

THE UNITER

FREE.WEEKLY.
VOLUME 70 // ISSUE 13 // DEC. 3



WE ASKED // YOU VOTED

HERE ARE YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS OF 2015!

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

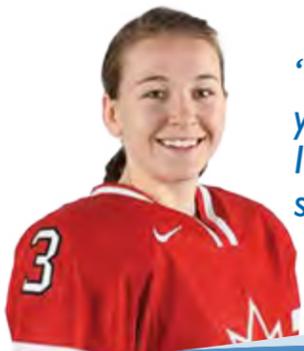
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* ON THE COVER

Scott A. Ford was inspired by his favourite artists and musicians to create this illustrated cover and bring you your favourite 30 things of 2015.

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NOT OUR ISSUE

We're not being passive-aggressive here - just honest. For this issue, *The Uniter* 30, you're in the editorial hotseat. Perhaps you didn't realize that's what you signed up for when you sent in your votes, but these are your picks filling the paper.

They're your choices and your friends and probably some frenemies too (we can't tell you for sure - voting is secret.) And if you didn't vote, well, here's a taste of the kind of power you could wield with your ballot next year.

Even though we're not editing in the conventional sense, this issue has been a blast to work on. We were holding our breath tallying many of the votes, with some incumbents, some upsets, and a whole lot of new faces.

And you, dear reader-voters, some of you really left your marks on your ballots in one way or another. We see you, voter who inserted "fuckin'" into the middle of each answer. You made us laugh.

We giggled a little bit at the first few entries that were just about genitalia, but that joke wore thin long before its 29th repetition. Still, you must really love...that. That's cool, you do you. But it didn't win anything.

Some categories revealed more gems than we could possibly cover, especially the Favourite Young Achiever Under 30. The number of entries in that category is a testament to how many passionate people live in this city, and how many of you want them to be recognized.

You showed the opposite of so-called youth voter apathy in the Favourite Political Moment category, which was full of creative and highly emphatic descriptions of victories and departures.

And you definitely showed us all the ways you love to have fun in your favourite winter activities, your favourite venues and places to eat, your favourite performers and creators across many genres.

So without further ado, here's *The Uniter* 30. It's all yours.

- Anastasia Chipelski

The Good Will Social Club won a thing, and they're also hosting the Uniter Fiver on Jan 14, 2016.

PHOTO BY MIKE SUDOMA

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Favourite Local Writer

1. Jen Zoratti
2. Sheldon Birnie / Jared Story (tie)
3. Bartley Kives

Jen Zoratti recognized her passion for music writing as a teen while co-hosting a radio show with her best friend at Kelvin High School.

“It was broadcasted within the school and so basically it was to the cafeteria. And sometimes people would just unplug the speaker, so it went nowhere,” Zoratti says.

At her high school guidance counsellor’s suggestion, she applied to Red River College’s Creative Communications program hoping to learn more about journalism and broadcasting. She graduated from RRC in 2006 and has been working non-stop in print media ever since.

“I would just email every Canadian music editor, hound them until they were like, ‘OK, you’re annoying. Here’s something,’” she says.

After nearly 10 years as a music writer, Zoratti, 30, transitioned to a columnist role at the

Winnipeg Free Press in January.

It’s a whole new challenge she’s still adjusting to, but the move helped reignite her passion for music.

“When it becomes work and it becomes your job, you find yourself falling out of love with it,” Zoratti says. “It’s been really nice over the last 10 months to sort of reconnect with being a fan.”

“I also wanted to try something else because I felt like really shaking things up is how you become a better writer,” she continues. “I think it’s important to write as much as you can in as many different areas as possible.”

Being recognized by *Uniter* readers is reassuring, Zoratti says. She’s seen many writers – including herself – struggle with self-doubt.

“I think sometimes, particularly for women writers, there’s just sort of that tendency toward imposter syndrome. You know, when you are doing well in your field to sort of have that, ‘oh my God, someone’s going to tap me on the shoulder and tell me that I don’t belong here’ (moment),” Zoratti says.

“It’s nice when you can sort of break through that and just have confidence in your ideas... that they’re connecting with readers and that you’re telling stories that are resonating with people.”

- Jessica Botelho-Urbanski, news editor

@JESSBU



Favourite Local Athlete

1. Clara Hughes
2. Jonathan Toews
3. Dustin Byfuglien

Winnipeggers are clearly quite proud to claim Clara Hughes as their own. Her athletic achievements are astounding (a six-time Olympian and the first to score multiple medals at both the summer and winter games), and she’s known for her huge, friendly grin.

Even after her many trips to the podium, she still manages to remain relatable and relevant.

Hughes, who now resides in Canmore, Alta. released a memoir titled *Open Heart, Open Mind* in September 2015. In the book, she details the grittier truth behind the shiny Olympian, her struggles with depression, an eating disorder, a controlling coach and living with an abusive alcoholic father.

Before the release, she opened up on national TV and came clean about testing positive for ephedrine in 1994 and serving out her suspension in secret. Unlike other high-profile athletes who claimed their innocence in the face of scientific proof, Hughes appears to have kept her reputation intact.

Perhaps it’s because her disclosure fits with the ethos of her philanthropic work. As the national spokesperson for Bell Let’s Talk Day, she’s known for being open about her own mental health issues, and for being deeply committed to raising awareness. Hughes has spoken publicly about her own struggles with depression, which was exacerbated in her earlier years in the high-pressure cycling world.

“I just want to show people that you can be so many things. You can have everything and have nothing, and you can have nothing and have everything,” Hughes said in an interview with CBC.

And *Uniter* readers have spoken - Hughes still holds a special place in their hearts.

- Anastasia Chipelski, managing editor

@ANACHIPS



Favourite Local Comedian

1. Tyler Penner
2. Michael Green / Matt Nightingale / Jordan Welwood (tie)
3. Tim Gray

When local stand-up comedian Tyler Penner heard he’d won the title of Favourite Local Comedian in the 2015 *Uniter* 30, his initial reaction was surprise.

“There’s such a deep pool of talent in Winnipeg,” Penner says. “There’s a lot of people doing a lot of big things, so it was a pleasant surprise to see my name pop up for that.”

But it should come as little surprise to comedy fans who have had their eye on Penner.

After six years in the stand-up game, he started 2015 off with a bang, having just won the previous year’s Funniest Person with a Day Job competition at Rumor’s Comedy Club.

“The first half of 2015, up until the fall, has probably been the best time I’ve had in comedy so far,” Penner says.

“I got to be part of the gala at the Winnipeg Comedy Fest. I was a regional finalist for the SiriusXM Canada’s Top Comic contest. I just got to do a lot of, as far as Winnipeg goes, big shows that any local comedian wants to do. It’s been a great year, and (the 30) is kind of the icing on the cake.”

Penner also hosted two sold-out shows for the Oddblock comedy festival inside Vera Pizzeria with other comics, including Pat Thornton and Andy Wood.

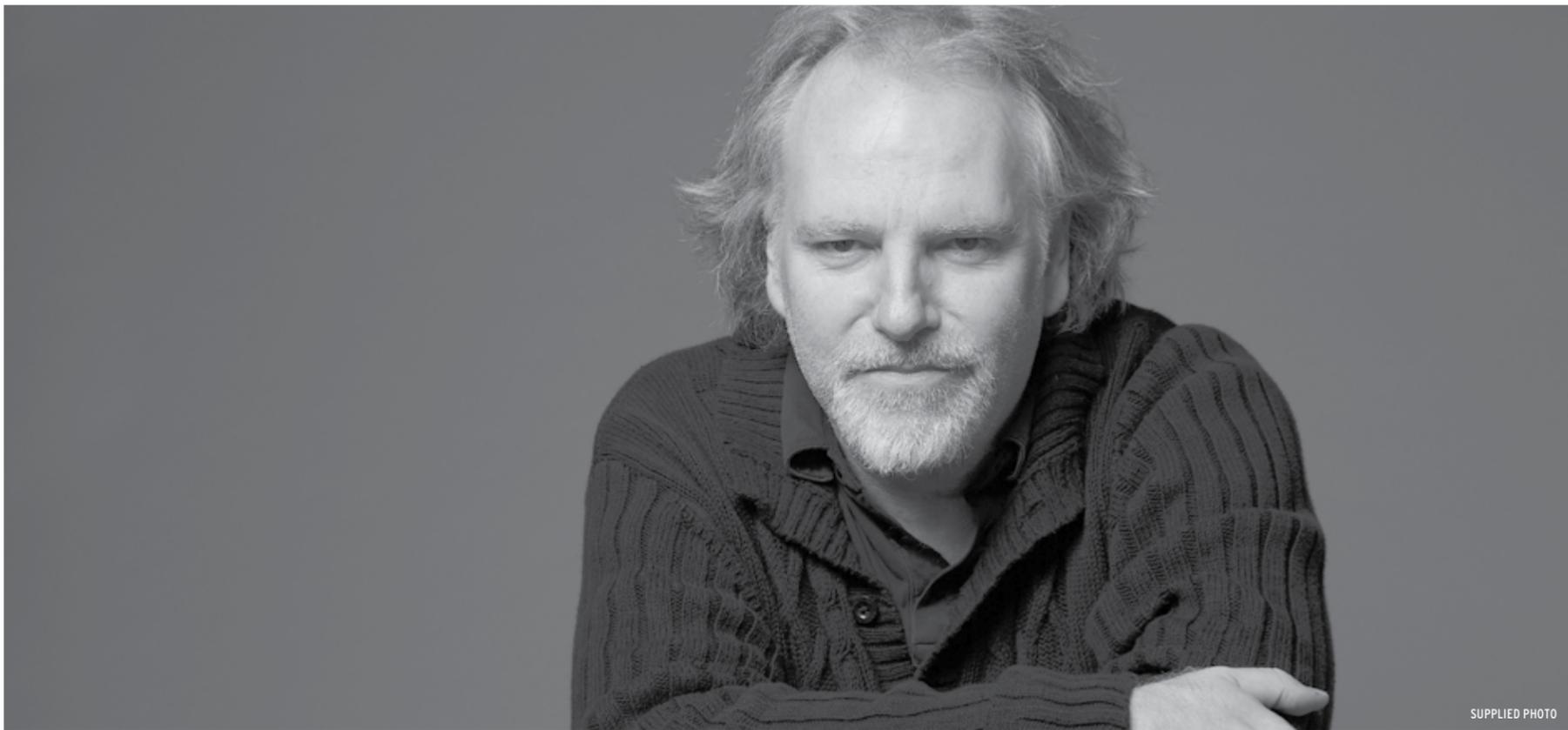
Dubbed Tyler Penner’s Pizza Party, the gigs were a big deal for Penner, who’s a bit of a pizza philosopher.

Anyone who’s seen him perform has likely heard him rant about Pizza Hotline, which he says is a scourge on the holiest of pies.

“Oddblock was such a great time,” Penner says. “All the comedians just had a blast. And for me to be able to host a show in a pizza place. I mean, that was just a huge comic milestone for me.”

- Thomas Pashko, features reporter

@THOMASPASHKO



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Favourite Local Filmmaker

1. Guy Maddin
2. Rory Fallis
3. Sonya Ballantyne

A lot has happened for Winnipeg icon Guy Maddin since he was named Favourite Local Filmmaker in the 2014 edition of *The Uniter* 30.

His newest feature *The Forbidden Room*

(co-directed with Evan Johnson) has been released to critical acclaim, and the writer-director recently started a new teaching gig at Harvard University.

"Next term I'm teaching some film studies classes I designed during my time at U of M," Maddin says of his courses, *The Cinema of Childhood* and *The Lyric Essay in Film*.

"I have fantastic filmmaking colleagues here, heroes of mine – Lucien Castaing-Taylor, Athina Rachel Tsangari, Philippe Grandrieux, and Ben Rivers."

"Everything is so new and bracing for me," Maddin says of his Harvard experience.

"I feel more like I'm attending Harvard

than teaching at it. I love it. I've vowed to be the most collegial colleague in the history of the college. I go to every talk possible. That's a lot of free wine and cheese, but also a lot of ideas packed, at least briefly, into my porous noggin. This place is also positively buggy with history and its ghosts."

Maddin is also excited to see the release of *Seances*, an interactive online film project that's set for release in April.

Like *The Forbidden Room*, *Seances* focuses on lost films.

Each visit to the website will generate a new short film that will become "lost" after a single viewing, never to be seen again.

"Our team is running on fumes to get it out," Maddin says. "There's never been

anything like it, I promise. Please forgive the American-style boasting. I know Winnipeggers aren't used to such hubris, but I've been living down here these last few months and can't help it."

But Maddin isn't letting distance keep his spirit away from his beloved hometown.

"Instead of TV, I check out with great nostalgic pangs all the Manitoba live webcams I can find online," Maddin says. "These sometimes unspeakably dull views really connect me heart-to-throbbing-heart with those I love back home."

- Thomas Pashko, features reporter

@THOMASPASHKO



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

Favourite Local Activist

1. Michael Champagne
2. Jodie Layne
3. Althea Guiboche / Lenard Monkman (tie)

Though Michael Champagne was voted favourite activist, he rejects the title.

"I don't really see myself as an activist.

I see myself as a helper. I'm more of a helper. I view activism as helping. I'm not in charge," Champagne says.

However, it is Champagne who founded both Aboriginal Youth Opportunity (AYO) and Meet Me At The Bell Tower. Through those organizations, Champagne has used his voice to improve the lives of aboriginal youth, not just in Winnipeg, but across Canada where he has traveled to speak.

Champagne says he's been a public speaker for the past 10 years, but started using his voice to create change about five years ago.

He says his ultimate goal is to end youth suicide.

"I'm trying to set a good example. I

want other people to look at the energy and the dedication I try to put into the solutions I believe in to address challenges," Champagne says.

Why has he been so successful?

"I'm loud and I have a microphone," Champagne says.

In reality, he credits it to his ability to connect with people. Part of this is working along with others to create change.

"The biggest accomplishment was in 2010 when I asked young people in the North End for help," Champagne says.

With them, he formed AYO, which is a group made up of youth volunteers and partners with local businesses, media and organizations.

According to the website, the group listens to youth ideas, plan and implements them to improve life in the North End.

"Along with other youth leaders at Aboriginal Youth Opportunity, we now have a year's long model of indigenous leadership and volunteerism," Champagne says.

Champagne is also involved in Inner City Voices, Healing Still Continues and Politix.

- Meg Crane, arts and culture editor

@MEGCRANE



PHOTO BY LISA WALDNER

Favourite Local Non-Professional Sports League

1. **Winnipeg Roller Derby League**
2. **Dodgeball Winnipeg**
3. **Manitoba Organization of Disc Sports / Adult Safe Hockey League (tie)**

The Winnipeg Roller Derby League (WRDL) has been rolling since 2008 and, in its seventh year, *Uniter* readers have spoken, declaring it the favourite non-professional sports league.

“It is a huge honour to be recognized because we work really hard to represent Winnipeg in the derby community,” Victoria Coombs, one of the founders of WRDL and an All-Stars player, says.

“Personally, it’s a big victory just to be in the sports category! We are not just a hobby or spectacle anymore. We are a real sport.”

It’s as real as any sport with its strategic, fast paced, full contact plays.

WRDL has three home teams: The Corporation, Valkyries’ Wrath and the Backseat Betties.

There are also two travel teams: the All-Stars and the Bombshell Brawlers.

In 2011, the league expanded to include skaters age 10 to 17.

“Having the kids involved has put a fire under our asses,” Coombs says. “These kids are amazing skaters and they are going to be better skaters than the All-Stars before they are even old enough to join the league. It’s really fun to watch them grow.”

If you want to be a ref for the game, you’ll be in with the Zebra Herd. If you’re new and looking to join a team, you’ll learn the ropes through the Fresh Meat Training Program.

Coombs says derby is also a great spectator sport and people seem to love watching. She warns audience members not to have the ’80s expectations of the sport being staged and faked most of the time.

“We are neither of those things. It’s athletic, strategic and really fun to watch,” Coombs says. “Plus, beer.”

- Samantha Sarty, arts and culture reporter

@SARTYSARTY



PHOTO BY REUBEN TODD

Favourite Local Dancer

1. **Jill Groening**
2. **Zorya Arrow**
3. **Dancing Gabe / Ming Hon / Becky Sawden (tie)**

Despite being only 25, Jill Groening has been voted two years in a row by *Uniter* readers as their favourite dancer, and is still keeping her audience enthralled with her high creative energy.

Currently, Groening is dancing for Winnipeg based company, Gearshifting Performance Works, under artistic director Jolene Bailie.

Groening got into dance through a natural inclination to physical activity, which led to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet’s Intensive Training program in high school, and from there a switch to her true passion of contemporary dance.

“(I love) being able to combine that kind of energy, like really physical energy needed to burn myself out, that combined with having a little bit more own artistic freedom and a little bit more of

your own interpretation,” Groening says.

The incorporation of other art forms keeps her passionate about contemporary dance. In a past work of her own, Groening used shadow work to enhance the experience.

She continues to find the work she does under Bailie conceptually fascinating. This has included past performances in Toronto and Vancouver in a collaboration with artist Wanda Koop.

Currently, Groening is an editorial intern and contributor for *The Dance Current* magazine. She says this gives her a lot of inspiration as it allows her to be involved in both the Winnipeg and Canadian dance community.

“I’m very lucky to be able to have that kind of balance and being able to see what other people in Canada are doing,” Groening says.

As for the future, Groening is working on a production with Gearshifting called *New Creation*, which will be performed at the Rachel Browne Theatre April 15 to 17. To get prepared, she says she will be doing up to four hours of training per day, lots of yoga, and listening to some music to get pumped up.

Her personal favourite before a show? Blondie.

- Sam Duerksen, volunteer

@SAMDUERKSEN



PHOTO BY DANIEL DRUMP

Favourite Local Street Performer

1. **Eric The Great**
2. **Blaine, aka “Horse Head Accordion Guy”**
3. **Cathy Herbert / Chris “Chris Without the Hat” Parsons (tie)**

If you’ve ever picked up some beers in Osborne Village or wandered downtown on a Jets night, you’ve probably heard Eric The Great belting out his “revolving loop” of Johnny Cash classics.

The Winnipeg troubadour says that though his set list is theoretically infinite, his listeners are creatures of habit.

“People are coming out expecting to hear ‘Ring Of Fire.’ That’s fine by me as long as the guitar’s in tune,” he says.

His vocal strength and friendly smile make him hard to miss, but Eric The Great is hardly in it for the attention.

“I’m just here to make people happy, not to impress them with how brilliant I am,” he says.

“The music is a communication of love and beauty.”

And passers-by seem to feel the love – some of them tossing spare change or a recently acquired beer into Eric The Great’s case, though the musician says he doesn’t drink much himself.

After 11 years of performing the singer says he doesn’t play as much as he used to.

“I knew the day was coming when the streets would be deserted,” he says.

Some evenings he sings for 15 minutes without a single pedestrian passing by, and he laments that Winnipeg’s foot-traffic culture seems to be dwindling.

“Around the planet there’s music in the streets. It’s just an essence of life,” he says. “You have these people that want to make a vibrant downtown, but there’s no vibrancy if you’ve got to corral into a place and spend eight bucks for a beer.”

Despite this, Eric The Great’s enthusiasm for his audience has remained constant.

“I’ve had an incredible, incredible response from people in Winnipeg,” he says. “I could never replace that in my life. I really, really love the people in this city.”

- Tim Runtz, comments editor

@TIMRUNTZ



PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK



SUPPLIED PHOTO

*Favourite
Independent
Business Person*

1. Nils Vik / Quinn Greene (tie)
2. Danika Bonk and Drex Serdletz of Tiny Feast
3. Graham Bergen of Thom Bergen / Mandel Hitzer of Deer + Almond / Justin Ludwar of Beet Happening (tie)

When the place you want to work doesn't really exist yet, sometimes you need to

create it for yourself.

For coffee lover Nils Vik, this meant opening a shop of his own. Since 2011, Parlour Coffee has been brewing up a select menu of specialty drinks, providing coffee aficionados everywhere with a hub for their java related needs.

"It was a hobby that kind of escalated," Vik says. "I visited Montréal a couple years back and was sort of blown away not only by the quality of coffee in a few cafes I went to, but also by the experience of that atmosphere."

Though a visit to Parlour guarantees you'll receive a masterfully crafted cup of joe, one thing you won't find in the 400 square-foot space is WiFi. For Vik, this means contributing to a sense of community.

"(Parlour is) really a space that's activated by its patrons," he says, noting

that his favourite moments at work are the ones in which friends and strangers connect. "Coming to work means every day I get to spend time with some really great people."

Local actor Quinn Greene's recent production of *Evil Dead the Musical* brought out the strength in community as well, just in a different way.

"I really fell in love with it," Greene says. "The audience is just rabid fans of both the movie and the musical, so they came out to the play and just loved being coated in blood. It was intense!"

Greene is one third of Wasteland Productions, a company with a mandate to create exciting counterculture projects and bring a wide range of shows to Winnipeggers. The company has been busy with its rendition of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, as well as creating

original shows with Greene's comedy sketch troupe, H.U.N.K.S.

"So far it's been a really great year with them," Greene says of the group, adding that one of his favourite aspects of working in Winnipeg is the great collaborations he's been a part of.

"If you look at the talent of our local comedy scene and you look at the talent behind a lot of our musical and theatre productions, you can see there's just a huge amount of passion in the city for great and interesting art."

- Rachel Narvey, volunteer staff

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PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK

Favourite Local Politician

1. Robert-Falcon Ouellette
2. Brian Bowman
3. Pat Martin

Less than two years ago, Robert-Falcon Ouellette was relatively unknown in Winnipeg outside the University of Manitoba (U of M) campus.

The former director of the Aboriginal Focus programs at the U of M ran for mayor in the 2014 civic election, placing third and bolstering his popularity in the community.

Since then, he's gone from Favourite Local Activist (as voted by *Uniter* readers in 2014) to eking out an upset victory and being elected Member of Parliament in the Winnipeg Centre riding in October 2015.

Ouellette admits he was nervous getting into politics.

"I think I was more nervous about (was) I going to be wasting my time? Was I just doing this as an academic exercise? Or was this going to be

something that I could be somewhat successful at? And I was really surprised," he says.

"My belief when I first started out was people would tell you, 'oh yeah, everything's decided beforehand...' What I've discovered is in fact politics is wide open and it's very fluid."

The rookie MP was sworn in Nov. 16, an emotional day for him, he says, as it coincided with the 130th anniversary of the execution of Louis Riel.

"To think Louis Riel, who was elected three times to Parliament, but was never able to sit in the Parliament building, has one person – a descendant from one of the families he was working with – now sitting in the House of Commons, is pretty amazing," Ouellette says.

His primary goals for Winnipeg Centre are reducing child poverty and ensuring Child and Family Services "gets the proper level of care and commitment from the federal government," he says. But he also has a policy change for the House of Commons on his agenda.

Ouellette wants to do a smudging ceremony in the House, which he was told wasn't allowed during his swearing-in ceremony by the Sergeant-at-Arms. He says he wants to rid the institution of negative spirits "so that we start off in a good way and we don't maintain the negative energy from the past."

- Jessica Botelho-Urbanski, news editor



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT A. FORD

Favourite Political Moment

1. Stephen Harper voted out of office
2. Robert Falcon-Ouellette's election
3. Liberal majority in federal election

By the time the federal Liberals had taken Ontario on Oct. 19, The Good Will Social Club was nearing capacity and getting rowdy. CBC's election coverage was on screen, but Peter Mansbridge's voice was drowned out by the timbre of those supposedly disengaged youths who had gathered to watch Stephen Harper fall from power.

Given the revelry, The Good Will on election night may not have been a locus of nuanced political conversation, but its atmosphere of relief, togetherness and celebration was a welcome contrast to the fear mongering and hopelessness that had come to characterize Harper's reign.

Throughout his time as PM, Harper alienated reporters, dismissed environmental concerns, criminalized dissenters, demonized minorities,

slashed public funding, muzzled federal scientists, denied that colonialism ever happened, and shut down Parliament to stay in power – all with a smug, apparent disregard for the Canadian public.

Yet despite all this, despite public criticism from within his own party, and despite nation-wide strategic voting campaigns like Lead Now, Harper somehow still had a realistic shot at a fourth term during the final days of his campaign.

The results were by no means unanimous, but in all, 11,979,164 Canadians showed up to vote for Anyone But Harper.

He quietly stepped down as Conservative leader through the party's president before taking the stage to admit defeat.

"The disappointment you also feel is my responsibility and mine only," he said, maintaining his autocratic posture till the end.

Only time will tell whether Justin Trudeau can live up to the Obama-like hype surrounding his swearing-in, but what is certain is that Canadians were ready for change.

If nothing else, anti-Harper sentiments brought millions of disenchanted Canadians together this election – and that's what democracy is all about.

- Tim Runtz, comments editor



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

Favourite Local Young Achiever Under 30

1. Michael Champagne
2. Jordan Welwood
3. Ian Bell / Nick Danzinger / Zach Fleisher / Dana Mackie / Joey Visser (tie)

Michael Champagne, a 28-year-old north end resident, has worked hard to be a role model for youth in his area, and for this, he's been named Winnipeg's favourite local achiever under 30.

"I feel like when I am recognized, it is my responsibility to emphasize that I am part of a village," Champagne says.

He doesn't think he'd be able to achieve what he has without community members who have supported his initiatives.

He says he was taught by his elders the importance of being constructive. This has allowed people to connect with him, which allows him to spread his

messages of non-violence.

"I do what I do because I feel like every child deserves an opportunity to discover and share their gift with the world and too often inner city, poverty stricken or indigenous children aren't afforded that opportunity," Champagne says.

One venue he uses to connect with people is Meet Me at the Bell Tower, an anti-violence rally that takes place at the North End Bell Tower on Selkirk Avenue every Friday at 6 p.m.

Champagne started this event four years ago.

"I've recognized the good things in my peers that other people couldn't see," Champagne says.

He wanted to amplify those qualities. Meet Me At The Bell Tower is one space he can do that, and Aboriginal Youth Opportunity (AYO) is another.

In 2010, Champagne founded AYO, an organization that works to give voices to aboriginal youth.

While Champagne is surprised Winnipeggers voted him their favourite local achiever under 30, he wants to make sure that everyone knows he wouldn't be able to do what he does without his supportive community.

- Meg Crane, arts and culture editor





Favourite Local Boutique

1. **Tiny Feast**
2. **Out of the Blue**
3. **Tara Davis Studio Boutique**

Tiny Feast is a stationary and gift store that focuses on carrying quality and functional products.

In the shop, located at 217 McDermot Ave., you'll find German fountain pens, an illustrated book of the history of brewing in Manitoba, animal shaped paper clips and more treasures for the home and office.

"As we try to grow this little business, it's really important for us to bring on products and staff members that represent ourselves continually, like in the way that we always have," Tiny Feast co-owner Danika Bock says.

They carefully choose what they will sell in their shop. Bock says she and co-owner Drex Serduletz have a genuine interest in the lines they carry and artists they work with.

They hope that through doing this, they've created a shop that people can connect with.

"Hopefully, people have been recognizing those efforts," Bock says.

It would appear that some have.

On a daily basis, Tiny Feast employees are visited by regulars, Bock says. This includes people who make a point of working a visit to the shop into their Saturday plans, which Bock says feels nice.

She says the familiarity of repeat customers and more general support from Winnipeggers has been great.

Tiny Feast opened in November 2013 and Bock says they work very hard to keep everything going, especially now with holiday shopping starting up.

"As much as this is our business, we don't really do it for ourselves. It wouldn't exist without obviously customers and familiar faces and support from the local community," Bock says.

Her and Serduletz were thrilled to be voted Winnipeg's favourite boutique.

"It's a nice little pat on the back," Bock says.

- Meg Crane, arts and culture reporter



Favourite Local Bakery

1. **Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company**
2. **Stella's Café and Bakery**
3. **Jenna Rae / Sleepy Owl (tie)**

"On a journey, bread is never heavy."

That Russian proverb hangs on the wall next to one of the most appealing corners in The Forks Market.

The Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company, which started as a local and organic bakery in Wolseley, has stuck true to its values for 25 years.

Tall Grass Prairie started its journey in 1990 with the simple idea of making bread for everyone. With all the hardships local farmers faced during that time, when the grain prices were the lowest that Canada had ever seen, the bakery's goal was to work together, forging a unique union that's alive to this day.

"We can afford to bake with complete

organic (ingredients) because it's a farmer and us," Tabitha Langel, one of Tall Grass Prairie's founders, says. "(Our) commitment to organic is rock solid."

Environmental sustainability isn't the only reason customers visit the bakery. The goods are delicious and among Tall Grass Prairie's most popular items are the famous cinnamon buns, Winnipeg Folk Festival cookies, and of course a wide variety of breads.

"I think what we didn't realize, and the customers also didn't realize, is that if you mill fresh, the taste is better," Langel says. "I think through the whole local food movements, like farmers' markets and bakeries like ours, people are connecting and it's wonderful."

Tall Grass Prairie has two locations in Winnipeg – one in Wolseley (859 Westminster Ave.) and the other at The Forks Market (1 Forks Market Rd.) – and the owners are determined to stay local. They hope to inspire others to open their own businesses.

"We've had many, many offers to franchise. I don't think you can be local if you franchise," Langel says. "Our way of franchising is to help other bakeries start."

- Elena Spitycyna, campus reporter



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PHOTO BY MIKE SUDOMA

Favourite Place to Eat

1. Stella's Café and Bakery
2. Deer + Almond
3. The Tallest Poppy / The Grove (tie)

Stella's has been voted by the readers of *The Uniter* as their favorite place to eat this year.

Winnipeg is bustling with an array of fine eateries and diners. Provision of good food at reasonable prices and quality customer service are some the core values of these restaurants.

With all these available options, what makes Stella's stand out? Meghan Thiessen, the general manager of the Stella's on Portage, believes the restaurant represents the affability and hominess that is integral to Winnipeg's culture.

"Stella's is one of the best in Winnipeg because we stay true to our core values which is simple healthy food. Everything is made from scratch and provided with friendly service and good people," Thiessen says.

Stella's was established in 1999 by Tore, Tomas and Lehla Sohlberg and Anneen DuPlessis and since then, the quality of food – be it baked breads, jams, soups or beverages – and the exceptional customer service has spoken for the restaurant.

Today, there are seven Stella's locations across the city with a new location on Pembina Highway scheduled to be open January 2016. The local restaurant has become a Winnipeg favorite over the years and several Winnipeggers are proud to call it theirs.

"I think a lot of it is the atmosphere," says Brian Rice, who has been dining at Stella's for 15 years. "They are always kind and respectful. Service is always good and the food is good. It's just a nice ambience here."

The management of Stella's also believes they have a responsibility to the city. Thiessen says the restaurant strives to be inclusive and give back to the community through donations and events.

"Each Stella's (location) is involved in their community. The Stella's here on Portage has a really close relationship with the University of Winnipeg, the Buhler Centre and the Downtown BIZ," Thiessen says.

- Tobi Nifesi, volunteer

@TOBINIFESI



PHOTO BY WHITNEY DIANNE

Favourite Local Coffee Spot

1. Little Sister Coffee Maker
2. Thom Borgen
3. Parlour Coffee

Little Sister Coffee Maker owes its name to its founder, who is the youngest of four sisters.

"(That's) my eternal position within my family," Vanessa Stachiw says, with a laugh.

The small coffee shop, located in an Osborne Village basement at 470 River Ave., is a great place to get a tasty cup of freshly made coffee or to just relax in a cozy, inviting atmosphere.

Even though the coffee already comes from three different roasters, scattered around Canada, it's not the stopping point for the owner. Bringing the process closer to home, Little Sister partnered up with the new to Winnipeg Dogwood Coffee Co., which is slated to open in The Exchange District in January.

Owner and operator Stachiw says

opening a coffee shop has always been her dream.

She used to be quite indifferent about coffee, until one memorable trip to Montreal changed her mind.

"It was a different (coffee) style than I've ever had before," Stachiw says.

Even though Osborne Village is full of coffee shop chains like Starbucks and Second Cup, Little Sister's staff don't feel intimidated.

"Our goal is to focus on what we do and do it very well," Stachiw says.

While their main focus is, of course, to make great coffee, the staff also enjoy chatting with customers and having fun along the way.

"It's really rewarding to get to be a part of people's lives everyday. Coffee really brings people together," she says.

Little Sister also hosts events from time to time, like book launches. But what's most unique about the place is its staff, according to the owner.

"I think people can tell when someone really, really genuine is making your coffee," Stachiw says.

- Elena Spitscyna, campus reporter

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PHOTO BY MIKE SUDOMA

Favourite Local Place to see Live Music

1. The Good Will Social Club
2. The Park Theatre
3. The West End Cultural Centre

Last year, The Good Will Social Club was chosen by *Uniter* readers as their third favourite venue to see live music. It had only been open for a month or two and had already earned a spot in the hearts of local music-goers.

Now, after 13 months in the scene, it was voted best music venue, and (by the sounds of it) is No. 1 in the hearts of University of Winnipeg students and live music enthusiasts.

When asked about what surprised him most over the past year, talent buyer David Schellenberg gushes: “Just how quickly people have gathered together to support and come and hang out and make this their bar – to make this their regular hang. I think that’s pretty special.”

Although choosing a couple of shows as venue highlights is a challenge, Schellenberg lists the recent Constantines gig, Dilly Dally, and Cakes da Killa as some of his favourites.

“The year’s been such a blur of great shows and good times,” he says.

It’s clear to any frequent Good Will goer that the U of W and the bar have a close connection. Not just because of proximity, but because the establishment was crafted with students in mind. The busiest night since the social club’s grand opening was election night, with students coming in unexpected droves.

“I loved that so much, that young people think about where they’re going to drink and watch the election and The Good Will’s the first place,” Schellenberg says.

As The Good Will dances into its second year, with the official status of *Uniter* reader darlings, Schellenberg anticipates that they’ll continue doing what they’re already excelling at.

“(We’ll keep) putting on really great shows and putting on really great events. We’re really happy about what we’re doing now and we want to keep it going.”

With student-friendly priced beer, let’s raise our drinks for another great year ahead.

- Shanae Blaquiere, volunteer staff

@SHANAEBLQ



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA SECTER

Favourite Winnipeg Winter Activity

1. Ice skating on the river / at The Forks
2. Drinking
3. Hockey

In a true testament to Winnipeggers’ tenacity, readers have chosen skating down a frozen windy river pathway as their favourite winter activity.

But until the river freezes, it’s difficult to predict what kind of path they’re going to end up with as this year’s Red River Mutual Trail.

“Every year the trails are unique, both on land and on the Mutual Trail. And it always is determined on what the weather offers us and how things freeze,” Kristin Pauls, marketing and communications coordinator at The Forks, says.

Once the river’s open, expect a steady flow of selfies from the warming huts speckled along the trail. An art installation called Recycled Words, which scattered red chairs with ski legs and a single word

in bold white text across the back, will also return to the ice this year.

In 2008, the Red River Mutual Trail was recognized by the Guinness World Records as the world’s longest naturally frozen skating trail, a position it held until Lake Windermere Whiteway usurped the title in 2014.

However, in recent years, “skating down the Assiniboine hasn’t been easily accessible just because of the fast moving water, and it leaves holes in the ice so we can’t actually go down it,” Pauls says. “But the water levels this year have dropped so we’re really hoping we’ll be able to get back onto the Assiniboine this year.”

Despite limited ice time on the Assiniboine, the Red River Mutual Trail reached the St. Vital bridge for the first time last winter.

And while waiting for the river to freeze, up to 1.6 kilometres of trails are built on the land as part of the Arctic Glacier Winter Park, winding from the Scotiabank Stage back to the canopy tent at The Forks.

Information about skate rentals, as well as daily updates on trail conditions and closures, can be found at theforks.com.

- Anastasia Chipelski, managing editor

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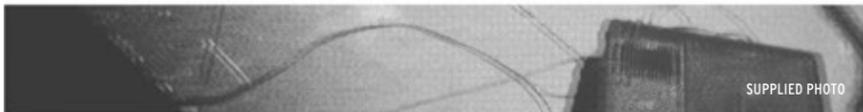
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MOBINA GALORE
CITIES AWAY



Favourite Local
Album

1. Mobina Galore: *Cities Away* / Red Moon Road: *Sorrows and Glories* (tie)

2. Bros Landereth: *Let it Lie* / Cannon Bros: *Dream City* / Chic Gamine: *Light a Match* / Human Music: *Cool Party* (tie)

This year, there has been a tie between two great, but contrasting albums.

There is the energized, grungy garage punk from Mobina Galore and the full folked-out charm of Red Moon Road.

The fact that two different genres are coming together, voted in as favourite local albums, sheds light on the fact that Winnipeg is home to a diverse music scene that explores all types of sound on a spectrum.

Mobina Galore's album, *Cities Away*, showcases the band's self-proclaimed punk-alt-pop tunes.

With Jenna Priestner on distorted guitar and punchy vocals, Marcia Hanson drives the drums.

The duo creates an in-your-

face dynamic that moves with an approachable force. "Skeleton" and "You're not 23 Anymore" are just two examples of the eight tracks on the record that demonstrates the duo's powerful energy when they play together.

The same energy is found in Red Moon Road's album *Sorrows and Glories*, but through the different avenue of rounded twang and full arrangements that feel like soulful honey.

The folk trio creates a sound that feels breezy with storytelling lyrics like in "Old Things," while they also create uplifting ballads like "Beauty in These Broken Bones," where the group's vocalist Sheena Rattai performs powerful gospel-like melodies over the

backdrop of a choir.

These are not exactly two albums expected to be sold side-by-side in a record store, but they both are bursting at the seams with energy within their own genres. *Uniter* readers have spoken; both records were recognized as being favourites with locals, so both groups must be doing something right.

- Samantha Sarty, arts and culture reporter

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Favourite Local Charity or Non-Profit

1. Siloam Mission
2. United Way / Winnipeg Harvest (tie)
3. Lake Winnipeg Foundation

Ever wonder how generous Manitobans can be? A tour of Siloam Mission can show just how much people give – and how much more help is always needed.

Since 1987, Siloam Mission has been a place where some go for food and shelter, or to volunteer, be it in the kitchen, in the dining room, in the sorting section (sorting clothes, food or hygiene items downstairs) or working in other corners of the Princess Street building.

In 2014, Siloam served more than 471,000 meals and had more than 37,000 shelter stays. According to a 2015 street census by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, at least 1,727 people are experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg. Many of

them are helped by Siloam.

Whether volunteers and staff are providing people with clothes, hygiene essentials or a blank canvas to paint on, the common thread at Siloam Mission is helping others without judgment.

People from many walks of life can be spotted at Siloam Mission lending a hand. Chiropractors, dentists, physicians and optometrists volunteer at Siloam's Saul Sair Health Centre providing holistic healthcare for the less fortunate or homeless.

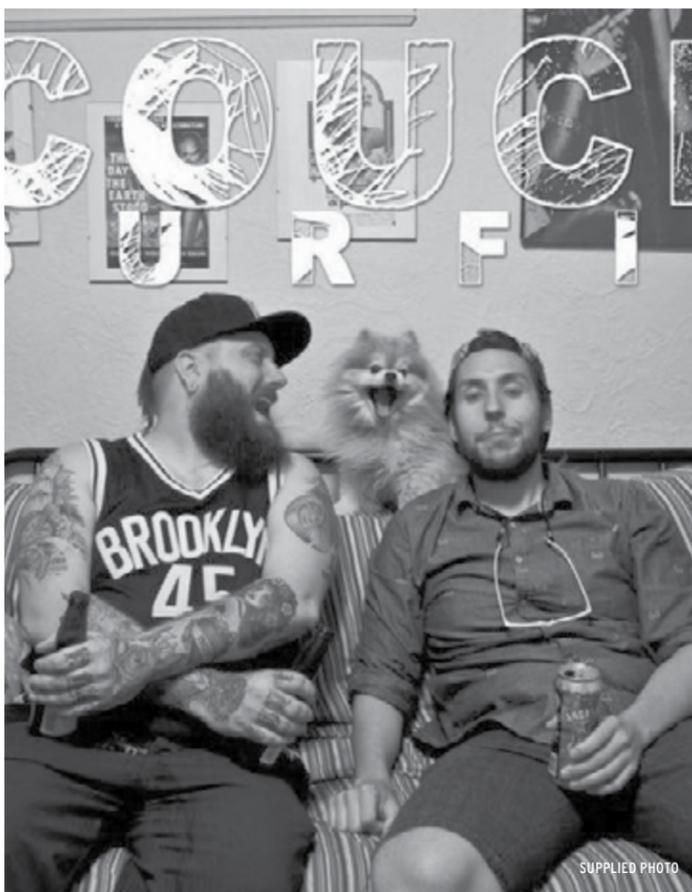
Siloam Mission also helps some of its clients get jobs through its Building Futures rehabilitation program. Those looking to gain employment can be assessed for their skill levels and are given opportunities to gain skills for jobs they're looking for.

Another goal of Siloam Mission is to help clients become self-sufficient, whether that's through Building Futures or by providing supportive housing at The Madison apartment block in Wolseley.

Siloam Mission strives to make positive change and more volunteers and donations are always welcomed. Winter boots and men's jeans are current items that are in high demand.

- Shkelzen Miskiqi, news reporter

[@SHKELMIS](#)



Favourite Radio Show or Podcast

1. Couch Surfin'
2. Be Plus
3. Witchpolice

Couch Surfin' hosts Devin Bray and Terrance Williams are no strangers to the title of Favourite Local Podcast.

The duo won the spot in 2013 after only a handful of episodes, and came second in the 2014 poll.

The show has become a favourite for its laid-back style and emphasis on conversations rather than interviews.

"The people who listen to or are on the show don't want to hear the same old questions over and over again," Williams says.

"If you're a musician, the reason you got into it is generally the same as with others. 'I liked music as a kid, yada yada yada.' We want to talk about things related to their lives and not necessarily their craft. We don't need someone in a hardcore band to talk for an hour about why they like hardcore. That can

and will be boring."

It's an approach that's earned the podcast some great guests over the last year, including John K. Samson, Al Simmons and multiple appearances from Robert-Falcon Ouellette.

"We're, like, the reason Robert-Falcon got elected, so credit for that," Bray says. "But Brian Bowman has turned us down probably three times now."

Those high profile guests helped make 2015's listenership higher than ever.

The show's involvement in founding the Garbage Hill Podcast Network, which is a loosely organized group of Winnipeg podcasts and campus radio shows, has also got the duo gigs hosting community events like trivia nights at The Handsome Daughter and the upcoming *Star Wars* screenings at The Park Theatre.

Bray says the event hosting happened organically.

"It's all stuff that we're interested in, like wrestling or nerdy shit. It just kind of grew from there, holes we saw in the city," Bray says.

"We've always wanted to host a game show," Williams says. "And now, we have."

- Thomas Pashko, features reporter

[@THOMASPASHKO](#)



Favourite Local Theatrical Production

1. Rocky Horror Picture Show
2. H.U.N.K.S. Sketch Comedy
3. Les Misérables / Sister Act at Rainbow Stage (tie)

This fall's nine-show run of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (RHPS) was nothing close to ordinary theatre, and that's exactly how the producers wanted it.

"We definitely gave (the audience) permission to be as interactive and wild and crazy as possible. So we encouraged people dressing up, and dancing, and singing along," Dan De Jaeger, who pulled double duty as the lead role and producer of the show, says.

De Jaeger is one third of Wasteland Productions, who put on *Evil Dead: The Musical* the previous year. They were inspired to do their own version of RHPS during an annual screening of the film at The Park Theatre.

"We all thought 'well this just makes sense,'" De Jaeger says.

De Jaeger says. "That's really what Wasteland Productions is about, is trying to give Winnipeg audiences something that's not being done here, which is those more interactive or wild or crazy ways of experiencing live theatre rather than sitting in a seat and watching something unfold."

The RHPS has its own well-established lore and history of audience provocation, and this iteration was no different. De Jaeger cast Alan McKenzie – who he bills as one of the city's best improvisers – in the role of the narrator.

At one moment in the show, he responded to the audience's traditional heckling of "Boring!" by taking revenge and spitting the contents of his brandy glass back in their faces.

"And every night they would gasp because a bunch of people got sprayed with goo from his mouth, and he would say 'I'm sorry, did that get you? Well that's what you get for calling me boring.'"

Though it was an unexpected move, it fit with the audience's expectations for the show, De Jaeger says. "It was just one of those moments where every night, people got it. They cheered and he wasn't called boring as much after that for the remainder of the performance."

Wasteland Productions' version of the RHPS ran from Oct 22 to 31 at The Park Theatre.

- Anastasia Chipelski, managing editor

[@ANACHIPS](#)



PHOTO BY ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

Favourite Local
Blog

1. **West End Dumplings**
2. **Hopeless Wanderer / SCREAMING IN ALL CAPS / Winnipeg Love Hate/ Witchpolice (tie)**

Christian Cassidy was born and raised in Winnipeg and remembers his curiosity

about the city started young.

“With my mom downtown, I’d be looking up rather than looking in front of me. Looking up at the tops of the buildings and all of the interesting crevices and lions and things like that sticking out from them,” he says. “It was almost an architectural interest, but I (also) wanted to know, who worked there? Who built it?”

For eight years, Cassidy has been chronicling Winnipeg building histories on his blog, *West End Dumplings*. He’s got three more history blogs to boot, writes freelance columns for the *Winnipeg Free Press* and produces a weekly radio show version of *West End Dumplings* on

UMFM on Sunday evenings.

It seems appropriate *The Uniter* would reach him as he’s scavenging through the Manitoba Archives researching a history article about an obscure sports team. But Cassidy says most of his work is easily done online these days.

“Generally, 95 per cent of my work is done from home. Over the last few years, so many archives and university collections and newspapers and things like that have gone online. You can really do a lot of that research... usually 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. is my prime blogging slot,” he says.

Cassidy says he’s always been a bit of a research fiend, so when blogging became

popular in the early 2000s, it provided an outlet for him to share his many findings.

“It’s great to research things for yourself, but it’s nicer when you can share the stories with people,” he says. “Sometimes when you do something very niche-y, like local history, you don’t always get a sense of how many people follow it or appreciate it... I love doing it – I would do it anyways – but it’s great to know other people are reading it and enjoying it.”

- Jessica Botelho-Urbanski, news editor

@JESSBU



PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK

Favourite Local
Visual Artist

1. **J.D. Renaud**
2. **Dany Reede**
3. **Cara Adams / Natalie Baird / Joey Visser (tie)**

J.D. Renaud slowly makes abstract art, one cut a time.

Renaud, an Oakville, Ont. native, is starting to get noticed for his unique

brand of art. It’s “collage-based artwork made out of old film posters,” by his own description.

Winnipeg has been his home for eight years and he only took up art professionally three years ago. Renaud is an independent visual artist with a background in performing arts and has dabbled with video and mixed media. Now he’s dedicating more of his time to making new abstract pieces out of old film posters.

Renaud collects posters from all kinds of films – box office hits or not, Renaud lays down the posters and shows them the knife. Once his desired pieces are cut, Renaud lays them flat on a blank white canvas and applies decoupage paste to the

cut up pieces in a pattern of his choosing.

“I like working with paper. Paper is easy to manipulate, there’s a lot that can be done with it,” he says.

And as an artist, he finds himself growing with each piece. His newer works display a refined attention to detail where earlier pieces were “chaotic and messy.”

“They didn’t have any symmetry to them,” Renaud explains. “They weren’t as meticulous as they are kind of now. There wasn’t as much of plan to them as there is now.”

Renaud’s work has been exhibited at Super Wonder Gallery in Toronto and at Frame Arts Warehouse in Winnipeg, prior to its closing. He also receives regular requests for custom art with particular

posters of interest.

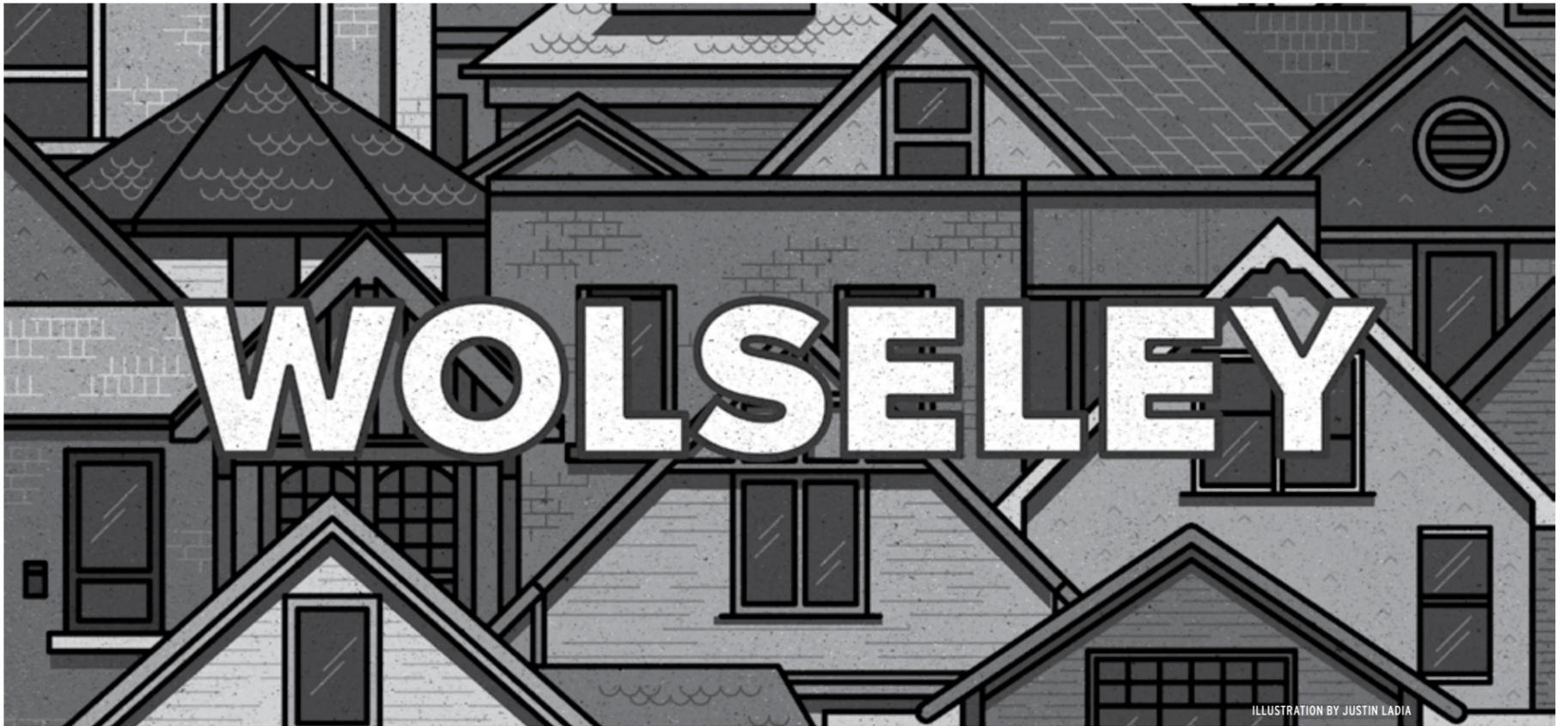
“When people commission me to do something out of a poster I never thought I’d do, it’s a new challenge,” he says.

Commissions for his art allow Renaud to focus strictly on his craft and be able to pay his rent. He also does stand-up comedy and has put on Winnipeg Fringe Festival shows in the past.

“I’ve been supporting myself through my commissions. By no means am I killing it,” he jokes.

- Shkelzen Miskiqi, news reporter

@SHKELMIS



Favourite Winnipeg Neighbourhood

1. Wolseley
2. West Broadway
3. Osborne Village

You can always count on Wolseley to be Winnipeg's favourite hippie hub.

Other popular neighborhoods in Winnipeg consistently seem to shift around. For example, Osborne Village

had its 15 minutes of fame in 2012 when the Canadian Institute of Planners voted it Canada's best neighborhood, and in came the suits swooping down to get their piece.

Yet Wolseley hasn't seen much change since the Granola Belt years of the '70s and '80s, aside from a growing demand to move into the neighbourhood, and rising housing costs in the area.

With the ubiquitous elms and character homes, Wolseley is unmistakably beautiful.

"Especially in the fall, when you walk along the boulevards and the crunch underfoot might be that of dried leaves from the tall elms or just discarded

granola," Wolseley resident Daniel Guezen says.

The neighbourhood is bounded on the south by the Assiniboine River, and it's not hard to find a great green park to wander through. On weekends in the summer much of the neighbourhood is closed to automobiles (save for local traffic), which makes it one of the most bicycle and pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.

Wolseley has always had a long history of tree-hugging enthusiasm, and it was once home to what Ripley's Believe it or Not called the world's smallest park: "The Wolseley Elm."

When a giant triple trunk in the center

of Wolseley Avenue and Greenwood Street was set to be chopped down as a traffic hazard, a group of courageous Wolseley women circled the goliath to save it – until it was blown up with dynamite in the middle of the night.

Wolseley is this city's quaint and quiet tucked away little neighborhood, free from the ever present sirens and party shouts. Luckily for those who can afford to live there, the most noise you'll hear in Wolseley is the ring of the Westminster United Church bell.

- Jory Strachan, volunteer

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PHOTO BY JENN KOSTESKY

Favourite Manitoba Festival

1. Winnipeg Folk Festival
2. Rainbow Trout Music Festival / Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival (tie)
3. Oddblock

In all the time that the *Uniter* 30 has included a category for Favourite Local Festival – the last three years, that is –

The Winnipeg Folk Festival has won. If this was sportsball, we'd call it a three-peat, or a Triple Crown, or some other sports analogy.

It's a festival that's spawned its own city in a city (but in the country, kind of), with laws and law-breakers and traditions that the people fight to uphold. Festival fans are passionate and involved in the pillars of their annual, and provisional, community.

While a lot of the festival culture revolves around the tent city that springs up in Birds Hill Park every year, people aren't just there to camp.

"It comes down to a music-loving audience," Chris Frayer, artistic director of the festival, explains. "That's what we're trying to foster and we work

with artists that convey that vibe at the festival that makes you feel like when you get there, you're kinda transported to another place."

It helps that the festival is close to, but just outside of the city. Upon your arrival, there's a good chance that you'll be greeted by volunteers whose passion for the festival is hard to top.

You can expect to see the same faces at many common outposts, like the wavers at the entrance to the campground, the well-decorated roving raffle salespeople, and many others who have declared their volunteer crew allegiance as if it were their very own home team.

"I think our volunteers have built these small families over the years," Frayer says. He's impressed by the commitment

that they've shown. "People take time off work to volunteer."

But it wouldn't be a festival if it was all work and no play. Even those who pay their dues in time rather than gate prices have ample space to enjoy themselves over the weekend.

"People become less inhibited, sometimes for better, sometimes for worse," Frayer says. "It's a kind of get your freak on, wave your freak flag high kind of weekend. Just have fun and dance and enjoy the music and hopefully spend some good time with your family and friends."

- Anastasia Chipelski, managing editor

@ANACHIPS



PHOTO BY IAN WALSH

Favourite Theme night

1. Nuit Blanche
2. Halloween
3. Motown Mondays (The Good Will)

Creativity flowed through downtown Winnipeg on Sept. 26 during Nuit Blanche, an all-night party which translates from French to 'white night'.

The annual eve, adopted from a Montreal tradition, started in Winnipeg six years ago.

Around 250 artists got together to show off their talents in 50 venues. There were 75 events that night between The Exchange District, St. Boniface and downtown.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery hosted the biggest event of the evening, with about 4,000 people in attendance, according to Monica Lowe, the chair of Nuit Blanche Winnipeg.

New artists are always welcome for next year, Lowe says.

"Anyone can host an event as long as it artistically inclined," she adds.

Winnipeggers who made their way

downtown were able to see film screenings, live paintings and fire spinning. Some got the chance to play glow golfing, hear live music and see a mini Tour de France as the Rainbow Trout Music Festival's bike jam traveled from event to event.

Nuit Blanche is part of the Culture Days festival that runs nationally for three days, usually in late September or early October. The theme night is also popular in cities across Canada and around the world.

Each art show at Nuit Blanche was hosted by independent artists who wanted to participate and spectators had the luxury of enjoying the exhibits free of charge.

The Exchange District held close to 40

events, some in back alleys and some at Old Market Square.

Downtown Winnipeg hosted the ARTery and Labyrinth of Light on Graham Avenue between Vaughan Street and Fort Street.

On Provencher Boulevard in St. Boniface, some folks got the chance to take a break, sit on a sofa and read books in the street, as well as listen to some relaxing music.

- Shkelzen Miskiqli, news reporter

@SHKELMIS



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Favourite Local Person Behind The Counter

1. Lindsay Loster of Deseo

2. Nils Vik of Parlour

3. Josey Krahn of Deer + Almond / Joanne Rodriguez of The Good Will / Abi Torquato of The Good Will / Carol-Ann Bohrn of Little Sister Coffee Maker (tie)

The people have voted and the person they want to see most when being served is none other than Lindsay Loster.

“It’s very exciting and I’m very happy and humbled that people would vote for me,” Loster says.

The counter she’s frequently behind is at Deseo Bistro, a sharp restaurant where people go to share cocktails and stories over plates crafted by chef Scott Bagshaw.

Loster only started serving at the restaurant in April, but clearly has made her mark on the place alongside the rest of the team that keeps it running.

“The staff is excellent. I think we’re definitely

a family,” Loster says. “We go out for food and drinks and dancing together. We really enjoy each other’s company.”

Loster understands that the win of the title isn’t just a win for her, but the rest of the Deseo family as well.

“I think they’ll be happy with this title because it reflects on them too,” Loster says. “This isn’t a job you can do alone, and the only reason I’m any good at it is because they’re all amazing at what they do. We all work together.”

Attention, knowledge, friendliness and professionalism are some of the qualities Loster provides for her customer.

She says she truly understands that in order to give good customer service, it’s important to think of yourself as being on the receiving side of the counter and to deliver what you’d expect.

“I try to make sure I give customers what I’d want in a dining experience,” Loster says. “I think regardless of why you’re out – a date, event or whatever – it’s important to give them the best experience possible.”

If you’re looking for beyond excellent service, visit Loster at Deseo Bistro (696 Osborne St.), and she’ll make sure you’re smiling like she is.

- Samantha Sarty, arts and culture reporter



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUSTEIN-BLACK

Favourite University Staff

1. Laura Smith (U of W)

2. George Toles

3. Emma Alexander-Mudaliar (U of W) / Gord Beveridge (U of W) / Roewan Crowe (U of W) / Kent Davies (U of W) / Vesna Milosevic (U of W)

Chances are Laura Smith was one of the first people to welcome you to the University of Winnipeg.

Smith, voted the favourite university staff person, is an office assistant in the admissions department at the U of W. She’s been working here for under a year and a half after coming back from England.

Originally from Winnipeg, Smith graduated from the University of Manitoba, then continued on with a master’s degree in art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, England.

Most of her work includes helping new students get through the admissions process at the

university.

“I really like meeting prospective students, but I also enjoy working with my co-workers, it’s a really nice group of people that I work with,” Smith says. “I really like the community here.”

As a former student herself and as an admissions department assistant, Smith has experienced university life to its fullest. She thinks students should also enjoy it as much as they can.

“I think that a student’s time in university is probably one of the most important and exciting times of their entire lives. I really enjoyed being a student and that’s one of the reasons that I want to continue to work at the university,” Smith says.

“I think that at that time you get to discover a lot, you get to fill your mind with new ideas. I think it’s a wonderful time, so I’d just say try not to be too stressed by all the deadlines and really enjoy it.”

While she works hard helping new students get used to the university community, Smith didn’t expect students would vote her as their favourite university staff this year.

“It’s very flattering. I was very surprised. I work behind the scenes, so I wasn’t really expecting to be recognized.”

- Elena Spitycyna, campus reporter



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT A. FORD

Favourite Local Publication

1. The Uniter

2. The Manitoban

3. Stylus

While we certainly didn’t break any rules tallying the votes for this category, it looks like we’re going to have to break one to write this piece.

One of the first things writers at *The Uniter* are told is that they shouldn’t write about things they are directly involved in. Writing about yourself is as far from objective as a journalist could be, yet here we are. So instead of cracking jokes or brazenly tooting our own horn for a few hundred words, we’ll just jump into it.

Thank you. Thanks for reading and thanks for voting. Thanks for caring about what fellow Winnipeggers are up to and sharing their stories.

It’s fantastic to see the company we’re in, and

that our readers are also big fans of *The Manitoban* and *Stylus* magazine. We’re the little guys in the city, a handful of places where someone can walk through the door and start writing, regardless of their previous experience.

And alumni from all three – *The Uniter*, *The Manitoban* and *Stylus* – go on to do all kinds of cool things. Sometimes journalism things, sometimes other things. Every now and then we get a tweet or an email with someone’s fond recollection of their time working here. Maybe they made friends or jokes or learned how to write a little bit better.

We officially live in the category of student newspaper, but we’re also right at home being labelled as alternative media. And all the publications you’ve chosen are offering their own specific alternative spin on the stories we share.

Cheesy as it may sound, we hope you know we’re not doing it for the big bucks. We’re doing it because we believe it makes some kind of difference, and by your votes, it looks like you agree.

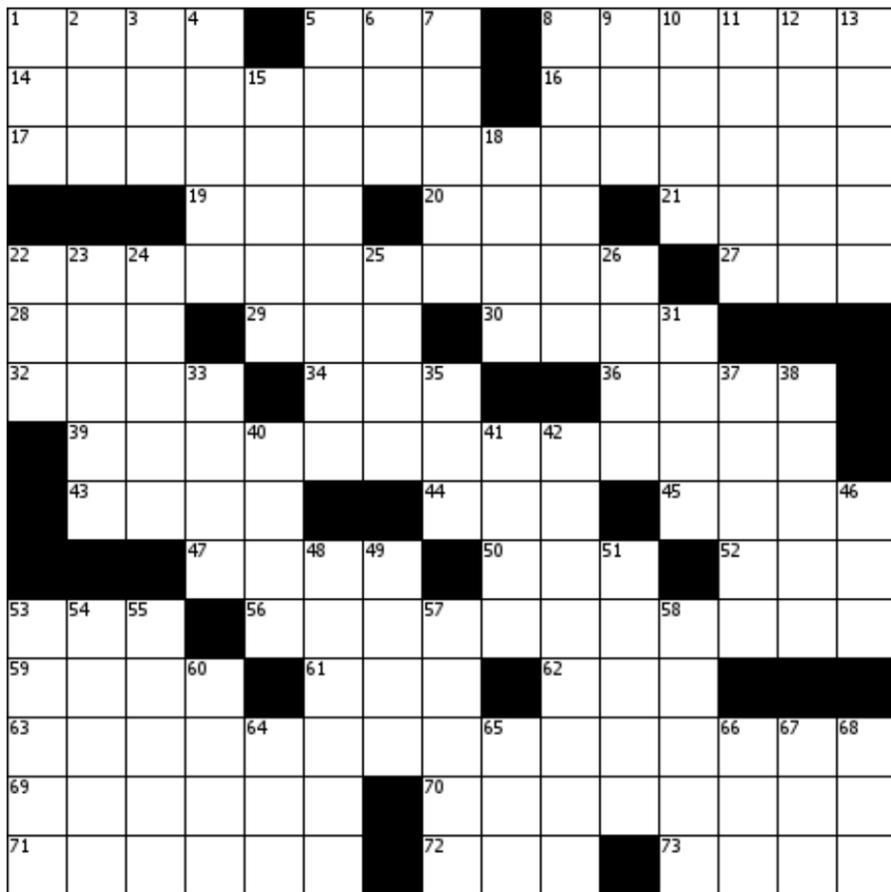
- Anastasia Chipelski, managing editor



DIVERSIONS



ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET



ACROSS

1. "Fiddlesticks!"
5. "The X-Files" org.
8. Recorded
14. Forgotten state
16. "The Brady Bunch" sister
17. Studying hard
19. Hollywood's Gardner
20. Sleazy paper
21. Rare trick taker
22. Drinking on credit
27. Second Amendment advocacy gp.
28. Literary collection
29. 20% of MMMV
30. A son of Isaac
32. In order
34. Sense of self
36. March Madness org.
39. Manning the phones
43. Nathan Hale's alma mater
44. Otolologist's concern
45. Choral part
47. Prepare for a trip
50. Mystery novelist Grafton
52. Gold, in Granada
53. Sci-fi sound effect
56. Pursuing one's sweetheart

59. Washstand pitcher

61. Word of wonder
62. __-pitch
63. It starts at a plate (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
69. Singing cowboy Tex
70. Mercy
71. In disagreement
72. URL ending
73. Sedan top

DOWN

1. Play-__
2. Box score stat
3. Cockpit abbr.
4. Powerful person
5. Provided dough for
6. Swampy area
7. Coastal opening?
8. Ends
9. Apprehend
10. Palomino pace
11. Type of squash
12. Tightwad
13. Class requiring little effort
15. Brilliant, as colors
18. Can't stand
22. Squealer

23. Bring together
24. Gymnast Comaneci
25. 1958 Best Picture
26. "Hulk" star Eric
31. Golden State campus, briefly
33. Animal cry
35. Binary digit
37. Permit
38. Roger Clemens, lately
40. Leave one's feet
41. Ugly cut
42. Aboard the QE2, perhaps
46. "Hollywood Squares" line
48. Some Cubans
49. Mail-order record co.
51. China's Zhou __
53. Costarring critter in the animated film "Madagascar"
54. Look forward to
55. Green sauce
57. String quartet member
58. Aerial dogfight opponent, in slang
60. AARP part: Abbr.
64. Plot in a garden
65. Aachen article
66. Lennon's lady
67. Sgt., e.g.
68. Rock's __ Leppard



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

You of W



The Student Services staff of The University of Winnipeg provides the student body with current information and opportunities. This information is updated weekly.

ABORIGINAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTER

6TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE IS NOW ON!

The items are hand-crafted and the proceeds go toward the UW Annual Spring Pow Wow. The ornaments are available for purchase from 2L01 and the sale will go until the Christmas Break.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION

Fall final exams are coming up soon! Double check your scheduled dates and times to make sure you don't have any conflicts.

Go to uwinnipeg.ca

Click "Student"

Click "Exam Schedules"

If you have a direct final exam conflict then follow the instructions found in "Important Information about Final Exam Conflicts". If you have 3 exams that begin and end within a 24 hour period, and you would like to reschedule one, please speak with an Academic Advisor.

Remember, making an alternate exam arrangement is time sensitive, start making plans now!

AWARDS AND FINANCIAL AID

CAMPUS JOBS

The Awards and Financial Aid Office is still accepting applications for the Fall/Winter 2015-16 Work-Study Program. *NEW*: The Work-Study Program is now open to international students with a valid study permit.

Work about 5-10 hours a week

Get valuable research experience

Work flexible hours

Build your résumé

For more information, deadlines and applications, visit the Awards and Financial Aid website:

Go to uwinnipeg.ca - Click "Student" - Click "Awards and Financial Aid" - Click "Work-Study Program".

Deadline to apply: December 7, 2015

CAREER SERVICES

Elections Manitoba is hiring Enumerators for the upcoming provincial general election, April 19th, 2016. Work begins in February and continues for two to three weeks. Evenings and weekend work required. Apply online: electionsmanitoba.ca or call 204.945.3225 (Toll-free 1.866.628.6837)

STUDENT CENTRAL

A) WINTER TERM 2016 TUITION

Undergraduate tuition fees for Winter Term 2016 are due Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Pay early! Pay online! Online banking is the preferred method of payment. Add The University of Winnipeg as a bill payee. Use your student number as the account number. The University does not charge an additional fee for this payment method. Remember, students are financially and academically responsible for all classes in which they register!

B) DROPPING COURSES

The final day to withdraw from a U2015FW class is January 20, 2016. No refund is applicable. Courses are dropped through WebAdvisor using the "Register/Drop Course Sections" link.

C) CHANGES TO SC'S HOURS

SC will be closed from 11:00-1:00 on Friday, Dec. 11.

SC will be open 9:00-4:15 on Friday, Dec. 18.

SC will be open 8:15-4:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

SC will be closed from Dec. 23-Jan. 3. We will re-open with regular hours on Jan. 4.

SC's regular hours are 8:15-5:30 Monday-Thursday and 8:30-4:15 on Fridays.

D) U2015F GRADES

Grades for Fall Term classes will be posted on WebAdvisor the week of January 25, 2016.

E) WAITLISTS

Don't lose out on a seat in a waitlisted course! Remember to check your University Webmail for permission to register every Monday and Thursday.

FALL MINDFULNESS MEDITATION DROP-IN SESSIONS

"Mindfulness is paying attention to what is happening in the moment. The idea is to deliberately slow down and observe our thoughts, feelings and body sensations that we are already experiencing and holding our emotions so that they don't sweep us away. With this quality of attention, we develop more awareness, resilience and compassion of ourselves and surroundings" (Mindfulness Without Borders).

Supported by UWSA, the UW offers FREE Drop-In Mindfulness Meditation Sessions each Monday and Thursday, September 21 to December 17, 2015, 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. in the Bryce Hall Chapel.

REMINDER: THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 23 TO JANUARY 1.

Happy Holidays!

ASK! You of W

PHONE: 204.779.UWIN (8946) | EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE.

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

15JUDOKU.NET

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	2	8				1	9	
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2			7					9
			3	4			7	
	3	7			9	4		

Un-Supermarket

by Sari Habiluk

facebook.com/SariHabilukArtisticWorks



15JUDOKU.NET

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				9			2	
	7	6				1		
8			7	2	1			

The CREEPS

BY JEAN FLOCH
www.gocomics.com/the-creeps



GREEN HAS NEVER TASTED SO GOOD

DIVERSITY FOODS EARNS STARS RECOGNITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DINING

From farm to table, delivering a quality dining experience goes beyond delicious food. It involves cooking handmade, global meals from locally sourced ingredients. It means having a diverse workforce that is representative of the many different cultures at The University of Winnipeg and surrounding neighbourhoods. It's educating about the impact food has on creating a sustainable environment.

Those commitments have earned Diversity Food Services and The University of Winnipeg a 2014 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) recognition as the second-most sustainable dining service at a North American post-secondary institution (first in Canada).



65% Of all food purchased from family farms within 100km of UWinnipeg



100% Fair or direct-trade coffee, tea, rice, sugar and chocolate



100% Antibiotic and hormone-free chicken



100% Ocean-Wise certified seafood

Join us for a meal at Elements (599 Portage Avenue) or Buffalo Stone Café (at FortWhyte Alive) or have Diversity cater your next event!

Visit uwinnipeg.ca/food-services to learn more.



Diversity Food Services is a joint venture of The University of Winnipeg's Community Renewal Corporation (UWCRC) and SEED Winnipeg, a non-profit agency dedicated to renewing inner-city communities.