

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

# THE UNITER

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**06**  
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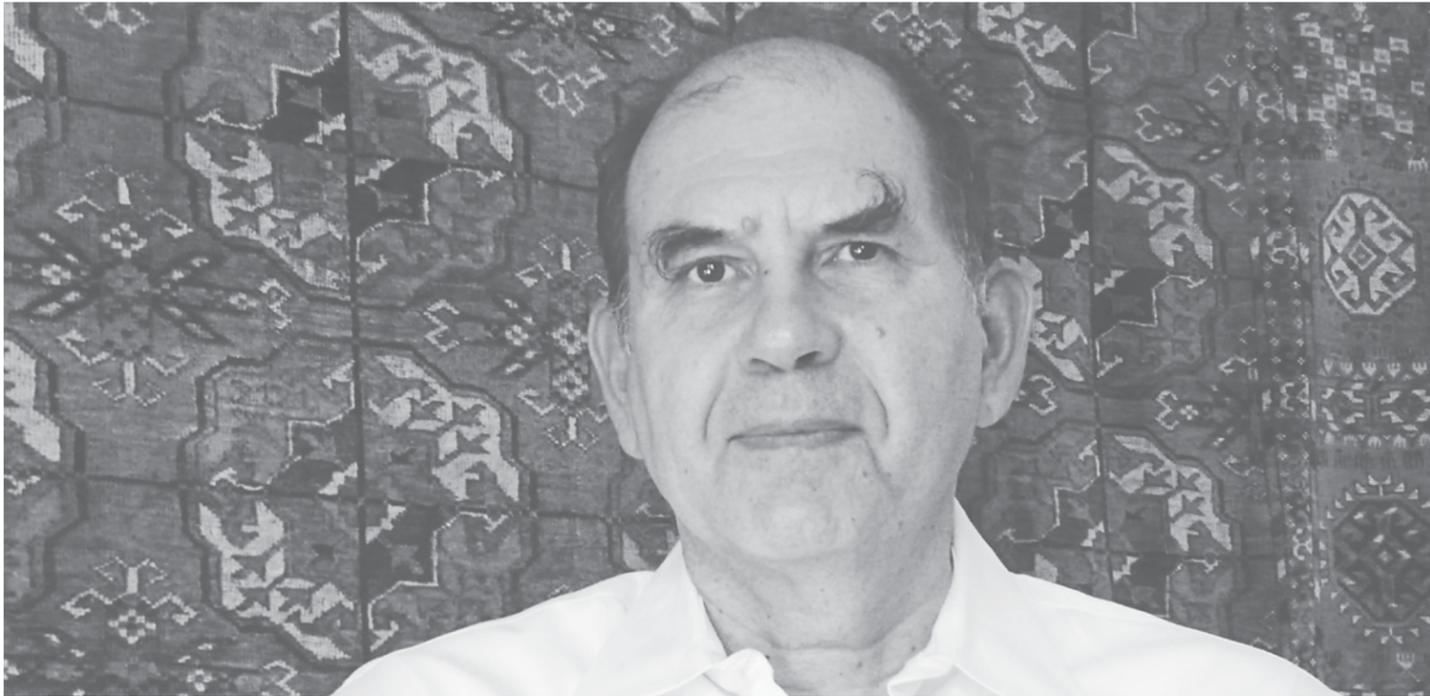
Photographed on Monday, Oct. 8, 2012.

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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**Nikos Salingaros: Biology, the city and responsible design**

Distinguished urbanist and architectural theorist to speak at St. Margaret's Anglican Church



SUPPLIED

When buildings are built around the mathematical rules of geometric order, human responses are measurably more positive, says urbanist and architectural theorist Nikos Salingaros.

**ETHAN CABEL**  
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Since the early 20th century, cities around the world have been moving largely - and steadfastly - in the wrong direction.

On the one hand, cities have been designed around the automobile rather than the human being, contributing to wasteful sprawl that ignores the fundamental principles of urbanism.

Namely, these suburbs lack a mixture of commercial and residential uses, high-density development and pedestrian friendly streets.

On the other hand, cities have been overrun with novel, poorly functioning architectural forms that ignore the basic rules of good design.

Namely, these new buildings are not ergonomic (proper entrances, functional) and they make people feel psychologically and physically ill at ease.

In order to correct this historic injustice, cities need to return to fundamental, timeless truths

about the universe. They can be helped along in this undertaking by the historic foundations of organized religion.

So goes the argument of Nikos Salingaros, a visionary urbanist and architectural theorist who will be lecturing on Monday, Oct. 15, at St. Margaret's Anglican Church as part of their annual Slater-Maguire lectures.

"Organized religion is capable of holding down to fundamental truths that science does not have, or it complements the physical truths that science discovers," Salingaros said over the phone from the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he works as a mathematics professor. "The traditional religions have evolved a set of rules that help society remain healthy and that provides a tremendous stabilizing force."

"Unfortunately, organized religions have not taken a stance to maintain the natural geometry of architecture and I'm rather disappointed that several organized religions have actually done the opposite. They have embraced these inhuman architectural forms to build new churches; ... today it is alarming because many, many new churches are being built in the inhuman sys-

tem."

In his 2006 book *A Theory of Architecture*, Salingaros argues traditional architecture intuitively maintained a connection between the built form and the mathematical rules for geometric order.

Over the past two decades there have been countless experiments measuring the physical and psychological responses of human beings to the built form. The correlation between traditionally built architecture and improved health and mood are indisputable, he argues.

In short, when buildings are built around the mathematical rules of geometric order, human responses are measurably more positive.

"For a 100,000 years, people built intuitively in order to have this correct connection, but since the beginning of the 20th century, architects have gone crazy and have started to build buildings that contradict natural order," Salingaros said.

The trend away from traditional architecture happened in North America and in Europe, for vastly different reasons.

In Europe, the rise of fascism and communism in the early 20th century and after the First World War led to regimes that were hell bent on "smashing the past," which included traditional architecture.

As a result, they built poorly functioning novelty structures that were intimately linked with an ideological agenda.

"The idea of these new forms was linked with a bright new utopian future and both the Nazis and the Marxists made this link," he said. "We have gotten stuck at that point, with identifying futuristic looking forms or buildings with progress, which is totally false."

In the United States, the move away from traditional architecture was led largely by a greedy construction industry, which saw dollar signs in the opportunity to "re-build the American city."

In North America, this architectural re-building was coupled with the creation of what Salingaros calls the "car city," which ignores the fundamental principles of urbanism.

While he remains optimistic about urbanism - citing the decisions of many American cities to remove their expressways and to stop building garish skyscrapers - Salingaros is "terribly pessimistic" about architecture.

"It has to do with a change in philosophy and I don't see that taking place," he said. "In fact, I see the opposite."

*Nikos Salingaros will be lecturing at St. Margaret's Anglican Church (160 Ethelbert St.) on Monday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m.*

**STREETER**

BY ALEX PATERSON

**Q: PORTAGE PLACE SHOPPING CENTRE RECENTLY MARKED ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY, AMID CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY AT THE MALL. DO YOU FEEL SAFE AT PORTAGE PLACE? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

**Arielle Hildebrand, third-year student**

"I don't feel unsafe there or anywhere in public. There's lots of security there walking around. Though that doesn't make me feel safe either, some people can find that intimidating."

**Zach Fleisher, vice-president advocate, University of Winnipeg Students' Association**

"I feel very safe. It is an outstanding commercial, community space, and walkway for the community. I think the negative views created by the mainstream media hurt Portage Place."

**Elizabeth Bryan, volunteer, Grands 'n' More Winnipeg**

"I feel mostly safe, but down in the food court less so. It seems like there is always someone falling off their chair or getting led out. It just seems all a bit unsettled."

**Alana Lajoie-O'Malley, manager of sustainability, University of Winnipeg**

"What is there to feel unsafe about? I feel more unsafe trapped in a suburb without bus fare than I do at the mall. I do everything downtown. Portage Place is no different than the rest of downtown, except it's not a place with many independent businesses."

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## News

# Portage Place marks 25th anniversary

## Design, financial concerns continue to beleague mall mega-project

**ETHAN CABEL**  
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

On Sept. 17, 1987, Portage Place Shopping Centre - a \$300 million retail, office and residential development meant to revitalize the north face of Portage Avenue - opened to thousands of frenzied customers in downtown Winnipeg.

On Sept. 17, 2012, Portage Place marked its 25th anniversary with a modest gathering of retailers and community members over a piece of cake.

This transition - from a revolutionary downtown development project to a tired community mall - has spurred conversation about the importance of this landmark anniversary.

"The goal of Portage Place was obviously to revitalize the neighbourhood; it didn't do that," said Kevin McDougald, urban affairs blogger from The View from Seven blog.

Portage Place Shopping Centre was the brainchild of former mayor Bill Norrie, the Forks North Portage Partnership and several other private actors, including investment firm Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited, the original private operators of the site who contributed \$12 million to its development.

In 1987, in the face of desolation along the north side of Portage Avenue and rampant crime, these actors decided to demolish a five block section of the street, which included 32 stand-alone buildings, to make way for what was then considered a dynamic, mixed-use structure.

According to a CBC report at the time of its opening, the project was intended to bring a slice of suburban life to the heart of Winnipeg's downtown, with Portage Place linked with the Bay and Eaton's retail stores through skywalks.

The shopping centre was also intended to connect residential development along Ellice Avenue with office buildings along Portage Avenue. It's original design included both private and public uses, with areas like the skywalks and the Edmonton Court promenade meant for more than just shopping and eating.

However, criminal activity early in the mall's history - along with the rerouting of foot traffic away from the street - contributed to a failed revitalization project, according to McDougald.

"A big part of the problem is that it took a lot of pedestrian traffic off the streets instead of making the streets more lively, which should have been the whole goal of urban



Portage Place is a failed revitalization project, says urban affairs blogger Kevin McDougald.

DYLAN HEWLETT

redevelopment," he said. "It left the rest of the neighbourhood looking kind of desolate and abandoned."

According to the *Winnipeg Sun*, Portage Place has been re-sold at least four times since 1987, including in 1997 for \$43 million and in 2005 for just \$15 million.

**"We in Winnipeg still have not broken free from Portage Place syndrome - ... this idea that one big, public project can transform a neighbourhood."**

- BRIAN KELCEY, CITY POLITICS INSTRUCTOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

In 2062, the mall will become the property of Forks North Portage Partnership in the absence of a private developer interested in maintaining it, according to a 1987 CBC report.

For Brian Kelcey, a former adviser to current mayor Sam Katz and a city politics instructor at the University of Winnipeg, Portage Place is symptomatic of a larger cultural problem in Winnipeg.

"The reason the anniversary is a useful moment of reflection is because we in Winnipeg still have not broken free from Portage Place syndrome - ... this idea that one big, public project can transform a neighbourhood," he said, adding that while public projects can help, cities are more complex than civic leaders sometimes make them out to be.

"Civic thinkers and leaders of the time in Winnipeg and many other cities thought that the way to fix downtown was to compete with the suburbs on the suburb's terms."

#### RETAIL PROBLEMS

In addition to financial reports worrying whether Portage Place can repay its loans, the mall has also faced criticism for failing to attract quality retail options for downtown residents and shoppers.

In 2010, *The Uniter* reported that three large retail stores - Carlton Cards, Smart Set and Barnes & Castle - had vacated the mall at a time when Portage Place's retail leases were incredibly low compared to its primary competition.

A year earlier, MJB Consulting, a New York-based firm, had released a report on downtown Winnipeg recommending Portage Place move toward "cheap chic" and

"cross-over" options that appeal to lower income downtown residents and students looking for a bargain.

Dave Stone, mall manager at Portage Place, said the recommendations of the MJB report have yet to be implemented and that the shopping centre offers more to the community than just retail.

"I don't know if you could measure success from that report specifically at this point in time, but it played a large role in how we move forward over the next few years in how we develop our downtown in general," he said.

Stone argues Portage Place is a community shopping centre that offers a mix of uses to residents and downtown office workers alike.

"It serves a big role to those who live in the downtown for a number of years and it certainly will serve that purpose in my mind. ... I think the role it has played and will continue to play is to be that kind of community shopping centre."

*For more on crime and safety at Portage Place Shopping Centre, including an interview with a former Winnipeg police officer, visit Ethan Cabel's blog at [www.uniter.ca/blog](http://www.uniter.ca/blog).*

## Osborne House idles in funding limbo

**CARSON HAMMOND**  
BEAT REPORTER

A local emergency shelter for women and children escaping domestic abuse sits in limbo as it awaits the results of a provincial review that could determine the future of its funding.

This past summer, Osborne House approached the province to top up its \$1.4-million annual budget after the City of Winnipeg denied a request to provide \$450,000 a year to help keep the 45-bed non-profit organization afloat, CEO Barb Judt said.

The request prompted the provincial government to order a review into the funding process of Manitoba's 10 women's shelters.

According to Judt, the review focused solely on the organizations' finances rather than their programming, and was meant to ensure current funding was being used efficiently.

"The process went very well (for Osborne House)," said Judt, noting the results of the review will be known within roughly the span of a month.

"We're pretty transparent about everything we do here, so even though it sounds strange to say, we were very happy to have a financial

audit done."

Osborne House runs a residential and food program for women and children escaping domestic violence, along with a 24/7 crisis line, counselling, support and tutoring services.

It receives no funding from the city or federal government, Judt said, though it has received \$18,000 over the last two years from the mayor's annual state of the city address, Judt noted.

The city denied Osborne House's funding request this past March, citing budgetary concerns.

This year, the shelter has pulled in an additional \$175,000 in grants and private donations, though it still isn't enough, according to Judt. Osborne House, operates on a "very tight budget" that is stretched too thin when the shelter's 45 beds are full, she said.

"We are extremely frugal with our money here; there's no room for extras," said Judt, noting that, despite a recent flurry of media attention, cash donations remain down.

"We are definitely still in need of a funding boost - just for basic operational needs."

The organization is still interested in working with the city in terms of funding, she added.

University of Winnipeg politics professor



The provincial government is reviewing the funding process of Manitoba's 10 women's shelters, including Osborne House, where Barb Judt is CEO.

DYLAN HEWLETT

Shannon Sampert said she was disappointed to hear Osborne House is having difficulty securing increased funding.

Emergency shelters for abused women and their children are invaluable for those who use them, Sampert said.

"We know that women who are in intimate partner relationships where violence is an everyday occurrence often find themselves in situations in which the man has such complete control over their lives that they have no access to safe shelter or money," Sampert said.

Women who do decide to leave behind these kinds of harmful environments put themselves at increased risk of severe violence at the hands of their abusive partners, she said.

"Places like Osborne House provide women with shelter that not only takes care of them financially, but also offers an aspect of safety in light of that increased vulnerability," Sampert said.

Representatives from the province could not be reached for comment before press time.

## International News Briefs

Compiled by Chloe Ross-Rogerson

### OBAMA INTENDED TO GIVE BIN LADEN A FAIR TRIAL

WASHINGTON: *The Finish*, a new book detailing the events leading to the killing of Osama bin Laden, is to be released Oct. 16. It includes an interview with President Obama, as well as recounts from transcripts of the Navy communications, which took place during the raid. The book, written by journalist Mark Bowden, quotes Obama on his intent to offer Osama a fair criminal trial for his involvement with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks had he surrendered to the Navy commandos who raided his compound in May 2011. The intent of such a trial would resonate American morals behind access to a public trial and its "commitment to justice" as Obama stated in an interview with Bowden, reported *The Globe and Mail*.

### CHINESE PROTESTS AGAINST JAPAN ESCALATING; COMPANIES CLOSING SHOP

BEIJING: Anti-Japan protests developing across China have escalated at an alarming rate, reported Al Jazeera. Japanese companies across China have reacted to the violent protests by temporarily closing factories and offices in order to secure their safety. Japan Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda called on the Chinese government to ensure protection for Japanese firms and diplomatic buildings. Relations between Japan and China have been strained since a territorial dispute over Japan's purchase of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

### AL-QAEDA-LINKED AL-SHEBAAB LOSES ANOTHER TERRITORY UNDER THEIR CONTROL

SOMALIA: Al-Qaeda-linked Shebaab insurgents have surrendered to African Union forces and fled the city of Kismayo, which has been under their control since 2008. Residents claimed that before the militia departed, they broke the gates to the main prison and police station releasing prisoners among citizens, reported the *Mail and Guardian*. The Shebaab has also lost control over other key towns in Somalia and have reverted to guerilla tactics. They continue to be a threat to citizens and the government. It is estimated that some 12,000 people have left the city to avoid the assault on the Shebaab. Kismayo's population is roughly between 160,000 and 190,000 people.

### STUDY EXAMINES CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN DRONE ATTACKS

NEW YORK: A new study, "Living Under Drones," conducted by human rights researchers from Stanford University and New York University confronts the effectiveness, transparency and ethics behind the civilian killings in Pakistan by U.S. drone strikes, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. Obama's administration claims the CIA program was created to ensure the safety of American citizens against militants. However, the study claims it has been more effective in breeding animosity from the Pakistani public against U.S. policy. This past spring, John Brennan, lead counter-terrorism advisor, claimed civilian casualties from drone strikes to be "exceedingly rare." Stats used in the study by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimate civilian deaths to be in the range of 474 to 884 since 2004.

## Local News Briefs

Compiled by Laura Garinger

### CLUNIS NEW POLICE CHIEF

Devon Clunis has been promoted to chief of police after 25 years of service with the Winnipeg Police Service. At a news conference Oct. 4, Clunis stated that he hopes to work co-operatively with officers and the community, especially with aboriginals and other minorities. According to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Chief Keith McCaskill's contract comes to an end in November. Clunis commended his predecessor and hopes to "build on what he's done" during his term.

### CREDIT CARD SCAMMER SENTENCED

Benjamin Harvey-Langton, a suspect in Manitoba's largest known credit card scam, was recently sentenced to six years in prison for a total of 66 charges. Harvey-Langton, a British citizen, previously served time in the United States before being deported and faces charges in both Ontario and Quebec. According to the *Winnipeg Sun*, the local scam consisted of fencing cameras bought with forged credit cards in order to fund ATM fraud targeting more than 2,400 people. His accomplice, Kevin Guo, remains in court.

### KATZ AIMS TO COMPREHEND SPEEDWAY REGISTRATION

Last week's explosive fire at Speedway International's biodiesel plant in St. Boniface has Mayor Sam Katz looking into the absence of provincial records concerning chemical storage on the property. While the company was licensed to produce biodiesel, it was not registered with the province to store petroleum products, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reports. The fire prompted the evacuation of 100 residences and businesses in the area and incorporated almost half of the Fire Paramedic Service's crews. Investigators have not determined the cause of the fire.

### POLICE SEARCH LANDFILL FOR REMAINS

More than a year after her disappearance, police are searching the Brady Road Landfill in an attempt to locate the body of 31-year-old Tanya Nepinak, the *Winnipeg Sun* reports. Police believe Nepinak, last seen September 2011, was murdered by Shawn Cameron Lamb and left in a garbage container. Lamb is suspected to have also killed Lorna Blacksmith and Carolyn Sinclair. Due to discrepancies in

information, police were unable to confirm search sites at the landfill. Aboriginal elders suggested the area to police through the staging of ceremonies.

### LOW PARKING RATES EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Winnipeg's downtown parking rates hold the third lowest rank nationwide, a survey held in June by commercial real estate firm Colliers International reports. According to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, a parking stall in a downtown parkade has an average monthly rate of \$159.86, slightly higher than Canada's lowest rate in Waterloo at \$132.49, and far below Canada's highest in Calgary at \$456.75. The survey suggests that the city's rates will not remain this low in the future. Parking rates in Winnipeg have risen five per cent since last year, the fourth highest rate increase in Canada.

## LISTINGS

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE FORT GARRY WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE invites you to join them to learn about MANITOBA JUSTICE VICTIM SERVICES on Oct. 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 1150A Waverley St. Come learn about the programs and services Victim Services has to offer. The focus of the presentation will be on the Domestic Violence Support Service (DVSS) in Winnipeg as well as a brief explanation of the Cellphone Emergency Limited Link-up Program. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required by calling 204-477-1123.

The Winnipeg Model Railroad Club's GREAT CANADIAN TRAIN SHOW AND FLEA MARKET is at the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute, 190 Riverton Ave. on Oct. 13 and Oct. 14. Admission is \$3 per person or \$6 per family. There will be refreshments on sale.

ROCKIN' RICHARDS RECORD & CD SALE is happening Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Victoria Inn 1808 Wellington Ave. Admission is \$4.

NIKOS SALINGAROS will be lecturing at St. Margaret's Anglican Church on Oct. 15. The topic of his lecture will be common space/sacred space.

GREEN ACTION CENTRE is presenting free backyard composting workshops during WASTE REDUCTION WEEK. Workshops are taking place Oct. 15 at Henderson Library, Oct. 16 at St. James-Assiniboia Library, Oct. 17 at St. Boniface Library (workshop in French) and Oct. 18 at St. Vital Library. Visit [greenactioncentre.ca](http://greenactioncentre.ca) for more information.

LEAF MANITOBA's 22nd annual PERSONS DAY BREAKFAST will be held Oct. 19 from 7:15 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE. This year's topic is EQUALITY DELAYED. Tickets are available at McNally Robinson for \$25.

THE MANITOBA CRAFTS MUSEUM & LIBRARY is holding their third annual fundraiser, MADE BY YOU, on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaffesbury Blvd. Participate in mini craft workshops, browse the silent auction and enjoy the company of other craftspeople. Tickets are \$20, or \$10 for children. Contact 204-487-6117 or [info@mcml.ca](mailto:info@mcml.ca) for more information.

THE RAINBOW TROUT MUSIC FESTIVAL folks are at it again with another installment of the BIKE JAM, taking place on Oct. 27. The *Ghost Ride* is promising to be their wildest ride yet with a new route, lots of costumes, a bigger and better sound system and more bikes than the street can handle.

THE FRIENDS OF THE WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY invite you to their 8TH ANNUAL BOOK SALE Oct. 27 and Oct. 28 at Grant Park High School. For more information call 204-488-3217 or email [info@friendswpl.ca](mailto:info@friendswpl.ca).

THE WOLSELEY FARMERS' MARKET is open to the public every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the R.A. Steyn Community Centre until Nov. 1. The market offers fresh produce, artisan food and local crafts.

### ON CAMPUS

Bring your lunch and be informed and entertained by the noon-hour SKYWALK SERIES. Wednesdays feature thought-provoking lectures from some of the University of Winnipeg's best professors. SCRATCHING THE SURFACE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ANCIENT SIKYON with Professor Matthew Maher takes place on Oct. 17. CLIMATE NORMALS ARE HISTORY with Professor Danny Blair takes place on Oct. 24. WHAT IS STRING THEORY? with Professor Andrew Frey takes place on Oct. 31.

THE EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM is available to all regular University of Winnipeg employees. As part of this program, Shepell-fgi offers a wide range of seminars on a variety of physical, emotional and general well-being topics. All seminars are lunch 'n' learn format, 60 minutes in length, with a facilitator on site. Human Resources at the U of W would like your feedback on which seminars you would be most interested in attending. Visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/hr-benefits-education](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/hr-benefits-education) for more details.

For years, University of Winnipeg SHINERAMA has been raising funds for Cystic Fibrosis Canada's CF research and care programs through its annual Shinerama Campaign. Become a shiner today! Visit [shinerama.com](http://shinerama.com) or contact [uofshine@gmail.com](mailto:uofshine@gmail.com).

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE SILOAM MISSION offers hot meals, clothing, emergency shelter, holistic health care, employment and life-skill training to the homeless. Volunteer opportunities include food services, clothing, entertainment, events, healthcare and administrative. Visit [www.siloam.ca](http://www.siloam.ca) for more details about the types of volunteering opportunities they have to offer.

The UWSA and U of W'S CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE are already planning the details of this year's sustainability festival. Will you contribute? THE GRASS ROUTES SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL is an opportunity for us to collaborate with partners beyond our departments on issues of sustainability, to think creatively about how to celebrate the talent and creativity at U of W, and to experience a shared sense of campus community. Email [sustainability@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:sustainability@uwinnipeg.ca) or call 204-789-1478 for more details on how you can help.

DONATE BLOOD at the University of Winnipeg (2nd floor of Duckworth Centre) on Wednesday, Oct. 31 and do your part in helping others get the treatment they need.

Steve Braun is lacing up his sneakers for the third annual 157 km WALK TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S SHELTERS and he is asking you to join him. For more information visit [www.walkfortheselters.com](http://www.walkfortheselters.com).

Do you want to meet a new friend and learn about a new culture? Do you have an hour to spare each week? If so, consider becoming a language partner as a part of the University of Winnipeg's LANGUAGE PARTNER PROGRAM. Contact Julie McKirdy at 204-982-1151 or visit [uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-partner](http://uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-partner) for more information.

THE WRENCH, a non-profit organization that strives to make bikes and knowledge of bicycle repair and maintenance accessible to the public, is looking for bike mechanics and all-around bike enthusiasts. No experience required. Come out to a volunteer orientation and learn how you can get involved. Contact the WRENCH at [programs@thewrench.ca](mailto:programs@thewrench.ca) or 204-296-3389.

The UWSA BIKE LAB has launched a new website. On the new site, users can find information on current programming, community links, how to get involved, shop drop-in hours and contact information. Visit <http://uwsabikelab.ca>.

The CIBC RUN FOR THE CURE is looking for volunteers. Please contact Donna-Lynn Guagliardo at [dguagliardo@cbcf.org](mailto:dguagliardo@cbcf.org), 204-231-4885 or register to volunteer at [cbcf.org](http://cbcf.org). The run takes place on Sunday, Sept. 30.

WAYFINDERS is an in-school and after-school mentorship program that provides high school students, who come from diverse backgrounds and reside in the Maples, with the supports and encouragement needed to graduate high school and make a successful transition to post-secondary training or education. Wayfinders is looking for individuals who would like to use their educational and/or professional training to tutor high school students in social studies, history, math, physics, geography and other high school subjects. If interested, please contact Awit Marcelino at 204-801-7136 or [awit.marcelino@7oaks.org](mailto:awit.marcelino@7oaks.org).

THE PLUG IN ICA is looking for enthusiastic and reliable volunteers to help in a number of areas of our operations. Volunteers gain valuable experience and meet artists and other interesting people. Email [michelle@plugin.org](mailto:michelle@plugin.org) for more information.

THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF MANITOBA (IRCOM) is seeking committed individuals to help out with our Newcomer Literacy Initiative (NLI) program. The NLI is a program that offers English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes and childcare to newcomer families living at IRCOM and in the broader neighbourhood. Volunteers generally help us one day per week for 2.5 hours each shift. NLI Volunteers are expected to be fluent in English, open to

learning about different cultures and very supportive of adult learners. Volunteers should also be patient, open-minded and flexible.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Wade Parke at [wadep@ircm.ca](mailto:wadep@ircm.ca) or give him a call at 204-943-8765, extension 23.

To volunteer for the UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION fill out an application on their website, [theuwsa.ca](http://theuwsa.ca), or grab an application from their office in the Bulman Centre.

To volunteer for the UWSA FOOD BANK email [foodbank@theuwsa.ca](mailto:foodbank@theuwsa.ca), or grab an application from the UWSA office in the Bulman Centre.

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](mailto:editor@uniter.ca).

CKUW 95.9 FM is seeking volunteers for the music and news departments, and as hosts for programs. Email [ckuw@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:ckuw@uwinnipeg.ca).

THE WEST BROADWAY YOUTH OUTREACH CENTRE is always looking for more volunteers to help with a variety of programs including sports, tutoring and other programs to benefit inner-city youth. Call 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 [spenceneighbourhood.org](http://spenceneighbourhood.org) or call 204-783-5000 for more information.

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# UWSA

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# Can Winnipeg afford an adequate level of bus safety?

City struggles to address safety concerns as transit workers demand increased enforcement

ALEX PATERSON  
BEAT REPORTER

Unions representing transit workers in Winnipeg are calling for the development of a transit police system, but municipal budget pressures are preventing its development.

Jim Girden, president of Winnipeg's Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505, wants a force that has sufficient numbers, power and money to be able to respond to safety concerns on any route at any time of day.

"There needs to be safety for everyone at all times on the bus, it's not just about the drivers," he said.

Girden adds that over the last few years, the nature of conflicts on Winnipeg buses has changed.

"We are seeing an upswing of violence not just related to fares," he said. "Operators are telling me now it seems there are many people just looking for a fight."

**"We are seeing an upswing of violence not just related to fares. Operators are telling me now it seems there are many people just looking for a fight."**

- JIM GIRDEN, PRESIDENT, AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 1505

On Oct. 2, city administration presented a safety strategy for bus operators to council's public works committee.

The report detailed efforts on technological modifications to buses, including cameras, fare counters and safety shields.

However, the report provided no recommendations on the possibility of developing a transit police, nor did the report outline the financial possibility of increasing the number of inspectors or supervisors.



JORDAN JANISSE/UNITER ARCHIVES

Despite union calls, a recent city report on a safety strategy for bus drivers provided no recommendations on the possibility of developing a transit police.

Committee member and Fort Rouge Coun. Jenny Gerbasis said the city has begun adding more transit inspectors to the system to try to address these issues while the long term strategy is developed.

"The problem is new inspectors cost us \$400,000 to \$500,000," Gerbasis said.

"It takes four people to staff every 24 hours of monitoring. But inspectors are cheaper than police officers are. We've considered having police cadets sit on buses. At the same time we need to make sure we are allocating our resources appropriately to all safety concerns in the city.

"It is hard to determine where the most important place for officers and cadets to be

is," she said.

Bill Comstock a representative for Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers (WAPSO), the union representing the current transit inspectors and managers, was clear his members are not the right group to be dealing with preventing or managing situations of violence.

"WAPSO members were not hired to be a police force," he said. "Our members come in all shapes, sizes and ages."

Comstock also wants to see a force tasked with providing transit safety alongside his members.

Experience shows police cannot respond in a timely manner to incidents, he said.

Dave Sauer, president of the Winnipeg Labour Council, provided a submission to the committee criticizing the report.

Unions are in favour of a security force being able to respond to incidents on buses and want to see punitive measures against those that assault operators, Sauer stated.

The city must address the issue swiftly, Gerbasis said, noting she remains open to more collaboration on developing the strategy.

"If we want our transit system to grow and encourage more environmentally friendly transportation we need a transit system people feel safe riding," she said.

"We need to figure this out."

## Campus News Briefs

Compiled by Thamer Linklater

### KINEW NAMED DIRECTOR OF INDIGENOUS INCLUSION

The University of Winnipeg has appointed broadcaster and hip-hop artist/producer Wab Kinew as the school's director of indigenous inclusion. The position will require Kinew to develop, recruit and retain indigenous talent and develop strategies focusing on entrepreneurship and business in aboriginal communities. Private fundraising will pay for the new position and will not affect the university's budget, the university noted in its release. Kinew, a regular face on CBC Manitoba, earned his bachelor of arts degree in economics from the U of W, and has received awards and accolades, including a 2011 Gemini nomination for best news information segment and the 2009 Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award for best rap/hip-hop album.

### STUDENTS, FACULTY WIN PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS

A group of 10 U of W faculty and students recently netted a bounty of prestigious grants. Professors Darlene Abreu-Ferreira, Danielle Gaucher, Kirsten Kramar and Albert Welter each received Insight Grants totalling more than \$342,000. The money will be used for research issues pertaining to individuals and societies, the university said in a release. Meanwhile, a group of six rhetoric, sociology, psychology, English, politics and classics students each received a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, valued at \$17,500 each. The awards are given out to students who show a high standard of achievement in the humanities and social sciences.

### CANADIAN PHYSICISTS MEETING AT U OF W

The University of Winnipeg will play host to a group of Canadian physicists working on a new kind of neutron science. The Canadian Spallation Ultracold Neutron Source will be the highest-density source of ultracold neutrons in the world. The university's Dr. Jeff Martin is leading an international collaboration with Canadian, Japanese and American representatives. The team will conduct the best measurement of the neutron electric dipole moment (nEDM), a measurement for how the positive and negative charges inside the neutron are distributed. The experiment may revolutionize understanding of the connection between particle physics and the origin of matter in the universe, the university said in a release.

### WESMEN HOST HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

The University of Winnipeg Wesmen are selling pumpkins to support inner-city athletics from now until Oct. 29. All proceeds will go towards the Junior Inner-City Wesmen Program, helping with tournaments, uniforms and education funding for inner-city youth to attend the university's model school. One pumpkin costs \$8 and 20 pumpkins cost \$100. The money will be donated to inner-city families and a tax receipt will be provided.

### KINESIOLOGY FACULTY CELEBRATES AT FORT GARRY

The university's new kinesiology faculty is celebrating its creation with a scholarship fundraising dinner Nov. 1. The faculty will host the Stand Up For Students Dinner at the Fort Garry Brewery with a group of Winnipeg's top local chefs preparing an array of dishes paired with various beverages. Although seating will be available, the meal is a "stand-up" affair, allowing guests to mingle and tour the brewery, the university noted in a release. The evening will be hosted by local radio DJ Joe Aiello. Tickets are \$150 and can be purchased from the Wesmen website at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/wesmen-ni>.

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## Comments

# The mass exodus of respect

NHL administration and players disrespect fans with another lockout



KRISTY RYDZ  
VOLUNTEER

Like many hockey fans in Winnipeg, I'm trying to figure out how to justify eating wings and drinking beer three nights a week with no National Hockey League (NHL) season for the foreseeable future.

But the more articles I read and the more SportsCentre I watch, the more frustrated I get.

Not so much with the lockout itself, as I understand that it's a battle of the one per cent fighting over huge money and power in a bloated-ego league, but with the attitudes of those at the heart of it all.

**This isn't loving the game or committing to solving its problems. This is taking the fans, who directly fund their paycheques, for granted.**

With over 50 players signing contracts with more than 30 different clubs overseas just days after the league locked them out on Sept. 15, I'm finding it hard to believe that they truly want to fix the problems that exist, as many of them state in the NHL Players' Association's (NHLPA) message to fans posted the next day.

Clips of heavyweights like Jonathan Toews and Sidney Crosby were cut in between black-and-white celebratory and inspirational images of Stanley Cup-winning goals and phenomenal saves to plead their case to the fans.

"We're working hard at getting back to the point where things are simple and we can just get back to playing hockey," Toews explains sympathetically.

Well, you might be, Johnny. But your band of million-dollar brothers sure isn't.

As of last week, nearly 90 players had signed lockout contracts with teams in a number of countries including Russia, Sweden, Finland and Czech Republic. Even four of our own Winnipeg Jets have flown the coop.



COLIN VANDENBERG/UNITER ARCHIVES

The MTS Centre will remain empty this season unless the NHL and its players can come to an agreement and end the lockout.

To me, these players have a new agenda. They aren't standing behind NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr at press conferences anymore. They aren't practicing on local rinks to make sure they're ready when everyone finally agrees on how to cut up the multi-billion dollar pie that is the NHL annual revenue. They've signed new contracts to play in front of new fans.

Some are staying closer to home, but I feel that as time goes on, many more players will jump across the pond and into new jerseys.

This is not respecting or appreciating the fans. This isn't loving the game or committing to solving its problems. This is taking the fans, who directly fund their paycheques, for granted and assuming that they will be in arena seats across North America when everything is eventually resolved.

And most will - which is a huge part of the problem.

Fans, who don't have a seat at the table

to start with, give up all of their bargaining power in this debate when we come crawling back after every drawn-out lockout.

We never say enough is enough and start watching cricket. We buy the tickets, the HD package and the merchandise. We never make our voices heard because we are the ones who really do love the game.

We don't get paid for it, we pay to see it. And we continue to do so regardless of how much the league and the players disrespect us in the process.

The league clearly isn't an innocent bystander in this public relations campaign of a lockout either. Just last week, the NHL announced that it had lost \$100 million in revenue from the cancellation of the 2012-13 preseason. Unfortunately, that is the consequence of locking out your players and clearly refusing to compromise accordingly to find a solution.

Actions, undoubtedly, speak louder than

words. The NHL players who have left to play for new teams are telling their NHL fans they truly do only care about money - regardless of what they say in a YouTube video.

The league, via their commissioner Gary Bettman, has disrespected fans with smug comments to the media about the fans being the reason the NHL rebounded so well after the last lockout when the entire 2004-05 season was lost. You bet we are, Bettman.

Though we might rant and rave about selfish players and a terribly run league over the next year or however long the lockout lasts, we will still be NHL fans whenever there again is a game to watch, beer to drink and wings to eat. Respect or not.

*Kristy Rydz is an editor in Winnipeg who loves Sleeman Honey Brown, honey hot wings and the Winnipeg Jets. She can't stand Gary Bettman.*

## Men can be victims, too

Victim-blaming discussion shows gender double-standard



SANDY KLOWAK  
VOLUNTEER

A news headline like "Prostitute found in dumpster" might have been a thing of the recent past, but it's all but vanished from Canada's mainstream media landscape these days thanks to an effective public awareness campaign against the harmful effects of victim-blaming.

But when it's a male victim in the spotlight for his alleged work in the sex trade, we seem to be back at square one.

The latest development in the ongoing, so-called "naked judge" inquiry into the behaviour of Manitoba judge Lori Douglas - currently stalled amid accusations of bias - is an affidavit from Douglas's lawyers claiming alleged sexual harassment victim Alex Chapman is involved in online sex work.

So far, Douglas's lawyers have not been allowed to question Chapman about his sexual history.

The panel was absolutely right in banning that line of questioning.

I don't presume to guess what - if anything - transpired between Douglas and Chapman, but Chapman has done several things that draw his reputation into question.

However, those things do not, should not and *cannot* include his alleged involvement in sex work.

Allowing such details to come forward in court and in the media perpetuates the

incredibly harmful practice of victim-blaming that has seen such effective social backlash in recent months.

A failure to hold those same standards for male victims reveals a fundamental flaw in the movement - a hypocrisy that seriously damages the legitimacy of the campaign to stop victim-blaming.

**If lawyers want to discredit Chapman, they have a plethora of resources to rely on. But leave the alleged sex work out of it.**

Allowing *any* alleged sexual harassment victim - no matter their gender, legal circumstances or anything else - to be questioned on their sexual history in the hopes of discrediting them sends the blatant message that certain people deserve to be sexually harassed or assaulted because of their behaviour or lifestyle, and don't qualify for basic protection from harm.

It's a massive and dangerous leap of logic to assume that just because a person invites certain forms of sexual attention they are always, automatically and without question consenting to all forms of it, and we cannot afford to be inconsistent when fighting against it.

The battle is one that has been fought for decades and seems to only recently be gar-

nering any focus. Just look at the backlash from Justice Robert Dewar's decision last year to spare a man jail time in connection to a sexual assault because of how he said the woman was acting and the clothes she wore that night.

Look at the development of Slutwalk in response to a Toronto police officer's advice that young women should avoid dressing like sluts to deter sexual assault, and the recent response to similar advice doled out by Krista Ford on Twitter.

There's still a lot of fighting to do to ensure female victims of sexual violence are treated with respect and human dignity in the legal and public spheres.

But at least it's a battle that's being fought publicly. At least it's a discussion that's finally being had.

Calling out female victims of sexual violence as prostitutes or promiscuous or sexually deviant women in news headlines is beginning to become taboo because of the diligent work of various social activist organizations. If it's done, there's backlash.

But when it comes to a man, it's done without second thought.

There's a dangerous gendered double standard at play. If the headlines about Chapman were about a female victim, they would not fly. Male victims in these situations seem to have no leg to stand on when it comes to fighting for their rights and basic dignity.

The framework for that discussion seems to not yet exist. That's because we are failing

them with a lack of consistency and solidarity in the face of victim-blaming.

It doesn't matter what other weird or unsavory things the alleged victim may have done, whether they pertain to a case or not. If lawyers want to discredit Chapman, they have a plethora of resources to rely on. But leave the alleged sex work out of it.

No one, no matter their sex or gender, or any other identifying factor, should be blamed for being sexually abused/harassed/assaulted based on their sexual history, or what they wear, or whether they earn money through sex work - no matter what bizarre factors may be at play in a case.

*Sandy Klowak is a Winnipeg news producer and former Uniter beat reporter.*



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# TV trauma

The dark depths of *Caillou* and other shows you once thought were innocuous



**CARSON HAMMOND**  
BEAT REPORTER

Even though they make headlines pretty regularly these days, outcries of enraged parents rallying against the graphic depictions of wanton violence present in today's video games - or the blatant promotion of female objectification in some popular music - are hardly enough to faze this jaded, broken husk of a man.

I've already been through far worse, you see - and I expect the same is true for you too, whether you know it or not.

Because while all of the big people were busy fretting over my ability to view fake explosions without, you know, exploding real stuff, I was quietly sitting in the next room - my unblinking young eyes reflecting the bright cartoon colours of the kids channel - learning not of my ABCs, but of the dark depths of the human soul.

Looking back, I've realized that some of the kids' shows I grew up with had shockingly serious implications.

## Caillou

I never actually *liked* watching the sparingly coloured, ultra-mundane "adventures" of this program's namesake, but I guess the fact that I still kept coming back for more speaks to the all-too-powerful pull of the dreary philosophical black hole it offers.

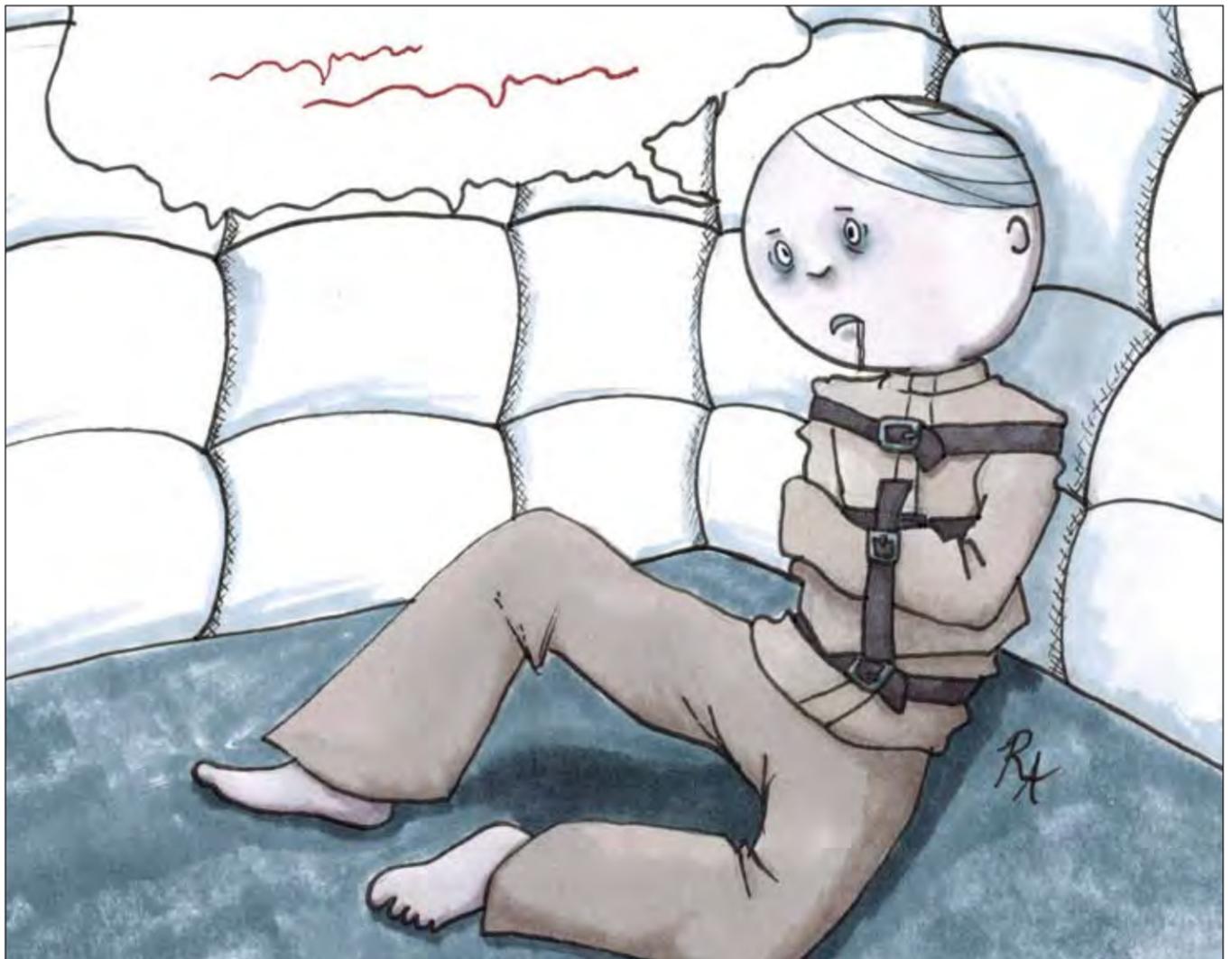
The "plot" of each episode of *Caillou* generally consists of its titular hero - a hairless four-year-old boy who, utterly devoid of empathetic capacity, becomes emotionally compromised at the drop of a hat (literally, I imagine) - "overcoming" some sort of ordinary, everyday event.

These challenges (successfully accompanying his mother to the grocery store, going to the park, etc.) are made even more exciting by the introduction of some sort of easily avoidable conflict.

Caillou is prevented by his mother from shoplifting, for example. Or he has to *not* throw his little sister's toys at her face.

Basically, Caillou has to choose between doing literally nothing and going out of his way to actively make an ass of himself, causing harm to others. Only after learning of the consequences of the latter option does he ever decide to be "good."

I like to imagine whoever wrote this show as a commercially failed artist - scrawling his unfeeling creature's dialogue atop a dimly-lit desk at 3 a.m. with a half empty bottle of cheap scotch and a loaded pistol set before him - as a sort of half-mad mastermind who set out, successfully, to perfectly embody the true nihilistic nature of the human animal and, by conse-



ARANDA ADAMS

quence, the meaninglessness of life. Vision achieved.

## George Shrinks

This kids' show, based on the picture book of the same name, follows the life of George Shrinks, a 10-year-old boy who, as his name implies, is of a diminutive size.

At a glance, George seems to have it pretty good. His dad is a zany inventor who makes him all sorts of vehicles and contraptions to ride around the house in, and, unlike Caillou, he's a pretty well-adjusted kid.

The dark message of *George Shrinks*, however, dwells in the shadowy peripheries of the show's timeline.

Sure, George is *10 now*, but how's he ever going to live an independent life? How will he go to college, get a job or find a life partner?

What's even more troubling is how George got to be the way he is in the first place - which is to say, by going to bed normal one day and waking up the next as a singular anomaly in

his species's history.

This is literally the only explanation for George's state offered by the show.

That's right, kids: absolutely any day, you can wake up to your new life as the victim of a crippling, scientifically unexplainable condition that will affect you forever.

Now go eat your damn breakfast.

## Pokémon

As someone who devoted hour upon hour of his precious childhood to "catching 'em all" on his Game Boy, it's understandable that I was equally addicted to this brand's TV show counterpart.

My university education has since exposed me to various cultural and psychological theories associated with the act of collection - the driving force of *Pokémon's* popularity, no doubt - to unsavoury effect.

I honestly never would have guessed just how much phalluses had to do with the whole thing, all that time.

The real dark message put forth by *Pokémon*, however - because let's be honest here: a few years into a B.A. and everything's a phallus - seems like it should have been pretty obvious all along.

In this show's universe, it's perfectly acceptable - encouraged, even - to capture and amass a small army of apparently sentient beings and expect them to fight for your own entertainment on a whim.

"But they *want* to fight for Ash!" you say.

You might acquire friends by beating them until they submit themselves to your dominance, allowing you to capture them in a device that re-organizes their physical properties against their will - but speak for yourself, *Poké-fan*.

You must've watched even more *Caillou* than I did.

*Carson Hammond is an honours English student at the University of Winnipeg and a beat reporter for The Uniter.*

# New office of religious freedom exclusionary

Prioritizing religious freedom over other human rights creates division



**STEPHEN BURNS**  
VOLUNTEER

The Conservative government's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has established the new Canadian Office of Religious Freedom, which is soon to be unveiled.

For centuries, religious persecution has plagued the earth, and it seems wherever there are people with different religious views, conflict can and will erupt.

No one can argue that religious persecution is a major problem facing the world today. However, the specificity of religion and the exclusion that it creates is where I see the problem.

What about other human rights groups? Women, LGBT citizens and racial groups, for example, still face heavy and harsh persecution today. So why is religious freedom being prioritized over these other groups?

It shouldn't be, and it isn't fair that \$20 million over four years is being spent on creating this office to protect religious freedom while so many other human rights groups are ignored.

While preaching the new Conservative government's agenda concerning same-sex marriage and women's rights, Baird stated, "We cannot be selective about which basic human rights we want to defend, nor can we be arbitrary about whose rights we protect."

So establishing an office for religious freedom is not being selective? Focusing on religion and leaving other human rights issues by the wayside is not being selective? It seems to me that it is.

If freedom of religion is given priority over these problems it will cause conflict.

For example, we can look at the case of religion and homosexuality. Many different branches of Christianity are against same-sex marriage, or even homosexuality itself.

They are entitled to freedom of speech but how can we expect other human rights to advance when these groups who promote hatred have a higher emphasis placed on them by the government?

An even more grotesque example comes from parts of the Middle East where gay men are executed as a consequence for their sexual orientation, and certain religious groups agree with that. The men that are committing

these acts of violence are technically a religious group, supposedly "cleansing the house of God."

Should their rights be protected if it leads to the death of so many for the simple reason that they are gay?

Is this really what Canada needs, an office that promotes one specific human right when others are affected by it so much?

Focusing on the specific topic of religious persecution will not help other human rights move forward. Leaving out other major groups will not enhance human rights; it will only serve to put them down.

Another worry is that this office will merely become a front for those of higher stature to use it to impose their religious or political will on others. I fear certain religious groups may benefit more than others.

Baird claims that, "Christians, in particular, face persecution in every part of the world."

He names Egypt and Iran as examples of places where Christians are targeted. Christians may face persecution in those countries, but to name them specifically leads me to believe he places them higher on his list of priority than other religions.

Even the panel discussion was exclusive.

The Conservative government handpicked panelists to weigh in on the issue. Most were from Judeo-Christian faiths, and many major groups such as Buddhists, Sikhs and even Muslims were left out.

How can Baird preach religious freedom as the main goal of this office and then leave out such important religious groups? It doesn't make any sense and leads me to believe certain priorities are given precedence over others.

Religious freedom is important, and freedom of religion is a basic human right that should be respected by people everywhere.

But leaving other human rights groups out and failing to include certain religious groups in the mix is asking for trouble.

The purpose of the Canadian Office of Religious Freedom is to promote acceptance of religion across the globe. It has a great intention, but I feel it may serve as a means of holding the world back.

*Stephen Burns is a third-year Rhetoric and Communications student in the Joint Communications Program with Red River College.*

## Arts

## Good things come to those who wait

Winnipeg five-piece Departures releases its debut LP

NICHOLAS FRIESEN  
ARTS EDITOR

Departures debut full-length, the devastatingly beautiful and layered *Still and Moving Lines*, has been a labour of post-rock love.

Self-funded by the band, which includes Nick Liang, Stephen Kesselman, Rob Gardiner, Alannah Walker and Graham Wolf, the 10-song album was recorded by Howard Bilerman (Arcade Fire, Handsome Furs) with the initial five-day recording sessions taking place at Private Ear Studios in Winnipeg.

After a setback with the two-inch tape recorder malfunctioning, the band cranked out what it could with its remaining session time, picking things up in June at Bilerman's Montreal studio while on tour and corresponding about the mix via email.

"We only recorded for two days there. Things are cost prohibitive, you have to wait until you have enough money to do things," says 22-year-old lead singer-guitarist Liang. "I guess that's why there was a long gestation period for the album. We obviously prefer to do things quicker and hopefully in the future - if there is a future for recording - we can work at an accelerated pace and won't be beholden to as many restraints. It's not really a big issue with how long it took. We all have school and lives."

When this writer first spoke with Liang in the autumn of 2010 about the band's debut EP *Kino-Pravda*, he had only hinted at the full-length and working with Bilerman as a possibility. Additionally, he spoke at length about his admiration of outspoken engineer/musician Steve Albini, a man known for his principles.

It was clear upon our initial meeting that Liang is someone who prefers to let the music speak for himself, yet he's incredibly well spoken when asked about what it means to be in a band.

"In the enterprise of being a band the only perspective we have is our own," he says. "We don't really pay much credence or consideration to outside perspectives."

"It's a pretty self-contained venture playing in a band. We're happy as long as the five of us are happy. Everything else is a conjecture. I hope that the lasting impression of this venture will be the friendships we've fostered. At the end of the day, I won't really be look-



KRISTIAN JORDAN

Local rock band Departures recorded its debut album with Howard Bilerman, who has worked with Arcade Fire and Handsome Furs.

ing at if we're successful beyond our wildest imaginations, which we have no expectations of really. If it wasn't enjoyable we'd have some serious reservations about doing things."

While some bands might work with a name producer like Bilerman to attach notoriety to its product, Departures do it because of a desired sound and experience.

When such noted sites as Pitchfork, Stereogum and Chartattack began posting the *Pillars* single (with Pitchfork noting "it's impressive that they can seamlessly execute so many sonic shifts"), it was evident that Liang and co. would eventually have to discuss the record.

"I'm naturally suspicious of people who try to appeal to our vanity," he says. "We've had more interviews and I'm much more comfortable and relaxed speaking to someone like you or someone that's engaged in the community that I engage with too, but when it's just a line of questioning like 'Where are you guys from?', we've been trying to nav-

igate those more superficial interviews. I'm fine with even saying no to a lot of things.

"Regardless, it's just a bunch of people being interested in things."

The conundrum is that once you've made a record and have a tour to promote, you have to do the legwork. Liang is confident in doing things his way or no way, preferring the simplicity of the pre-Internet world in which bands were mysterious and didn't tweet about what they ate for lunch.

"I don't feel particularly compelled to contribute to that tabloid culture of misinformation," he says. "I don't want to add to a lot of noise. There's a lot of bios and a lot of information about a lot of bands and I'd rather there just be nothing and we can operate how we've been operating, which has been perfectly comfortable."

While Departures has been a band for a number of years, Liang and his bandmates are also involved heavily in other projects, including Cannon Bros. and Greg MacPher-

son's band, confirming that supportive sense of community.

"Everyone is working towards the same thing - to have a great arts scene, music scene, film industry, whatever," he says. "In Winnipeg, there's no sense of competition for me."

"Everything we do is an extension of us as individuals. We're very normal people. Being in a band for us isn't licence to behave differently. It's a window into this unique dynamic between five people."

⇒ Departures releases its debut LP *Still and Moving Lines* at acartinc. on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 9:30 p.m.

⇒ Slow Dancers will open the show

⇒ Tickets are \$10 in advance at Music Trader and Into the Music, or \$12 at the door

⇒ Copies of the LP will be available on vinyl and digital download, and this first pressing will include unique liner notes and ephemera that will not be available on subsequent pressings, so nab one up while you can

⇒ Visit [www.departuresband.bandcamp.com](http://www.departuresband.bandcamp.com)

## Nova Scotia's Old Man Luedecke brings his sombre songs to Winnipeg

DEBORAH REMUS  
VOLUNTEER

He's not as old as the name might suggest, but Old Man Luedecke isn't short on experience either.

The Chester, N.S.-based songwriter picked up a banjo, released his first EP back in 2003 and hasn't looked back.

On Wednesday, Oct. 17, he brings his latest disc, *Tender is the Night*, to the Park Theatre.

**"I think that's a theme for my better songs. They manage to be a bit sad and a bit happy at the same time."**

- OLD MAN LUEDECKE

"It just seemed like a lonely instrument," he says of the banjo. "I loved the rhythm, and its sound seemed to occupy its own unique space in the world. I was never much of a joiner so I figured that unique space would be a good place for me."

For his fifth record, he crossed the border and headed to Tennessee to work on the follow-up to 2010's Juno Award-winning *My Hands Are On Fire and Other Love Songs*, which featured a guest appearance from Grammy Award-winning bluegrass/folk

musician Tim O'Brien.

This time around at the Butcher Shoppe in Nashville, the two teamed up again for *Tender*, but this time O'Brien produced the record.

"We would basically just count the song in and just go for it," Luedecke says. "We worked really hard for four days and that was it, we were done."

The result is 13 tracks showcasing Luedecke's own blend of folk and bluegrass, complete with some catchy hooks tossed in. Having just signed with True North Records, *Tender* is his first release with Canada's oldest indie label.

"I feel like I got closer to the thing that I'm looking for in my music, which is an absolute thrill for any songwriter," he says.

Opening track *Kingdom Come* has an undeniably catchy chorus and the intro is carried by a bouncy banjo line, while on *Long Suffering Jesus* he picks up the guitar instead, playing the solo that's found in the middle. *A&W Song* is short and sweet, a song he wrote after seeing a drunk stuck in a taxi after a gig he played earlier that night in Calgary.

"You wouldn't think that it was a song, but lo and behold I couldn't shake the idea and the melody kind of suggested itself," he says. "I think that's a theme for my better songs. They manage to be a bit sad and a bit happy at the same time."

The cross-country tour in support of *Tender is the Night* with Grey Kingdom, a solo



SUPPLIED

Young man, old soul: Nova Scotia singer-songwriter Old Man Luedecke returns to Winnipeg this week in support of a new album, *Tender is the Night*.

project that features Spencer Burton of Attack in Black fame, kicks off right here in Winnipeg.

"I'm really excited to play these songs," he says. "There's something about making this record that makes me want to get out there and play them more than ever. I just love performing and it's such a big part of what I do -

almost more important than being in the studio and making the records."

⇒ See Old Man Luedecke at the Park Theatre on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m.

⇒ Grey Kingdom will also perform

⇒ Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door

⇒ Visit [www.oldmanluedecke.ca](http://www.oldmanluedecke.ca)

## MUSIC LISTINGS



SUNPARLOUR PLAYERS

**THURSDAY, OCT. 11**

SUNPARLOUR PLAYERS play their way through Winnipeg with a stop at the West End Cultural Centre with KALLE MATTSON.

THE NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND plays McPhillips Street Station.

It's JAM NIGHT at the Cavern with ROUTE 59.

ROCK AND ROLL DRAFT NIGHT brings beer and rock 'n' roll together in a carnal way at the Windsor Hotel every Thursday.

The most exciting show in the history of exciting shows hits The Pyramid. TAV FALCO'S PANTHER BURNS is coming to Winnipeg with guests THIS HISSES and JICAH.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 12**

EXTREME METAL TOUR! Come watch SEPTIC FLESH, KRISIUN, MELECESH, EX DEO, INQUISITION

and LAIKA at the Park Theatre as they conquer the world.

KATELYN DAWN plays the Folk Exchange.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 13**

Virtuosi Concerts presents the New Orford String Quartet at Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

SAY UNCLE! hosts a dance party at the Park Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

ECHOES OF ERIN plays the West End Cultural Centre.

BRING THE FIGHT plays the Cavern.

The Zombie Walk After Party, potentially the scariest night of the year, will be hosted by The Zoo. Bands playing include THE PINK SLIPS, DEAD RANCH, FILTHY ANIMALS, ZOMBIE ASSAULT and UNTIMELY DEMISE.

**SUNDAY, OCT 14**

THE WINNIPEG SINGERS present A British Invasion: Secular Choral Music from England with special guests LEVI and JOEY PENNER from the Liptonians and the Waking Eyes. The show is at the First Presbyterian Church and the doors are at 3 p.m.

Not enough smooth in your life? THE WINNIPEG JAZZ ORCHESTRA performs The Music of Woody Herman and His Thundering Herds to kick off their 2012/2013 season.

It looks like they're back! TOKYO VOGUE are back in action for their 30th anniversary. They play the Park Theatre with DAMEON.

MATT MAYS plays the Pyramid Cabaret with THE MEDS.

**MONDAY, OCT. 15**

Karaoke is at the Rose 'n' Bee.

ROYAL WOOD plays the West End Cultural Centre.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 16**

More Karaoke at the Rose 'n' Bee.

PHYLLIS SINCLAIR plays the West End Cultural Centre.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17**

GREY KINGDOM, a.k.a. Spencer Burton formerly of Attack in Black, promotes his new album at The Park Theatre.

SEND + RECEIVE will be happening Oct. 17 to Oct. 20 this year. For more info visit [www.sendandreceive.org](http://www.sendandreceive.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

BIEBER fever punches Winnipeg in the pre-teen face Oct. 18 at the MTS Centre.

MATT EPP launches his new album at the West End Cultural Centre on Oct. 18 with CATHERINE MACLELLAN.

MATTHEW DE ZOETTE plays 371 Balfour St. Oct. 19.

PROPAGANDHI performs with HEAD HITS CONCRETE and THIS HISSES Oct. 19 at the West End Cultural Centre.

CADENCE WEAPON plays a late show at the Park Theatre with THE LYRICS Oct. 19.

AIDEN NIGHT and THE ZOLAS play the Park Theatre Oct. 24.

This just in: BOYZ II MEN are still around! They are coming to Winnipeg Oct. 25 to wow you into comfort and relaxation at the McPhillips Station Casino.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival presents BAHAMAS with special guest JASON COLLETT at Millennium Library Oct. 27.

The guys in SHOUT OUT OUT OUT OUT play the Pyramid Oct. 27 with JICAH.

PRAIRIE OYSTER brings you their acquired taste and texture at the McPhillips Station Casino Oct. 28.

HEY OCEAN and NEW EMPIRE play the Park Theatre Oct. 29.

NOEL GALLAGHER and SNOW PATROL perform Oct. 30 at the Centennial Concert Hall.

THE PACK A.D. blast through the West End Cultural Centre on Oct. 31 with guests TOPANGA and MISE EN SCENE.

MEN WITHOUT HATS found their walkers and

are showing off their older, but still loveable headgear free music at the Pyramid Cabaret Oct. 31.

THE STANFIELDS with GLORYHOUNDS play the Zoo Oct. 31.

Someone's LOST FINGER will be found again at the Park Theatre Nov. 1.

APRIL WINE is the latest group to fall into the grip of the McPhillips Street Station and they hit Winnipeg on Nov. 2.

SHANE KOYCAN is coming to the West End Cultural Centre Nov. 5 and I expect to see you there.

NAPALM DEATH, MUNICIPAL WASTE and DAYGLO ABORTIONS play the Zoo Nov. 5.

DELHI 2 DUBLIN are bringing their electronic-Celtic, reggae, hip-hop, dance, rock 'n' roll, folk, country, Thai fusion act to Winnipeg on Nov. 6 at the West End Cultural Centre.

THE CROOKED BROTHERS play the West End Cultural Centre Nov. 10.

MAYWORKS presents the musical version of Democracy Now. DAVID ROVICS. The peace poet and troubadour of our time will be playing the Winnipeg Irish Club on Nov. 10. Amy Goodman likes him, so why wouldn't you?

NEIL YOUNG AND CRAZY HORSE play the MTS Centre on Nov. 16 with LOS LOBOS, EVEREST and THE SADIES.

GALLOWS with BARN BURNER play the Pyramid Cabaret Nov. 16.

MARK SULTAN (a.k.a. BBO), ROCK LAKE and THE ELECTRICS destroy the Windsor Hotel Nov. 22.

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT  
LISTED IN THE  
UNITER?

Submit your listing to the Listings Coordinator eight days before you want it to appear in the paper. Listings must not be more than 100 words. They will be edited for length. Listings are free but not guaranteed. Please email Ken at [listsings@uniter.ca](mailto:listsings@uniter.ca).

## THE UNITER IS HIRING

### CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

The campus beat reporter works closely with the news team to write two assigned stories per week about things that are happening at the University of Winnipeg, and arrange for corresponding visual content. They must also regularly write blog entries on *The Uniter's* website.

The chosen candidate will demonstrate a critical eye for news content, possess superior writing and interviewing skills, and work well under the pressure of deadlines. The reporter must be able to work in collaboration with others as well as independently.

These positions are based on a term running Oct. 29 to Dec. 7, 2012 and Jan. 1 to March 29, 2013. Pay is \$70 per week.

Staff members are expected to attend weekly staff meetings and actively

engage in the development of their position throughout the course of their employment.

For further information, call 786-9790 or email [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca). References and at least three writing samples must be attached to resumes.

Mail, or deliver resumes in person, to The Uniter, ORM14 Bulman Centre, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9, or email you application package to [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca).

Only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. Applications are encouraged from *all* interested parties.

Application deadline for this position is Friday, Oct. 19 at 5 p.m.

THE UNITER

# SEND + RECEIVE

A FESTIVAL OF SOUND V14

OCTOBER 17–20, 2012

[JP] Akio Suzuki	Garth Hardy [MB]
[JP/FR] Tomoko Sauvage	Jamie Woollard [MB/QC]
[US] Nmperign	Chris Watson [UK]
[BC] The Rita	Hope Peterson [MB]
[MB] Angela Forget	Jane Tingley [QC]
[SK] Jeffrey Allport	George Brecht [US]
[NO] Jana Winderen	Christian Wolff [US]
[US] Douglas Quin	

[sendandreceive.org](http://sendandreceive.org)



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## VISUAL ART PREVIEW

# With art, everyone is an artist

WITH ART program pairs community groups with artists for unique projects

KAELEIGH AYRE  
ARTS REPORTER

We are our own toughest critic, and sometimes our own worst enemy.

This is what a group of youth learned through an eye-opening opportunity through the WITH ART project, which paired members of the Peer Projects for Youth program with local artist Lisa Wood for an exploration of self through art.

In the WITH ART program, artists apply to be on a roster with the Winnipeg Arts Council to work with local community groups who can then tap into the roster and select three or four artists that go through an interview process with the group.

In this case, the participants from the Rainbow Resource Centre-run program found that they connected most with Wood, and she was selected to work with them on what would become the Queer Perspectives exhibition and book.

**"It's nice to have this project. I can say, 'Wow, I actually did this; this is what I'm capable of.'"**

- SHEILA MOGG, 18-YEAR-OLD ARTIST

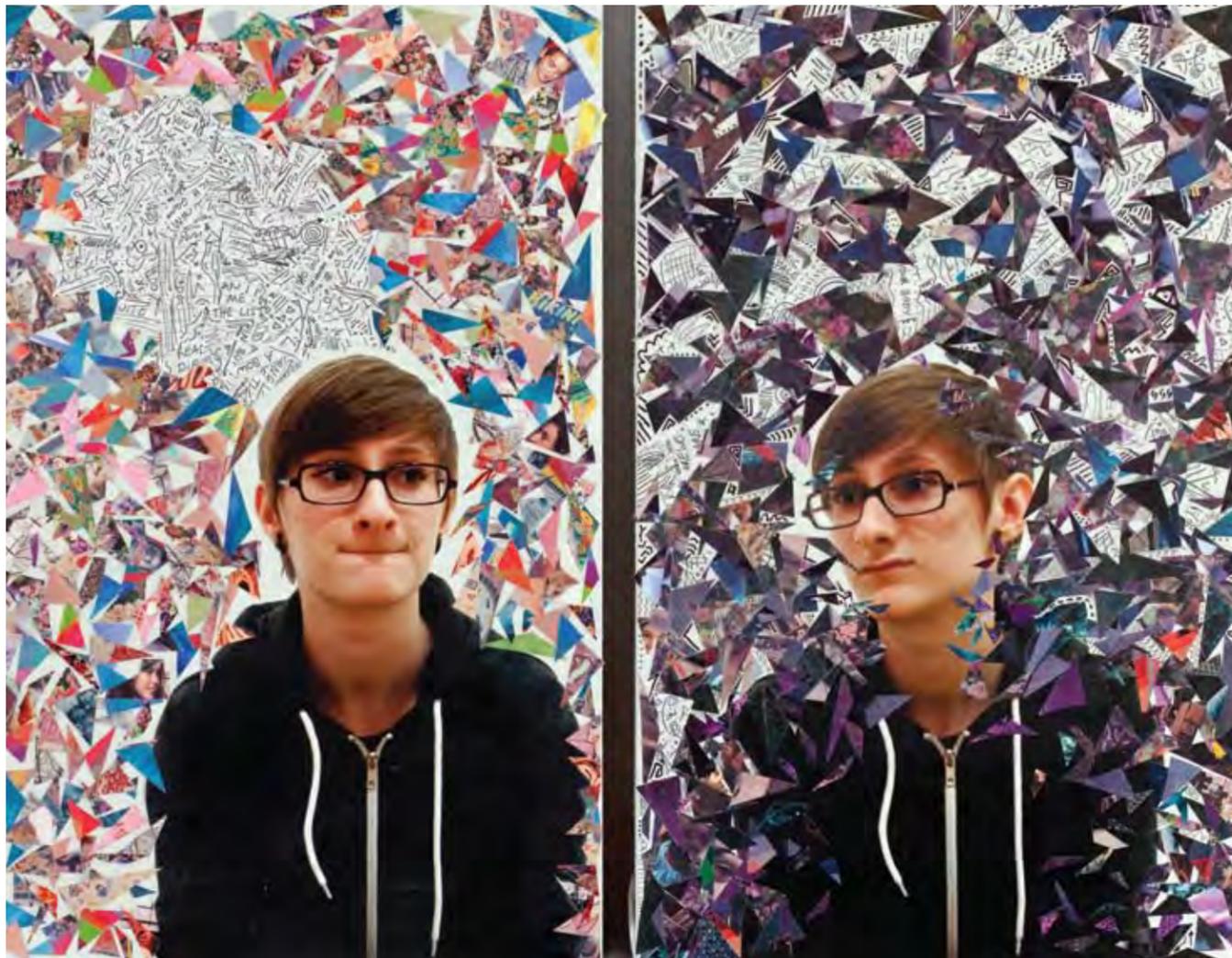
"I was really impressed by how well spoken all of the youth were," Wood says. "They were really engaged and self-aware."

Wood is also the program coordinator at Mentoring Artists for Women's Art, on top of her own studio work.

The Peer Projects for Youth program comprises of youths between the ages of 13 and 21. Wood worked with what started out as 10 participants (and eventually became four) over the duration of the project, which began in August 2011, and was made up of two phases: a learning phase and a hands-on phase.

"Through conversation it came up that identity and gender were really big issues for them," Wood says. "But they also felt like the voices of queer youth weren't really being heard."

"So we decided together that what would be most important is for each of the partic-



"Fragments" by Sheila Mogg. Collage on Canvas, Diptych, each 15" x 24".

SHEILA MOGG

ipants to be able to tell their story in some kind of way through creating a piece of artwork.

What was born of this process was a multi-medium self-portrait project, with accompanying book.

"We also decided that, along with the self-portraits that they were going to produce, that I would also produce portraits of each of the individuals," Wood says. "So there would be this idea of my interpretation of

them, and a way of recording what the community looked like, and giving a face to their community."

Sheila Mogg, 18, was one of the participants involved in Wood's selection process.

"It was really interesting because everyone sees themselves in a different way," Mogg says. "You usually see yourself more negatively than other people do, and they can tell you, but it's a lot more meaningful to see it in a piece of art."

"In my first piece I'm secluded, I get lost in my head sometimes. In Lisa's piece we look so confident and strong."

Mogg believes everyone is an artist.

"It's nice to have this project. I can say, 'Wow, I actually did this; this is what I'm capable of.'"

See *Queer Perspectives* at [aceartinc.com](http://aceartinc.com) in the Flux Gallery until Saturday, Oct. 27. Visit [www.aceart.org](http://www.aceart.org) for more information.

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Girl Model needs more depth

Disappointing doc explores exploitative modelling industry in Asia

KAELEIGH AYRE  
ARTS REPORTER

### Girl Model

Directed by David Redmon and Ashley Sabin

U.S., 2011

77 minutes

Plays at Cinematheque Oct. 11, 13 and 18 at 9:30 p.m. and Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

★☆☆☆☆

Very young, tall and slim girls with long luscious hair stand around in a dance studio. They are awkward, wearing no more than a bikini, high heels and a number.

Several adults mill about, examining each girl for flaws. They pass on those whose hips are deemed too big, as if the girls were cattle at an auction house, with few truly standing out.

That's exactly how I feel this side of the modelling industry treats these girls - like lambs ready for the slaughter. That's also how I feel about *Girl Model* - some nice things to look at, but awkward to watch, and not a lot going on.

This documentary tells the story of the exploitation of young girls from Russia who are lured into the world of modelling in Asia with the promise of escape and riches. The girls are sent to a foreign country alone, not knowing the language, on the basis that they

are promised paid work in their contracts.

The film also briefly touches on the roles of the modelling agencies and a recruiter who is a former child model.

*Girl Model* makes a lot of assumptions.

It assumes its viewers are knowledgeable about the modelling industry, and the people who work within it. The film could go further with a lot of its points, or make things clearer for the viewer with some text or a narrator explaining who key players in the industry are, what they do or explaining the girls' contracts.

Instead the film simply skims the surface, and only slightly touches on the darker side of modelling, including the sex trade.

I don't feel like I learned anything that I did not already know, and while I felt for the girls, I wasn't surprised. Children are exploited everyday at the cost of their innocence, and one only needs to turn on the TV to see this.

*Girl Model* shows this without all the pageantry and glamour.

The film does drag at times. Clocking in at a sparse 77 minutes, the filmmaker could have picked up the pace or conveyed more information.

There were too many shots of stagnation, or of the girls calling home, crying to their parents in Russia. These shots are important to let the audience know the girls are miserable and not getting the jobs they were prom-



SUPPLIED

A scene from the documentary *Girl Model*.

ised, but that could have been covered with the use of on-screen text.

One interesting aspect that the film does cover is its use of the former model who is now a recruiter. I could not get over the fact that she now selects girls to go do something she absolutely hated.

The use of video that she shot while mod-

elling in Japan in the late '90s effectively gets across the misery and isolation these girls experience.

However, focusing on a surgery for the removal of a cyst was unnecessary, and the film should have focused more on the current girls who were struggling to find work.

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Rockin' Richard's  
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## Culture

# Such great heights

Monica's Danz Gym allows you to fly high in its aerial classes



DUNJA KOVACEVIC  
CULTURE EDITOR

The inability to lift your own body weight is embarrassing, even crushingly so, without an audience. You can imagine then, my reaction to the suggestion of trying out an aerial fabrics class during Culture Days.

But, it was some remnant glimmer of childhood circus dreams that eventually pushed me out the door.

Monica's Danz Gym, which now operates out of a unit on Scurfield, is now in its 20th season. Eleven of those seasons have included aerial work.

Owner and artistic director Monica Goermann first partnered up with instructor Liz Cooper, who had trained with aerial fabrics in Boulder, Colorado.

Goermann's husband is also involved. He's an engineer who rigs the fabrics and tests them for safety.

"It's been a three-person partnership to get it where it is today," Goermann says.

Having undergone a brief stint as a cheerleader, and briefer yet run as a gymnast, I was concerned that my skills would be lacking - but was surprised by the open atmosphere and level-appropriate skills at the open house.

"Really, there's no set rule," Goermann insists. "Even if you've never done anything like this in your life, there's nothing to say that you can't play with it and go far."

For Goermann, it's all about inviting people to play.

"It is exercise - but that's not my main focus."

Instead, the real benefit of the fabrics lies in a return to some deeply, embedded nostalgic place.

"I just want (people) to experience the joy of swinging again, and the creativity that is involved in working with that fabric."

Hopefully, this will come through in the gym's first full length production, called *Seeking Grace*, slated for completion in March of



DUNJA KOVACEVIC

2013.

*Seeking Grace* will focus on one girl's journey of self-exploration, partially influenced by Goermann's own experiences. She travelled the world as a gymnast representing the Canadian National Team, including a stint at the 1980 Olympics.

Many of the pieces are already in place: in

fact, her dancers performed two of them during the open-house demonstration for Culture Days.

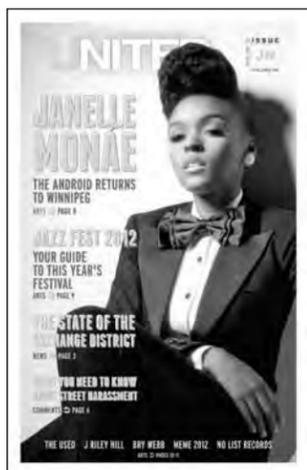
Though we were working with knots only a foot off the ground, I felt a giddy rush the first time I flipped over and just let go. Goermann believes in this feeling, and that it's strong enough to capture the masses.

"(Winnipeg) has so much potential for growth," she adds. "(It) is strong for the arts in general.

"That famous line 'Oh, I didn't know you did that in Winnipeg,' is getting better - we're not hearing that line as much."

Visit [www.monicasdanzgym.com](http://www.monicasdanzgym.com).





## GET INVOLVED AT THE UNITER

The Uniter's editors, reporters and volunteer contributors are students, alumni and community members— just like you. Anyone is welcome to get involved with The Uniter. You won't find fame and fortune, but you'll likely end up with some great work experience, a kick-ass portfolio and some pretty awesome (if not slightly eccentric) friends.

The Uniter publishes news, comments, arts, culture, sports, features— pretty much anything you can think of.

If you know which section you'd like to write for, here's who you should contact:

Ethan Cabel, News Assignment Editor— news@uniter.ca

Katerina Tefft, Comments Editor— comments@uniter.ca

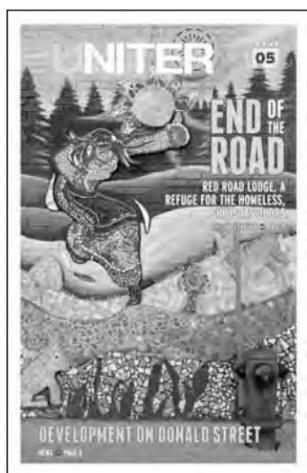
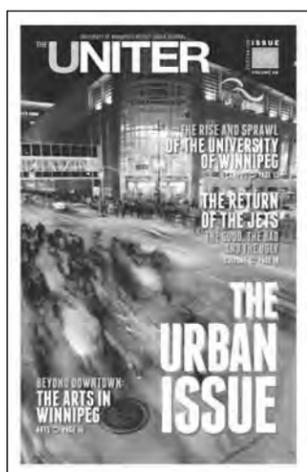
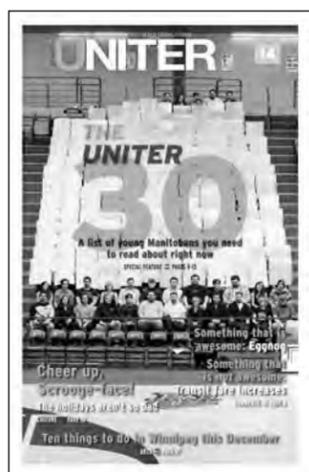
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Dunja Kovacevic, Culture Editor— culture@uniter.ca

Aaron Epp, Managing Editor— editor@uniter.ca

Don't like to write? We're also looking for artists to create illustrations and graphics for the paper. Email Ayame Ulrich at designer@uniter.ca for details.

We're also looking for photographers, so email our photo editor, Dylan Hewlett, if you're interested: photo@uniter.ca



## Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku 06

Solutions to this week's puzzles in next week's issue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16					
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54								55			56		57	58
59								60	61	62	63			
64								65						
66								67						

BESTCROSSWORDS.COM

### Across

- 1- Gauges
- 9- Sway
- 15- Example
- 16- Last car?
- 17- Mezzanine
- 18- Elaborately adorned
- 19- Fiddling emperor
- 20- Apportioned
- 22- Expeditiously
- 26- Seeing, but not believing
- 27- Mighty \_\_\_ a Rose
- 29- Destiny
- 30- Lilt syllable
- 31- Spiny ant eater
- 33- Grammarian's concern
- 38- Puzzled
- 39- Clad
- 41- Trig functions
- 42- Coupling
- 43- Recipe abbr.
- 46- Business abbr.
- 47- Compass dir.
- 48- Asexual reproductive cell
- 52- It's a plus
- 54- Soft rustling sound
- 56- Prod
- 59- Stealthy walk
- 60- Ominous
- 64- 1986 sci-fi sequel
- 65- Flag of France
- 66- \_\_\_ Pieces
- 67- Monotony
- lamb
- 4- Razor sharpener
- 5- Abu Dhabi's fed.
- 6- Hosp. workers
- 7- Green prefix
- 8- Actress Ward
- 9- Wrath
- 10- The science of flight
- 11- Tirades
- 12- Muse of love poetry
- 13- Fragrant compound
- 14- Destitute
- 21- D-Day craft
- 23- Adrenal gland hormone
- 24- Hustles
- 25- Greek vowels
- 27- Meadows
- 28- Play opener
- 32- \_\_\_ du Diable
- 34- McCartney title
- 35- Greek philosopher
- 36- Mil. leaders
- 37- Periphery
- 39- Capital of Western Samoa
- 40- Makes brown
- 44- Emphasis
- 45- Little, in Lille
- 48- \_\_\_ Is Born
- 49- Duplicity
- 50- Easy \_\_\_
- 51- Tones down
- 53- Big name in printers
- 55- Grounded fleet
- 57- Greek island in the Aegean
- 58- Makes a boo-boo
- 61- Lyricist Gershwin
- 62- Matchsticks game
- 63- Vanilla \_\_\_, American rap star

### Down

- 1- Appearance
- 2- Feminizing suffix
- 3- Wool of Karakul

SUDOKU SKILL LEVEL: DIFFICULT

4							6	
		7	2				1	
8	1					9	4	
	8	6				2	9	
3						7		5
		9		8				
6								9 3
				4			7	
		8	3	9				

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