not so fun anymore. There's real life repercussions and you start putting more thought into your actions."

Fettah and his bandmates started Heatbag in 2005, but it wasn't until 2008 that they formed Winnipeg's Most.

Renowned Canadian production duo Stomp and Jay Mak of Rezoofficial Music approached the trio about working with them, and wrote and produced most of the music on *Northside Connection*, the free mixtape the group released in 2010, as well as the songs on the group's two official studio releases, 2010's self-titled album and last year's *GoodFellaz*.

It's been a whirlwind two years, with the band winning nine Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards - including each of the six awards it was nominated for at last November's APCMAs. They've also toured and are recognized by fans in different cities across Western Canada.

Fettah and his bandmates now find them-

selves in the position of being role models to youth who look up to them. He says it's intimidating.

"It's hard to wrap my head around a lot, because I don't view myself as a role model," Fettah says, later adding, "We're humbled by it, we try to learn from it, we've taught ourselves that we *are* a role model to (some) youth in Winnipeg and across the country, and I think we act accordingly more so than we did in the beginning."

Ultimately, Fettah says, no one's perfect and shit happens. Still, it's almost never too late to start over.

"We advocate change," he says. "We advocate turning your life around and doing something with it."

⇒ See Winnipeg's Most perform at the Marquee Lounge & Event Centre (1875 Pembina Hwy.) on Friday, March 23

⇒ Madchild, DJ Dow Jones, The Rupness Monsta with Cypha Diaz, Blu and Big Pesh & Halfstar will also perform

⇒ Advance tickets \$15 at NSHB Studio & Clothing Store (255 Vaughn St.), Hood Hop'rz (1348 Main St.) and Cloudy Daze (232 Tyndal Ave.), or \$20 at the door

⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/winnipegmost or follow @chariefettah and @joncheatbag on Twitter

ESSENTIAL WINNIPEG'S MOST

Not familiar with Winnipeg's Most? Charlie Fettah lists six songs you should start with.

"Bang Bang"

Northside Connection, 2010

With a hook sung by Prince Albert, Sask.-born Heatbag recording artist Blu, Fettah says this upbeat party track with a Middle Eastern vibe is one to start with mostly because it goes over well in the club.

"I cannot stand the song ... but the girls love it," he explains.

The video starts off with two people singing a terrible karaoke rendition of *November Rain* by Guns N' Roses. See it for yourself at www.tinyurl.com/WpgBangBang.

"Intro"

Winnipeg's Most, 2010

"It was just me and Jon-C and I think we just put it

down: 'Here's who the fuck we are and this is what we're about,' and then it just ends. It's a wicked song," Fettah says of the first track off the group's first official album.

"I'm not a rapper motherfucker, I'm just spittin' the truth / And I'm a demolition man when I step in the booth" are the first two lines in the song.

Fettah and Jon-C each drop a verse over single-note keyboard chords in this statement of purpose, which packs a mean punch in under two minutes.

"All That I Know"

Winnipeg's Most, 2010

The band's first big single conveys its quintessential struggle: the call of hustling versus doing what they know is right. It's all right there in the hook:

"My baby want me out of the game but I tell her this is all that I know / I coulda took a 9 to 5 but the hustle life is what I chose / My team needs me on the streets but my fam wants me on the right

road / And that pressure building up got me feelin' like I'm about to explode."

Fettah says he began writing the song when he was in jail.

"That (song) kind of is Winnipeg's Most, telling the story about wanting to leave a certain lifestyle but not being able to for certain reasons, but understanding why you shouldn't be in that lifestyle," he says.

The video has been viewed more than 796,000 times on YouTube. Make that number higher by checking it out at www.tinyurl.com/WpgATIK.

"Winnipeg Boy"

GoodFellaz, 2011

"I'm a Winnipeg boy, that's who I am / Every tattoo on my body proves who I am" is the hook, spit over a menacing beat provided by Stomp from Rezoofficial.

"It's just about Winnipeg, and we're happy to be from here, so we're proud of our city," Fettah says.

"Don't Stop"

GoodFellaz, 2011

The third track off of last year's *GoodFellaz* is an upbeat party song produced by Tha Rupness Monsta.

"That song is so fun to perform," Fettah says. "We performed that for 6,000 people at Aboriginal Day at the Forks in summer 2011 and it was jumpin'."

"Never Know Why"

GoodFellaz, 2011

Every hip-hop act needs an introspective ballad, and this is one of Winnipeg Most's.

"It's a tribute to the deceased," Fettah says of the song, which was originally titled "Soul Fly."

"Take your time young one, make sure to analyze your moves / Think long and hard about the options you can choose," Fettah cautions in the first verse over a piano-based backing track by Jay Mak from Rezoofficial.

MUSIC LISTINGS



RED RIVER RAMPAGE happens this Friday, March 23 at the Burton Cummings Theatre. Featured acts include Dreadnaut, Seventh Sin, Asado, On This Day, Kids and Heroes and Mortal Ruins. PROPAGANDHI (above) will headline the event. The band is currently mixing its new album, the follow-up to 2009's *Supporting Caste*, and hopes to release it late this summer. For Red River Rampage tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Local indie-rock act THE HOOTS are holding a CD release for *Best Wishes* at the Lo Pub with THE BOKONONISTS and VAMPIRES.

Ex-Can front man DAMO SUZUKI will be performing at the West End Cultural Centre with sound carriers GREG HANEC, CHRIS "MAMA" BAUER, ROB MENARD and JAY TAYLOR.

Before heading out on tour, rock 'n' roll act THE NOBLE THIEFS play one more local gig at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club. Send 'em off in style!

THE CROOKED BROTHERS and the F-HOLES team up for one heck of a good Park Theatre gig. SCOTT NOLAN plays the Standard every Thursday.

The MOONBEAM JAM is at the King's Head Pub. DUSTIN HARDER AND THE DUSTY ROADS BAND play Juss Jazz.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

After months of waiting and re-waiting THE RED RIVER RAMPAGE has finally come to fruition at the Burton Cummings Theatre featuring PROPAGANDHI, DREADNAUT, ASADO and more.

The official RRR After-party features DANGER-CAT, MORTAL RUINS and SOMEHOW STILL STANDING performing at Shannon's.

The No Label Collective, Winnipeg's newest music label, has a showcase featuring EX MODERN TEEN, HEY PILGRIM and THE YOUNG PIXELS at the Standard.

Vancouver indie-rock act OCTOBERMAN is back at the Lo Pub with SALINAS and SLOW DANCERS.

The Choose Your Charity Concert Series continues at the Winnipeg Free Press News Café ends with JAMES STRUTHERS playing for Winnipeg Harvest.

Folk-rocker LINDSEY WHITE plays McNally Robinson.

THE TEHRAN PROJECT featuring AMIR AMIRI and RICHARD MOODY performs at the Folk Exchange.

Come to the PURPLE PARTY featuring DREZUS, D-GRIMEZ, DEZI MA, CHARLIE STUMBLE, JAY BIRD, ZEEK ILLA, SCOTT NIXX, KIDD KANE, KID P and JESSICA BRO-Z all holding it down at Ozzy's.

In solidarity with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination the ONE

NIGHT - ONE NATION concert features EAGLE AND HAWK, ROCKALYPSO, DUST RHINOS and FUBUKI DAIKO JAPANESE DRUMMERS at the West End Cultural Centre.

DUSTIN HARDER AND THE DUSTY ROADS BAND and ALASKA CAMERON AND THE S.O.S. BAND play the Windsor Hotel.

DIRTY CATFISH BRASS BAND play the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome.

THE SEAN BROWN BAND and XANADOODS play the Cavern.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

DAWSON BLAINE releases his new CD with LAST DITCH ON THE LEFT and MARCEL DESILETS at the Exchange Community Church. See story below.

B.C. indie-rock act YUKON BLONDE plays the WECC with LIBRARY VOICES.

Avant-garde acts DUST ADAM DUST, EAGLE LAKE OWLS, ELECTRIC SOUL and PHILIA perform at the Graffiti Gallery.

RIVER CITY ROCK AND SOUL rocks the King's Head Pub.

The Nu Sounds Series presents THE TIGHT FITS

at the Park Theatre Café.

THE NATIVE AMERICA NORTH SHOWCASE is at the Pyramid Cabaret with D'AOUST BROTHERS, DESIREE DORION, JERRY SEREDA, LORENZO and SAVANNAH RAE BOYKO.

THE XANADOODS and MARIACHI GHOST play the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome club.

MAMA CUTSWORTH and DJ J. JACKSON pay tribute to Whitney Houston and other divas with the I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY party at the Lo Pub.

CATHLEEN LESPERENCE and TYLER GILBERT CD release party is at Pop Soda's Coffeehouse & Gallery.

Local folk twosome FIRE & SMOKE perform at the Folk Exchange.

THUMB & THE STRAP is at the Zoo.

STEVEN KEYS and THE SPACE TRANNYS are at Shannon's.

Metal acts LIQUARD and EYAM storm the Cavern.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Sundays mean BAD COUNTRY are playing at the Standard.

BIG DAVE MCLEAN does his weekly jam at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club.

KERRI WOELKE and STEPHEN PALMER play the West End Cultural Centre.

MARCO CASTILLO & BRAZILIAN BEATS play Juss Jazz.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

Yank rock acts THE PRETTY RECKLESS, PARLOUR MOB and HOLLYWOOD KILLS play the West End Cultural Centre.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

Rockabilly legend BIG JOHN BATES plays the Pyramid with MURDER BY DEATH and NORTH-COTE.

JODY GLENHAM, PORTAGE AND MAIN and RED BIRD play the Park Theatre Café.

MAGNIFICENT 7S play the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club.

It's soul night at the Cavern with THE SOLUTIONS.

TIM BUTLER leads the Windsor blues jam.

The JOHN K. SAMSON & THE PROVINCIAL BAND show is sold out at the West End Cultural Centre.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

THE METAL ALLIANCE TOUR comes to town with 3 INCHES OF BLOOD, DEVILDRIVER, DYING FETUS, IMPENDING DOOM, JOB FOR A COWBOY, THE FACELESS and WRETCHED at the Garrick Centre. IN MEDIA RES plays the Lo Pub with THE BLISTERS.

Metal acts TYRANTS DEMISE and ABHORUPT are at the Zoo.

Ozzy's NEW MUSIC WEDNESDAYS continue with VIRIDIANS, THESE CITY STREETS and DEAD FIT. ANDREW NEVILLE and THE POOR CHOICES play the Standard.

ROSE COUSINS and LAST DITCH ON THE LEFT perform the West End Cultural Centre.

TIM BUTLER plays the Bella Vista on Maryland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto indie-rock act THE WOODEN SKY and SUNPARLOUR PLAYERS play the West End Cultural Centre on Thursday, March 29.

Alana Mercer's one-woman rock-act THE GUNNESS CD release party is on Friday, March 30 at Pop Soda's with MARY JANE STOLE MY GIRL and THE BUSHTITS.

THIS HISSES, ATOMIC DON & THE BLACK SUNRISE and MICRODOT are celebrating the release of their 7" *Bloodstains Across the Prairies*, a compilation featuring Prairie bands at the Cavern on Saturday, March 31.

Folk fest favourite THE CAT EMPIRE plays the Garrick Centre on Wednesday, April 4.

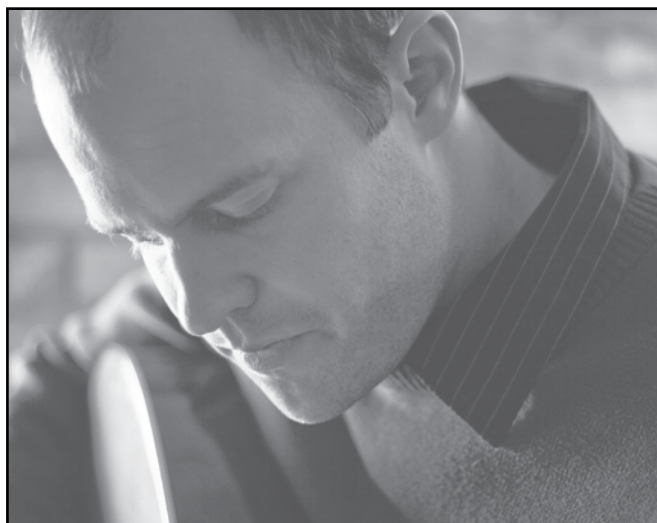
Brooklyn art-punk act JAPANHER plays the Lo Pub on Tuesday, April 17 with BOYS WHO SAY NO and THE BOKONONISTS.

Juno Award-winning SAID THE WHALE return Saturday, April 21 to the Park Theatre.

JOEL PLASKETT and FRANK TURNER play the Garrick Centre on Saturday, April 21.

SOCIAL DISTORTION plays the Burt on Monday, April 23.

THE GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS are back at the WECC on Friday, May 4.

**MORE MUSIC THIS WEEK****DAWSON BLAINE**

When local singer-songwriter Dawson Blaine Kroeker began working on his debut album, the title was one of the first things he had. He thought of *Hope on the Shores of Bedlam* before he even started recording.

"It kind of sums up a lot of aspects of my life," says the 29-year-old, who grew up on a farm 45 minutes north of Gimli, Man. "When I was younger, I went through some periods of mental illness ... and that's kind of the thing that (the title) came out of."

Kroeker recorded the 12-song disc with Winnipeg music veteran Dan Donahue. Donahue's sparse production focuses on Kroeker's acoustic guitar and his raw bass vocals.

He cites Tom Waits as one of his influences, particularly when it comes to singing. Kroeker even changed his vocal approach after hearing Waits as a teenager.

"I was just really hit by (his) thick, rough voice and connected to that sound," Kroeker says. "I actually had a pretty smooth-sounding voice before that point, interestingly enough, and I taught myself to sing more in that (rougher) voice."

The storytelling styles of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen are also clear influences on Kroeker's material. He deals with some dark subject matter, but says that there are positive elements to the songs as well.

"Obviously life is hard sometimes, but I always feel like there's a thread of hope that runs through life, and I wanted that to be present in the record," Kroeker says, further explaining the CD's title. "It's a heavy record and it's kind of dark, but at the same time, there's definitely a thread of hope that runs through it."

Dawson Blaine releases *Hope on the Shores of Bedlam* with a show this Saturday, March 24 at Exchange Community Church (75 Albert St.) with guests Last Ditch on the Left and Marcel Desilets. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show is at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10, or \$20 gets you into the show plus a copy of the CD.

Visit www.manitobamusic.com/dawsonblaine.

- AARON EPP

**YUKON BLONDE**

Kelowna, B.C. four-piece Yukon Blonde almost never made its brand new second disc, the blistering *Tiger Talk*. Front man Jeff Innes nearly used the tunes for a side project.

"I wanted to call this thing *Fucking Tigers*," he told Spinner during a SXSW interview in mid-March. "It never came to fruition, but it was on the pile of demos the guys listened to when we started planning out this record. When they asked what it was, I said it was just some electro-punk shit I was messing around with. But after they listened to it, they said that this was the stuff we should be working on. All of the song titles had the word 'tigers' on the end of them, and we were saying it so much that we finally decided just to call the album *Tiger Talk*."

It's a big shift for the band once known as Alphababy. Gone are the mellow My Morning Jacket-type wanderers that populated the group's self-titled debut, replaced with a focus on electro-pop rockers such as *Radio* and *Six Dead Tigers*.

Fans of Yukon Blonde's earlier work shouldn't worry though, as there is one exception in closer *Sweet Dee*, a lush, sprawling number that ties the two worlds together. Working with Canrock hero/producer Colin Stewart (Ladyhawk) helped the band flesh out this new sound.

"It got us all really focused on making a super-pop record with that kind of late-'70s feel," Innes said. "People often ask us whether we want to emphasize our singing over everything else we do, but I don't think that's anything we ever really think about."

Catch Yukon Blonde with Library Voices and Hunter at the West End Cultural Centre Saturday, March 24 for just \$12 through Ticketmaster. Visit www.yukonblonde.com.

- NICHOLAS FRIESEN

**JOHN K. SAMSON**

John K. Samson has been busy. No, there hasn't been a proper Weakerthans record since 2007's *Reunion Tour*, but in the last two years the local hero has released a book of lyrics and poems, a pair of 7"s and a full-length LP (his first solo work since 1995's *Little Pictures* split shared with Painted Thin).

Though only two of the three proposed 7"s were released, it's OK because there was never supposed to be a record.

"I had this idea for a specific project where I would do three 7"s about three locations in (Manitoba)," Samson told the A.V. Club in January. "It started out as something to do while The Weakerthans were touring and not writing. I feel like the project itself dictated the instrumentation. Also, it was just fun to work with a wide variety of musicians."

The singles and the LP all follow the theme of Manitoba roads - that structure being something that helped shape the project.

"I really enjoyed the research side of it; the writing of the material was really enjoyable to me," Samson said. "I spent some time in libraries and going on car trips to areas I hadn't really explored before. The whole process was kind of fun, and slow."

Then there's the book, *Lyrics and Poems 1997-2012*, which features songs from each Weakerthans record as well as tunes from the new solo disc and a few poems.

"It's kind of a nice companion, I thought, to the solo record," he told *Exclaim!* earlier this year.

John K. Samson's gig at the West End Cultural Centre on Tuesday, March 27 is sold out. Visit www.johnksamson.com.

- NICHOLAS FRIESEN



No longer 'waiting in the well'

Octoberman ready to tour Canada after lengthy recording session

DEREK LOEWEN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Octoberman's Marc Morrissette is back with a new album and is ready to tour.

Waiting in the Well was recorded between December and June 2011 and was co-produced with Juno-nominated rocker Jim Guthrie.

"I could tell from the start that we were on the exact same page," says Morrissette, 35, from Vancouver where he's prepping for the tour. "We both listen to a lot of old music. We're not trying to be a part of any new trends. He's just a really tasteful player because he listens a lot."

"I try to be brutally honest in my writing and I tend to not over-edit myself. I was going through a transitional time in my life and I think a lot of the questions I was asking myself are asked by most people. These 10 songs are what emerged out of that."

- MARC MORRISSETTE, OCTOBERMAN

Waiting in the Well, Octoberman's sixth installment of bluesy folk rock, takes its title from a scene in Haruki Murakami's novel *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*.

Morrissette is heavily influenced by literature.

"I get tired of just writing about myself," he says. "I think at least three or four songs on the record were directly influenced by different books I've read."

Many artists appear on the album - something that is typical of Morrissette's musical output.

Octoberman was initially a minimalist solo project but quickly evolved into a completely different animal.

"After my former band (Kids These Days) broke up I decided to go back to doing my own thing," he says. "I missed having a band though, so Octoberman morphed into a



SUPPLIED

Marc Morrissette (middle) started Octoberman as a minimalist solo project, but it eventually morphed into a band that's constantly changing size and line-ups.

band that's constantly changing. Sometimes there are seven of us on stage or sometimes I'll play a solo show for financial or logistical reasons."

This particular tour will feature a four-piece version of the band.

Morrissette will be touring for the first time since vocal surgery to reverse a vocal polyp.

"A vocal polyp is essentially a blood blister on your vocal chords," he says. "We had just gotten back from tour and went right into the studio when I realized something was wrong."

Because of the timeliness of his surgery,

Morrissette decided to continue recording where he left off. This means that the new record features vocals prior-to and following the surgery.

The album has been well received, with *McGill Tribune* reviewer Marie Stefenakis calling it a record that "brandishes an overall quality and likeability that can be expected to satisfy past fans and those of the indie-rock genre."

Honest musical output is essential to any art form and is one of the hardest aspects to bring out on an album.

Morrissette agrees.

"I try to be brutally honest in my writing

and I tend to not over-edit myself," he says. "I was going through a transitional time in my life and I think a lot of the questions I was asking myself are asked by most people. These 10 songs are what emerged out of that."

- ⇒ See Octoberman perform at the Lo Pub on Friday, March 23
- ⇒ Slow Dancers and Salinas will also perform
- ⇒ Doors at 9 p.m., show at 10 p.m.
- ⇒ Tickets are \$7 at the door
- ⇒ Visit octobermanmusic.com

Distant Cousins

Halifax singer-songwriter Rose Cousins is having a busy year away from home

KAELEIGH AYRE
ARTS REPORTER

Rose Cousins may be an award-winning singer-songwriter, but she still cleans her own bathroom.

"I haven't been here for five weeks, and then I came home and several people have stayed in my house, so I'm cleaning my bathroom, frankly, because I need it," Cousins says by phone from Halifax.

However, she won't be using it for long.

The P.E.I.-born, Halifax-based artist is heading out once again to promote her latest disc, *We Have Made a Spark*. Her travels bring her to Winnipeg on Wednesday, March 28 for a performance at the West End Cultural Centre.

Cousins is an artist who likes to work with friends. Whether it's opening for John Gorka, touring with Joel Plaskett, or recording with fellow Canadian songstresses Jill Barber and Meaghan Smith, Cousins surrounds herself with a talented group.

She has also been traveling between her home in Halifax to Boston for the past eight years, where she has been accepted into the music scene there with open arms.

"I was drawn (to Boston) because of the people I was listening to," Cousins says. "John Gorka is one of them. Everyone I seemed to really love was filtering to this place called Club Passim, which is in Harvard Square.

"It was a gut impulse. I played an open mic night one time when I was in town, and

I left my CD, and eventually got invited to do a benefit festival that the club holds, now, three times a year during holiday weekends to raise money for the club.

"That's where my family kind of started to grow, and that started back in 2003."

This crew was the inspiration behind her new short film, *If I Should Fall Behind*, named after the Bruce Springsteen cover that closes her new disc.

"(The song) perfectly summarizes the album in a sense of the way that I made it.

"What influenced me to make the record like I did was being a part of my friend Rose Polenzani's record, which was made with this exact group of people, all in one room, recording together."

Cousins was also a part of the same group on her friend Kris Delmhors's album.

"I just asked everybody if they would do the same for me, and that's how the actual recording of it came about."

Members of her band included Zachariah Hickman (producer) and Austin Nevins - who both play in Josh Ritter's Royal City Band - and multi-instrumentalists Sean Staples and Charlie Rose.

The film came out of Cousins's desire to capture the essence of the group at work.

"I think it's really unique. I think that in every community (there is a group like this), where people play in several bands and there's lots of collaboration.

"In Boston there seems to be this group of people that plays almost every day of the week. They've been playing with each other for so long that the musical conversation is



SUPPLIED

Rose Cousins leaves her homes just to play songs for you. She's at the WECC on Wednesday, March 28.

strong and people have really valuable contributions to make."

Regarding whether or not she would ever move to Boston permanently, Cousins has a theory.

"I consider it every time I'm there. So far the philosophy I've had is, wherever I live, wherever I have a 'home' that I have my stuff in, I'm probably going to be away from it for most of the time, as in the case with my house in Halifax.

"So my thought is, if I'm traveling to Bos-

ton, I'm most likely going to be there more often."

- ⇒ See Rose Cousins at the West End Cultural Centre on Wednesday, March 28
- ⇒ Last Ditch on the Left will also perform
- ⇒ Doors at 7:15 p.m., show at 8 p.m.
- ⇒ Tickets are \$12 in advance at the WECC, Ticketmaster, Music Trader and the Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store, or \$15 at the door
- ⇒ Visit www.rosecousins.com for more information

FILM

THE DESERT OF FORBIDDEN ART is showing at Cinematheque March 22 at 7 p.m. Co-directors Amanda Pope and Tchavdar Georgiev spent six years uncovering the story of an obsessed art collector named Igor Savitsky who spent years amassing a treasure trove of banned avant-garde Russian artworks now worth millions. For more information and a full schedule go to www.winnipegfilmgroup.com.

The second annual HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL is on Thursday, March 22 and Friday, March 23 at the IMAX Theatre in Portage Place. Hosted by the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties this festival promotes films that address human rights issues and social inequalities. All events are free. To view a full schedule visit <http://marl.mb.ca/content/filmfestival>.

Winnipeg filmmaking collective Astron-6 has teamed up with splatter kings Troma to present FATHER'S DAY, screening Friday, March 23 at 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 24 at 9 p.m. at Cinematheque. Winner of Best Feature and Audience Award at the 2011 Toronto After Dark Festival, FATHER'S DAY is an offside thrill ride about a cannibalistic, dad-defiling psychopath and the one-eyed, well-armed vigilante desperate to stop him. For more information and a full schedule go to www.winnipegfilmgroup.com.

WEST WIND: THE VISION OF TOM THOMSON is showing at the Cinematheque from Friday, March 23 until Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. nightly. Iconic Canadian artist Tom Thomson's life and mysterious death is examined in this thoughtful documentary. The Friday screening will be introduced by Diana Thorneycroft, co-director Peter Raymont and researcher Nancy Lang.

The Gimli Film Festival is now accepting submissions for the 2012 festival. Go to <http://www.gimlifilm.com/call-for-submissions> to submit.

LITERATURE

Deborah Stienstra book launch for ABOUT CANADA: DISABILITY RIGHTS is on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. at McNally Robinson. Through a close examination of employment, education, transportation, telecommunications and health care, *About Canada: Disability Rights* explores the landscape of disability rights in Canada and finds that, while important advances have been made, Canadians with disabilities still experience significant barriers in obtaining their human rights. Deborah Stienstra is a professor in disability studies at the University of Manitoba.

A MAGAZINE LAUNCH for audio magazine 4'33 is happening on Friday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at Pop Soda's Coffeehouse & Gallery, 625 Portage. The magazine consists of five-minute short stories written and read by local contemporary writers.

Bang! It's POETRY FLEX SLAM at Pop Soda's on Tuesday, March 27.

Bestselling author JOY FIELDING will be signing and reading her latest work HOME INVASION as part of the Good Reads series on Wednesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at McNally Robinson. Joy Fielding is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *Charley's Web*, *Heartstopper*, *Mad River Road*, *See Jane Run* and other acclaimed novels.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Gallery 1C03 and Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre present I LIKE TO BELIEVE I AM TELLING THE TRUTH by CHRIS REID until Saturday, April 14.

DIORAMA - RAMA shows from Friday, March 23 until Thursday, April 5 at Negative Space, 253 Princess. The opening reception is on Friday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

NOWSCAPES, paintings and photographs by ALERRY LAVITT, shows at the Gas Station Arts Centre until Friday, March 23.

PLUG IN ICA presents A MOON OR A BUTTON, LIKE-MINDED and AND ALL WATCHED OVER BY MACHINES OF LOVING GRACE. All three exhibitions show until Sunday, March 25.

Video Pool Media Arts Centre presents INFLATABLE ROBOTIC ARTS IN CANADA by CHICO MACMURTRIE from Friday, March 30 until Friday, April 27 at the University of Manitoba's School of Art Gallery. Chico MacMurtrie is one of the worlds leading artists using robotic technologies to create movable sculpture will give a talk on Thursday, March 29 at noon at the School of Art Gallery.

Semai Gallery presents COLLECTIVE AMNESIA by JOSH KERSCHTIEN until Saturday, March 31 at 264 McDermot Ave.

SOS is a site-specific light project installed in various empty buildings in and around the downtown Winnipeg area by local artist LIZ GARRICKI. The work consists of boards with red LED lights in the form of hearts silently blinking Morse code messages. SOS is showing at 618 Arlington St., 167 Logan Ave. and Tumble Contemporary Art, 748 Sargent Ave. until April. Viewing available 24 hours from outside only.

Wayne Arthur Gallery presents NEW WORKS IN BLUE AND GREEN, mixed-media art by JEAN WIENS, continues until Tuesday, April 3 at 186 Provencher Blvd.

MUSIC PREVIEW

Hootin' and hollerin'

Local band The Hoots send you *Best Wishes*NICHOLAS FRIESEN
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

When Danny Hacking of local rock quartet The Hoots calls me, he's apologetic.

"I was supposed to call you 20 minutes ago, but I forgot," the 21-year-old says. This is something that happens when a band is busy releasing a record and has multiple interviews in the same day. "We're doing this CKUW thing and ... yeah."

Joined in *The Hoots* by Kyle Loewen (20), Scott Loewen (21) and Jesse Christie (21), the band is one of the few on the new I'm Trying Records label, which is celebrating its first anniversary this month.

After releasing an EP last year, the band set down in the studio with Mitch Braun of The Liptonians in November. The result is the nine-track *Best Wishes*, a simple, no-frills rock record with elements of surf and garage with a fuller production sound.

"It was a lot faster," Hacking says with a laugh of the recording process with Braun. "When you record it yourself there are a lot of things that can distract you. Like, you can get drunk and try to do vocals and then you just end up going to the bar because you're just wasted and you want to do something else."

"You actually get to focus when you're working with someone else. When you're paying him to record you, you don't want to waste your money or your time."

Not unlike The Liptonians, The Hoots also dwell and record in a home together.

"We recorded (the EP) when we moved into our house in the basement," he says. "We've been jamming (the new songs) for a year before we recorded them so we had them pretty

The Hoots recorded its new album *Best Wishes* with Liptonians guitarist Mitch Braun. SUPPLIED

down."

Recorded live off the floor with vocal overdubs in two afternoon sessions, the process went quickly.

"(Braun) made sure we had all our pauses. There were some songs we had to do 10 times. All the songs are short though so it doesn't take that much time to do that."

Winnipeg's music scene is crazy with bands starting up each and every day. So is it just about making music with your friends as John Lennon once said, or is there a larger goal?

"We don't want to be famous," he says, emphasizing that the goal is to just keep recording and playing with friendly bands. Hacking and Loewen split their time in *The Hoots* between a commitment with shoegaze revivalists The Blisters.

"Daniel (Monkman, Blisters mastermind), he's my best friend actually," Hacking says.

"He's a pretty remarkable guy, that guy. Very passionate."

With a slew of new, young bands being influenced by artists who have come around generations before them, it's not surprising that these newbies are passionate about music.

"It's easier to learn about these bands because so many new bands come out and say they're inspired by The Jesus and Mary Chain, Bad Brains and the Gun Club," he says. "It's easier to find that better music now."

"I think the older bands we end up playing with are really nice. They don't mind booking us if they like our music. I guess they don't really know how old we are."

- ⇒ See The Hoots perform at the Lo Pub on Thursday, March 22
- ⇒ Vampires and The Bokononists will also perform
- ⇒ Visit <http://dashoots.bandcamp.com>

COMEDY

Piping hot comedy

Brett Madill cranks up the funny on-stage and online

JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI
BEAT REPORTER

Brett Madill is very clever. However, his podcast name says otherwise.

Madill is a local stand-up comic who hosts the Medium Clever podcast with Shaun Stewart and performs gigs at many open-mic nights around Winnipeg.

Originating from Swan River, Man., Madill moved to Winnipeg to become a teacher. He loved his childhood in the town, but he felt like he belonged in Winnipeg.

"I always felt like the city kid that grew up in a small town. I liked it there, but I really wanted something more," he says.

Madill, along with his childhood friend and co-host Stewart, started to cut their teeth on various stages around the city. This was prompted by dissatisfaction with his teaching career.

"I guess I wasn't really trying hard enough to find a full teaching position," he says. "I went through six years at the (University of Manitoba), and I didn't want to be a teacher my whole life. It was unfulfilling, it just wasn't enough for me. I've always been a huge fan of comedy, and I've always wanted to do stand up."

"I think the worst part is when you say your punchline and there is silence. Not hate or laughter, just silence."

- BRETT MADILL, COMEDIAN

The first time he was on stage, his microphone wasn't working. Stewart was there as well, providing moral support, but the various technical problems hurt his set.

Madill looks back on his first stand-up experience with mixed feelings.

"I did good," he muses. "Not amazing, not horribly, just good. I think the worst part is



Local comedian Brett Madill. SUPPLIED

when you say your punchline and there is silence. Not hate or laughter, just silence. I mean, I could take, like, booing or anger, because at least that was a response, but when a joke you think is funny doesn't cause any reaction, it's the worst."

Madill started the Medium Clever podcast with Stewart in May 2011. Another friend of theirs, Brent Bobby, serves as the producer, while the pair record the show in Madill's apartment. It's a free-form conversation between the hosts as they cover everything from pop culture to news.

"I've been planning to do a podcast for a while now, I just wanted to start hosting something," he says. "Eventually I just brought Shaun over, bought a couple of \$50 mics off of eBay, and we started talking. Usually we don't really plan ahead. I have a list of topics I can bring up, but

usually we don't get to them all, which is what we want."

Currently working as a talent buyer who arranges shows for bands and comics, Madill continues to perform at open-mic nights around Winnipeg.

Madill says the best advice he can give to future comics is to just get on stage.

"If you want to be a comic, you've got to go on stage. Put a lot of effort into it, but not too much. Before you go on stage for the first time, it's very difficult to know what'll work and what won't. Just put on your big boy pants and go to one of the many open-mic nights here."

Watch for Madill at open-mic nights around Winnipeg and listen to his podcast at www.mediumclever.com.

THEATRE REVIEW

The Gods must be crazy

MTC's *God of Carnage* is brutally good



BRUCE MONK

John Cassini, Vickie Papavs, Shauna Black and Oliver Becker in a rare moment of levity in *God of Carnage*.

KAELEIGH AYRE
ARTS REPORTER

God of Carnage

Directed by Miles Potter

Presented by Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

Playing at the John Hirsch Theatre Mainstage (174 Market Ave.) until

Saturday, April 7

Tickets start at \$28.35

★★★★★

What starts out as a comedy of manners between two couples attempting to settle a playground spat ends with the parents behaving just as badly, if not worse, than their children.

After their son Henry becomes injured at the local park by another boy, Benjamin, the Novaks (Oliver Becker and Shauna Black) invite his parents, the Raleighs (John Cassini and Vickie Papavs), over to discuss the matter.

The afternoon begins with niceties, small talk, espresso and clafouti - the peace offerings of the meeting.

"So, clafouti - is it a cake or a tart? Serious question," asks Michael Novak of the custard-y dessert, early in the engagement.

The sweet becomes a running joke throughout the play to break the tension.

But as it becomes clear that the Raleighs and Novaks employ different means of parenting, and the Novaks are unwilling to accept that their son may have also played a part in the incident, the discussion goes south, touching on matters far removed from the knocking out of teeth on a playground.

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's production of Yasmina Reza's 90-minute play is a voyeuristic treat.

Thanks to the set design by Gillian Gallow, the Novaks' living room is visible to all. The very attractive, modern space is angled downstage so that the audience is able to watch the verbal war almost from above.

My partner commented that it made him dizzy, but it is quite effective in physically representing the chaos, disorder and unbalance into which the civility devolves.

The performances also lend to the voyeurism.

It feels like you're sitting in on this meeting of two houses. Each of the four performances are solid, and everyone held up their end of the piece.

At first I was a little turned off by Vickie Papavs's presentation of Annette Raleigh. It seemed inauthentic, but when it is revealed that the Novaks also believe her to be a phony, it was clearly a conscious choice for the charac-

ter - and once all hell breaks loose, the phoni-ness is dropped.

It's hard to say who has some of the best lines, because once the rum comes out, there are no holds barred. However, I think Alan Novak (Cassini) certainly starts it off, with his political incorrectness shining through during his incessant business calls.

The evening begins to spiral out of control following a bodily fluid accident (which is handled surprisingly well, allowing the characters some movement and an opportunity to exit in an otherwise one-room show), and that is when the real fun begins.

I enjoyed this show because it was clear that the actors were enjoying it, too. As an actor it must be fun to behave like a child in the second act, relishing curse words, destroying props and causing general mayhem.

When a show comes to an end after 90 minutes with no intermission and the audience leaves wanting more, you know someone has to be doing something right.

For showtimes and ticket info, call 942-6537 or visit www.mtc.mb.ca. Under 30? A limited number of \$19 rush tickets are available beginning at noon on the day of performances (ID required, in person only). For more info, visit www.mtc.mb.ca/rush.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

UNTITLED by MARIGOLD SANTOS shows at Aceart-inc., 290 McDermot, until Thursday, April 5.

The Manitoba Museum presents CIRCUS! SCIENCE UNDER THE BIG TOP. The exhibition demystifies the daring and death-defying feats of the greatest show on earth, and puts you in the centre of the action. The exhibition runs until Monday, April 9.

Platform Centre presents SUSPICIOUS FUTURES, select video work by SUSAN BRITTON, until Saturday, April 21 at 121-100 Arthur St.

MIGRATING LANDSCAPES: THE NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION regional winners will be showing at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until Sunday, April 29.

The WAG is showing AMERICAN CHRONICLES: THE ART OF NORMAN ROCKWELL until Sunday, May 20.

OUR CANADA by MARY VALENTINE and DAVID OWEN LUCAS shows at the Buhler Gallery in the St. Boniface Hospital until Sunday, May 20.

THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

Merlyn Productions and the Winnipeg Theatre School present DRAMATIC SHOWCASE 2012. A youth showcase will take place on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. and an adult showcase will happen on Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Elice Theatre, 585 Elice Ave.

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, the Pulitzer Prize-winning tragic comedy about one dysfunctional family, is showing at the Tom Hendry Warehouse, 140 Rupert at Lily until Saturday, March 24. More information go to www.mtc.mb.ca.

The Winnipeg Theatre School presents children's theatre classic THE BEAST IN THE BAG at the Elice Theatre on March 24 at 2 p.m. Children under the age of 3 get in for free.

The University of Winnipeg's department of theatre and film presents OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD. This award-winning play shows from Tuesday, March 27 through Friday, March 30 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Gas Station Arts Centre, 445 River Ave. Admission is free but reservations are recommended.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents IOLANTHE, OR THE PEER AND THE PERI on Wednesday, March 28, Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre.

Theatre Projects Manitoba presents DIONYSUS IN STONY MOUNTAIN by Steven Ratzlaff from Thursday, March 29 to Sunday, April 8 at the Rachel Browne Theatre, 211 Bannatyne Ave.

The Central Canadian Centre for Performance presents a juried exhibition of performance called TRIFECTA PART 1: MECH-ANIMA on Friday, March 30 at 8:30 p.m. at the Atomic Art Centre, 167 Logan.

Broadway smash hit CATS shows at the Centennial Concert Hall on March 30 at 8 p.m. and March 31 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Winnipeg Jewish Theatre presents ANGELS IN AMERICA nightly at 8 p.m. until April 1 at Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, C148-123 Doncaster St. Call 204-477-7478 for tickets or more information.

GOD OF CARNAGE is showing at the John Hirsch Mainstage until Saturday, April 7.

COMEDY OPEN MIC NIGHTS in the 'Peg are Sundays at The Cavern with JOHN B. DUFF, Tuesdays at The King's Head Pub and Mondragon, Wednesdays at Pop Soda's and Thursdays at the Standard Tavern.

Shaw TV's WEEK THUS FAR tapes in front of a live studio audience at The King's Head Pub every Monday at 7:30 p.m.

CD REVIEWS



THE F HOLES
Angel in the Corner
Independent

★★★★★



Creepy, spooky, fun and with great musicianship to spare, local five-piece the F Holes deliver 12 tracks to get you groovin'. From the hilarious wordplay of *Even Stevens* to the slow croon of *Cool Winter Nights*, the disc has Tom Waits, Jr. musically written all over it in all the right ways. Recorded and mixed at Private Ear Studios and produced by Jaxon Haldane, the band and Neil Cameron (who also engineered), *Angel in the Corner* has a slick charm that works well with the ramshackle tunes the band has perfected live. Album closer *Once and For All* holds the graveliest of vocals and gives each musician a little bit of room to shine (especially the horn section) - perfectly summing up the record.

-Nicholas Friesen



SPLIT CROOKED
Sense of Now
Independent

★★★★★



The press release describes the band as though "Alicia Keys and Glenn Danzig shared vocals in a still 'Unplugged' Nirvana." Whether that's good or not is moot, as it's accurate. This local '90s-inspired rock quartet has some bluesy jams in *Tempt You* and *Chi Chi* as well as haunting rockers (*Watching the Wind Blow*). Produced by drummer Chris Wheeler, the nine songs on *Sense of Now* made it to disc due to the fact that the band lived for five weeks at #1 on SuperNova.com's alternative chart. It doesn't sound too big or slick, which helps some bands but hinders Split Crooked. Tracks featuring guitarists Matt Boyer and Darcy Toews definitely pack a bigger punch, but there's a hollowness throughout the disc (possibly the ghosts of rock's past feeling ripped off) that hurts the tunes.

-Nicholas Friesen



JOHN TALABOT
fIN
Permanent Vacation

★★★★★

Munich-based label Permanent Vacation is among the few bastions for small-scale, progressive music in Europe, fostering exciting young acts with uninhibited artistic flourish and impressive sonic creativity. Among them is John Talabot, a house DJ from Barcelona whose debut album, *fIN*, brings the subterranean pulsations of Catalonia to dance floors and headphones, oozing with nuance and glowing with organic stylings that are, at times, difficult to identify. While Talabot emerged in 2009 on a 12" record featuring remixes of Glasser, The xx, and Delorean, *fIN* marks a bold transition into full-length mastery, providing eleven original tracks that evoke the grooves of clandestine raves and the frenzied Barcelona nightlife. Talabot characterizes the album as "dark," and although this is a fitting description, it does little to capture the powerful expansiveness of his work that delivers a mysterious ambience crafted for tenebrous evenings or sun soaked afternoons.

-Harrison Samphir

Filtered city

Five local Instagram users you should follow

AARON SNIDER
CULTURE REPORTER

Listen up, Instagram followers. If you've lost all hope that this smartphone-based photo sharing app will ever be good for anything besides showing you pictures of

drunk people at Jets games, your pessimism is well-founded.

However, there is another side to Instagram. It's sophisticated, it's thought-provoking and it's happening in this very city. Read on to discover, perhaps to your surprise, that Winnipeg outside of the MTS Centre still exists.



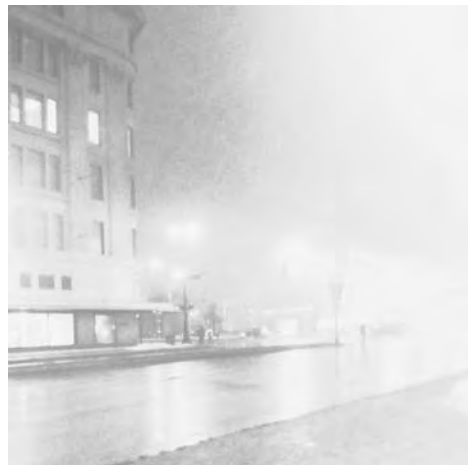
Wade Argo
@wadeargo_gf

If you're a fan of interesting architecture, Wade Argo, 32, is the man to follow. His shots of Winnipeg buildings give a new life to the historic landmarks that most of us walk past every day. He also regularly posts cool shots of flowers and cloud formations. His large arsenal of nifty filters really bring out the side of an old entrance way or

sunset that isn't apparent in the original photo.

"I enjoy playing with a number of different apps for editing my shots and often will just edit and tweak photos until I get something cool and visually pleasing," Argo says.

He also edits and posts his pre-Instagram photography from various travels outside the city and the country, which keeps things exciting.



Chandravani Sathiyamurthi
@vanisathiya

Everyone looks at things differently, and sometimes the most exciting image to see is the mundane through someone else's eyes.

Vani Sathiyamurthi's photos of Winnipeg will have you convinced that you live in a different city altogether.

Rest assured, though, that these are the same streets and trees and bridges.

Unless they are the streets and bridges of Malaysia - where many of her photos are from - mixed in with the local scenery.

The high contrast filters on many of Sathiyamurthi's photos gives the strong sense that her subjects are slowly fading, which makes browsing her profile an almost urgent activity.

Follow at your own risk - it may lead you to have to admit that social media has value after all.



Stefanie Hiebert
@ohsolovelystef

It's one thing to put a vintage filter on a photo, but quite another to take truly vintage photos.

"I am really inspired by mid-century and atomic-era housewares," says Stefanie Hiebert, 25, co-owner of the Exchange-based vintage boutique Rhymes with Orange and the Oh So Lovely blog/mobile fashion trailer. "I

am very drawn to the unique designs and pretty colours that you don't normally see in every day modern life."

She says that many of her photos are actually taken in her own home, which she styles as a vintage time capsule. Lovers of '50s- and '60s-style clothing and decor won't be able to stop browsing Hiebert's nearly 500 photos. Judging by her more than 20,000 followers, Hiebert is on to something big.



Steve St. Louis
@stevestlouis

Steve St. Louis is an old-timer in the Instagram world.

With more than 68 weeks and 1,000 photos under his profile's belt, this is a catalogue of photos worth checking out. St. Louis's photos of vinyl records are a must see for the vintage artwork enthusiast and his photos from around Winnipeg and

around the world, especially Japan, have a little something for everyone.

"I like clean and simple filters and have three or four that I use consistently," says St. Louis, 39. "I'm not a fan of photos that are over-produced, noisy and super-saturated."

As a hobby photographer for the past 15 years, St. Louis brings sophistication to the Instagram world that might just make you forget what world you're in.



Wab Kinew
@wabber

If you're into following the stars, Wab Kinew is a home-grown hero who serves as his own paparazzi. Kinew, a Winnipeg-based hip-hop artist, CBC Radio personality and native rights activist, is a busy guy - and it shows.

His profile is a fascinating mix of promos for upcoming shows and events, pictures of the people he meets in his travels and an intimate

record of his personal and professional life. One picture shows a letter of congratulations from the CBC for an employment anniversary. Another is a dog impound notice.

At their heart, Kinew's photos tell a story that will probably be different for each person that sees them, which feels distinctly like Winnipeg.

Kinew writes under one photo: "Please, call me Wab. Mr. Kinew is my father!"

INSTAGRAM AS BUSINESS TOOL

Instagram isn't just a means of personal expression. Stefanie Hiebert, co-owner of Oh So Lovely and Rhymes With Orange, says that the exposure she can generate for her stores with free social media eliminates the need for traditional advertising.

"We actually haven't paid for any advertising yet, which is amazing considering the fantastic response we have already been receiving at our new shop," Hiebert says.

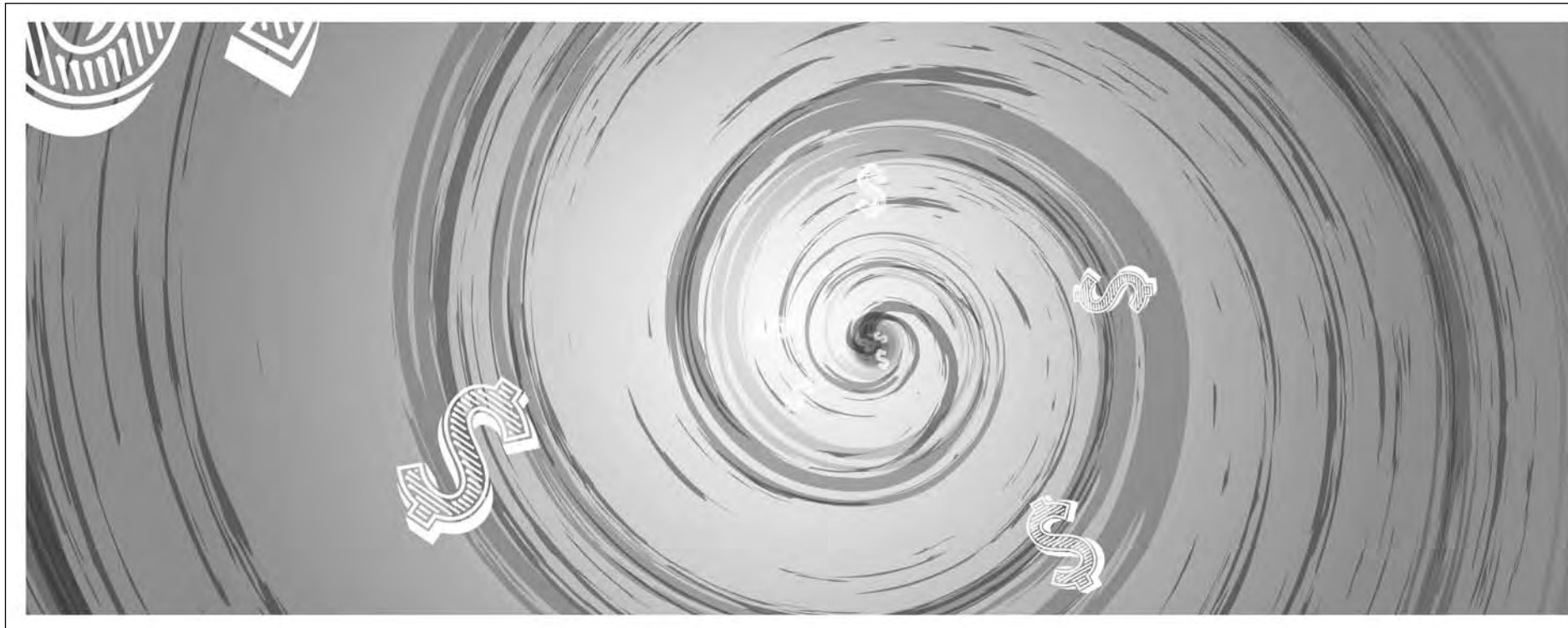
While Facebook and Twitter are an easy way to reach a large market, Hiebert says that photo-sharing apps such as Instagram provide a more complete sense of the products she offers.

"People always seem to respond more positively when they are actually able to see some sort of visual in front of them," she says. "We do use other social media sites like Twitter and Facebook, but even then, a lot of the time we are just re-posting our Instagram photos."

CULTURE TODAY

The dangerous world of debt

Is living in the red becoming fashionable?



AYAME ULRICH

AARON SNIDER
CULTURE REPORTER

Think about how much of the money you spend every day is your own.

If you aren't spending money that actually belongs to your bank or to a credit card company or to the government, you should consider yourself lucky.

Personal debt has been on the rise in Canada for many years. It has reached the point where the Bank of Canada announced in December 2011 that one in 10 Canadians is living with dangerous levels of personal debt.

Put another way, according to the Credit Counselling Society (CCS), nearly six in 10 Canadians report that they would be in dire straits if their next paycheque didn't arrive for any reason.

"The main issue is the lack of financial literacy with today's youth," says Christi Posner, counselling team lead for the CCS's Winnipeg office. "When you begin to work, no paycheque comes with instructions on what you're supposed to do with that money.

"A lot of financial literacy comes from trial and error and learning from your own mistakes," she says.

The current economic environment isn't necessarily helping, either.

"We have very low interest rates, which are not motivating consumers to save, but instead they're encouraging people to borrow money," Posner says.

She says that 20 years ago, interest rates in the double digits made borrowing money a much less appealing way to pay for an education or a new car. Today's low rates work to obscure or soften the prospect of eventual repayment.

But interest rates are not the whole story, either. The culture around consumerism has changed over time, Posner says, and saving

has taken a back seat.

"If we look at 20 years ago or generations ago compared to today, people in the past were more inclined to save up for something first," says Posner. "There was delayed gratification versus now there is more instant gratification."

You don't have to go far to find evidence of the shift.

From the lowest-ever financing plans offered by most car manufacturers to the buy-now-pay-later promotions at many furniture and electronics stores, it's easy to live beyond your means while the payments pile up.

This change in attitude is compounded by another Canadian reality: wages are not keeping pace with inflation and the cost of living.

"It wasn't that long ago that \$5 could get you lunch, and today that's probably closer to \$10," says David Rebeck, branch manager at the Winnipeg branch of the National Bank of Canada. "Fuel prices, housing costs and renting costs - just the standard costs of living have risen."

In this perfect storm of financial hardship, there are two main factors that the average person can control directly: financial literacy and attitude.

Not very long ago, Jeremy Koop, 25, was caught in a cycle that is familiar to many people: he wasn't really losing money, but he wasn't really making any either.

"You get your paycheque and it's enough to pay for your credit card bill, but then you don't have enough money to live off of for the next two weeks, so you put stuff on your credit card, and you get your next paycheque and it's enough to pay for your credit card bill," Koop says.

Tired of being caught in this endless loop, Koop took advantage of a nice tax return to get himself into a more positive financial situation.

He set up a system of automatic with-

drawals through online banking that would take his biweekly paycheque and divert it into many different savings accounts to set aside money for everything from his rent and phone bill to a vacation fund and emergency car repairs.

After all his expenses were covered and a little put towards general savings, the remaining money was his to live on for the next two weeks. He decided to withdraw the money and spend only cash as a way to better keep track of how much money he had to work with.

"If you have \$200 in your pocket and you spend \$120, you really notice the difference," Koop says.

Posner says that students especially need to create workable budgets to reduce their

reliance on debt.

"If students are graduating with a debt burden, they are limiting their options for which kinds of jobs they can apply for," she says. "The mentality will become, 'I need to make a certain amount of dollars or a certain salary every year in order to repay my debts.'"

Feeling pressured to accept the best paying job might limit the opportunities for growth, development and enjoyment in a new career, Posner says. Even with a new, potentially better paying job, debt will affect lifestyle decisions.

"You're getting used to having a new salary, but a lot of that money is going towards student debt repayments, so you may not get to really live, you just get to exist."

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TACKLING DEBT

Both Posner and Rebeck emphasize the importance of getting help sooner than later. Seeking advice and resources from an advisor is an important first step when you feel overwhelmed or anxious about debt or other financial issues.

Here are a few things you can do right now to stay in the black or at least slow and halt your plummet into the red.

1. Create a workable budget

Whether you're a student or not, it's important to have a realistic perspective on what you spend

and where you spend it. Look for the small, repeat expenses that will add up to huge costs over time and decide which are realistic to eliminate or reduce. Posner says that an effective budget allows for work and play, so don't Scrooge yourself too hard.

2. Live off of what you pay yourself

Instead of taking money from one big account to pay for everything, Posner suggests keeping student loans or savings in a separate, less accessible account and paying yourself every two weeks like a job does. This way you have a better idea

of the funds you have to work with in the short term.

3. Prioritize your debt repayments by interest rates

If you have debt in the form of credit cards, student loans and a mortgage, Rebeck suggests focusing on paying down the highest interest debt first while paying only the interest of the lower rate debt. This will speed up your repayment while also reducing the overall cost of your debt in the long run.

For more information on personal finances or the free counselling services offered by the Credit Counselling Society, visit www.nomoredebts.org.

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>
SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

The General Bursaries for students with financial need are still being assessed. The deadline to apply was Jan. 30, 2012. Those that applied will receive notification of the results through their webmail account this month.

The Graduate & Professional Studies Expenses Bursary is now available for application for students in their final year of an honours or B.Ed. program who are applying to pursue post-undergraduate studies. These awards are given out on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available for application until the funds are exhausted. Application forms are available on our website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awd-bursaries>.

MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM (MSAP):

Applications to Manitoba Student Aid for the Fall/Winter 2011-12 or Winter term only sessions are no longer being accepted. Spring/Summer session application will be available in late March. For more information on the program, visit: www.manitobastudentaid.ca.

EXTERNAL AWARDS:

The university is often notified by companies and organizations about awards they have for students in post-secondary education. Here are a few awards that are available right now:

BUSINESS COUNCIL OF MANITOBA ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARDS

Deadline: March 30, 2012

If you are of aboriginal ancestry, you are eligible to apply for a Business Council of Manitoba Education Award if you meet the following criteria: you are a citizen of Canada and permanent resident of Manitoba, having resided in Manitoba for the last 12 months; you plan to attend a Manitoba public post-secondary institution in any discipline (trades, business, general studies, science, etc.) in the 2012-2013 academic year; you plan to maintain full-time status (at least a 60 per cent course load); and you are in need of financial assistance.

The Business Council offers awards to assist with the cost of tuition, books and supplies during the academic year. Each award is up to a maximum of \$3,000 for

university. All applicants are eligible to reapply each year of their studies for a maximum of three years.

Recipients of the awards may be considered for summer and/or part-time employment with one of the Business Council's member companies.

Visit www.businesscouncil.mb.ca for more information and to download an application form.

CAPI ADVANCING A NATIONAL DIALOGUE AWARD

Deadline: March 30, 2012

The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) is an independent, non-partisan policy forum that addresses mid- to long-term policy issues of significance to the agri-food sector. CAPI has identified three major themes on which to focus its work: food and wellness, sustainability and viability.

The Institute is focused on stimulating a national dialogue on agriculture and agri-food issues by addressing the policies that will enable Canada's agri-food sector to thrive in the domestic and global agri-food marketplace. CAPI's objective includes developing policy ideas that provide future options for the framework agreement developed by federal, provincial and territorial governments, known as Growing Forward.

Advancing a National Dialogue seeks out fresh ideas from graduate students for policies or models that will

enhance Canada's competitiveness in the emerging agriculture and agri-food world. This initiative has been made possible through the support of Farm Credit Canada (FCC).

One award of \$10,000 CA (non-renewable) and two awards of \$5,000 CAD are available to candidates studying at the graduate level.

Visit https://juno.aucc.ca/wes/capi_e.html.

L'ORÉAL CANADA FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FELLOWSHIPS

Deadline: April 2, 2012

With the Support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, L'Oréal Canada will give two fellowships of \$20,000 CAD each to female post-doctoral researchers in the field of life sciences. The fellowships offered alternate each year between the fields of life sciences and engineering/pure and applied sciences. This fellowship is a part of the For Women in Science Program, which recognizes the importance of the contributions of women in the progress of science. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of scientists, including representatives from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and L'Oréal Canada. Candidates must conduct their research at a Canadian host institution or organization.

Visit <https://juno.aucc.ca/wes/hes.aspx?pg=934&oth=0005342012&lg=1>.

SEVEN OAKS GENERAL HOSPITAL BURSARY

Deadline: April 25, 2012

For healthcare or fitness professionals pursuing a second degree, post-graduate studies, or technical training related to a career in health promotion and wellness, including studies related to lifestyle behaviour change, nutrition, health promotion, disease prevention, chronic disease management and research. There are two \$500 bursaries available to successful candidates.

Awards will be paid to the educational institution towards their tuition.

Visit <http://www.sogh.winnipeg.mb.ca/> and click "Employment."

THE NATIONAL UNION'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2012

Deadline: June 30, 2012

Each year, the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) offers four scholarships that reflect its pursuit of equal opportunity for all workers. They are open to the children of the National Union's 340,000 members who are starting a post-secondary education.

Visit <http://www.nupge.ca/scholarships>.



CHECK OUT *THE UNITER* ON FACEBOOK
WWW.TINYURL.COM/THEUNITER



AND ON TWITTER
WWW.TWITTER.COM/THEUNITER

Announcement

MOUSELAND PRESS INC. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Room 3BC57, Buhler Centre, University of Winnipeg

AGENDA:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**
- 4. Managing Editor and Business Manager Reports**
- 5. Approval of 2012-2013 Budget**
- 6. Speaker Series Policy Approval**
- 7. Nomination of New Board Members**
Emily Guttormson, Chris Hunter and Shannon Sampert
- 8. Election of New Board Members**
- 9. Setting of Initial Board of Directors Meeting**
- 10. Presentation to Outgoing Board Members**
- 11. Adjournment**

People who have been nominated to sit on the Board:

Emily Guttormson
Chris Hunter
Shannon Sampert

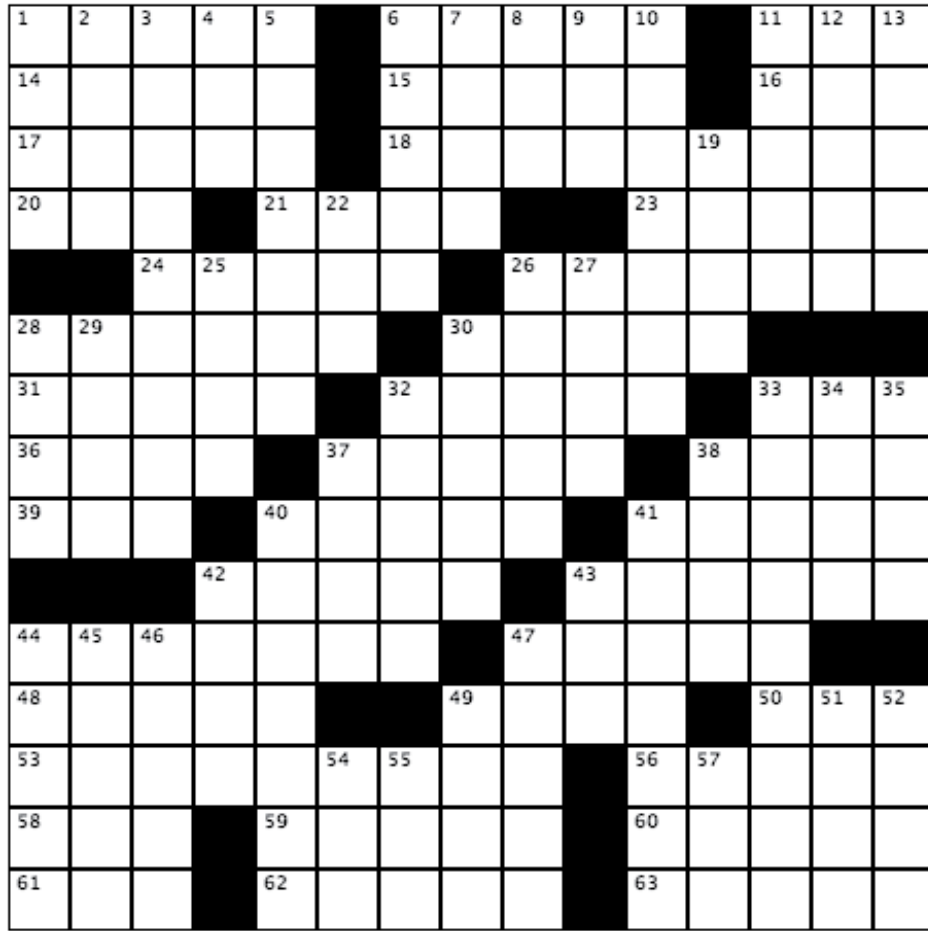
All *Uniter* staff, contributors and past members are welcome to attend. If you have contributed to three or more issues of *The Uniter* during the 2011/2012 school year, you are automatically a member of MouseLand Press Inc. and have voting rights at this meeting.

MOUSELAND PRESS 

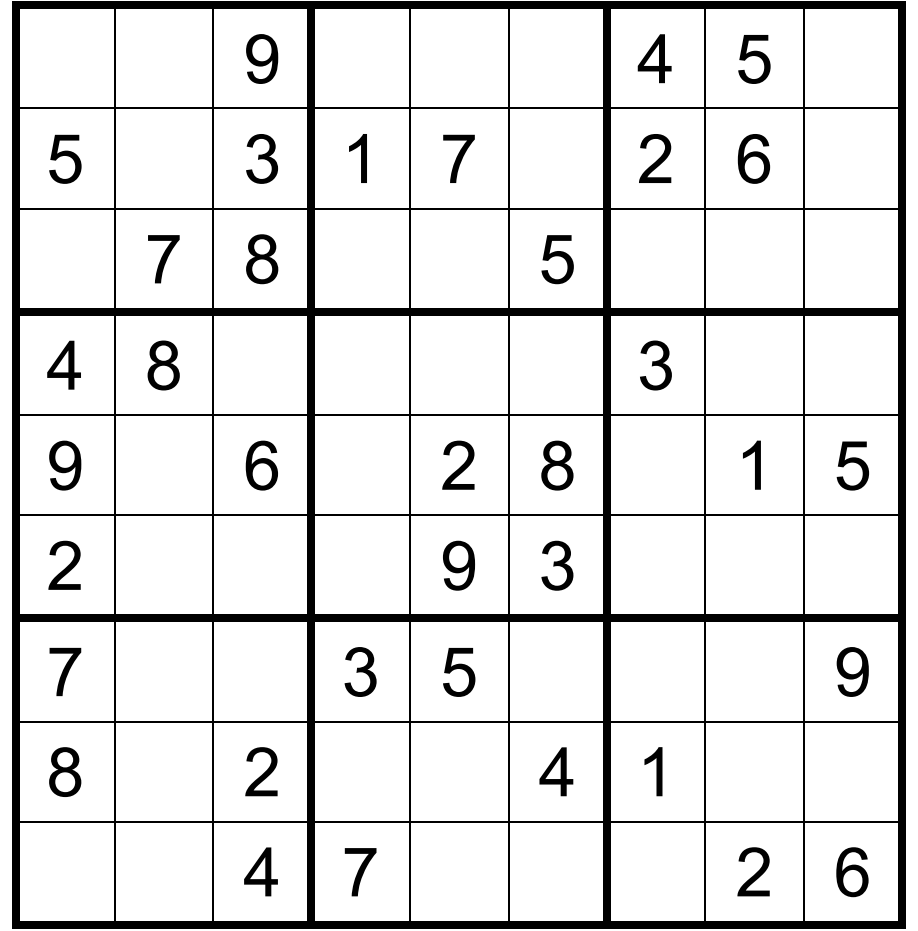
Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku 24

Solutions to this week's sudoku and crossword in next week's issue.

SUDOKU SKILL LEVEL: **EASY**



BESTCROSSWORDS.COM



WWW.PDFPAD.COM/SUDOKU

Across

- 1- Male and female
- 6- Long stories
- 11- Balaam's mount
- 14- In ___ (unborn)
- 15- Feudal lord
- 16- Furrow
- 17- Dadaist Max
- 18- Fixed
- 20- ___ gratias
- 21- Cookbook amts.
- 23- ___ Gay
- 24- Layers

26- Sisterly

- 28- Straight downhill ski run
- 30- Aired again
- 31- Consider carefully
- 32- Cartoon part
- 33- Possessed
- 36- Doing nothing
- 37- Leases
- 38- Augur
- 39- Bind
- 40- Where Columbus was born
- 41- Humped ruminant
- 42- Father of Leah and Rachel

43- Roman goddess of fruit

- 44- Variety of tobacco
- 47- Taj ___
- 48- Heartburn
- 49- ___ majeste
- 50- Bruins great Bobby
- 53- Directed a course
- 56- Man of many words
- 58- Siouan speaker
- 59- Actress Verdugo
- 60- Chopin composition
- 61- After taxes
- 62- Agave fiber

63- Exploits

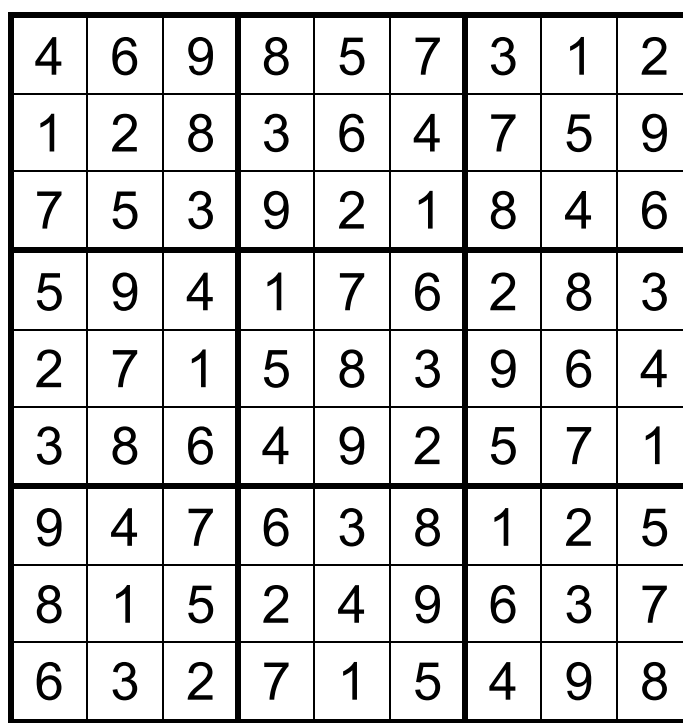
Down

- 1- Took to court
- 2- French 101 verb
- 3- One who admires foreign cultures
- 4- Hesitant sounds
- 5- Drunken
- 6- Minor mistakes
- 7- Goals
- 8- Valued mineral
- 9- "...and seven years ___"
- 10- More than two
- 11- Shady recess

12- Roman general

- 13- Pilfer
- 19- Auth. unknown
- 22- Paris possessive
- 25- Sled
- 26- Actress Berger
- 27- Mine finds
- 28- Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
- 29- Basic monetary unit of Ghana
- 30- Babbled
- 32- Pertaining to punishment
- 33- Something homologous
- 34- Arabian Sea gulf
- 35- Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya
- 37- First name in country

Solutions to puzzles from the March 15, 2012 issue.



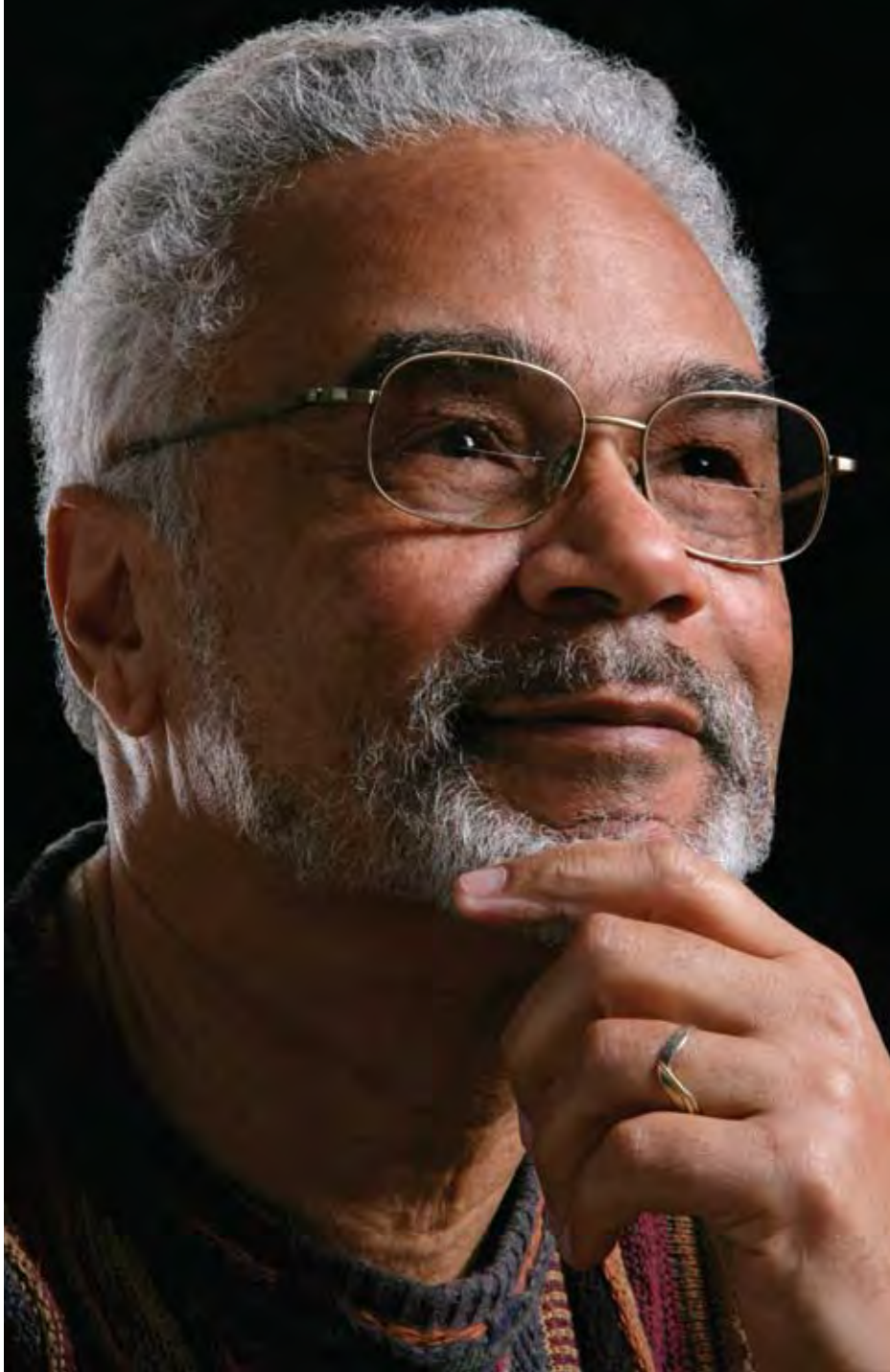
- 38- Crimson Tide, for short
- 40- Automobile shelters
- 41- Stuck together
- 42- Monetary unit of Lesotho
- 43- Ballet step
- 44- Ecclesiastical rule
- 45- Playing marble
- 46- Hinge
- 47- Decoration
- 49- Actress Olin
- 51- Comic Foxx
- 52- Numbered rds.
- 54- "Rope-a-dope" boxer
- 55- French possessive
- 57- Suffix with Capri

WANTED

Writers / Photographers / Illustrators / Proofreaders

Want to see your article, photo or illustration in this space instead of this ad? We're always looking for more people to contribute to The Uniter. No experience? That's all right. We'll provide training. E-mail editor@uniter.ca to get involved.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND THE GLOBAL FREEDOM STRUGGLE



THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND AT 7PM

RICHARDSON COLLEGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SCIENCE COMPLEX, ATRIUM

DR. CLAYBORNE CARSON

Dr. Carson is an internationally renowned historian and writer and a Martin Luther King Jr. scholar. He is the custodian of all of Dr. King's original papers and speeches at Stanford University.

Stanford University historian Dr. Clayborne Carson has devoted most of his professional life to the study of Martin Luther King Jr., and the movements King inspired. A gifted writer and deeply engaging speaker, Dr. Carson's collected knowledge reflects not only his research on King but also his undergraduate civil rights and antiwar activism, which led him to appreciate the importance of grassroots political activity as well as visionary leadership in the African-American freedom struggle.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG HISTORY DEPARTMENT, THE UNITER, ELIZABETH LAIRD LECTURE SERIES (THROUGH THE OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL), ZIMANGALO FOUNDATION, ORAL HISTORY CENTRE, THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, THE SOUTH ASIA STUDIES FORUM, THE POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN AND SOUTH ASIA STUDIES GROUP AND THE RIDD INSTITUTE AND GLOBAL COLLEGE

DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

An evening with Margo Goodhand



**THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012
7:30pm to 9:00pm**

**University of Winnipeg, Convocation Hall
515 Portage Avenue, 2nd Floor Wesley Hall
(Castle Bldg.)**

**RECEPTION AT 6:30PM IN THE
FACULTY CLUB, 4TH FLOOR WESLEY HALL**

**\$25 for Professionals &
\$10 for Students**

Tickets available at infobooth

**All proceeds to UW Scholarships &
Bursaries**

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THE **UNITER**