

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

# THE **UNITER**

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**24**  
VOLUME 63

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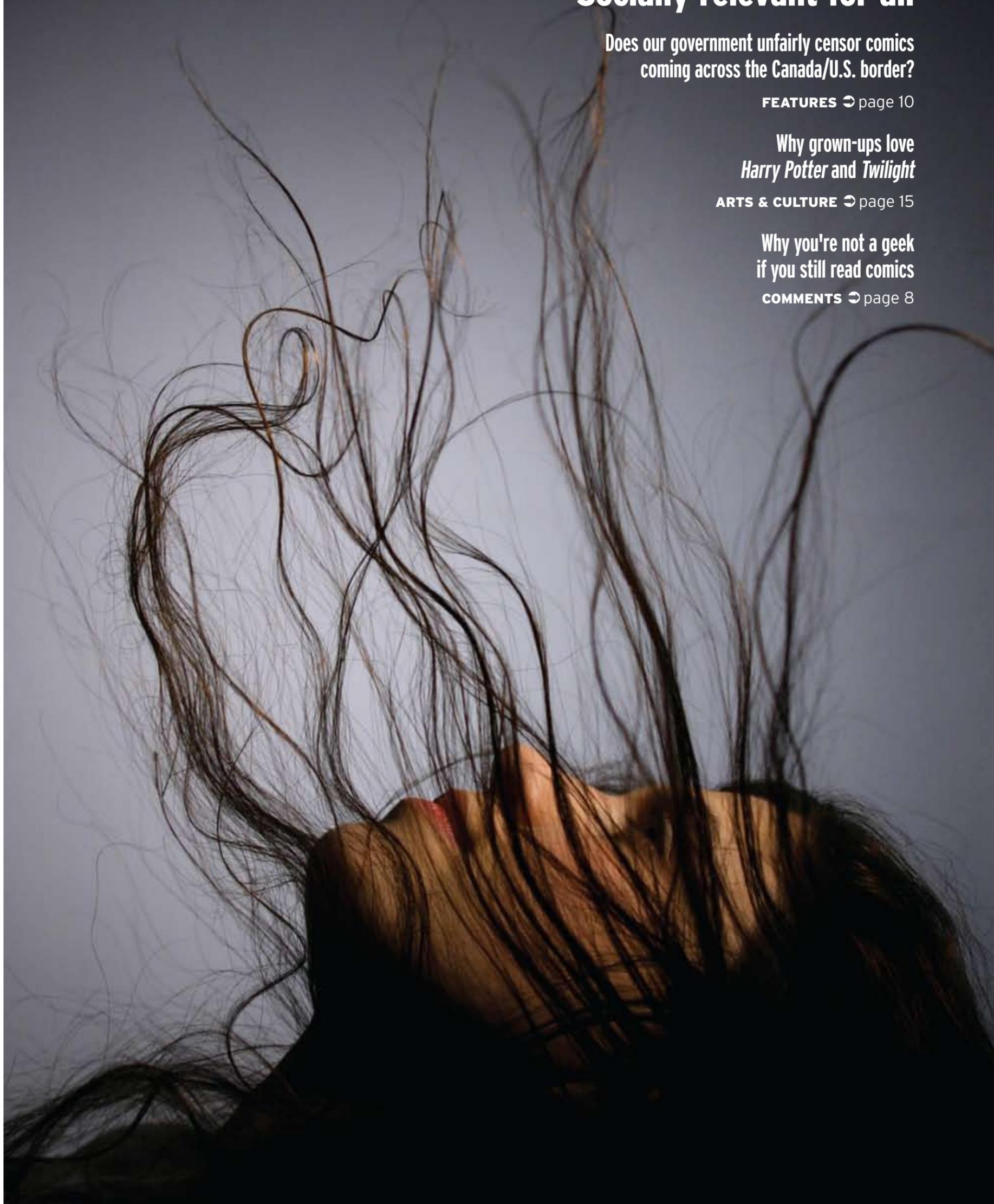
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"Breathe"

by Tyler Funk

www.flickr.com/photos/tylerfunk

Check out more of his work in "The Exchange Community Building Opening" art show, Mar. 26.

## News

# New regulations for organic foods

Some farmers may  
opt out of producing  
organic products  
due to **red tape**

DAN HUYGHEBAERT  
BEAT REPORTER

Some farmers may stop growing organic food this summer because of stricter upcoming national regulations. Others will have to fork out more money to adapt to the changes.

"The regulations will turn off some people who really are organic because of the cost and the paperwork," said Julie Fine, co-ordinator of Growing Up Organic, a program

with the Organic Food Council of Manitoba.

"But it will also lend legitimacy to their practice," Fine said. "I'm very excited about the process."

Organic food sales have increased dramatically in recent years. Statistics Canada revealed the sale of certified organic food grew 28 per cent from 2005 to 2006.

The number of certified organic farms shot up by 60 per cent over the same time as well.

As a result, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will release Organic Products Regulations on June 30 in an effort to protect consumers from deceptive labeling practices.

Larry McIntosh, president and CEO of Peak of the Market, a grower-owned vegetable supplier in Manitoba, wasn't satisfied with the original draft of the regulations.

"The draft said that if you grew organic, you couldn't do anything else," McIntosh said, adding many of Peak of the Market's growers do both by ensuring a good separation between their soil and sheds.

Peak of the Market got into selling organic products five years ago, starting with potatoes and onions. They are looking to expand to squashes as more land becomes available.

McIntosh doesn't think the certification will make any difference, as Peak of the Market's food is certified through a program in the United States.

"It's just a different label and a different auditing procedure," McIntosh said, adding they'll have to redo their packaging, which can cost upwards of tens of thousands of dollars.

All former certification standards will remain valid under the new system.

Farmers need to apply for the new national program to have their products certified organic.

"The regulations are only for interprovincial and international business," said Valeriya Staykova, lead auditor for the Canada



KELSEY CLIFFORD

### CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMS IN CANADA

2001 - **2,230**

2006 - **3,555**

For an increase of 60%

Source: Statistics Canada

Julie Fine of Growing Up Organic (pictured here with daughter, Olive) believes the new program will help legitimate organic farming.

Organic Office (COO), a CFIA branch established six years ago.

This means the federal standard and regulation will only be available to those farmers who wish to sell their products outside of their own province.

Beyond this, Staykova said each province would be responsible for the certification and regulations within its borders.

Fine wonders why the Canadian government couldn't regulate all of Canada. Manitoba's own standards would mirror the national guidelines, she said, and combining it under one umbrella could then save red tape.

Currently, standards are main-

tained by the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture of the Canadian General Standards Board, composed of sixty organic operators and stakeholders.

Until this year, the process has been voluntary.

"Some farmers may find there will be too many restrictions," said Sabrina Longobardi, co-owner of EatIt.ca, an organic food store that also has an online component.

"Some may say there isn't enough." Longobardi said provinces might have to grow things differently because of the kind of soil and weather.

"But people will have more access to organic food," she said.

### WHAT DOES "ORGANIC" EVEN MEAN?

The term "organic" has been thrown around a lot, but in a certification sense, it means that no fertilizers or pesticides were used in storing or producing the food.

This eliminates methods such as animal growth regulators, colouring or artificial additives, which many conventional farms use to help in pest control and the production of their products.

Natural pesticides and composted manure are allowed, but come with some restrictions. Antibiotics are used in extreme cases where it cannot be avoided and must get authorization by the certifying agency.

These regulations apply to farm animals as well, including giving them 100 per cent organic feed, and raising them in a humane way.

The soil also must be free from pesticides, and may include a transitional period that can take up to five years, during which the foods can be labeled "transitional organic."

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## STREETER

BY SANDY KLOWAK

### Q: DO YOU EAT ORGANIC FOOD? WHY OR WHY NOT?



**Zane Zimmerman,**  
Second year student, science  
I definitely eat it. It's supposed to be better for you. Organics should mean no chemical boosting stuff, that sort of jazz.



**Ashley Lazar**  
First year student, psychology  
I do not. I'd be interested because obviously with global warming and even the economy and the state that it's in ... if we supported local farmers who produce things, that would help.



**Anna Amarante**  
First year student, science  
No. I like fatty foods, I like protein. I don't eat vegetables.



**Aida Gregorio**  
Orange Julius and Extra Foods employee  
Of course I eat organic food. I think they are safer than non-organic, in terms of chemicals.



**Donnie Didychuk**  
Plumber and gas fitter  
I eat all kinds of food. I'm not fussy. I'd eat it if it was in my home town. Our one grocery store is closed right now... You can't buy nothing out of the corner store. I imagine that people further north than me have got it worse.



**Alex Paterson**  
Masters student, aboriginal governance  
Sometimes, when it's not exorbitantly expensive, which it usually is. I'm cynical of all food even if it's organic because the organic label - there's no standard for it, but I'm wishfully thinking that it's better than non-organic food.

# The move from the West

## Businesses are leaving the West End in droves; will it get any better?

JOE KORNELSEN  
BEAT REPORTER

In the last two months, a Bargain! Shop and a Budget Rent A Car outlet have left the West End – and they are not the first ones.

"We are always aware when businesses leave," said Gloria Cardwell-Hoepfner, executive director of the West End BIZ.

With Canadian Tire's move to St. James two years ago and the recent closing of the Bargain! Shop on Sargent Avenue, there is now no store in the neighbourhood that sells general household goods.

"That is definitely a concern," said Cardwell-Hoepfner, noting that it limited options for local residents and university students.

"We would like the neighbourhood to be walkable," she said.

Attracting the customers may be one of the main struggles for neighbourhood businesses. Yves Page, a

West End resident, said the options in the neighbourhood were to slim to spend time shopping in it. He would like to see more diversity in the neighbourhood.

"There could be more coffee shops and a broader variety shops, not just pawn shops and discount outlets," he said.

Because he commutes through downtown, Page said he usually does his shopping downtown.

Barry Reykdal manages the JS Furniture and More store on Ellice Avenue. He believes that businesses in the neighbourhood are suffering because the people in the city have a bad perception of the place.

"I've been working here for 11 years and I have never seen a worse neighbourhood," Reykdal said.

He said his particular business suffers because the neighbourhood doesn't have the population that purchases their products.

**"I've been working here for 11 years and I have never seen a worse neighbourhood."**

–Barry Reykdal,  
JS Furniture and More

Reykdal believes people are largely deterred from coming and shopping in the West End because the neighbourhood has, in his opinion, a justified reputation for crime.

But there are managers who enjoy operating in the West End. Ken Kaldurlyk manages the Open Door Press on Agnes Street.

"This neighbourhood is like any other," he said, but he added that the Open Door Press doesn't operate in the same way as retailers.

"We don't do a lot of walk in business," he said, pointing out that these companies may be impacted more by the specific neighbourhood.

Cardwell-Hoepfner said that despite the businesses that are leaving, there are 15 businesses scheduled to move into the neighbourhood in the next six months.

The BIZ hopes to attract more people to the West End by promoting it as an "international village," she said, meaning that both Ellice and Sargent Avenues are to have businesses that reflect the ethnic diversity of the community.

Reykdal is unconvinced that community groups like the West End BIZ or the Spence Neighbourhood Association can



Ken Kaldurlyk, manager of Open Door Press in the West End, doesn't have a problem operating a business in the neighbourhood.

make a change in the community.

"You can talk till you're blue in the face, it's not going to change the atmosphere here," he said.

Cardwell-Hoepfner remains optimistic about the West End's future.

"We want people to be clamoring to get into this neighbourhood. We want the West End to be a place to set up shop," she said.

# Provincial government stalls on park designation

## Ten years is too long, say park advocates

SANDY KLOWAK  
BEAT REPORTER

The government is taking too long to give one Manitoba area provincial park status, say community members and activists.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, representatives and supporters of Fisher River Cree Nation met at the Manitoba Legislative Building to present the 10,000th letter of support in their 10-year plight to establish Ochiwasahow (Fisher Bay) Provincial Park.

Located just two hours north of Winnipeg, the area is currently protected as a park reserve, a temporary five-year status that was already renewed once.

The current term expires in October 2010.

"Basically we're telling the province it's time now to make a decision for permanent protection," Fisher River chief David Crate said. "We've received overwhelming support."

"We thought we should try to protect it not only for our people but for all Manitobans," Crate said. "We want to ensure that that's going to be here for today and for our future."

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Manitoba has been supporting Fisher River's



Fisher River chief David Crate.

initiative for the past four years through a letter-writing lobbying campaign.

"The government has been stalling," said Ron Thiessen, CPAWS Manitoba's executive director.

Based on talks with some government workers, Thiessen said the file is currently inactive.

However, Barry Bentham, director of the parks and natural areas branch of the provincial government, says that's not the case and plans for the area are underway.

"Our next step is to engage some of the stakeholders," he said.

Discussions with mining and logging companies, as well as surrounding communities, are set to begin soon; a public consultation process will follow next winter.

And while the 10,000 letters of support gathered by CPAWS will be considered, third party information cannot replace the government's own public consultation process, Bentham said.

"We have to find some middle ground with protection being our ultimate goal and representation being our ultimate goal."

**"We thought we should try to protect it not only for our people but for all Manitobans."**

– David Crate,  
Fisher River Cree Nation

For Crate, this timeline is unacceptable.

"They've had a long period of time. Consultation should have happened already," Crate said.

### FOREST FACTS

**Info on the current Fisher Bay Park Reserve:**

**Location:** Lake Winnipeg's southwest basin.

**Size:** 160,000 hectares, four times the size of Winnipeg.

**Wildlife:** Moose, fox, bears, eagles, several types of songbirds and more.

**Landscape:** Sandy beaches, tree-covered shorelines, islands, reefs and old-growth forest cover.

**Characteristics:** The area is part of Canada's boreal forest, which is the largest source of freshwater and the largest land-based carbon storehouse in the world.

Source: CPAWS Manitoba

## International News Briefs

Compiled by Brooke Dmytriw

### TRYING TO QUIT? HAVE AN E-CIGARETTE

WASHINGTON: The American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is trying to fight the spread of the world's first electronic cigarette across the United States.

The e-cig, touted as the world's first healthy cigarette, runs on batteries and contains pure liquid nicotine. Its distributor, Smoking Everywhere, says it is similar to the nicotine patch but allows reformers the oral fixation smoking provides.

The FDA views e-cigs as an unapproved new drug due to the lack of scientific research on its safety or effectiveness. It is trying to stop their import into the U.S., but isn't seizing the products already sold online and in 100 kiosks across the country.

According to CNN, e-cigs are already gaining popularity in Switzerland, Sweden, Brazil and the UK.

### SHANTY SHOPS DESTROYED FOR POPE

YAOUNDÉ, Cameroon: In an attempt to clean up the city for Pope Benedict's arrival this past week, Yaounde security forces tore down street stalls and chased away hawkers in the capital's markets.

One woman arrived at her shop one morning last week to find it torn down, a pile of corrugated tin and wood planks, reported Reuters. Witnesses also alleged gendarmes chased and beat up youth and stallholders across the markets.

Thousands of people make a living selling wares and services through informal street stalls and boutiques in Yaoundé.

Mar. 16 was Pope Benedict's first visit to Africa since becoming pontiff.

After Cameroon, he will travel to Angola to celebrate 500 years of Christian evangelism in that country.

### IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, DRUG LORDS MAKE FORBES' BILLIONAIRES LIST

MEXICO CITY: The fame of Sinaloa drug leader Joaquin Guzman Loera will spread beyond Mexican and American police forces after Forbes magazine included him in their ranking of "self-made" billionaires this year.

Ranked among the likes of software mogul Bill Gates and investor Warren Buffet, Loera came out 701st on the list for his approximated \$1 billion fortune.

Loera heads the Sinaloa Mexican drug cartel and his career has spanned North, South and Central America; he is the main source for cocaine in the United States, reported CNN.

Mexican authorities are unhappy about Loera's unexpected recognition, stating criminals should not be ranked with the likes of accomplished and moral entrepreneurs like Gates and Buffet.

### 450-YEAR OLD PAINTING STOLEN AND RECOVERED IN VAN

OSLO, Norway: A Renaissance painting stolen from a church in Larvik was recovered last week, with a 50-year old suspect apprehended for its theft.

The painting, Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me, by artist Lucas Cranach the Elder, dates back to 1540 and has hung in the church since 1677.

CBC News reported the painting was located in a van a few days after it went missing on Sunday, Mar. 8.

Forensic experts are currently inspecting the painting for damage and authenticity.

Wanna dictate the news? Write for The Uniter.  
E-mail editor@uniter.ca.

## Local News Briefs

Compiled by Craig Heinrich

### LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF A GIANT

A group of south Tuxedo residents is calling on city council to give them more time to consider the implications of building a large-scale Ikea complex in their neighbourhood.

The multi-million dollar contract could give the city a much-needed boom in tough times, but residents worry that traffic could become a serious concern in the area.

Ken Klassen, a spokesperson for the residents' group, told *CBC News* that city council should take some time and allow everyone to digest exactly what consequences the development could have.

### BUT IS IT A SPORT?

Winnipeggers may lose their chance to witness one form of orchestrated public violence if a member of the Winnipeg Convention Centre's board gets his way.

City Councillor Grant Nordman questioned whether mixed martial arts should be allowed to be practiced and exhibited in Winnipeg.

Nordman told *CBC News* that he doesn't consider mixed martial arts to be a sport and suggested the city should ban it, at least in publicly owned facilities.

The debate follows a month after Dean Lewis was hospitalized with a concussion and bleeding on the brain after participating in a fight.

The issue should be decided by April, when the city's protection and community service committee, chaired by Nordman, receives a public service report on the activity.

### RESERVATION LEADERSHIP ENTERS UNCERTAINTY

A court order has partially returned power to the chief of Cross Lake First Nation after a judge issued orders that would force a mutinying band council to recognize the chief's authority, reported the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

The leadership of chief Alex James Robertson is still up in the air, however, due to a standing order from the reserve's women's council.

The women's council demands Robertson be removed from office due to criminal charges laid against him last November.

The charges were dropped in early March, but as the women's order still hasn't been fully heard it remains standing.

### NO NEIGHBOUR TO TURN TO

A young immigrant family is being evicted from their home after numerous complaints made by a downstairs neighbour regarding noise levels reached the attention of the building's rental agency.

According to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the Kachan family moved to Winnipeg hoping to find peace and comfort after fleeing from Russia and then Israel, and are now looking again for a home.

Globe General Agencies also fired the building's resident manager of six years, Mel Bennett, after he stepped in to try to mediate the problem.

In an e-mail to the *Free Press*, Globe wrote that they are working on a solution to accommodate everyone – but the Kachans denied hearing of this.

### RESERVES NOT RECEIVING A FAIR SHARE

Manitoba's aboriginal child welfare services could soon look a lot different – if Ottawa forks over \$21 million for the plan.

Plans for federal-provincial programs for child welfare services on reserves have been in the making for years, reported the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

The federal government is responsible for funding the much-needed programs, but provincial officials are concerned the government may not provide all the funds needed.

Critics say that there is a huge discrepancy between funding given to off-reserve programs and those that are on reserves – a ratio of \$1 provincial dollar to 78 federal cents.

## Campus News

# U of W's very own Batman

Local professor aims to **stop killer bat disease** around North America

DAN HUYGHEBAERT  
BEAT REPORTER

A mysterious disease killing hundreds of thousands of bats in the United States has attracted the attention of Craig Willis, assistant biology professor at the University of Winnipeg. And now Willis has attracted international attention.

White Nose Syndrome (WNS), first discovered in 2007 near Albany, New York, involves a white fungus that grows on the skin of the face and wings of bats during hibernation.

"The bats don't seem to mount any immune response," Willis said.

Willis thinks the bats come out of hibernation more often in order to warm up from the fungus, causing a depletion of their fat reserves. As a result, bats die of starvation outside their caves in an effort to locate food.

Willis and his research partner, graduate student Justin Boyles of Indiana State University, estimate that 600 tons of insects, including mosquitoes, are no longer getting eaten.

Not ones to take things quietly, Willis and Boyles thought of a prototype artificial heat source to help the bats warm up during hibernation.

Now, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service provided the pair with a US\$28,000 grant to test if the bats will use an artificial thermal site.

The thermal sites consist of big, insulated cereal-type boxes



U of W's Craig Willis invented a bat box (pictured here) to keep bats from freezing due to a deadly fungus depleting their fat reserves.

**"It's the only place in the world to test this idea."**

—Craig Willis, University of Winnipeg biology department

equipped with temperature control and a heating coil, in which the bats are supposed to hibernate.

The sites will be placed in several caves near Grand Rapids, Manitoba, for testing.

"It's the only place in the world to test this idea," Willis said, referring to the fact sites have been removed from all U.S. locations where bats aren't healthy.

The fungus, which has yet to reach Canada, is now spread across seven states, leading to mortality

rates of an average 85 per cent in most caves.

Willis hopes to have the project going in the next couple of weeks before the winter is over.

Mathematical simulations of the project show bats' mortality rate can drop to eight per cent.

Mary Timonin, a post doctorate fellow in Willis' Winnipeg-based lab, looks after the technical and practical side of the project.

She said the testing will also include unheated boxes.

"We need to see if they use any of the boxes, heated or unheated," she said.

To track the bats, the team tagged them with microchips, thanks to a \$29,000 grant from Manitoba Hydro's Forest Enhancement program.

"Because of our transmission system, if we are impacting the forest land we have to try to address that," said Brian Carruthers, environmental education specialist with Manitoba Hydro.

"I think it (Hydro) recognizes that they (bats) are ecologically important animals," Willis said, adding little is known about bat behaviour during the summer.

Willis said they don't know how WNS is transmitted, saying that scientists in the U.S. are researching this aspect of the disease.

"Circumstances point to an infectious disease," Willis said.

He believes tracking migration patterns between winter and summer would help show how WNS is spread.

## On humans as animals

Two speakers bring in refreshing **mix of biology and psychology** to Darwinism

JOE KORNELSEN  
BEAT REPORTER

Future wives, beware: He really will always prefer his mother over you. This was the claim of two scientists at a recent University of Winnipeg lecture.

The biology department at the U of W hosted a lecture by two psychologists from McMaster University as part of its annual Elizabeth Laird lecture series.

Because the biology department is currently celebrating the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, this year's lecture focused on how evolution has affected human relationships.

Using a number of recent studies, Martin Daly and Margo Wilson discussed the relationship between kinship and evolution in front of a



Biology professor Scott Forbes brought psychologists Martin Daly and Margo Wilson to the U of W for their unique perspective on Darwinism.

packed auditorium.

Their findings showed that people preferred their more immediate relatives over other relationships – a direct result of evolution, they argued.

The speakers compared fighting ground squirrels to human relationships, saying that although people claimed to feel closer to friends than to relatives, they were much more willing to give money

to help out a relative than a friend.

U of W biology professor Scott Forbes recommended the department bring in Daly and Wilson due to their unique combination of psychology and Darwinism.

"A Darwinian view on kinship hasn't made its way into the social sciences yet," he said.

Forbes noted genetics research should particularly appeal to psychologists because genes can affect

people's actions.

In an interview following the lecture, Daly said there was a lot to be said for collaboration between psychologists and biologists, but that it was only in its early stages.

Most psychologists initially tend to suspect biologists of being deterministic.

"It is a joke to think the human animal is a special creature," Daly said.

Jim Clark is a psychology professor at the U of W who has worked in the biopsychology department.

He felt the lecture still tended to give away the presenters' psychology training.

"The speakers are not working at a molecular level, they are working at a behavioural level," he said.

Overall, Clark said he appreciated the speakers and said that students could certainly use the information to better understand their own relationships with their families and their friends.

But he said the introduction of new technology is constantly opening up new ways of studying the mind.

"There is a lot of interest right now because we can put people in an MRI machine," he said.

# Alcohol ban considered by student group

Decision **promotes health and traditional values**, say Aboriginal Student Council members

**SANDY KLOWAK**  
BEAT REPORTER

The University of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Student Council (ASC) recently took the first step in an effort to ban all alcohol-related events supported by their group.

Tasha Spillett, the council's culture and sport representative, proposed a motion to ban the ASC's year-end social and as well as a referendum question banning alcohol at all group-sponsored events. It will be voted on at the group's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October.

The ASC is an elected body representing the U of W's Aboriginal Students' Association.

Spillett said the motion was an attempt to distance the council from the violence that often accompanies alcohol consumption. The decision comes in the wake of ASC member Trisha Jones' death at the hands of a drunk driver in January.



ASC female representative Tabetha Linklater supports the motion to ban alcohol from the group's events.

The motion is "an acknowledgment of the effect that alcohol has had on our communities," Spillett said.

She hopes the decision will promote a focus on health and wellness by redirecting funds to support family and cultural events such as out of town powwows.

"We got elected into positions of leadership and it's our responsibility to uphold those things," Spillett said.

Tabetha Linklater, the council's female representative, said the decision is in tune with traditional teachings.

"It (alcohol) isn't part of our traditional ways and we want to be a

**"[Alcohol] isn't part of our traditional ways and we want to be a positive role model for our members."**

-Tabetha Linklater, ASC

positive role model for our members," she said.

"I think we just want to go towards a more cultural traditional way of what we've been taught."

Aboriginal Students' Association members at large will have a chance to vote on the Council's decision at the October AGM in the form of a referendum question.

Spillett and Linklater do not foresee much opposition and they hope this change will be approved and written into the ASC constitution.

While third year education student and association member Nikki (who did not wish to use her real name) supports the decision, she's not as confident it will be passed at the AGM.

"I think it could go either way," she said.

But while some students may enjoy taking a load off with a drink, the ASC doesn't have to support it, she said.

"We're here to learn, we're not here to drink. We can drink off campus."

Ernest C. Bruce, political advisor and liaison for Poplar River First Nation in Manitoba, supports the ASC's decision. Poplar River

has officially been a dry reserve since the 1970s.

"They should be commended because it's a step toward something better," he said.

"Alcohol serves no purpose in my traditional life. It's a social activity for the rest of society. It's not part of being native," Bruce said.

He feels alcohol should be banned everywhere, much like smoking has been.

"It's a question of health and safety."

While alcohol is banned from the Poplar River community, there are issues with bootlegged alcohol being smuggled in.

Though Poplar River spends significant financial resources policing the smuggled substances, Bruce still feels the ban is worthwhile if it prevents even one car accident, incident of child abuse or family break up.

"Social disorder is usually brought about by alcohol," he said.

Poplar River's decision was made based on the holistic aboriginal worldview.

"They took into consideration the safety and well-being of the community as a whole," Bruce said.

## Examining our waste

U of W is ahead of the composting game, but **students are slow to respond**

**ANDREW MCMONAGLE**  
BEAT REPORTER

Last week, several students and paid employees spent their days sifting through banana peels, crumpled paper and used tea bags for the University of Winnipeg's annual waste audit.

The audit examines the garbage collected at the university over the span of seven days, trying to gauge whether students know their recyclables from their compostables and if each piece of waste ends up in the appropriate bin.



Waste audit co-ordinator Kate Dykman spent Mar. 9 to 13 sorting through the university's trash in an attempt to study students' recycling habits.

The conclusions were not encouraging.

The system has been improving, but there is still work to be done,

said Kate Dykman, materials conservation co-ordinator with the U of W, who co-ordinated the audit.

More recycling procedure education is the key, she said.

"The biggest challenge is letting everyone know," she said. "Like you can't recycle paper cups. You can compost them if they say compostable."

The ninth annual waste audit concluded on Mar. 13. This was Dykman's third year as co-ordinator.

The U of W is a leader in the province in terms of waste management, according to Green Manitoba program officer Lindsay Irwin.

Green Manitoba is a branch of the provincial government that funds similar waste audits in post-secondary institutions across Manitoba.

Irwin cited the U of W's high level of commitment as earning them this distinction, as well as the innovative post-consumer organics program at the university.

Post-consumer waste is what is left after the food has been eaten by customers.

In 2007 the U of W started placing composting bins on campus for this purpose.

Some universities have programs that deal with kitchen and food services waste, but only the U of W deals with it after it reaches a plate, according to Irwin.

"I'm really happy we're dealing with organics," Dykman said. "It's the second largest waste stream we have."

Paper is the first, she said.

The organic material is composted at the Rockwood Institution, a minimum-security prison adjacent to Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

Rockwood pays prisoners minimum wage to work in composting, said Slavick Duda, assistant operations manager at Rockwood.

Duda said using prison labour for this cause is beneficial for everyone involved.

"We train them in work ethics, like coming to work on time and building relationships with other people," he said.

Former prisoners can later use those skills to get jobs outside of prison.

The U of W pays a "tipping fee" to transport the material to the Rockwood site, much like the fees at the Brady landfill, said Duda.

Scott Harrison is a U of W alumnus who has been sorting trash for the audit for four years.

"I enjoy doing it," he said. "It's an environmental thing, and it's fun."

Harrison is aware that students do not take as much time to properly dispose of their waste.

"We're all apathetic students," he said. "Too many compostable materials go in the garbage."

Students are encouraged to be active in their waste management by working the audit.

"There's a real educational value to seeing how much waste comes through," Irwin said.

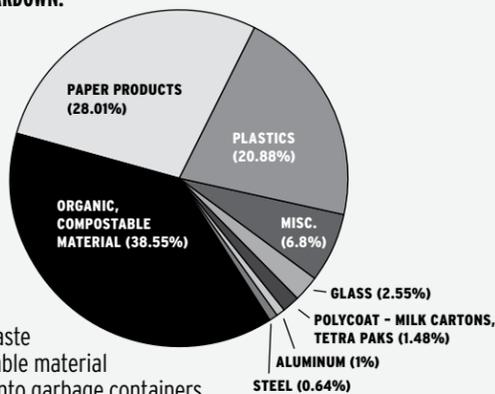
### WHAT GARBAGE CAN TELL

The 2009 audit just finished and the findings aren't out yet. Here are some of the results from last year's audit:

The audit was conducted over seven days in March, and examined the waste generated during that one week only.

➔ 2,549.54 kg (2.54 tonnes) total waste was generated in that week.

#### THE BREAKDOWN:



➔ 16% of the total waste was recyclable material deposited into garbage containers.

Source: Waste Audit Report 2008

## Campus News Briefs

Compiled by Alex Garcia

### BLOOD DRIVE A CONTINUOUS

#### SOURCE OF DEBATE

University of Winnipeg students once again gathered to protest the Canadian Blood Services' (CBS) campus blood drive for their ban on blood donations from gay men.

Jonathan Niemczak, LGBT\* student director for the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, organized the protest at Clinic Student Health Services.

Niemczak told the *Winnipeg Free Press* the protest wasn't meant to discourage people from donating blood, but only sought to educate them of the ban.

CBS won't accept blood or organ donations from men who have had sex with men even once after 1977, women who had sex with men with a history of homosexuality, injection-drug users and others who are considered to be at high risk for HIV-AIDS.

### FEDS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, CUTTING OUT HUMANITIES

The New Democratic Party of Canada is protesting the federal government's attempt at privileging students taking business-related degrees over those studying traditional social sciences.

Niki Ashton, the NDP's post-secondary education critic, is objecting to a line in the Jan. 27 budget which stipulated all scholarships granted by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) will focus on business-related degrees.

A petition against the government decision on Ashton's constituency website has reached over 17,000 signatures.

### A HIGHER OPINION ON HIGHER LEARNING

In an effort to ensure the federal government is legislating effective policies on higher education, a Winnipeg member of parliament recently cobbled together a new post-secondary caucus.

The group will work with post-secondary administrators, student groups and other members of Parliament to ensure government policies on the matter reflect a broader perspective, Conservative member of Parliament Rod Bruinooog (Winnipeg South) told *University Affairs*.

The caucus will be open to any members of Parliament who represent a riding with a post-secondary institution.

The caucus had its first meeting on Feb. 4.

### FACEBOOK FOR YOUR BRAIN

Murray Goldberg is the creator of brainify.com, a social bookmarking site aimed towards budding academics, particularly post-secondary students in need of credible resources.

Inspired by the amount of time students spend on-line looking for sources, Goldberg formed the website in an effort to help students help their peers.

Brainify.com allows users to tag useful academic websites according to subject for those searching next and form groups around particular issues.

Launched earlier this year after two years of development, the site has users from over 250 universities, with a significantly large portion being faculty members.

### GREEN BUILDING BY 2010

Demolition continues from the inside out on the old United Army Surplus building that will hopefully house University of Winnipeg services by the fall of 2010.

Dan Hurley of the U of W says building progress is slow because the university intends to use up to 75 per cent of the old material to build the new structure, planned for programs such as continuing education and parts of the business faculty.

The United Army Surplus building is part of the building initiative put forth by the university in 2008.

# University voter turnout up across country

U of W's numbers part of a trend; new media provides **effective method of increasing votes**

## ELECTION CONTROVERSIES

### Some juicy tidbits you may have missed from the UWSA election

#### Taking poop lightly

Presidential candidate Vassan Aruljothi distributed a pamphlet that read, "Don't be sad if a bird shit on you. Instead, be thankful that cows don't fly. So don't worry that we have a shitty organization, be happy that we can change it if we work together."

The pamphlet was described as an unprofessional political faux pas by his opponent Brenden Sommerhalder during last Friday's speeches.

Aruljothi followed with a public apology for the pamphlets, which have since been discontinued, he said.

#### Disqualification

Presidential hopeful Shimby Zegeye-Gebrehiwot was disqualified due to a lack of completed credit hours. The first year student was pulled out of the race as candidates must have completed 30 credit hours

to qualify.

#### Missing in action

Kelly Ross, incumbent candidate for vice president student services, went MIA for three days during the election. She was away from school from March 12 to 16.

Ross was attending the California Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair, a non-UWSA related conference that she committed to attending months before election dates were set, she said.

"I decided ... that my activist work outside of the UWSA is equally important to the work that I do within it, and, secondly, I could not bear the financial burden associated with canceling my plane ticket," Ross said in an email.

#### Brown vs. Niemczak

Current vice president internal Geoff Brown is hoping to replace incumbent LGBT\* Centre director Jonathan Niemczak.

At a recent board meeting, Brown criticized Niemczak of no longer representing his LGBT\* constituents through his actions as di-

rector, specifically relating to his work with Canadian Blood Services regarding their policy against accepting blood from homosexual men.

#### Fair weather candidates?

During last Friday's presidential speeches, current environmental ethics director Stephanie Chartrand asked three of the four presidential candidates why she had not seen them at any University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) board meetings in the past year, skeptical about their sudden interest in the UWSA.

In response, Aruljothi explained that after a long shift at work he prefers to go home to eat and sleep; Sommerhalder said prior participation in the UWSA is not a prerequisite for candidacy, nor for caring for the association; Jason Robillard pointed out his experience with the Part-Time/Mature Students' Centre and the UWSA Health Plan. Jason Syvixay has been present at several board meetings this year.

## SANDY KLOWAK BEAT REPORTER

The University of Winnipeg's 2009 student election boasted a fuller slate of candidates than usual, which may have contributed to a higher voter turnout.

On Monday, Mar. 16, 327 students turned up to vote, roughly 3.3 per cent of the student population. As of 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 17, 195 more had cast their ballots.

With over two voting days left, the school was well on its way to beating last year's general election total of seven per cent, not to mention this year's dismal 2.2 per cent by-election turnout, said chief elections commissioner Michael Rac.

"My goal is 10 per cent and I think we'll do it," he said Tuesday.

He attributes higher voter turnout to the wide selection of candidates generating student interest, especially the four presidential hopefuls.

"I see them basically all day, every day, talking to people and making class presentations," Rac said.

This heightened interest in student politics is visible at many Canadian universities.

"There was a significant increase last year in voting," said University of Alberta Students' Union chief returns

officer Patrick Wisheu.

He said an increase of over 1,500 votes in his university stems from a new online voting system.

"Campus e-mails were sent to everyone, and they were sent direct links on information on the candidates and direct links to the voting system," he explained.

Rac said that the University



MARK REIMER

of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) has discussed online voting and it may be an option for the future.

"I do think it'll be something worth looking at," Rac said.

The U of W is currently in a technological transitional phase with the new online registration program and the UWSA's new website launch.

But University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) president Jonny Sopotniuk is wary of online voting systems. "We do not do electronic voting; this has been

investigated, but has not been implemented due to serious concerns regarding fraud and election rigging," he said in an e-mail.

Even with paper ballots, the U of M has experienced an impressive voter increase with this year's turnout of 19.14 per cent – up from last year's 9.71 per cent.

Nova Scotia's St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) also saw an increase from last year's 50 per cent – to 60.4 per cent in the recent election.

"There was a positive turnout because of three solid slates of pretty awesome leaders and that is what drew the students in," said Sarah Furey, StFX Students' Union's vice president communications.

In addition to an online voting system, StFX students have access to an election blog where contributors profile candidates and share comments and critiques.

The blog received 19,000 hits during election time.

"You can't just sit back and get voter turnout. You have to be pro-active," Furey said.

U of W's Rac agrees. He said this year's increasingly visible campaign strategy has promoted student interest.

-With files from Laura Kunzelman

Spent the rent?

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## Take part in journalism 2.0

The staff at The Uniter were recently informed of the existence of something called the "Internet" where people go to a "site" called "Facebook." In response to this information, we've hired a crack team of "Internetologists" to create a "Facebook page." Now you and your "friends" can become "fans" The Uniter. Once you have become a "fan" you can participate in discussions with Uniter writers and fellow Uniter readers. Also, you will receive notifications from The Uniter about upcoming special issues, exclusive online blog articles and much more! To become a "fan" you can search for "The Uniter" on Facebook or use this address: <http://tinyurl.com/a5h2dh>.

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Hey, while you're at it, check out our brand spankin' new website at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca)

## Comments

# And we let them run the country...

## Petty partisan politics defeat purpose of government



ETHAN CABEL  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Our House of Commons is not plagued so much by our lack of messianic instruction as it is by the carpet bagging and the opportunism of our political left.

Canadians don't have to embrace any prophetic political visions. We don't have an executive family that, if given a chance, could advertise and sell Pepsi-Cola. We have yet to see bobbleheads, key chains, T-shirts or poker decks bearing the likeness of our Dear Leader. There is no such thing as Harpermania – and this, contrary to popular belief, is probably a good thing.

I would rather have a leader that is questioned and at times disdained by the majority than one who is unknown and unconditionally loved. Canada doesn't need "it's own Obama." The character

of the president and the praise he has received is unique to American society and unique to their history. We should remember that there's a slippery slope between political adoration and unaccountability. But our parliament is fractured by the unprincipled ambition of our federal politicians.

## Political enemies shook hands for the acquisition of power

On Nov. 27, 2008, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty delivered the fiscal update. Within that update the Conservative government sought to abolish voter subsidies – a mechanism of public funding that keeps smaller parties like the Green party afloat. The Liberal party, which relies on the subsidy for 63 per cent of its funding, would have been in dire financial straits after their historic defeat, unlike the Conservatives, who only rely on it for 37 per cent of their funding.

However, disregarding these circumstances, cutting the voter subsidy makes sense. Despite claims

that it "levels the playing field" subsidies disproportionately favor the governing party. The party that receives the most votes receives the most money. Perhaps this is why Jean Chrétien instituted it near the end of his reign shortly after limiting corporate and individual campaign donations. With a cap on donations, and without the wherewithal to earn mass, small contributions, where would the Liberals find their money?

Cutting the subsidy would, in principle, level the playing field. Rather than parties like the Bloc receiving federal funding, each party would work to fundraise from their own supporters. Yet, in practice, upon cutting the funding, each party does not start at zero. The Conservatives would be financially stable. The Liberals would be broke. It was a low partisan tactic to put forward a cut of that magnitude in November 2008.

But could the issue of voter subsidies have been handled in a mature way by seemingly competent parliamentarians? I think so. Why wasn't it?

The coalition was touted as a way to avoid an election while still opposing the fiscal update in a confidence motion. The problem, of

course, is that the prime minister in response to the opposition threat backtracked from the subsidy cut. It would no longer be a part of the fiscal update. The coalition proceeded but shifted its justification: the opposition parties were committed to economic stimulus that would benefit Canada while Harper was merely "playing partisan games."

We watched as political enemies shook hands for the acquisition of power (the coalition accord) on Dec. 1, 2008. Stéphane Dion, who had criticized the NDP platform as an experiment with "monopoly money" in October, smiled and embraced a grinning Jack Layton. Dion, author of the Clarity Act (legislation that, in effect, killed the possibility of Quebec's separation through referendum), firmly gripped the hand of Gilles Duceppe, a strident separatist.

And yet on Jan. 28 of this year the federal budget passed – with a Liberal amendment. Could the fiscal update have been amended in a similar fashion? Certainly. And it could be argued, as the Conservatives backed away from subsidy cuts as well as several other motions, that the update was amended. So why wouldn't the opposition parties support the

amended fiscal update and simply wait for the tabling of the budget in January?

In the aftermath of the coalition fiasco we have witnessed the pouting, preliminary opposition of the NDP – they decided to vote against the January budget before having read it. We saw the final resignation of Dion and the "anointment" of Michael Ignatieff who, as his first decision in a parliament hinged on party discipline, decided to support the Tory budget while allowing four MPs from Newfoundland and Labrador a temporary vote of protest. We were forced to hear, further, that Elizabeth May was vying for a Senate seat during the coalition discussions. And, after the Green party's recent policy convention, May is still debating over whether or not to continue her stunt of running in the ultra-Conservative riding of Central Nova Scotia.

And we take these people seriously?

Canada doesn't need a prophetic figure. A little competence and a handful of real convictions should do.

*Ethan Cabel is a University of Winnipeg student.*

## Police prejudice blinds us

It turns out we actually need our cops



DEVIN MORROW  
COMMENTS EDITOR

There is an ongoing battle between police and regular citizens. The inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death shows that the battle is not based around whether or not the police are enforcing the law, but rather how they carry out their duties.

Police brutality is a popular subject these days as it seems like more

and more people are coming forward claiming violence or abuse at the hands of the police. Many demand compensation or at least some version of "justice." Yes, police forces exist to protect us, but our interpretation of what constitutes protection is constantly changing.

Granted, no one likes to read the morning news to find that yet another knife-brandishing person was gunned down by police because they refused to come quietly. We sit back and seethe with moral outrage that the police didn't take the time to consider the situation. But we fail to consider the fact that police officers are not robots or armoured vehicles but people with families of their own. They also need to be pro-

tected. And they have a split second to consider the response while having to deal with realizations of their own mortality at the same time.

I cannot read another account of a crying mother condemning the police for shooting her son because he jumped at them with a knife or a screwdriver or a box cutter. After all, anyone brandishing a weapon at a group of armed people whose purpose it is to enforce the law cannot really expect any less. Yes, police have a duty to protect people and avoid killing them at all costs, but it is a mutual social contract – we have agreed to follow a set of rules in society so we can all function in it together, at least somewhat peaceably.

I understand that awful things

## It is a mutual social contract – we have agreed to follow a set of rules in society

like racial profiling happen. I understand that once someone is in custody they do not expect to be beaten up by officers. I understand that police should not be given special preference when they kill a woman due to off-duty drunk driving. These are all very real issues that cannot be ignored. But when we assume that this is the norm and that police are the enemy, that's when the problems really arise.

Personally, I feel safe in the downtown knowing that there is a police presence – because police don't drive around trying to cre-

ate or find trouble just for kicks. I feel safe knowing that someone has made a pledge to protect the well-being of individuals and my society, provided we have made the pledge in return that we will exist in a reasonable manner. And if that means that police are armed with Tasers or guns because they may have to make a decision in a split-second when we break that contract? Then I'm OK with that.



CYBF Entrepreneur  
Sarah Khallad  
she was stunning

CYBF Mentor  
Rosemarie Enslin

## WHAT WAS I THINKING?

"During my second year as a photography major at the Alberta College of Art and Design, I had a unique idea of creating magnets from photographs I had taken of women expressing a thought or feeling. It was an exciting experiment for which I received a prestigious award and then started selling them to friends and at college sales.

When demand quickly overshadowed supply, I took a big leap and decided to see where this adventure could take me and started my own business, she was stunning.

What was I thinking? How was I going to do this? Somehow I did. After graduation, I got a loan and mentor from CYBF. I quickly learned that CYBF is more than just about money; it's an entire experience, and my mentor became my most valued guide.

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– Sarah Khallad

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# Adults can read comics, too

Thanks to movie influences, comics appeal to a **broader audience**



**ANDREW MCMONAGLE**  
BEAT REPORTER

Are comic books cool yet? Hyper-popular books like *Watchmen* sure are, but the genre is still learning.

Comic books and their fans have long been associated with social misfits and loners. All you have to do is walk into any comic store and glance at the clientele to see where this presumption comes from.

Comics have taken a beneficial recursive loop on themselves. Characters like Superman, Batman and Spider-Man were popular, so movies were based on them. The movies were popular, so the comics started imitating the movies.

What we're left with in the comics are slick graphics, life-like colour gradients and an attention on storytelling that was sorely lacking a decade ago.

This, and a small change in nomenclature, evolved how comics are perceived. They are now "graphic novels," when reprinted in collected form (individually, they are still comic books.)

It is not hard to see where the movie inspiration comes from, especially given the fact that DC Comics is owned by Warner Brothers. Marvel Comics even uses movie-like trailers for some of their series, available on their website.

READERS CAN... READ! SURPRISE!

The industry is now accepting of – and even counting on – readers to be able to handle a complicated, intellectual plot that is relevant to contemporary society. This was reflected in the 2008 Marvel cross-title event *Civil War*, where superheroes were subject to mandatory registration, and the resulting milieu caused them to choose

sides against one another. It can be read as an allegory about a post-Patriot Act America, sowing seeds of distrust amidst the populace. Mark Millar, the author of the *Civil War* mini-series admitted in a *New York Times* interview that there were two levels it could be read on, but that it wouldn't exclude kids who just like fight scenes. Kind of like *Animal Farm*, right?

AS IT USED TO BE

Comics used to be four-colour attention-grabbers with zany themes. In the '60s they held promises of scientific innovation. They were futuristic and weird, but entertaining nonetheless. One thing was for sure though – they were not aiming at the maturity of their readers.

Storylines often involved women-in-need rescues, pointless antagonists with thin motivations and explosions that did everything

## Marvel comics learned a harsh lesson in the '90s when they made the error of mistaking popular for good

but explode things.

The frenetic pace and improbably quick and clean summations made it look like everyone in the book took a shot of adrenaline between the pages. They were graphic versions of boys' dreams.

Comics had to adapt. Marvel comics learned a harsh lesson in the '90s when they made the error of mistaking *popular* for *good*. They hit upon a successful formula of big-breasted women and 18 pages of fight scenes in a 22-page book that appealed greatly to the teenage market. Well, those teenage boys grew up (unlike many comic characters) and found themselves want-

ing more. Not only had Marvel oversaturated their comics with this formula, they massively overprinted them.

This means that back-issue bins are flooded with those improbable physiques and guns that are bigger than the wielders.

So, are comics cool yet? Given that the periodical dedicated to the industry is called *Wizard Magazine*, probably not. But they're closer than ever.

*Andrew McMonagle is a beat reporter at The Uniter and a University of Winnipeg student.*

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# Where is our civic vision?

From flags to Ikea, we've got it backwards



ANDREW TOD  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

A newfound interest in how Manitobans portray themselves to the world seems to have begun in earnest. The *Winnipeg Free Press* recently launched a design contest to garner support for revamping Manitoba's provincial flag. The contest was inspired by some in the provincial New Democratic Party who have been pushing to undertake a re-branding of our provincial flag the same way they re-branded our provincial slogan in the now infamous 'Spirited Energy' campaign.

Premier Doer rejected the flag proposal, but that hasn't stopped many in Winnipeg from considering our current flag's shortcomings, and what these flaws expose about us as Manitobans. Fears that our flag may be boring, outdated, or even too similar to Ontario's (gasp!) have sprung up in conversations and newspapers throughout Winnipeg. A groundswell of support for updating the Manitoban flag to something more modern and exciting appears to be gathering steam.

If only this passion for change and innovation could be directed



JAMES CULLETON

towards another major civic issue that grabbed headlines last week.

I am talking of course about the plans to add yet another monument to the great North American pastime of shopping to the traffic death trap and box store wasteland that is Kenaston Boulevard.

As it turns out, the Ikea which is coming to our fair city by 2011 is only the beginning of yet another development proposal seeking to reaffirm Winnipeg's antipathy to sustainable city planning. Not only is Winnipeg set to showcase its very own Mecca of pretentious Swedish furniture, but by 2018 the 350,000 square foot Ikea will just be a piece of a 1.5 million square foot shopping complex at the corner of Kenaston and Sterling Lyon Parkway.

This will spring up just a few blocks north of the other shopping complexes that already litter either side of south Kenaston. Along with the shopping mall expansion, Shaftesbury Boulevard, Kenaston and Sterling Lyon will all be widened in desperate attempts to accommodate the massive influx of traffic coming to an already overdeveloped area.

It almost seems that Winnipeg's city planners take pride in the dead last ranking of sustainable cities we recently received. This shopping complex will only add to the congestion apparent to anyone who has ever driven down Kenaston. Nonetheless, city officials are touting the proposed mall development as being even more ambitious than The Forks.

Apparently, we as a city should look forward to a time when our traditionally central meeting place will pale in comparison to the excitement that a senselessly large mall in the suburban southwest can generate.

Though plans are still in the proposal stage, it seems the Ikea development complex is all but a done deal. In a city with an inferiority complex roughly the size of this proposed shopping centre, city officials will always bend over backwards for the privilege of hosting the types of corporate clients bigger cities boast of.

This brings us back to the hype in Winnipeg concerning the great flag debate, and whether or not we as Winnipeggers see our provincial flag as an embarrassing relic or an appropriate representation of our provincial character.

Before we go on about how Manitoba's flag could be improved, perhaps we should focus more on how Manitoba's capital can improve, especially its tendency to do away with any semblance of long term city planning. The thought of having an Ikea of our very own is exciting to many, but just like our provincial flag, this urban sprawl model of development is both outdated and embarrassing.

Andrew Tod is a University of Winnipeg student.

## Good & Evil



## Birthdays: Bad for You, Good for the Economy

If you've ever celebrated a birthday at a bar or licensed restaurant with any more than one friend, then you know that birthdays can be very hazardous to your health. In many circles birthdays have come to be little more than an excuse to bring our dearest friends as close to death as possible (presumably without actually achieving death) with the use of alcoholic beverages.

In my circle of friends, it is considered a grievous insult to refuse a drink on one's own birthday. This leads to two very distinct sets of behavior:

1. The friends of the celebrator begin giggling fiendishly while buying shot after shot of the most disgusting drinks they can imagine. This is how many popular drinks were first invented, which makes perfect sense if you think about it. Can you think of any reason someone would order a "Prairie Fire" (made with tequila and hot sauce) a "Yack" (made with equal parts Jagermeister and Jack Daniels) or a "Wild Turkey" (which is made with Wild Turkey bourbon and nothing else) other than to punish a close friend on his or her birthday?

2. The other behavior elicited by our current birthday tradition is that the celebrator begins dreading birthdays and begins every new year of his or her life with the slurred, mumbled phrase: "I'm never drinking again."

Given these indisputable truths, it might seem tempting for some to forgo the entire enterprise of birthdays altogether (or at least to stop going anywhere near a bar while celebrating a birthday). This, however, would be a grave mistake, the consequences of which we would all suffer greatly.

We are in a time of severe economic hardship. Unemployment is at an all-time high in some places (we know this because we're told so by the people whose job it is to tell us about how many people don't have jobs.) The only way to keep our global economy from slipping into a full-blown depression is to continue spending way too much money getting our friends drunk on their birthdays.

You might think that our money could be spent more productively, but if you think about it for a little, you'll realize how embarrassingly wrong you are.

Getting your friends really drunk on their birthdays not only feeds money back into the economy, but moreover, creates and secures many jobs as well. Taxi drivers, bartenders, vomit cleaners and stomach pump operators would all be out of work if we were to meddle in any way with our birthday tradition of almost killing our friends with alcohol for our own sadistic enjoyment. So I say, let's keep up the good work.

After all, you know what they say: If it ain't broke, pour whisky on it. Then pour more whisky on it.

J. Willamez is a local musician. You can catch him every Monday at Shannon's Irish Pub where he certainly won't buy you drinks on your birthday.

## Letters

Re: "The pill – revealed"

As one quoted in this article (Feb. 26 issue), I want to correct information provided on Fertility Awareness Methods of birth control. Inaccurate, incomplete and misleading information often dissuades women and their healthcare providers from considering FAM as an effective alternative to hormonal contraception. Here is an accurate summary of the method.

*Fertility Awareness Method (FAM)*

How it works: The most effective Fertility Awareness Method is the sympto-thermal method. It teaches a woman how to observe, chart and interpret two signs of fertility that ebb and flow with the natural hormonal

changes of each menstrual cycle. She keeps a record (chart) of daily observations of her cervical mucus secretions and waking temperature (Basal Body Temperature). This information is used to determine when the fertile phase begins and ends. The fertile phase typically lasts 7 to 10 days and is the time during which ovulation (release of egg) occurs. To prevent pregnancy, intercourse is avoided during the entire fertile phase. Women can choose to use barrier methods such as condoms or diaphragm for protected intercourse during fertile days.

Effectiveness: The sympto-thermal Fertility Awareness Method is 99.6% effective when used consistently and perfectly with avoidance of intercourse during the fertile phase. It is 75-80% effective with typical use. If barrier methods are used during the fertile phase, the effectiveness rate of the barrier method applies.

Lowest expected rate of pregnancy: 0.4%

More information: [www.sexualityandu.ca](http://www.sexualityandu.ca) (Contraception / Natural Birth Control), [www.justisse.ca](http://www.justisse.ca) (free user's guide & find a FAM teacher)

Laura Wershler

Executive Director, Sexual Health Access Alberta



Send your letters to [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca)

senting the content of the paper online, (far better than most student newspapers) but the new site seems even more navigable, intellectually engaging and aesthetically pleasing. Now a newspaper with great newsprint format has an online presence to match. While much of our local media has scaled back its operations, it's nice to see community-driven media continue to innovate and better serve its readership. Cheers to *The Uniter* and its staff.

Ben Wickström

As someone who reads *The Uniter* primarily online I wanted to congratulate you on the new website. The old site did a good job of pre-

Editor's note: Check us out online at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca).

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## Features

# Dictating artistic merit

When a comic book is deemed obscene at the Canadian border, are our rights to free expression overruled?

ETHAN CABEL  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Scanning the bookshelves of local head shop Kustom Kulture can be both a rewarding and shocking experience – amongst the droves of alternative comics, titles like *Footlicker*, *House Wives at Play* and *Head* jump out at you.

While many are sexually explicit and wildly erotic books, others feature socially relevant depictions of fetishism, sexual frustration and loneliness.

Kustom Kulture is a Winnipeg retail outlet, established in 1995 to emulate a traditional 1970s head shop.

All the comics are a testament to buyer and assistant manager Cass Sikorski's belief in the viability and diversity of comics as a medium that, she hopes, has garnered a wider readership since she started working at Kustom in 2000.

"You can attract a greater population of readers through the graphic novel format," said Sikorski, speaking to their market potential.

"I talk to a lot of people who will say 'I don't read but I read comics.'"

Prompted by what she characterizes as a "pleasant obsession" with comic books, Sikorski furthered the store's commitment to the medium by increasing and broadening its stock to include more literary graphic novels. The sales figures for certain titles, she said, especially titles of historical or political relevance, are promising.

There are severe limits on the availability of certain titles, however.

"Raincoast [a Canadian book distributor] pulled all their Fantagraphics [an American publisher] titles just recently without a reason, so now we have to import most of our comics from the States," Sikorski said.

Fantagraphics simply changed distributors, said a Raincoast customer service representative who requested anonymity. It is common for publishers to change distributors, the representative added.

Kustom imports their comic books to Canada from the United States through United Parcel Service (UPS).

As imported goods, the books are subject to the regulations of the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). The CBSA operates under the Canadian Criminal Code, the Customs Act and the Customs Tariff.

Spokesperson  
Lauretta  
Nyhus

agreed to comment on the CBSA's commitment to protecting Canadian citizens.

"We administer 90 different, various acts and legislation... We stop goods and people not allowed into the country and facilitate and help goods and people allowed into the country. That's our mandate, that's our job," she said.

### ART OR PORN?

On Apr. 23, 2008, the CBSA seized four copies of a comic destined for Kustom's shelves. The comics were seized on the grounds of obscenity, under the subsections of bestiality and necrophilia.

The satirical book was called *Boffy the Vampire Layer Meets Britney Spreads!*

A notice of detention was sent to Kustom.

"We're an established business and I wouldn't think we'd be singled out [by the CBSA] but at the same time it wouldn't surprise me," Sikorski said in an e-mail, hinting that the CBSA is not entirely fair in



Footlicker is one of the controversial titles carried by Kustom Kulture.

its seizures.

The materials, according to the detention notice, were prohibited under the Customs Tariff relating to a subsection of the Criminal Code that states: "...any publication a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex or of sex and any one or more of the following...namely, crime, hor-

ror, cruelty and violence, shall be deemed obscene."

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects expressive rights under Section 2 of the constitution. Section 1 of the Charter, however, stipulates that certain rights within the Charter can be overruled if they cannot be justified in a "free and democratic society." This section prevents hate speech and obscenity by overruling claims of the right to free expression because hate speech and obscenity, in certain cases, are believed to cause harm to society as a whole.

Expressive rights are suspended in the case of border seizures due to Section 1. It is argued the obscene materials cause societal harm, which justifies their seizure by the CBSA.

If Kustom were to make an appeal, they would have to argue that the imported material does not cause societal harm.

Steven Brennan, a Winnipeg-based lawyer, helped put that in context.

"...[An] argument would have to be that it [the comic book] does not fail the community standards test...that it does not unduly exploit sex in a degrading or dehumanizing way, which prevents a risk of harm to society at large," Brennan said.

The CBSA employs some 13,000 people working across 1,200 border points throughout Canada. Of these border points, 119 are land crossings and 61 operate at all hours.

The size of the CBSA, while considering the prejudices of individual border officials, could raise speculation about the consistency of its decisions.

"Our review process and detention notices address that [problem]," CBSA's Nyhus said.

Brennan supported this idea. "Given that there is a specialized unit set up to hear appeals at their first instance I would suggest that it is the attempt of Canada Customs to provide consis-

tency and uniformity," he said.

While the CBSA has the right to seize materials, any importer has the right to appeal that decision in an attempt to regain possession of the imported items. This, Brennan argues, ensures that the CBSA's decisions are consistent in that they are subject to reevaluation due to appeals.

"Certainly I would say that where you have a large border patrol workforce...the very justification for setting up a mechanism for appeal or a tribunal is the attempt to be consistent," Brennan added.

The CBSA's appeal process remains simple for small importers. After 30 days of the initial detention of the material, the CBSA informs the importer of their decision. If the material is prohibited, the importer can file a written request within 90 days to the Prohibited Importations Unit of the CBSA.

Kustom Kulture did not file an appeal and all four copies of *Boffy the Vampire Layer Meets Britney Spreads!* were destroyed.

"I lost my shit," Sikorski said. "When I got the notice in the mail from the Canada Border Services Agency... [I thought] censorship! Homophobia! There were...book titles being held and I contacted our brokers right away to get as much information as I could to prep myself."

A broker mediates between buyers and sellers, usually through a brokerage agency.

"The brokers implied that we'd pretty much be shit out of luck... the value on those [comics] was low and a minimal loss to us so I had to let it go," she said.

Sikorski was unable to comment on her brokers directly or on their advice.

For the

CBSA, the law is cut and dry.

"It is the responsibility of the importer to appeal within the designated time and we [the CBSA] have the responsibility to inform them of our decisions within a reasonable time," Nyhus said. "It is also the responsibility of the importer to know the law before importing."

### WHO DECIDES?

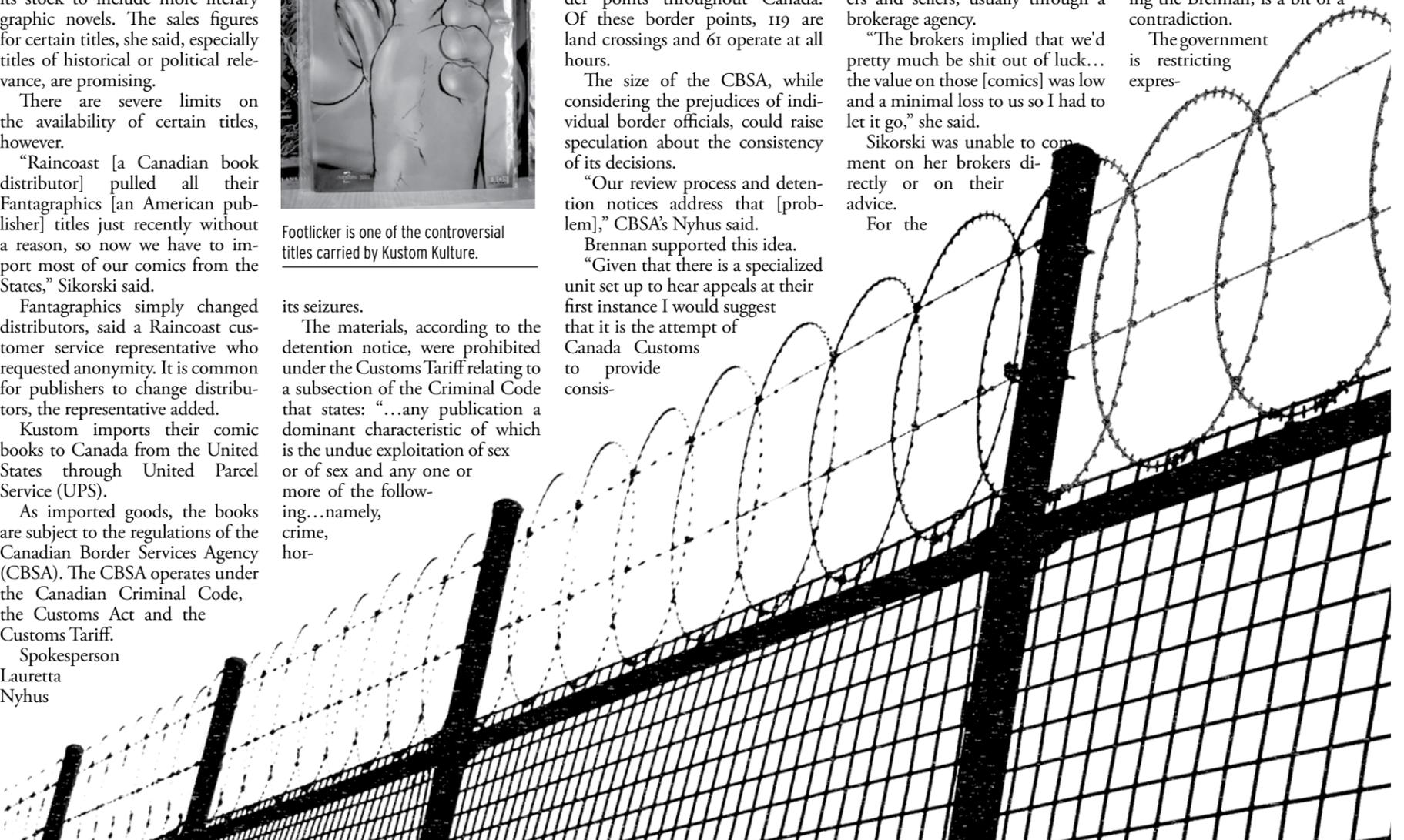
Although the appeals process is free and easy, the onus is placed on the importer to disprove obscenity rather than on the CBSA to prove the material is, in fact, obscene. The material, in effect, is assumed guilty.

If the importer fails the appeal with the CBSA and pursues litigation in court, the burden of proof shifts back to the government but the process is much more expensive and much more difficult for the importer.

"It is always expensive to litigate against the government," Brennan said. "Effectively, private parties are going up against the limitless resources of the Canadian public [which is] never an easy fight."

Currently, if an importer wants to go beyond the internal appeal through the CBSA, up to the level of the courts, the money for that challenge comes out of the importer's pocket. This, according to the Brennan, is a bit of a contradiction.

The government is restricting expres-



sive rights yet if the importer wants to affirm their rights through the courts, they are required to pay all legal fees.

"The larger question," he added, "is whether there ought to be a government-funded advocate that advances the claim on the government's purse...to ensure that resources, or the scarcity of resources, don't become the ultimate reason for any decision."

The Canadian Court Challenges Program was a federally funded program created in 1978 to heal this contradiction – by advancing and funding large, rights-based claims against the government. Funding for the program, however, was abolished in 2006 by the current Harper government.

Karen Busby is a University of Manitoba law professor and a constitutional law expert and civil liberties activist.

"The Conservative government, by canceling the Court Challenges Program among other things, has restricted the ability of citizens to make complaints and to take forward complicated and expensive cases," she said.

In 2000, Busby acted as an intervener in the Supreme Court of Canada, defending a queer bookstore against what was viewed as discrimination at the hands of the CBSA. Border officers were charged with deliberately inspecting and seizing B.C.-based Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium's book shipments under the auspice of obscenity. Little Sisters was defeated at the court level, however.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association, another intervener in the case, did not respond to requests for an interview.

"Four [out of nine] judges would have struck down the provisions giving Canada Customs the power to exercise border controls...so the Supreme Court was closely split on that issue," Busby said of the Little Sisters

case.

That means that those judges opposed to the seizure of obscene materials by the CBSA required only one more judge to form a majority on that decision.

And rightly so, she argues.

Around the time of the Little Sisters seizures at the British Columbia border – between 1989 and 1992 – just under 35,000 shipments were prohibited under the Customs Tariff. During that time, only 14 charges – not even convictions – were laid under the obscenity provisions in the Criminal Code. This essentially means that censorship trumps criminal conviction.

"So you can see that Canada Customs is a significant censoring force but we don't know what they do and how they do their work, and that's problematic," Busby said.

**Enforcement**

The subsection of the Criminal Code that allows for border seizures due to obscenity is relevant beyond the limits of the border: Individual stores and Canadian citizens can be charged with obscenity in any province throughout Canada.

"In my view, if Kustom Kulture wants to sell these magazines they should be able to sell them and run the risk of an obscenity charge," Busby said. "And the reality is they're not going to be charged under the obscenity provisions in the Criminal Code because those charges are almost nonexistent."

Sergeant Kerry Baldwin works in the Winnipeg Police Service's Vice Unit.

"We're not the book police," he said. "The difficulty is with the definition of obscenity... It is a difficult defini-

tion to wrestle with and that makes it a problem of enforcement."

Baldwin said a complaint must be made to police and that they obviously don't have police searching stores looking for obscene materials within the borders of Canada.

"Some of it comes down to exposure; to enforce obscenity requires a complaint."

Busby argues that importers like Kustom Kulture are not being officially charged by the CBSA but are being censored without knowing the internal workings of border security. They are also not provided with the resources to challenge the government up to the level of the courts. Without government support, their rights are being trampled, she said.

Cass Sikorski, with her near-encyclopedic knowledge and undying love for alternative comics, has a lot to say about the importance of the medium.

She believes they are an inexorable source of education and interest.

"...People know now that they can read history in a form that's more accessible," she said.

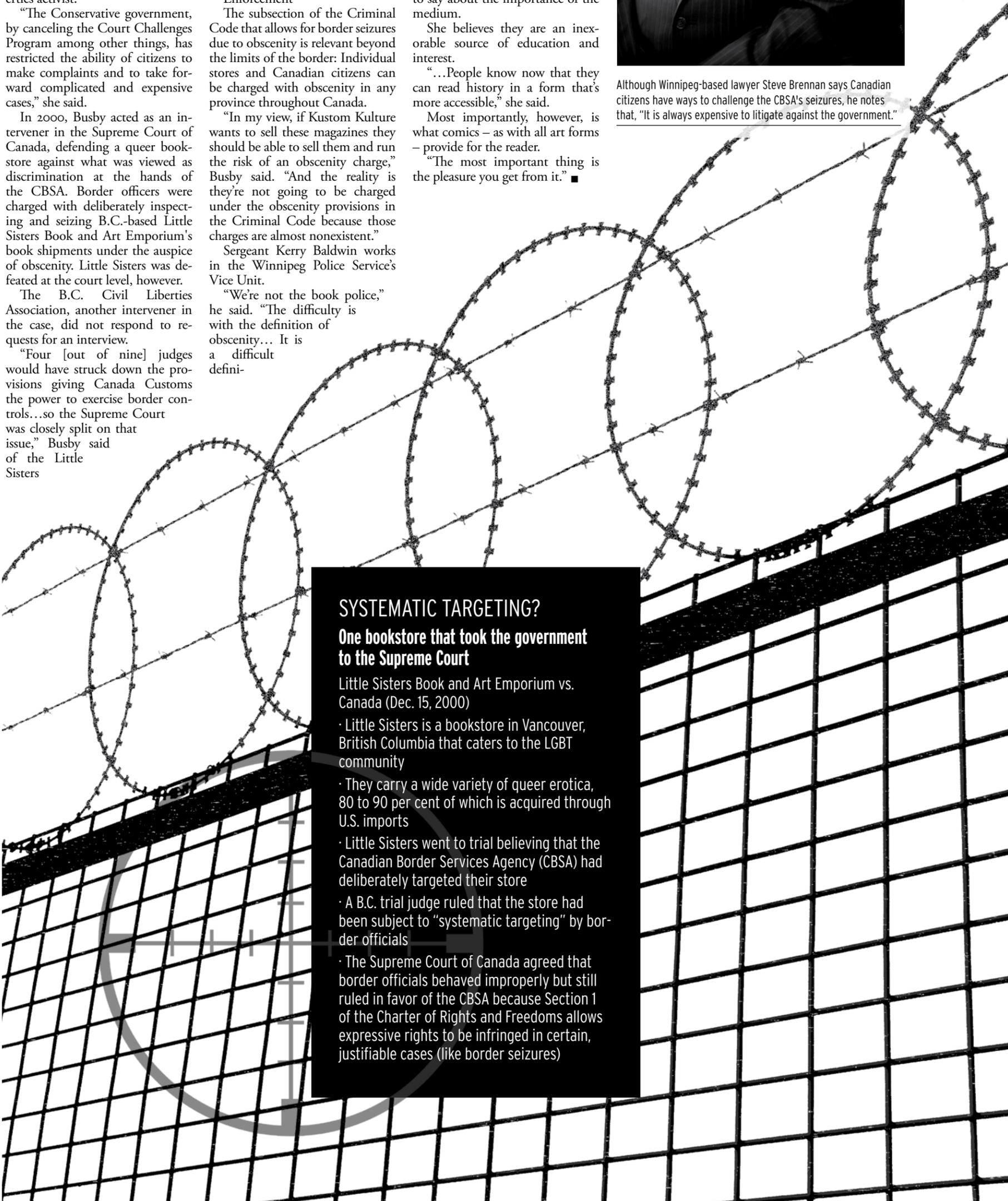
Most importantly, however, is what comics – as with all art forms – provide for the reader.

"The most important thing is the pleasure you get from it." ■



CHRIS FRIESEN

Although Winnipeg-based lawyer Steve Brennan says Canadian citizens have ways to challenge the CBSA's seizures, he notes that, "It is always expensive to litigate against the government."



**SYSTEMATIC TARGETING?**

**One bookstore that took the government to the Supreme Court**

Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium vs. Canada (Dec. 15, 2000)

- Little Sisters is a bookstore in Vancouver, British Columbia that caters to the LGBT community
- They carry a wide variety of queer erotica, 80 to 90 per cent of which is acquired through U.S. imports
- Little Sisters went to trial believing that the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) had deliberately targeted their store
- A B.C. trial judge ruled that the store had been subject to "systematic targeting" by border officials
- The Supreme Court of Canada agreed that border officials behaved improperly but still ruled in favor of the CBSA because Section 1 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows expressive rights to be infringed in certain, justifiable cases (like border seizures)

## Arts & Culture

# Stimulating the brain

Mobile art gallery's exhibition all about erotica

JEANNINE DESROCHES  
VOLUNTEER

Erotica is the theme of the latest art exhibition by a mobile art gallery initiated by local artist Wanda Luna that aims to reintroduce people to art.

"Things move so quickly, especially with the Internet, so why not make a gallery mobile and make that travel?" Luna asked.

After successful exhibits at The Forks and The Garrick Centre, Luna's Estudio Luna Galeria is hosting *All About Erotica* for one night only at Taste of Sri Lanka on Bannatyne Avenue on Saturday, Mar. 21.

She sent a call for submissions to a variety of art schools, resulting in a variety of art.

"Not all the images are going to be for everybody...not everyone finds the same thing erotic. I mean, I find cellos erotic."

In "First Time" by Sarah Collard, two individuals meet for their first sexual encounter. The exhibit also features a painting by Collard titled "V Day," which uses the image of robust breasts as a sign of celebration and ecstasy. Jordan Miller's "Orgasm: Separation from Thyself," meanwhile, portrays two lovers in the throes of passion.



"First Time" by Sara Collard. Mixed media on paper, 2008.

Luna stressed that erotica and sex aren't the same thing. While they're on the same page, she defined eroticism as a state of mind rather than a physical act.

"Sex is about the physical side, eroticism is all the stuff before that," she said. "The brain is the largest sex organ. That's where it all begins, it's all about stimulating the brain, and that's what I'm hoping to do with this show."

Luna started Estudio Luna Galeria two years ago as a result of her desire to show art to people who might not go to a traditional art show. She donates her profits to the artists.

Last October she hosted *The Death Show*, a death-themed art exhibit, at The Garrick Centre. The show featured 40 artists, a performance by death metal band Damascus and drew a crowd of

300. Her next show will be her biggest yet, though, as it will be held at The Millennium Library. There will be music and art on all four floors.

"The Millennium wants to send a message that libraries are not what they used to be and I want to send a message that art isn't what it used to be either," Luna said. "We haven't set the date or the name yet, but we

are going to need about 100 artists and performers for that event."

See *All About Erotica* on Saturday, Mar. 21 at 8 p.m. at Taste of Sri Lanka, 179 Bannatyne Ave. The evening will feature music by Slattern, Jahgo, China White and Divas on the Loose. Tickets are \$10. Visit <http://studioluna.blogspot.com>.

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# Speaking about the Jewish experience



*The Counterfeiters*, the story of Saloman Sorowitsch, who was involved with the Nazis in the largest counterfeiting scheme in history, is one of 15 movies showing at the Winnipeg International Jewish Film Festival, on now.

## Annual film festival offers something for everyone with largest line-up yet

MARINA KOSLOCK  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Documentaries, coming-of-age stories, comedies, dramas and reinterpretations of tales from the Torah – all are part of the 2009 Winnipeg International Jewish Film Festival.

Presented by the Rady Jewish Community Centre in conjunction with The Asper Foundation, the festival runs from Mar. 18 to Mar. 31 and boasts a line-up of films from a number of countries.

"It's just an opportunity for peo-

ple to see great film," said Tamar Barr, program director at the Rady Centre. "There is no better way to reach people than through film because people seem to relate a lot through film. They are drawn into it and at the same time they are entertained."

The festival, which usually draws a crowd of 1,500, is now in its sixth year. The 2009 edition will be the largest yet, with 15 films from around the globe.

"There is not a unified theme that runs through each film," Barr said. "They are all diverse. There is an array of genres from the family-friendly to the coming-of-age, cutting drama. Essentially, there is something for everyone."

Organizers decided what to screen based on which films won awards, which films were new and which films were popular. Though they still had to consider their

budget and availability, organizers wanted to make this year's festival larger and more publicized than ever.

"All of these films speak about the Jewish experience in different ways," Barr said. "Whether it is an intimate Holocaust experience story or a group of Israeli women's stories who spin together to show how modern day life of a Jewish woman is, there are stories here that are relatable to everyone, not just Jewish men and women. We want people to come out and embrace it."

*The Winnipeg International Jewish Film Festival is on now. Films are shown at the Berney Theatre, Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster St. For a full schedule and ticket prices, visit [www.radyjcc.com](http://www.radyjcc.com).*

## TOP FOUR FILMS

**Tamar Barr, program director at Winnipeg's Rady Jewish Community Centre, picks four must-see films playing at the 2009 Winnipeg International Jewish Film Festival.**

### *Blessed Is The Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh*

(Hungary, Israel, U.S.A, Czech Republic, 2008)

Thursday, Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m.

This is the first documentary about Hannah Senesh, a World War II poet and diarist. We are allowed into the intimate Senesh family documents as well as hearing witness testimony to discover who this woman was and how she changed the face of poetry forever.

"This is the life story of a heroine. She did a lot to save the people around her. It is a must see."

### *The Debt*

(Israel, 2007)

Saturday, Mar. 28, 9 p.m.

The secret service agents of Israel, the Mossad, capture a Nazi doctor and wish to bring him to trial in 1964. It is the cat and mouse chase of the Nazis and the Jews in reverse, and every moment that passes is another shock.

"The Debt is unique and an excellent thriller. It really brings us back to that time period."

### *Someone To Run With*

(Israel, 2006)

Saturday, Mar. 21, 9 p.m.

This is a fast-paced story about two 17-year-olds, Assaf and Tamar, who are living two separate lives in modern day Jerusalem. Their journey into adulthood is an endurance test of their bravery and commitment. Together, they find themselves while finding a lover as well.

"It just has a great story line. It's a mystery by [best-selling author] David Grossman."

### *The Counterfeiters*

(Austria/Germany, 2007)

Tuesday, Mar. 30, 7:30 p.m.

The story of Saloman Sorowitsch, who was involved with the Nazis in the largest counterfeiting scheme in history, known as "Operation Bernhard." Unsuspecting Jewish death camp prisoners were forced to help carry out the forging of millions of British pounds.

"This film was an Oscar winner in 2007 for best foreign film."

*All foreign films are shown with English subtitles.*

## FASHION STREETER

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



John  
"I just wear whatever is clean."

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Not just another killing machine

Jean-Claude Van Damme pulls off nuanced performance full of pain and pathos in *JCVD*

TIMOTHY PENNER  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

## JCVD

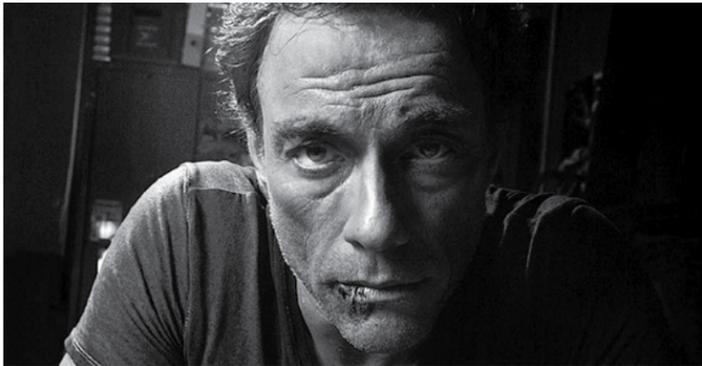
Directed by Mabrouk El Mechri

96 minutes  
Plays at Cinematheque Mar. 20 at 11 p.m., Mar. 21 at 9 p.m., Mar. 22 at 7 p.m., Mar. 25 and 26 at 9 p.m.  
★★★★☆

The first thing I should admit as I begin this review is that I am not a fan of '80s action movies. I've always felt there's something rather odd about invincible-supermen-killing-machines reinforcing stereotypes about foreigners in disturbingly formulaic (and Reagan-tastic) ways.

*JCVD* is refreshingly different.

Jean-Claude Van Damme



Jean-Claude Van Damme plays a fictionalized version of himself in the metaphysical, "post-modern" action film *JCVD*.

(*Double Impact*, *Street Fighter*) plays a fictionalized version of himself in this metaphysical, "post-modern" action film. In the movie, it has been years since he's had a successful role; he's fighting for the custody of his daughter, who wants little to do with him, and he keeps losing bad parts to Steven Seagal. Maybe it's not so fictionalized?

In an attempt to regain focus, Van Damme heads back to his hometown of Brussels only to get caught up in a violent hostage situation.

It would be unfair to give you

much more information than that, since the fun of the film is the way it plays around with perception and reality. Using a non-linear narrative, the movie repeats scenes from several perspectives, forcing the audience to rethink the story as it moves along.

This shifting of perception starts as soon as the movie begins, with a typical action movie scenario: An impressive extended shot where Van Damme single-handedly takes down an entire army. This turns out to be a scene from another run-of-the-mill, pot boiler action flick for

Van Damme. He has bills to pay.

The movie asks: who is *JCVD*? Sure he's famous, but mostly because he makes a great punch line at the end of so many jokes. Even the crowds who make him a folk hero during the hostage situation don't really get him.

Though it never reaches the head-tripping level of a Charlie Kaufman project, this film definitely pushes the boundaries of the action film, and it manages to move Van Damme from action hero to existential hero. Well...he's getting closer at least.

Something has to be said about Van Damme's acting; he's pulled off what few ever expected of him with a nuanced performance full of pain and pathos as he works through some difficult questions about himself. In fact, his acting is more surprising than getting one of his windmill kicks to the head (I assume).

If you missed this film the last time it played in Winnipeg, be sure to get down to Cinematheque this week. Whether you're a fan or not, *JCVD* is just a helluva good time.

## BOOK REVIEW



## Somewhere Else

By Jan Guenther Braun

Arbeiter Ring Publishing, 2008  
200 pages  
\$19.95

JENNIFER PAWLUK  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

*Somewhere Else*, the debut novel from local author Jan Guenther Braun, has been widely distributed within the genre of queer fiction. Yet, the style of the narrative seems to more aptly suit the coming-of-age tradition.

Braun has written a smart, heart-wrenching tale of a young woman who must learn to accept herself as a homosexual Mennonite living in rural Saskatchewan. To do so, she must leave her home, her family and her assumptions behind, striving to forge a new life for herself somewhere else.

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is more difficult than most for Jess Klassen, but the journey is one of empowerment, acceptance and, eventually, self-actualization.

This is perhaps best realized in the meta-narrative moments of the text, where Braun writes dialogue in Low German, includes a few lines of poetry now and again, and also questions the reliability of her narrator, the protagonist, herself. The effect is one in which readers may better understand Jess's own growth and personal development.

It is in these moments where Jess Klassen most clearly identifies herself. And it is in these moments where the novel pulses with life.

Throughout this search for identity, Braun has written Jess's character with a sort of sad sense of humour, but full of passion and insight, and not without a stubborn streak. In many ways, Jess hides behind her fears repeatedly in the narrative, but her courage of conviction ultimately sees her through, time after time. This is where she finds her incredible strength – the kind of strength it takes to leave home at 16.

"Nobody tells me what to do, least of all the people I love the most. Nobody tells me what to do, least of all the people who have a better idea than I do of what I should do," Jess thinks.

Eventually, Jess is able to find her way after all – to find the strength to reach out to her family, to find out who her true friends are and to find true love. Through it all, she finds herself.

As a work of prairie literature, *Somewhere Else* is sure to stand out. Jess Klassen is clearly the powerful product of a very powerful landscape. Identity; it's what we all strive for, to know exactly where we stand. And Braun has certainly established herself as an up-and-coming Canadian writer with this book.

## THEATRE PREVIEW

# Reasonable doubt

MTC brings award-winning play to the stage

## Doubt: A Parable

Directed by Miles Potter

Plays at Manitoba Theatre Centre until Apr. 4

★★★★☆

JOHN HERBERT CUNNINGHAM

VOLUNTEER STAFF

A nun with nasty habits and a priest with secrets to hide – what could be more dramatic than that?

John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Doubt*, which inspired the recent Academy Award-nominated movie of the same name, takes place during the troubled times of the '60s in an edifice which is part seminary, part nunnery and part school. There is only one black child at the school and the priest, Father Brendan Flynn (Trevor Leigh), has taken this student under his wing, knowing the difficulties this student will have fitting in.

The head nun, Sister Aloysius (Nancy Palk), suspects there may be something more going on and, without substantiating anything, attempts to elicit the support of Sister James (Tova Smith) who is the student's inexperienced and timid teacher.

The play opens with Father Flynn standing alone on stage delivering a sermon about doubt. This is where the audience begins to have doubts about the play itself. Even though the play is set in the Bronx,



Nancy Palk and Trevor Leigh star in Manitoba Theatre Centre's production of the award-winning play *Doubt: A Parable*.

why is it necessary for the priest to have a Bronx accent? He has been to three parishes in five years so there's a good chance he's not from the Bronx. Besides, Leigh isn't very convincing with that accent.

Once the opening sermon has concluded, the stage is set for the dance between Sister Aloysius and Sister James, as the former attempts to dominate and bully the latter into submitting to becoming her spy and unwilling accomplice in the defrocking of Father Flynn.

Palk does an admirable job of portraying the intolerant, aging,

sexless Sister Aloysius. She is stern and unbending, believing that teachers should not show warmth to their students because it weakens them. And she doesn't let facts, or a lack of them, stand in the way of her campaign against Father Flynn.

Sister James is an interesting mix. Meek, mild and easily swayed, she has enough backbone to stand up against Sister Aloysius' emotional onslaught and remain neutral, becoming an excellent foil.

One scene makes this play: Sister Aloysius has requested the atten-

dance of the black child's mother (Lesley Ewen) at her office. The purpose, or so it initially seems, is to discuss how her son is getting along in the school. It is quickly revealed that Sister Aloysius is attempting to elicit another accomplice. Ewen plays her role to perfection revealing some interesting secrets in the process.

Will Sister Aloysius succeed in her campaign? Is Father Flynn guilty of the sins Sister Aloysius imagines him to be? Only attendance at the play will answer those questions.

# Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls...

Whether adults read it for nostalgia or escapism, **children's literature** is a sure way to satisfy the child in us all

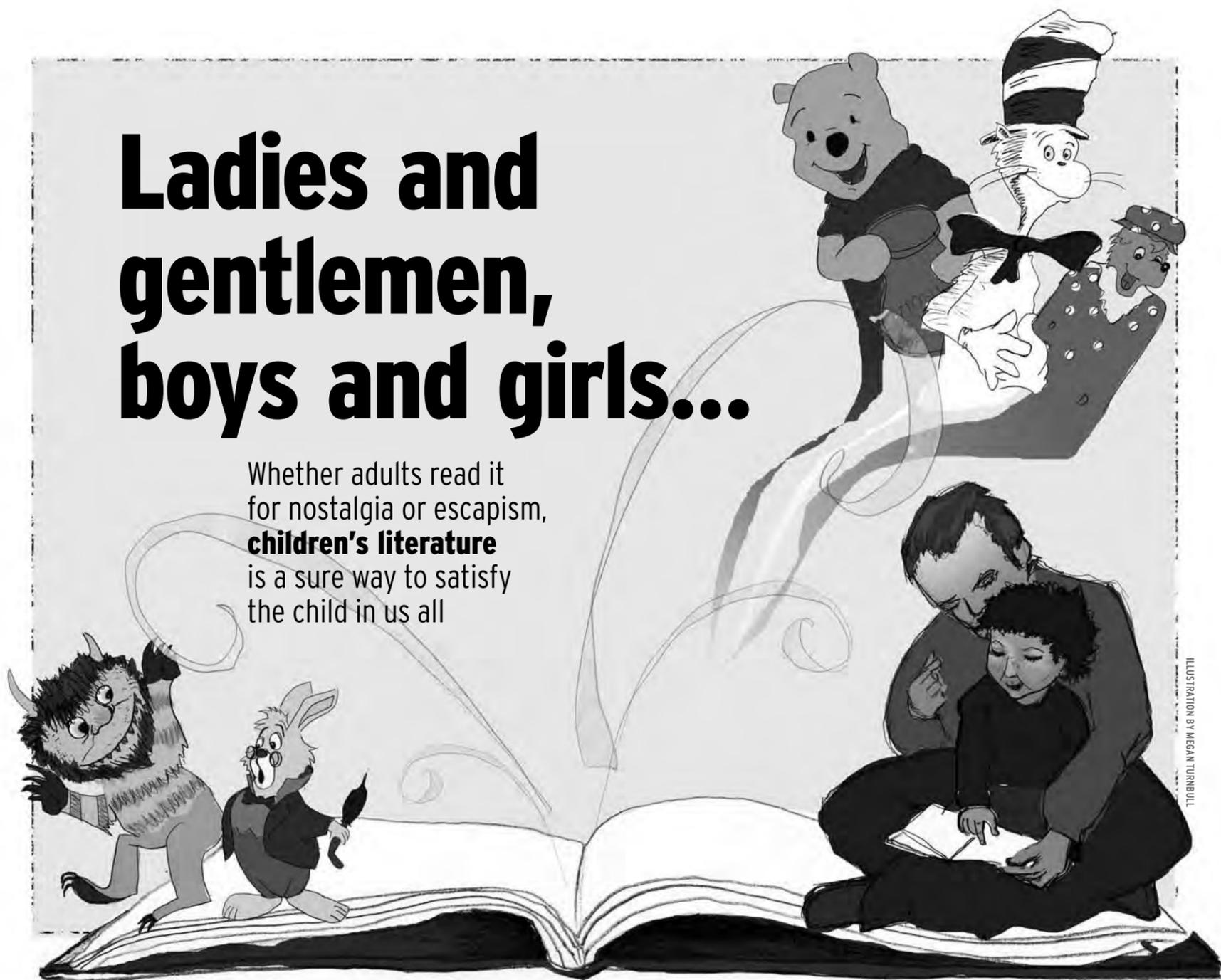


ILLUSTRATION BY MEGAN TURBULL

COURTNEY SCHWEGEL  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

From *Harry Potter* to *Twilight*, children's literature has attracted a lot of attention in recent years. But it's not just kids creating the craze — adults are feeding the frenzy, too.

"We see adults getting just as excited [as kids]... around books like *Harry Potter*," said Tamara Opar, Children's and Teen Services librarian at the Millennium Library.

She explained that the library even added *Twilight*, a vampire fantasy novel by Stephanie Meyer marketed for a younger, pre-teen and teenage audience, to their "Bestsellers" section recently. The section previously featured only books aimed at adults.

So what is it about children's literature that makes it so appealing for people whose grade-school years are long gone?

Perry Nodelman, a children's book author and professor emeritus in the University of Winnipeg's English department, said the appeal of reading children's literature for him is found in its complex simplicities.

"I enjoy reading children's books because it's a kind of writing that seems very simple, but if you allow yourself to think about it...BAM! There is all kinds of stuff going on," he said.

Nodelman just released his latest book, *The Curse of the Evening Eye*, which he co-wrote with Carol Matas. The book is part of a series, *The Ghosthunters*, intended for children, but that hasn't stopped adults

from getting in on the action.

"Even though it doesn't have the market appeal of *Twilight*, a lot of adults have told me they've found themselves really enjoying reading it," he said.

Opar sees adult enjoyment of children's literature as a form of escapism in a complex world where adults are faced with the realities of the economic recession, relationship drama and many other challenges.

**With a film adaptation of *Where the Wild Things Are* set to be released later this year, along with the next *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* films, it seems the fascination adults have with children's literature shows no signs of ceasing**

"[Children's] books aren't that complicated. People just enjoy reading them and blocking out the rest

of their world for a little while."

Jon Kornelsen, a second-year English/education student at the U of W, has his own theory about the appeal of children's literature.

"I think a lot of it is because it is this huge nostalgia trip back to your childhood," he said.

Kornelsen has experienced this himself.

"I had to read one of the books in the *Animorphs* series for this paper I was doing and I ended up reading three just because I enjoyed the nostalgia of it."

When it comes to the study of children's literature, having an adult perspective allows one to see elements of a story that go unnoticed by kids. In writing *The Hidden Adult*, a critical book that examines six canonical children's books, Nodelman explored how these texts prescribe children's behavior based on adult ideologies.

"What I realized was that...children's books are the kinds of books that teach children how to be children," he said.

Kornelsen explained that these adult ideologies can be seen in J.M. Barrie's classic tale, *Peter Pan*. The idea of a child that doesn't want to grow up is a notion created by adults who long for childhood and youth, and who struggle with the thought of their kids growing older.

"All kids want to grow up,"

Kornelsen said. In this sense, he added, Peter's desire to remain a child is really an adult desire to be youthful themselves and to keep their children from growing up too quickly.

In re-reading *The Hardy Boys*, Kornelsen has also come to see how children's books can impose certain gender-role ideals on the young people reading them.

"In *The Hardy Boys*...the protagonists are portrayed as shining examples of masculinity based on the grounds that they are handsome, intelligent, resourceful and athletic. Reading these books could give boys the impression that in order to be 'real men'... they must also be handsome, smart [and] athletic," he said. "So in this way, *The Hardy Boys* series indirectly prescribes a certain gender role for boys to live up to."

Kornelsen is fascinated by the perspective he has gained as an adult looking back at his childhood favorites.

"As a kid you don't necessarily notice that, but when you are reading those texts [as an adult] you can see how those gender roles influenced you."

With a film adaptation of *Where the Wild Things Are* set to be released later this year, along with the next *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* films, it seems the fascination adults have with children's literature shows no signs of ceasing.

As Nodelman noted, "There is something magical about something that appears so simple, but isn't."

## ALL-TIME FAVES

The Uniter asks: Which children's books hold a special place in your heart?

“The *Narnia* series. I want to read *Narnia* to my kids...because my dad read those to my brother and I when we were young. I think there is something very special about those books...they are one of the archetypal fantasy novels.”

-Jon Kornelsen, 21,  
U of W English/education student

“*Berenstain Bears* books and Dr. Seuss books, which my mom used to read me when I was little. Also classics like *The Night Before Christmas*. The *Berenstain Bears* books usually have a moral to them that [my son] Stellan can relate to even though he's only four. Dr. Seuss books are silly and funny, so we always have some laughs reading those.”

-Katrina Watson, 30,  
mother

“*Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans. I first read this book as a child, and have always remembered *Madeline* for her courage and individuality. Most probably from a sense of nostalgia, I read this book with my own children when they were very young. It was a favorite and we read it often. As an adult, I appreciate and credit the longevity of this story for the simply told story and the images which illustrate Paris.”

-Tamara Opar,  
librarian at The Millennium Library

“I'd have to say *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch because it's such a classic and it's so innocent and lovely. It makes you excited about growing up and appeals to all age groups because it brings you through all the phases of life.”

-Roslyn Graham, 19,  
U of W anthropology student

# Awesome experiments



I can has dark, dancey, melodic indie rock? Winnipeg's Crosstown Rivals pose with a black kitteh.

## Local rockers **Crosstown Rivals** plan a summer tour and their next single

CURRAN FARIS  
LISTINGS CO-ORDINATOR

While finishing up their debut EP in the summer of 2008, local rock four-piece Crosstown Rivals were feeling less than confident.

"We were still talking about how we couldn't stand the recordings, and they actually turned out alright," drummer Jon Mutch said with a laugh over coffee at Second Cup recently.

Their self-titled EP was recorded by Ricardo Lopez of Oldfolks Home on relatively inexpensive equipment. Guitarist Louis Levesque-Cote said the recording didn't come alive until the mastering process.

"The mastering helped a lot and Ricardo really invested so much time into mixing it and making it better because there's no way he was happy with how it was sounding at first," Levesque-Cote said. "The great thing about working with him is that he added so much to the songs – he added back-up vocals and effects on the guitars...it turned out great."

With a single tour and EP under their belts, Crosstown Rivals are already beginning to turn some heads with their dark, dancey and melodic indie rock. The band receives regular airplay on Winnipeg's 92.9 KICK FM station and have charted on several university stations across Canada. The band was surprised to see their name on the charts, to say the least.

"We got the top spot in two or three towns in like...St. Catherine's where we played a show to only the bar staff but we were number one on their university station," said Mutch.

Crosstown Rivals was originally formed by vocalist/guitarist Cody Seller, bassist Anthony Kowalczyk and Mutch in 2007. After a brief break up, the band enlisted Louis Levesque-

Cote, alumni of The Paperbacks and member of Boats!. The band's sound continues to evolve and has taken a synth-heavy direction as of late.

"It's a direction that's been happening more less naturally because we got these keyboards and it's like 'Well fuck, let's use them,' and it actually has changed our whole approach on songwriting," Levesque-Cote said.

"They're expensive, so we might as well put them to use," Mutch added.

Levesque-Cote describes the band's current songwriting process as loose and experimental. Band members will grab whatever instrument is lying around and immediately start writing. All of Crosstown Rivals' new songs have been written this way.

"Most of the time it doesn't turn out at all, but once in a while it does and we're like, 'Wow, that's so awesome!'" Mutch said.

Fans will get a chance to hear the new material when the band releases a brand new single, *Exits*, in the next few months. The single, along with four remixes, will be released digitally with the increasingly popular pay-what-you-want price tag.

Next on the Crosstown Rivals' agenda is another summer tour and some more studio time. But don't expect a full-length album. Levesque-Cote said the band would much rather release singles and EPs.

"Why would you blow all that money on an album that no one's going to buy anyways? It doesn't matter how popular you are, nobody buys CDs anymore," he said, before adding with a laugh: "It's all about getting huge on the Blogosphere."

Check out Curran's blog at <http://uniter.ca/blog> for more info.

- ⇒ See Crosstown Rivals Tuesday, Mar. 24 at The Park Theatre (698 Osborne St.)
- ⇒ The band is opening for Montreal-based, Polaris Prize-nominated rockers Plants and Animals
- ⇒ Advance tickets are \$13 at Ticketmaster
- ⇒ Doors open at 8 p.m.
- ⇒ Visit [www.myspace.com/crosstownrivalswinnipeg](http://www.myspace.com/crosstownrivalswinnipeg)

## CD REVIEWS

### HAUNTER

*Lighthouse/Great Northern 7"*  
Independent

★★★★☆

Haunter is one of the few local bands who should actually be called 'indie rock.' They don't play that slick, produced, disco-beat-driven trend-rock you hear pouring out of American Apparel, they play music that sounds like indie rock used to sound like: edgy and blown-out, with a dash of experimentalism. The two tracks on this 7", *Lighthouse/Great Northern* and *Sugar Melting*, are seemingly simple songs, but Haunter do a good job of adorning them with catchy vocal melodies and guitars that go from chiming clarity to snarling, discordant squall at the drop of a hat. Fans of Sonic Youth should definitely check this out. My one complaint: it isn't loud enough. I bet these guys kill live. Find out for yourself when they release the 7" tomorrow (Friday, Mar. 20) at The Royal Albert.

–Curran Faris



Stream *Lighthouse/Great Northern* by Haunter at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca).

### THE HAPPY UNFORTUNATE

*Stand Up or Fall Down*  
Independent

★★★★☆

It's hard to imagine a new generation of hip hop kids influenced by smooth, '90s-styles, but The Happy Unfortunate know how to use jazzy beats and neo-soul instrumentals behind a voice that echoes Camp Lo. At 15 and 19 respectively, DJ Envoy and Malcolm-Jay show musical appreciation beyond their years, sounding like the offspring of Dead Prez's *Mind Sex* and A Tribe Called Quest's *Electric Relaxation*. Malcolm-Jay is honest but Envoy's lyrics and tone still need maturing. As a producer/MC duo I would've liked to hear more collective writing and arranging like their influences – rhyming together instead of verses that sound like they were recorded in separate studios. Songs are short, seemingly unfinished, making it easy to mistake tracks with interludes. I would easily enjoy a live show, martini in hand, because with the right idea The Happy Unfortunate's potential could lead them somewhere.

–Crystal Laderas



Stream *The World is Mine* by The Happy Unfortunate at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca).

### CHRIS CARMICHAEL

*Chris Carmichael*  
Independent

★★★★☆

After years of relentless behind-the-scenes support of Winnipeg's blues and roots scene, playing alongside the likes of Big Dave MacLean, The Perpetrator, and Romi Mayes, singer/songwriter/guitarist/drummer Chris Carmichael has finally released his first solo album. It's tour de force of alt-country chanties sees Carmichael playing all the instruments, save for a little help from pedal steel player Bill Western on the melancholic *Bitter Till the End* and backing vocals from Joanna Miller and Romi Mayes on a couple of tracks. Right from the opening track, *Nowhere*, you can tell the album is going somewhere and right from the start it's strong and doesn't falter. This long-awaited solo record from one of Winnipeg's most sought after session players is a welcome addition to the city's country scene.

–Brandon Bertram



Stream *Pop Song* by Chris Carmichael at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca).

### FAUNTS

*Feel.Love.Thinking.Of.*  
Friendly Fire Recordings

★★★★☆

It may not be very rock-critic of me, but all you have to do is write one good song and I'm your fan for life. That's how I feel about musicians like Mike Petkau (*Dinosaur*), Paul Bergman (*Fallow Field*) and The Pets (*Vika*), and it's how I feel about Edmonton's Faunts and their song *Will You Tell Me When*, from 2004's *High Expectations/Low Results*. Since that song and CD, the band has put out three other releases. The latest, *Feel.Love.Thinking.Of.*, completes their transformation from a dreamy shoegaze project to an electro-pop outfit. With standout songs like the driving title track and the sprawling *Alarmed/Lights*, *Feel.Love.Thinking.Of.* is a stellar album. It'll be interesting to see where Faunts go from here.

–Aaron Epp



### THE NEW STANDARDS

*Rock and Roll*  
Princess Records

★★★★☆

For a cover song to be any good, a band's got to put its own spin on it. Minneapolis' The New Standards do just that on *Rock and Roll*, a collection of 10 covers. Made up of singer-pianist Chan Poling, vibraphone player Steve Roehm and bassist John Munson (of Semisonic fame), The New Standards apply their jazz, rock and pop chops to classics like Lou Reed's *Rock and Roll* and The Clash's *London Calling*, as well as (relatively) recent hits like Outkast's *Hey Ya* and Britney Spears' *Toxic*. The idea here is that the pop music of the last 40 or 50 years are our "new standards," the songs we'll be listening to and singing for years to come. Whether or not that's true remains to be seen, but one thing's for sure: *Rock and Roll* is a fun record that will make you revisit some of your favourite songs.

–Aaron Epp



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# Youth of the nation

In communities filled with despair, **Northern Manitoba rockers Lost Priority** hope their music will help

AARON EPP  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

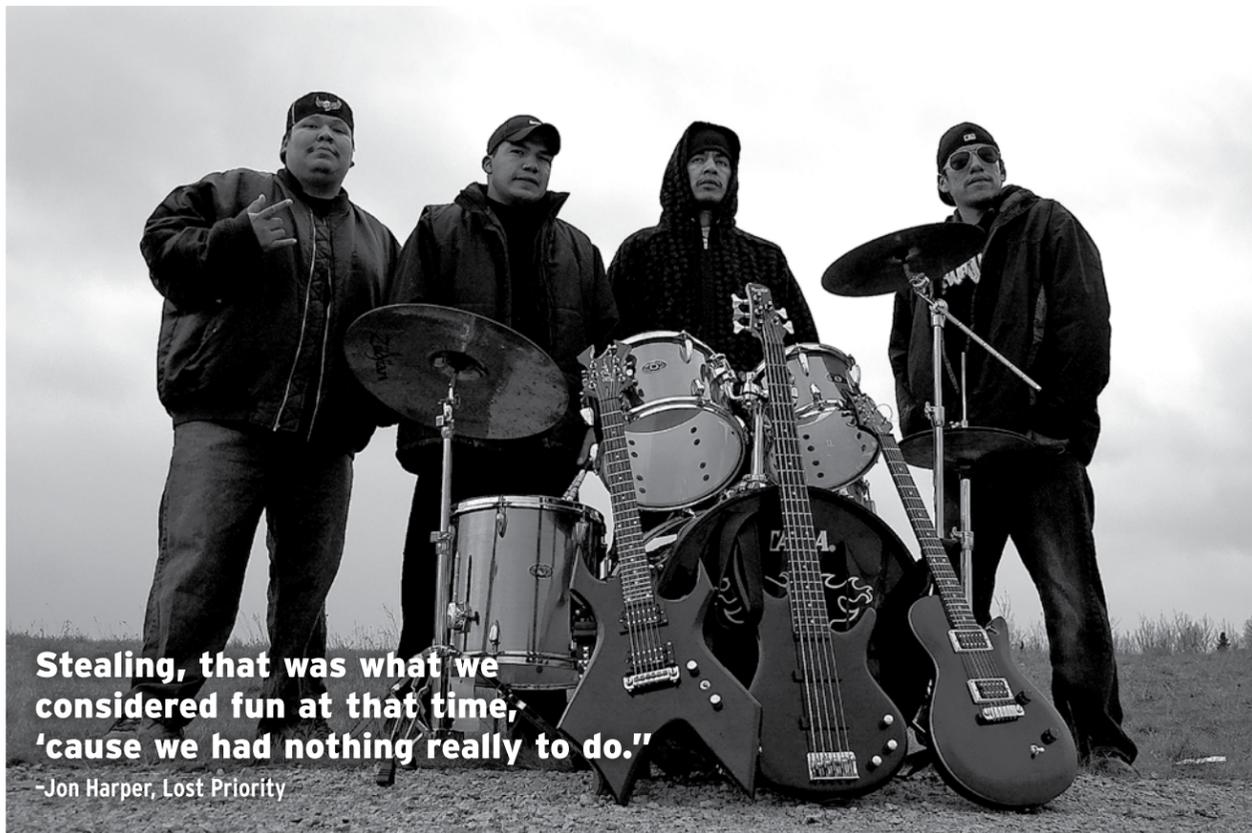
Winnipeg musicians talk of forming bands because there's nothing else to do in the city during the winter, but in Wasagamack, Manitoba, there's *really* nothing to do.

Located 600 kilometres north of Winnipeg, the Oji-Cree reserve has a population of about 1,600. It's from this community that rock four-piece Lost Priority has emerged with its debut CD, *All That We Are*.

Speaking by phone from his home on the reserve, 23-year-old singer-guitarist Jonathan Harper said that the group formed in 2000 as a way to escape boredom, inspired by mainstream nu-metal acts like Korn, Limp Bizkit and Papa Roach. Playing in a band soon became an effort to escape the drugs, alcohol, gangs and violence its members grew up surrounded by.

"I'm not scared to say we also experimented with drugs and alcohol, and just being negative," Harper said of the group's junior high and high school years. "Stealing, that was what we considered fun at that time, 'cause we had nothing really to do."

Eventually, marriage, the birth of their children and a renewed focus



**Stealing, that was what we considered fun at that time, 'cause we had nothing really to do.'**

-Jon Harper, Lost Priority

Lost Priority, a rock band made up of four Oji-Crees, used their music to stay out of trouble while growing up on the Wasagamack reserve in Northern Manitoba.

PHOTO BY RICHARD KNOTT

on their music led Harper and his bandmates – guitarist Stanley McDougall, bassist J.R. Harper and drummer Mark Harper – to clean up their act.

*All That We Are* is the band's first CD. The eight-song, 39-minute disc was recorded during March 2008 at StrongFront A/V Productions in Winnipeg.

While the band's sound hasn't changed much from the influences they imitated when starting out, it's the lyrics that are the most compelling. Harper hopes the band's music will be a voice for aboriginal youth who are ignored in commu-

nities like Wasagamack.

"There's been a lot of suicides in Wasagamack and the surrounding communities because the authorities are so ignorant of what's happening related to alcohol and drugs," Harper said. "Most of the time I hear that people feel they aren't being helped in any way – there's nothing for them in the community and they have no options to move somewhere else, so that isolation really affects them."

He's only seen things get worse in recent years – more drugs, more gangs and more violence. If the elders in the community would lis-

ten to the young people, Harper said, things might be different.

"[The young people] have lots to say. I know they want more stuff in the community. There's an arena, but it's not being maintained; there's a school, there's a gym, but our school was almost burned down by a youth and now there's no activities there."

Ultimately, Harper says, what the young people want is to not feel alone.

"I think what they would want is a place where they could feel safe, basically, and relate to other youth or individuals."

While the situation sometimes makes him feel helpless, Harper wants to make a difference with Lost Priority.

"What I'm trying to do with my music is portray how I feel, and so hopefully they can relate to the music and the lyrics and not feel alone."

⇒ *All That We Are* is available in stores and online now  
⇒ Visit [www.lost-priority.com](http://www.lost-priority.com) and [www.myspace.com/lostpriority](http://www.myspace.com/lostpriority)

## The banger's embrace

Amidst the pre-packaged, over-produced musical sludge on shelves today, **thank God, Allah, Buddha or whoever, for Propagandhi**



CURRAN FARIS  
LISTINGS CO-ORDINATOR

With the release of Propagandhi's new record, *Supporting Caste*, and their impending CD release concerts, I can't help but mirror singer-guitarist Chris Hannah's sentiment on *The Banger's Embrace*, the 11th track on the new disc: "We were fucking stoked unlike we'd been since we were pimpled, pubeless teens."

Although Hannah is waxing un-poetic about thrash legends Sacrifice, his lyric perfectly captures the adolescent excitement I am feeling about Propagandhi's return.

I remember being a pimpled, pubeless teen, skateboarding during lunch at Gordon Bell and blasting the group's 1996 sophomore release *Less Talk More Rock* on tape. Propagandhi had everything I



needed from a band in Grade 8: speed, melody and an unflinching, articulate middle finger raised at government, religion and sexist, racist homophobes. The combination of musical ferocity and po-

**I remember being a pimpled, pubeless teen, skateboarding during lunch at Gordon Bell and blasting Less Talk More Rock on tape**

litical lyrics resonated deeply with me.

Fast-forward 13 years. Punk rock is no longer an underground secret; it's a commercial force. If punk died in the '80s, mainstream music giants exhumed its fettered corpse in the 2000s and put it on display for the youth of today, replacing all the danger, urgency and rebellion with the same old rock 'n' roll detritus: girls, heartbreak, dancing, partying. Aging scenesters shook their heads in disbelief as studded belts flew off the shelves at the mall and the term 'faux hawk' entered the English lexicon. And so it goes.

Enter *Supporting Caste*, Propagandhi's fifth record in 15

years and their strongest to date. With the addition of ex-Giant Sons guitarist Dave "The Beaver" Guillas, Hannah, bassist Todd Kowalksi and drummer Jord Samolesky have once again expanded the boundaries of their sound without compromising their artistic or political vision.

The fast songs are even faster, the choruses will stick in your head for weeks, the chord changes are more progressive than ever and the lyrics are some of their smartest yet. Listen to tracks like *Dear Coach's Corner* or *Potemkin City Limits* if you don't believe me.

Amidst the pre-packaged, over-produced sludge on the shelves today, the last vestige for music lovers are artists who completely disregard commercial trends or genre trappings and create music that

is honest, original, challenging and exciting – music that makes a 25-year-old man such as myself want to careen through the mosh pit like a kamikaze pilot and sing along with every word at the top of his lungs.

So deep inside this jaded music lover's bones, it feels good to know that Propagandhi are still out there. Even though my complexion has improved (somewhat) and I don't skateboard anymore, I'm still fucking stoked.

Catch Curran in the pit when Propagandhi play *The Garrick Centre* Mar. 20-21. Visit [www.propagandhi.com](http://www.propagandhi.com).

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TW	Artist	Recording	Label
1	!Various Artists	Uncovered	CKUW
2	!Propagandhi	Supporting Caste	Smallman
3	*Neko Case	Middle Cyclone	Anti
4	*Mother Mother	Oh My	Last Gang
5	*Bicycles	Oh No It's Love	Fuzzy Logic
6	Morrisey	Years of Refusal	Polydor
7	*Hawksley Workman	Los Manlicious	Isadora
8	*Jeff Healey	Mess of Blues	Stony Plain
9	Guy Davis	Sweetheart Like You	Redhouse
10	!Various Artists	Northern Faction 4	Balanced

## Arts Briefs

Compiled by Jonathan Dyck and Aaron Epp

### AN ELECTRONIC DON JUAN

More proof computer nerds have always had trouble getting women: The world's first computer was used to generate love poetry, Telegraph.co.uk reported Mar. 10.

In 1952, desperate to test the capabilities of Mark 1, 'the Baby' (the computer built at Manchester University), a scientist named Christopher Strachey devised a software program by entering hundreds of romantic verbs and nouns into the new machine. Mark 1 sifted through the database to create a stream of light-hearted verse.

Strachey and his team would print off the computer's best efforts and use them to try and pick up girls. Just kidding – they posted them on a notice board in their office.

David Ward, a German computer 'archaeologist,' unearthed the program while researching Strachey's papers at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

### OODLES OF DOODLES

A scientist in England has found that doodling helps keep the brain on task, NPR.org reported Mar. 12.

Jackie Andrade, a professor of psychology at the University of Plymouth, recently published a study on doodling in *Applied Cognitive Psychology*. The function of doodling, she found, is to provide just enough cognitive stimulation during an otherwise boring task to prevent the mind from taking the more radical step of totally opting out of the situation and running off into a fantasy world.

Andrade tested her theory by playing a long, boring tape of a telephone message to a collection of people, only half of whom had been given a doodling task. After the tape ended she quizzed them and found that the doodlers remembered about 29 per cent more information than the nondoodlers.

### R.I.P., LAS VEGAS ART MUSEUM

Who goes to Las Vegas for the museums? You guessed it: no one. Apparently not even people who live there go to museums. The *Las Vegas Sun* reported recently that the Las Vegas Art Museum closed indefinitely last month because it was broke. After 59 years, there was no endowment, no public funding and little community involvement.

Its four-level, 55,000-square-foot building opened in 2003 and houses 1,900 works, including modern art, contemporary art and landscape photos of the American West.

### COLBERT TO CONQUER SPACE?

Call it a giant leap for comedian Stephen Colbert, whose name is leading an online NASA poll to get a new room in the international space station named after him.

CBC.ca reported that he's beating "Serenity" by just over 16,000 votes. Other American rooms on the space station are called things like "Unity," "Harmony" and "Destiny." Clearly, Colbert's name would be in perfect company.

According to the contest rules, "voting results are not binding on NASA and NASA reserves the right to ultimately select a name" in keeping with its best interests.

CBC.ca also reported that last September, "Comedy Central said it will digitize the comedian's DNA" and send it to the International Space Station's "Immortality Drive" which contains human DNA, a history of humanity's greatest achievements and some personal messages.

### CHRIS BROWN PULLS OUT OF KIDS' CHOICE AWARDS

Kids' Choice Awards? Whatever happened to the Teen Choice Awards? Wasn't that young enough? Why should kids get their own award show? They have parents to make decisions for them – after all, they certainly don't need Chris Brown's influence.

Most recently Brown has drawn attention for his arrest after he allegedly attacked his girlfriend, Rihanna. The now infamous pop star has removed his name from the Kids' Choice Awards voting ballots.

According to CBC.ca, Brown had been nominated for favourite male singer and favourite song for *Kiss Kiss* at the Mar. 28 awards show on Nickelodeon.

# Aboriginal cartoonist drew humour

Exhibit celebrates the work of **Everett Soop**, who lampooned the corrupt, the racist and the ignorant

NONI BRYNJOLSON  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Faced with life in a wheelchair, artist Everett Soop used his sharp wit to overcome the many disadvantages in his life. Soop, who suffered from muscular dystrophy, created cartoons that combined a dark humour with his advocacy of aboriginal rights, and later, rights for the disabled.

A sample of Soop's work is presented in Gallery 1C03's *Everett Soop: Journalist, Cartoonist, Activist*. Also included in the exhibition, which was circulated by the Nickle Arts Museum of Calgary, are family photos, an election poster from his several years in politics and a large photo of St. Paul's, the residential school he attended.

While it's a limited look at an extremely prolific artist – Soop made thousands of cartoons during his lifetime – the exhibition is an entertaining sample of the work of an artist whose national significance has only recently been recognized.

Soop, who died in 2001, grew up on the Blood Indian Reserve in Alberta. In the 1970s he began to work as a cartoonist for the *Kainai News*, one of the country's first aboriginal news organizations. It was here that he developed his own unique style of political satire.

One particularly poignant drawing, "Trust me the Indian Act is intact," deals with the debate during the 1980s surrounding the relationship between Aboriginal People and Canada's newly amended constitution. In it, Indian Affairs



Minister John Munro hides a garbage can containing the Indian Act from the sight of a stereotypically stoic chief.

Soop caricatured both white and native politicians in an equal ruthless manner. In "The professional board member – why work," for example, a smug looking chief is kissed in suggestive places by his associates.

While his cartoons burned those who abused their responsibilities to society, Soop himself was not a heroic figure. As members of his family pointed out in the exhibition catalogue, he was short-tempered, struggled with alcoholism and had to be looked after constantly towards the end of his life.

Several works expose the darker side of Soop's life. In "Discrimination," scratchy pen marks depict a shadowy figure next to the question, "Have you ever experienced the humiliation of unemployment because of discrimination?"

It is the contrast between dark-

ness and humour that makes this exhibition so valuable, and gives Soop's work lasting political relevance. His cartoons display a uniquely Canadian (specifically, aboriginal) sense of humour and speak to the political issues that directly affected him and his community.

The cantankerous cartoonist once faced becoming, in his words, "vegetable Soop." Instead, he created a huge body of work lampooning the corrupt, the racist and the ignorant, with an incredible amount of ability.

*Everett Soop: Journalist, Cartoonist, Activist is on display until Apr. 4. On Thursday, Mar. 19, Gallery 1C03 co-presents Humour in Indigenous Cultures at 6:30 p.m. in Convocation Hall at the U of W. The evening includes stand-up comedy, storytelling, critical thinking and laughter inspired by the life and work of Soop. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/1c03soop](http://www.tinyurl.com/1c03soop).*

Left: "The professional board member - why work" is part of a new exhibition at Gallery 1C03 showcasing the work of artist Everett Soop.  
Below: "Trust me the Indian Act is intact."



**It is the contrast between darkness and humour that makes this exhibition so valuable**

## Going back to the prairies

New book explores prairie literature and asks: **Are the prairies paradise?**

SAMUEL SWANSON  
VOLUNTEER

There's a plethora of prairie literature in your local bookstore, but has academia done its part in terms of appreciating and interpreting that body of work? Sue Sorensen doesn't think so.

Sorensen is the editor of *West of Eden*, a collection of essays and articles about the writing coming out of the prairies.

"There's lots of prairie literature being written by prominent prairie writers, I didn't see that other people like me, academics, were following through with our end of the deal, which I find odd," said Sorensen, an English professor at Canadian Mennonite University.

In the book, 17 scholars reflect on well-known prairie writers such as Rudy Wiebe, Frederick Philip



Former University of Winnipeg English professor Sue Sorensen has edited a new book exploring prairie literature.

Grove and Margaret Laurence. Two of the questions Sorensen wanted the scholars to address were: How important is realism in prairie literature? And, how influential is the landscape?

The collection includes an essay on singer-songwriter Neil Young. "Going Back To The Prairies: Neil Young's Heterotopia

in the Post-9/11 World," an article by Providence College professor Michael J. Gilmour, analyzes the lyrics on Young's 2005 album, *Prairie Wind*.

"While his criticism of the Bush administration became more overt in the next album [2006's *Living With War*], Young's criticism is more subtle in *Prairie Wind*," Gilmour said. "He returns lyrically to the prairies... symbolically to the garden of Eden."

This, of course, ties in to the name of the book, which recalls the garden mentioned in *The Bible* where the first man and woman lived.

"[It's] meant to ask us to reflect on whether this place that we live in, the prairies, is like a beautiful garden," Sorensen said. "Is it a beautiful paradise garden like Eden – and sometimes it seems like that. Or is it somewhere just to the west of Eden?"

While people are told not to judge a book by its cover, it's hard to miss the book's distinctly regional cover art. It is an image by Regina artist David Thauberger and it carries a profound ironic realism that many will appreciate (unless you've

been permanently quarantined within city limits.)

Although Sorensen intended on not pursuing a particular theme, she said that as the project unfolded, she found a lot of writers were expressing concerns about the relationship prairie-dwellers have with the land.

"When people were trying to get settlers on the prairies, they sold the prairies as a place that was like Eden. A lot of settlers got here and were quite disappointed, and I think a lot of our literature has been dealing with the fallout from that.

"Is this a beautiful, pastoral, life-giving place, or is it a snow and wind-blasted grasshopper-ridden place?"

*Sorensen will launch West of Eden: Essays on Canadian Prairie Literature at McNally Robinson Grant Park on Monday, Mar. 23 at 8 p.m. The event will include a discussion with contributors David Arnason, Dennis Cooley and Gaby Divay.*

# Developing a community of filmmakers

Mosaic Women's Film Project gives underrepresented voices **the chance to make a movie**

AARON EPP  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Check the listings at your local mainstream movie theatre and you'd be hard-pressed to find a female director behind any of them. The world of independent filmmaking is no different, but a new initiative by The Winnipeg Film Group aims to change that.

Launched in the fall of 2008, the Mosaic Women's Film Project

comes to fruition this Sunday, Mar. 22 when Caroline Monnet and Columpa Bobb screen their films and give an artist talk at Cinematheque.

"These voices need to be heard and we felt there was an underrepresentation in the film world just in general. So, we thought this would be a good idea," Mike Maryniuk, production programs co-ordinator at The Winnipeg Film Group, said of the project.

The Winnipeg Film Group created the production award and mentorship program in collaboration with Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) to support the development of two women of aboriginal or diverse cultural backgrounds to make a three to five-minute film.

Monnet and Bobb were chosen through a juried process and given

money to make their films, as well as some money to pay for their living expenses during the filmmaking process.

For Bobb, who has spent the last 21 years in theatre, the program happened at the perfect time.

"I've always been interested in getting into film, but I don't have a lot of my own time – work takes a lot of time," she said. "I just thought [this] was the perfect opportunity to take to make a short film and, first of all, see if I could do it."

For Monnet, whose first film, an award-winning documentary made with the National Film Board called *360 Degrees*, is currently doing the festival circuit, the program offered complete creative control.

"The Winnipeg Film Group was really, really supportive in my creative process and made sure I had full liberty in doing what I wanted

**"These voices need to be heard and we felt there was an underrepresentation in the film world just in general."**

-Mike Maryniuk, Winnipeg Film Group

to do," she said.

Both women are looking forward to making more films in the future. Bobb is hoping her next project will be a collaboration with some of the youth she works with at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

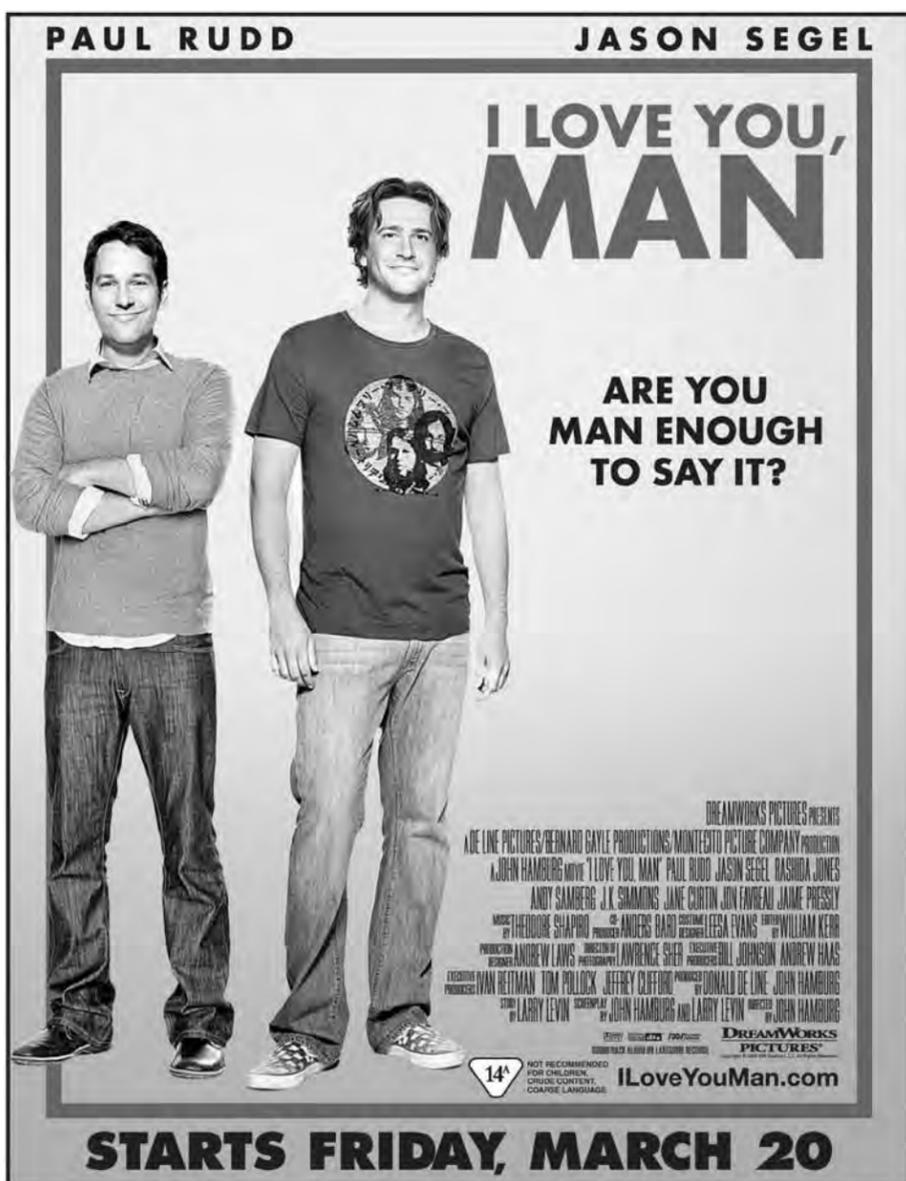
That's the sort of thing Maryniuk said is encouraging to see.

"[Monnet and Bobb] almost turned into mentors to other emerging filmmakers, and that's the cycle – one person does a project, others

collaborate on it and that's how you get involved," he said.

"It inevitably helps develop a community, or broaden the existing community, of filmmakers in Winnipeg."

*The Mosaic Women's Film Project screening and artist talk takes place this Sunday, Mar. 22 at Cinematheque (100 Arthur St.) at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Visit [www.winnipegfilmgroup.com](http://www.winnipegfilmgroup.com).*



## Winning streak



National Aboriginal Achievement Award winner Chelsea Lavallee is presented with a \$10,000 cheque from Roberta Jamieson, president and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

## Manitoban Metis teen continues to win awards for celebrating her heritage

MATT PREPOST  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Chelsea Lavallee is no stranger to winning awards for the passion she displays in promoting her Métis culture.

In 2005, Lavallee was crowned Métis Miss Teen Manitoba. She's also been the recipient of the 2006 National Métis Youth Role Model Award, the 2007 Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award and the 2007 National Aboriginal Role Model Award, presented to her by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

But now Lavallee can proudly say that she's the youngest aboriginal to receive a coveted National Aboriginal Achievement Award. And all it took was doing the things she loves.

"It's a really big honour because I'm getting recognized for doing the things I love doing," Lavallee said over the phone from her country home. "I'm really happy that I was recognized for things that I've accomplished in my life. It's really special."

Lavallee, a 17-year-old student from St. Ambroise, was one of three Manitobans to receive a 2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Award, a celebration of accomplishments by members of Canada's aboriginal community.

Lavallee was the recipient of the Special Youth Award, for her outstanding contributions to the community promoting her Métis heritage.

Lavallee is an active member of her small community, just 94 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg. Aside from square-dancing with the St. Ambroise Youth Steppers, she

finds time to volunteer, teaching the traditional Métis jig to youth in her community, helps out with the Métis and Saskatoon festivals, and works as a youth reporter for the Manitoba Métis Federation Southwest Region Youth Network.

"Living Métis is how I live," Lavallee said. "It's how I was raised and it's how I celebrate. I live in a Métis community and they live Métis too. I just help carry it on."

Lavallee says her win is important and hopes it will inspire other aboriginal youth to get involved in promoting their heritage and culture.

"It's important because you have to keep your traditions going for future generations so it won't go away," Lavallee said.

In honour of her accomplishments, Lavallee received a medallion, a glass trophy and \$10,000, which she said she's going to use to pay for school. Lavallee is awaiting her acceptance letter from the University of Manitoba. She doesn't know what she wants to do yet, but will be testing the waters of University 1 classes.

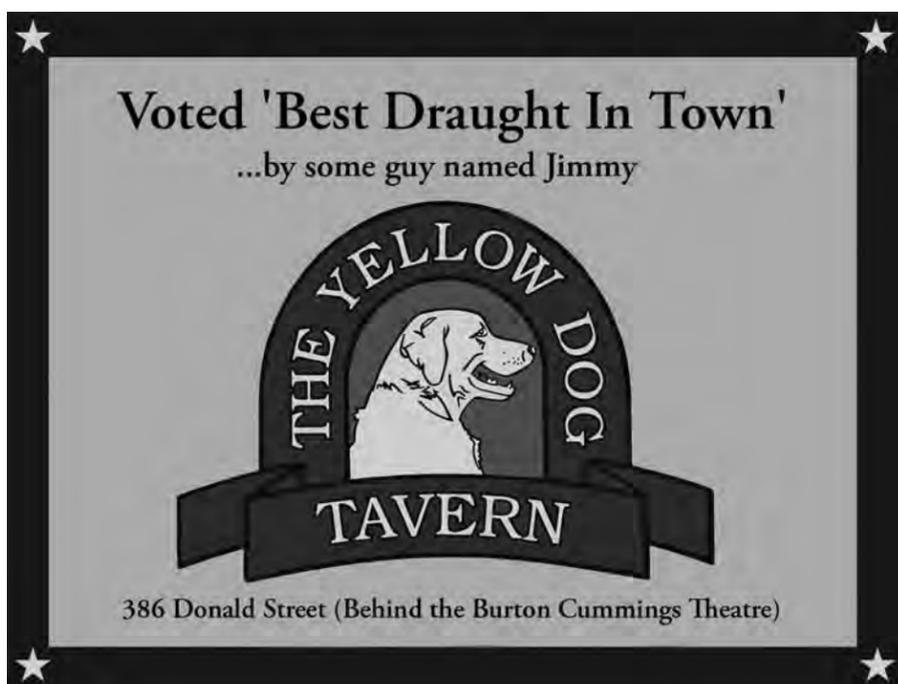
"I'm just going to go to school and find out what I want to do and from there we'll see happens."

Lavallee's father, Wilf, is understandably proud.

"She's being recognized for things she likes to do," he said. "She promotes things that unify the community and celebrate who we are as Métis people. It's not that she's doing anything out of the ordinary, she's just really involved. The opportunity for her to be recognized for that is really special."

Wilf hopes she cherishes her win.

"Having the opportunity to meet with other recipients is probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us," he said. "It's not everyday you get to meet other aboriginal people that have done so well and are being recognized."



Concert? Art show? Volunteer opportunity? Community event? Want to see your event in The Uniter? E-mail your listing to listings@uniter.ca. The deadline for all listings is Wednesday. The Uniter is published every Thursday, so send your listings 8 days prior to the issue you want your listing to appear in. It's free. It's easy.

LISTINGS CO-ORDINATOR: CURRAN FARIS  
E-MAIL: LISTINGS@UNITER.CA  
PHONE: 786-9497  
FAX: 783-7080

## CONCERTS

**PROPAGANDHI** With Putrescence, KEN mode, Kursk, Mar. 20 and 21 at the Garrick. Tickets are \$15 from www.ticketworkshop.com, Into The Music and Music Trader. Doors open at 7 p.m. All proceeds go to The Winnipeg Haiti Solidarity Committee and Sage House. The Mar. 20 show is sold out.

**HAUNTER 7"** release party With Electric Candles, Mar. 20 at the Albert. Tickets are available at the door and the show will start after the Propagandhi concert.

**VITAMINSFORYOU** With Mike B. Mar. 20 at Lo Pub. Tickets are available at the door.

**BONNIE 'PRINCE' BILLY** Mar. 21 at the Pyramid. Tickets are \$20 from Ticketmaster and the show starts at 8 p.m.

**CIRCLE PRODUCTIONS** Two Year Anniversary Show with The Graceful Mutiny, Beat Kids, Fame, Crisis Jane and Aurora Creek, Mar. 21 at the Church Basement. Doors open at 7 p.m. All ages welcome.

**MDW APPAREL** First Anniversary Show with Seventh Sin, Dryrun, Flatlined and The Ceasefire, Mar. 21 at the Park Theatre. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

**THE REAL MCKENZIES** With Trousermouth, Mar. 21 at the Albert. Tickets are \$15 from www.ticketworkshop.com and the show starts at 9 p.m.

**GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS** Mar. 23 at the Folk Exchange. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are sold out.

**PLANTS AND ANIMALS** With The Crosstown Rivals, Mar. 24 at The Park Theatre. Tickets are \$13 from Ticketmaster, the Park Theatre and the WECC.

## MUSIC

### Pop, Rock & Indie

**ACADEMY FOOD DRINKS MUSIC** 437 Stradbrook. Mar. 19: Saturns Pattern, The Eardrums, Sit Down Tracy; Mar. 20: Voldis and the Melodicas, The Benderenos; Mar. 21: Baltimore Road; Mar. 24: Open Mic with Melissa Plett; Mar. 25: The Ministers of Cool.

**THE CAVERN** 112 Osborne. Mar. 19: Jam Nite with Route 59; Mar. 20: Bad Country with Mayor Matt Allen & His Little Buddies; Mar. 21: The Upsides, Greg Crowe, The Scarlet Union; Mar. 23: The Vinyl Drip with James Brown; Mar. 24: Soul Nite with The Junk Puppies; Mar. 25: Trivia and Cavernaoke.

**KING'S HEAD PUB & EATERY** 120 King. Sunday: All The King's Men; Monday: The Magician; Tuesday: Comedy Night; Wednesday: Little Boy Boom; Thursday: Joey Landreth Band.

**LO PUB** 330 Kennedy. Mar. 19: Goodform; Mar. 20: Vitamins 4 U, Mike B. Mar. 21: John Smith; Mar. 25: United Steel Workers of Montreal.

**PYRAMID CABARET** 176 Fort. Mar. 21: Bonnie Prince Billy.

### Country, Folk & Jazz

**GORDIE'S COFFEE HOUSE** 127 Coburg. Mar. 19: Longbear  
**MCNALLY ROBINSON GRANT PARK** Mar. 20: The Reverse Trio; Mar. 21: Three Blind Mice.

**MCNALLY ROBINSON POLO PARK** Mar. 20: Marie-Josie Clement.

**TIMES CHANGE(d) HIGH & LONESOME CLUB** Main & St. Mary. Mar. 20 - 21: Righteous Ike & The Jakebrakes; Mar. 22: Blues Jam with Big Dave McLean.

### Dance & Hip-Hop

**HIFI CLUB** 108 Osborne. Mar. 19: D.I.M. (Boyz Noize); Mar. 21: DJ Babu, Bundown.

**OZZY'S** 160 Osborne. Wednesdays: Soho Trash DJs: Punk, Glam, New Wave, Power Pop; Thursdays: Readymix Dance Party: Indie-Dance, Electro, Brit-Pop, New Wave, Mash-Ups, '80s/'90s, and more; Saturdays: Modernized.

### Punk & Metal

**THE ROYAL ALBERT** 91 Albert. Mar. 20: Haunter, Electric Candles; Mar. 21 The Real McKenzies, Trousermouth.

**THE ZOO** 160 Osborne. Mar. 20: Ripperz; Mar. 21: Left Side Down, Natural Divinity, Forget Me Knots, The Rabid Whole.

## THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

**MONSIEUR D'EON** The University of Winnipeg's Department of Theatre and Films closes its 2008/2009 season with Monsieur d'Eon. The play runs from Mar. 31 to Apr. 4 and is directed by Robert Metcalfe and performed by the Acting IV: Honours - Style & Genre class. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. at the Gas Station Theatre. For tickets contact 786-9152 or visit http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca.

**AGE OF AROUSAL** Presented by Theatre Projects Manitoba and written by Linda Griffiths, Mar. 19 to 29 at Rachel Browne Theatre. Tickets range from \$15 to \$20 and are available from 989-2400 or www.theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca. Evening shows starts at 8 p.m. and matinees start at 2 p.m.

**BROTHERS IN ARMS** Merlyn Productions presents an hour of comedy by Canadian playwright Merrill Denison, Mar. 19 to 21 at the Ellice Theatre. Show times are 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Mar. 21. Tickets are \$9, \$7 for seniors. For more information and ticket reservations contact (204) 415-2714 or Merlyn.biz.

## GALLERIES

**CREBERY** 125 Adelaide. Broken Riddle Factory: Phase II, featuring School of Art Thesis work by Matea Radic, Karen Cull and Ten Yetman. There will be an opening reception on Mar. 20 from 7:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.

**FORUM ART INSTITUTE** 120 Eugenie. Garden Sculpture workshop with Dianne Johnson, Mar. 22. To register for 15-and-up art classes call 235-1069 or visit www.forumartinstitute.ca.

**GALLERY 1C03** University of Winnipeg. Everett Soop: Journalist, Cartoonist, Activist, open until Apr. 4. Live performance by Cameroonian Artist Issa Nyaphaga on Mar. 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Humor in Indigenous Cultures, co-presented with the University of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Governance Program and Urban Shaman Gallery, on Mar. 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Convocation Hall at the University of Manitoba.

**GALLERY LACOSSE** 169 Lilac. Kenneth Gordon's Canada: A Lifetime Journey and Enduring Legacy, on display until Mar. 28.

**GRAFFITI GALLERY** 109 Higgins. Just For Kicks, works by Canadian Tattoo artists on shoes, open Mar. 14 until Apr. 30.

**MAWA** 611 Main. Over The Top art auction and cupcake party, Mar. 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. Critical reading group with Sigrid Dahle, Mar. 22.

## THE UNITER'S TOP 5 EVENTS

BY CURRAN FARIS

1 **PROPAGANDHI** With Putrescence, KEN mode, Kursk, Mar. 20 and 21 at the Garrick. Do I really need to tell you why you should be going to see Propagandhi? Get your tickets now! Tickets are \$15 from www.ticketworkshop.com, Into The Music and Music Trader. Doors open at 7 p.m. All proceeds go to The Winnipeg Haiti Solidarity Committee and Sage House. The Mar. 20 show is sold out.

2 **HAUNTER 7"** release party With Electric Candles, Mar. 20 at the Albert. Local shoe-gazers release their debut 7" record. That's right kids, a record, like your parents used to listen to. Tickets are available at the door and the show will start after the Propagandhi concert.

3 **BONNIE 'PRINCE' BILLY** Mar. 21 at the Pyramid. The bearded majesty of dusty folk-rock makes his Winnipeg debut. Don't miss the boat. Tickets are \$20 from Ticketmaster and the show starts at 8 p.m.

4 **VITAMINSFORYOU** With Mike B. Mar. 20 at Lo Pub. Feel like dancing? Head down to Lo Pub and shake it with Vitaminsforyou. Tickets are available at the door.

5 **PLANTS AND ANIMALS** With The Crosstown Rivals, Mar. 24 at The Park Theatre. Indie fans can rejoice with a line-up like this. Tickets are \$13 from Ticketmaster, the Park Theatre and the WECC.

**PAVILLION GALLERY MUSEUM** Assiniboine Park. Tides & Totems: Phillips in the West, watercolours and woodcuts by Walter J. Phillips. The exhibit is on display until May 3.

**PLATFORM CENTRE FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC + DIGITAL ARTS** 121-100 Arthur. Art and Cold Cash. This multimedia installation examines the introduction of capitalism into northern communities. The installation is open until Apr. 4.

**URBAN SHAMAN GALLERY** 203-290 McDermot. Winnipeg Hydro, drawings by Ian August, open until Apr. 25. Also open is ...welcome...a history in two parts by Steven Loft, running from Mar. 13 to Apr. 25.

**WAYNE ARTHUR GALLERY** 186 Provencher. Night and Day/Norris Lake, paintings by Annette Lowe and photographs by Robert Lowe, on display until Apr. 1.

**WINNIPEG ART GALLERY** 300 Memorial. The Painter as Printmaker features a series Impressionist prints from artists such as Van Gogh and Renoir. Angakkuk: Inuit Shaman is open until May 3. Fitzgerald In Context is open until May 17.

**WOODLANDS GALLERY** 535 Academy. Rumour Has It: New works by Angela Morgan, open Mar. 12 to 28.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**CNIB BENEFIT** The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is holding their Eye on the Arts Benefit Auction Mar. 25 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from 5 to 10 p.m. Proceeds from the event support CNIB programs and services. For more information call 774-5421 or visit www.cnib.ca/eyeonthearts.

**THE OTESHA PROJECT** Is looking for people to participate in their Canada-wide Cycle for Sustainability. For more information visit www.otesha.ca.

**FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS** The Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre is seeking students and community members who would benefit from attending a free information sessions from local organizations and community service providers. The sessions will be held every Wednesday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. until Mar. 25. The sessions will be held at 511 Ellice in room 1E18. For info contact Leah Gazan

at 789-1431 / e-mail at l.gazan@uwinnipeg.ca or Tricia Seymour at 258-2951/ e-mail t.seymour@uwinnipeg.ca.

**MAN TO MAN** Presented by Clinic Community Health Centre, The Man to Man project is intended to raise awareness about depression, stress and mental health in men. The project involves presentations aimed to help participants identify and understand the causes and effects of depression. For more information, contact Curt Sparkes at 784-4015 or csparkes@clinic.mb.ca.

**SECRET POSTCARDS** Wolseley Family Place is hosting a secret postcard event called Insight Out. You are invited to submit your secret to Wolseley Family Place on a home-made or reconstructed postcard. One secret per postcard, each postcard must be anonymous and creativity is welcomed. Your secret will be shared with the public at our community art event which takes place on Apr. 14 to 19 at Artbeat studio. All secrets can be sent to Wolseley Family Place, Lower Level 691 Wolseley Ave., R3G 1C3.

**LEGAL ISSUES** The Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre presents Legal Issues for Wise Women, a four part workshop series for women experiencing legal issues and concerns. Workshops will provide women with basic legal information and resources. The workshops are: Mar. 16: Roles and Duties of the Executor and Mar. 23: Family Dynamics in Estate Planning/Rights of Beneficiaries. Workshops will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at 1150-A Waverley Street. Childcare, Bus tickets and healthy snacks will be provided. Pre-registration is required by calling 477-1123.

**BUSH CAMP** A panel discussion about the life and work of the late Marvin Francis, Mar. 19, 7 p.m. at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

**DON DOMANSKI AND SUE SORENSEN** Poetry readings in celebration of World Poetry Day, Mar. 21, 7 p.m. at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

**SUE SORENSEN** Launch of West of Eden: Essays on Canadian Prairie Literature, Mar. 23, 8 p.m. at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

**CAROL SHEILDS SYMPOSIUM SAMPLER** Featuring a panel discussion titled, What Men Aren't Told, Mar. 24, 8 p.m. at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

**MARJORIE AGOSIN** Poet, critic and human rights activist Marjorie Agosin will read from a selection of her work, Mar. 25, 7 p.m. at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

## FILM

**CINEMATHEQUE** 100 Arthur. Mar. 19: Doubt (7 p.m.), R.I.P. A Remix Manifesto (9 p.m.); Mar. 20: R.I.P. A Remix Manifesto (7 p.m.), Live Cinema Performance and Electronics with Karl Lemieux (9 p.m.), JCVD (11 p.m.); Mar. 22: The Mosaic Women's Film Project - Screening and Artist Talk (2 p.m.), R.I.P. A Remix Manifesto (4:30 p.m.), JCVD (7 p.m.); Mar. 25: R.I.P. A Remix Manifesto (7 p.m.), JCVD (9 p.m.).

**CANNES LIONS** The World's Greatest Commercials return to the Winnipeg Art Gallery from Mar. 16 to 24. Screen times are 7 and 9 p.m. and tickets are available from the WAG and Ticketmaster outlets.

**INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** Presented by the Rady Jewish Community Centre and The Asper Foundation, the 2009 Winnipeg International Jewish Film Festival runs from Mar. 18 to 24. The festival will be held in the Berney Theatre at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. Individual tickets are \$9 and multiple passes are available. For more information, tickets and a detailed film schedule, visit www.radyjcc.com.

**UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG FILM FESTIVAL** Admissions are being accepted by the University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Film for their annual Student Film Festival. To be eligible, the film must be made by students attending a post-secondary institution in Manitoba. The deadline is Apr. 6 and the festival runs from Apr. 22 to 24. For more information visit www.theatre.uwinnipeg.ca or contact j.kozak@uwinnipeg.ca.

## ON CAMPUS

**FREE MOVIE** EcoPia will host a free screening of The 11th Hour and a free lunch, Mar. 19 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Bullman Centre. A discussion of the film will follow.

**SPEED MENTORING** The UWSA and the University of Winnipeg Alumni Association present a speed mentoring session, designed to give students a chance to mingle and network with graduates before starting their post-grad job search. The session takes place Mar. 19, 5 p.m. in the Bullman Centre. To register for this event, contact events@theuwsa.ca.

**SIMPLICITY SESSIONS** The Simplicity Practice and Resource Centre present a series of workshops promoting simple living: Simplicity Circle II, Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Mar. 24 at Mary Jane's Cooking School; Simplicity Sessions: Mindfulness 1,2,3, Mar. 24 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at R.A. Steen Community Club.

**METIS ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE** The University of Winnipeg is hosting a national conference entitled, Métis Aboriginal Governance: Charting a Path Forward, from Mar. 24 to 26. The conference is open to the public, but interested parties need to register at www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/metis-aboriginal-governance-index. The conference is devoted to exploring creative ways to implement the rights of Indigenous peoples and will feature a number of keynote speakers. For detailed information visit www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/metis-aboriginal-governance-index.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION** The Spence Neighbourhood Association is looking for volunteers to help staff their new Youth Resource Centre at the M.E.R.C. The centre will be open after school hours and evenings. For more information contact Jamil at 986-5467 or youth-coordinator@spenceneighbourhood.org.

**CANADA-WIDE SCIENCE FAIR** Volunteers are needed to work at the Canada-Wide Science Fair from May 9 to 17 at the University of Manitoba. Interested parties should contact Alastair Komus at volunteers@cwsf2009.ca. For more information visit www.cwsf2009.ca.

**FORT GARRY FESTIVAL** The Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre is seeking volunteers for their Fort Garry Festival on May 9 at The Fort Garry Community Club from 12 to 4 p.m. Volunteer hours could range anywhere from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Interested parties should contact 477-1123 by Mar. 15.

## LITERARY

**VAGINA MONOLOGUES** A group of Winnipeg women will perform selections from Eve Ensler's work Mar. 20 at 7 p.m. and Mar. 21 at 3 and 7 p.m., at Aqua Books. Tickets are available from Aqua Books and by contacting tmwinnipeg@gmail.com. Ninety per cent of the ticket sales will be donated to Osborne House. For more information, contact aishaalifa@gmail.com.

**WORLD POETRY DAY** Prairie Fire Press and the Winnipeg International Writers Festival present readings by Don Domanski and Sue Sorensen, Mar. 21 at McNally Robinson Grant Park. This event is free to all and begins at 7 p.m.

**SHORT FICTION CONTEST** The Writers' Collective and the Winnipeg Free Press present the annual Short Fiction Contest. The contest has three divisions (junior student, senior student and adult) and over \$1,000 in cash prizes to be won. All entries must be postmarked no later than Apr. 7. For entry forms and contest rules, contact writerscollective@uwinnipeg.ca or visit www.thewriterscollective.wordpress.com for more information.

**MARIE BARTON CONTEST** The Writers' Collective presents the 2009 Marie Barton Postcard Fiction Contest. The contest is open to everyone. The entry fee is \$5 for non-members and free to Writers' Collective members. Submissions should be sent in on a postcard along with a story that relates to the image. Visit writerscollective@uwinnipeg.ca and www.thewriterscollective.wordpress.com for more information.

**WRITING CONTEST** Admissions are being accepted for the 2009 Prairie Fire Press/McNally Robinson writing contests. The Bliss Carman Poetry Award will be judged by Don Domanski; short fiction will be judged by Paul Quarington; and creative non-fiction will be judged by Charles Wilkins. \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded. The first prize in each category is \$1,250. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 30. For information contact: Prairie Fire Press, 423-100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1H3, (204) 943-9066, prfire@mts.net, or www.prairiefire.ca.

**AQUA BOOKS** Mar. 17: Soapbox Open Mic with Kelly Hughes; Mar. 20-21: Vagina Monologues.

# AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

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

## AWARDS OFFERED BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### AUCC AWARDS

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada provides 150 scholarship programs on behalf of the federal government, domestic and foreign agencies, and private sector companies. Check out website <http://www.aucc.ca/> Look under the heading Scholarships and Internships for Canadian Students.

### BUSINESS COUNCIL OF MANITOBA ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARD

If you are of Aboriginal ancestry, you are eligible for a Business Council of Manitoba Aboriginal Education Award provided you meet the following criteria: you are a citizen of Canada and permanent resident of Manitoba, having resided in Manitoba for the last 12 months; you plan to attend a Manitoba public post-secondary institution in any discipline in the 2009-10 academic year; you plan to maintain full-time status (at least a 60 per cent course load); you are in need of financial assistance

If you are receiving funding from other sources, including band funding, you may still apply for this award to cover additional costs.

Application forms are available in the Awards Office- main floor Graham Hall, and Student Central-main floor Centennial Hall. Please submit to the Awards & Financial Aid office by March 30.

### ROTARY FOUNDATION AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Ambassadorial Scholarships program supports the vision of The Rotary Foundation to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. During the study period, scholars are expected to be outstanding ambassadors of good will to the people of the host country through appearances before Rotary clubs and districts, schools, civic organizations and other forums. After study has been completed, scholars share their experiences with the people of their home countries and Rotarians who sponsored their scholarships. Three scholarship programs are available to apply for: Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarship - one regular academic year of full-time study at an institution assigned by The Rotary Foundation Trustees with the provision of a flat grant in the amount of \$25,000 US; Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarship - two years of full-time degree-oriented study at an institution assigned by The Rotary Foundation Trustees with the provision of a flat grant in the amount of \$12,500 US each year; Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship - three to six months of intensive language training and cultural immersion at a language school selected by The Rotary Foundation Trustees with the provision of a flat grant in the amount of \$12,000 US for a three-month scholarship and \$17,000 US for a six-month scholarship.

General eligibility requires applicants to have completed at least two years of university or college work, or must have a secondary school education and have been employed in a recognized vocation for at least two years when the scholarship begins. All applicants must be a citizen of a country in which there is a Rotary Club. Applicants must include with their application: a curriculum vitae, a written statement no more than two pages in length explaining applicant's plans to serve as a Rotary Foundation ambassador, two letters of recommendation, copies of relevant correspondence with intended host institution

and summary of training and experience in language of host country.

Please visit the Awards & Financial Aid Office - main floor Graham Hall for application forms.

**Deadline: Mar. 31**

### 2009 DALTON CAMP AWARD

Established by Friends of Canadian Broadcasting in 2002, the Dalton Camp Award honours the memory of the late Dalton Camp, a distinguished commentator on Canadian public affairs. Each year up to two Canadians are selected to win a \$5,000 prize for excellence in essay-writing on the link between democratic values and the media in Canada.

**Deadline: March 31.**

To apply visit [www.daltoncampaward.ca](http://www.daltoncampaward.ca)

### PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN HONOUR OF STUART NESBITT WHITE

Public Safety Canada (PSC) is seeking to encourage graduate research in support of its mandate, which is to enhance the safety and security of Canadians in their physical and cyber environments. These awards are available for those students who are studying and conducting research in the area of Emergency Management (EM). This includes work in the areas of one or more of the four pillars of Emergency Management; mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Studies focused on the all hazards approach with regard to EM are encouraged, as are studies in cyber security, disaster management, and critical infrastructure protection and assurance\*. Cross disciplinary / multi-disciplinary studies in these areas are preferred and encouraged. Preferred disciplines are regional planning, engineering, environmental studies, computer science, geography, sociology, economics and/or areas such as risk modeling and system science.

\*For a definition of what PSC deems to be critical infrastructure see: <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/nciap/about-en.asp>

Number of Awards: eight (8)

Value: \$19,250 CDN

**Deadline: March 31**

Interested candidates will find the information needed to apply for this program in a PDF or Word format by visiting the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's website <https://juno.aucc.ca/wes/hes.aspx?pg=934&oth=0005052009>.

### ROBERTA BONDAR GIRL GUIDES SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to any past member of the Girl Guides of Canada who is continuing her education in science, applied science, mathematics or technology at a Canadian institution. It is awarded to students entering third, fourth or a post-graduate year of studies. There are two \$2,000 scholarships to be awarded. Visit <http://forms.girlguides.ca/default.aspx#scholarship> for criteria and application forms. Application forms are to be sent regular mail or courier.

Note: Application forms will not be faxed. Faxed or email applications will not be accepted.

**Deadline: Apr. 1.**

### RETAIL AS A CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

Retail Council of Canada, in partnership with industry sponsors, will award more than \$75,000 in scholarships and benefits to students entering or currently enrolled in a business, marketing or retail-related program

at a Canadian post-secondary institution. There will be 26 scholarships available in 2009, one \$5,000 Interac Scholarship and twenty-five \$1,000 Industry-Sponsored Scholarships.

Each scholarship winner will receive the following: financial assistance for their post-secondary education; hotel and travel expenses to attend STORE 2009, the Canadian retail industry's premier conference, June 1-2. Scholarship recipients will have the chance to attend educational sessions and network with top industry professionals before they are recognized at STORE 2009.

For application forms and more information on how to apply, please visit their website: <http://www.retaileducation.ca/cms/sitem.cfm/scholarship>

Applications must arrive at Retail Council of Canada on or before **Apr. 3**. Late applications will not be considered.

### MANITOBA ROUND TABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Sustainable Development Scholarship assists post-secondary students who pursue studies or undertake research that embraces the spirit and principles of sustainable development. The scholarship is open to students in any field of study offered at an approved Manitoba post-secondary institution. These scholarships are not available to employees of the Province of Manitoba or their spouses, common law partners or dependants. The scholarship consists of single, non-renewable awards of \$6,000 for a graduate student and \$1,500 for an undergraduate or college student.

**Deadline: May 1.**

Application forms are available from the following website: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/susresmb/scholarship/apply.html>

Legal Studies for Aboriginal Peoples Program

The Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) Program is a bursary program designed to financially assist Canadian Métis and Non-Status Indian students who wish to pursue their studies in law in a Canadian institution. Financial assistance is provided to eligible students to offset some of the costs of attending a Canadian Law School in order to obtain a law degree (LLB) over a regular period of three years. Financial assistance may also be provided to eligible students who have received a conditional acceptance and are enrolled in a pre-law program.

To be considered for a bursary under the LSAP Program, an applicant must: be Métis or Non-Status Indian of Canadian citizenship, living in Canada, who has applied to a Canadian law school; attest to Métis or Non-Status Indian ancestry by signing the declaration in the application form; demonstrate financial need by providing financial information on income or other assistance received and expenses as required in the application form; and demonstrate that they possess the ability to succeed in law school by providing the necessary documentation as identified in the application.

Please visit their website for more information and to apply: <http://www.canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/lisap-aeda.html#pre>

**Deadline: May 15**

### MILLENNIUM EXCELLENCE NATIONAL IN-COURSE AWARD

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation national in-course awards are exclusively available to upper-year students who have

not previously received substantial merit awards and who demonstrate commitment to community service, leadership, innovation and academic achievement.

An applicant must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a national in-course award: Canadian citizenship, permanent resident or protected person status within the meaning of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; enrolment in a recognized undergraduate first-entry program leading to a degree, diploma or certificate at an eligible and approved Canadian post-secondary educational institution; by the end of the 2008-09 academic year, have completed Second year - but not the third year - of a current program leading to an associate bachelor or bachelor degree. You must also have been registered in at least 48 credit hours in total over those two academic years; cumulative post-secondary school Grade Point Average of at least 3.5 or B+; no previous receipt of substantial merit scholarship funding to support post-secondary education, regardless of the source of the scholarship (e.g., school, government, private source, etc.). Students applying after their second year may not have received more than \$3,500 in scholarship money based solely on merit in any one year, with a total of no more than \$5,000 to date. Note: Automatic provincial government scholarships granted to students after surpassing a marks threshold are exempt from this limit.

**Deadline: May 25.**

Please visit this website for more information or to apply: [www.excellenceaward.ca](http://www.excellenceaward.ca)

### MANITOBA CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION BURSARIES

The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is pleased to make available four \$500 bursaries annually for MCPA members or their children attending a university, college or other post-secondary institution or pursuing trades training. Preference will be given to those students pursuing a field of study related to agriculture or to those acquiring a skilled trade that would be beneficial to the rural economy.

Completed applications must be submitted by May 29, 2009. A selection committee will review the submissions. Winners will be notified by August 28th, 2009. The bursary criteria are as follows:

Eligibility: must be at least 17 years of age as of January 1, 2009; must be an active Manitoba beef producer or the child of an active Manitoba beef producer; must use the bursary within two years.

Requirements: must submit a 400 to 500 word (maximum) typed essay discussing "The importance of the beef industry in Manitoba"; must submit proof of enrolment in a recognized institution (e.g. transcript); must submit a list of community involvement (e.g. 4-H, community clubs, volunteer work, etc.); post-secondary program or trades training must be a minimum of one year in duration; provide the names of three references, including their addresses and telephone numbers.

Submissions must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 29 to: Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Bursary Committee, 222-530 Century Street, Winnipeg MB R3H 0Y4, Fax: (204) 774-3264, E-mail: [mcpa.office@mts.net](mailto:mcpa.office@mts.net).

For more information or application forms, please contact the MCPA at (800) 772-0458 or [mcpa.office@mts.net](mailto:mcpa.office@mts.net).

### CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES ASSIGNMENT: SAVING LIVES

The Manitoba Blue Cross is sponsoring Assignment: Saving Lives educational bursaries in the amount of either \$1000 or \$500. To be eligible, Grade 12 and University/College students in Manitoba are challenged to recruit a minimum of 25 blood donors who will donate between Thursday, July 1 and Saturday, August 30.

The educational bursaries will be awarded the second week of September at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. All registered students will be notified of the results. Students that register before June 1, will be invited to an Orientation Session at Canadian Blood Services.

For more information and application forms, contact:

Tracy Lamoureux, Canadian Blood Services, 777 William Ave. Winnipeg MB, R3E 3R4, 204-789-1023, [tracy.lamoureux@blood.ca](mailto:tracy.lamoureux@blood.ca).

**Deadline: July 31.**

### MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM

The following information is provided with regard to the second disbursement of your Manitoba Student Aid Program (MSAP) assistance (Manitoba Student Loan) for the 2008-09 academic year:

**Missing information.** If any documentation requested by the MSAP, such as summer income verification, has not yet been submitted, electronic confirmation of your loan document will not occur and your loan funds will not be in place at the beginning of the winter term.

**Revision to your needs assessment.** You should be aware that new information, such as verification of your summer income, may increase or decrease your MSAP needs assessment and the resulting loan amounts you are eligible to receive. Similarly, if your current course load is different from that on your Notice of Assistance letter, the amount of loan you are eligible to receive may change.

**DID YOU KNOW** You can check the status of your student aid application, find out what documentation is still outstanding, update your address information and much more on line? Go to [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca) Link to MySAO to log into your existing account.

**DID YOU KNOW** If you are a student who has had past Government Student Loans and are currently a full-time student but do not have a student loan this year, please fill out a Schedule 2 document to remain in non-payment status. Please come to Student Services in Graham Hall, where front counter staff can help you with this form.

**DID YOU KNOW** That Manitoba Student Aid staff can be on campus on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. To meet with them, you need to set up an appointment time. Come to student services and book an appointment, or phone 786-9458 or 786-9984.

Other Award Websites:

Canada Student Loan program and other important information on finances and budgeting [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

Manitoba Student Aid Program [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca)

Surfing for dollars? Try these two websites:

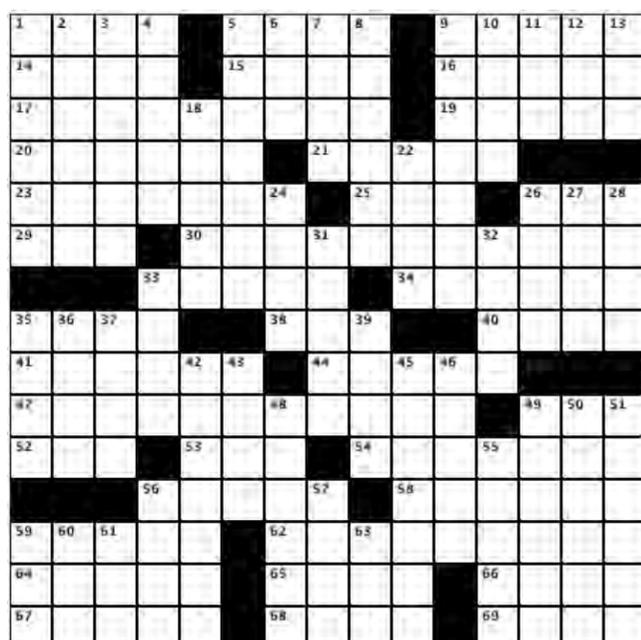
[www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com)

[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)

Please contact the awards office for information regarding external awards.

## Crossword Puzzle #24

Solutions to puzzles will appear in the next issue.



### Across

- 1- Nick and Nora's pooch
- 5- Ancient Greek coin
- 9- Spur part
- 14- The closest one to us is the sun
- 15- Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 16- Gladden
- 17- Receipt
- 19- Fight, disturbance
- 20- Ipecac, e.g.
- 21- Exactly
- 23- Goes back on
- 25- Ecol. watchdog
- 26- Rocky hilltop
- 29- Explosive stuff
- 30- Negligent
- 33- Snow conveyances
- 34- Unemotional
- 35- Heart
- 38- Mental ability
- 40- Auto pioneer
- 41- Parka
- 44- Capital of Morocco
- 47- The Lord's Prayer
- 49- Steal from
- 52- The loneliest number
- 53- Jailbird

- 54- See-through material
- 56- Subdued
- 58- Local annual outdoor festival
- 59- Gandhi's land
- 62- Strip of leaves
- 64- Intended
- 65- Secure
- 66- Prepare a book or film for release
- 67- Check recipient
- 68- Goes astray
- 69- Impudence

### Down

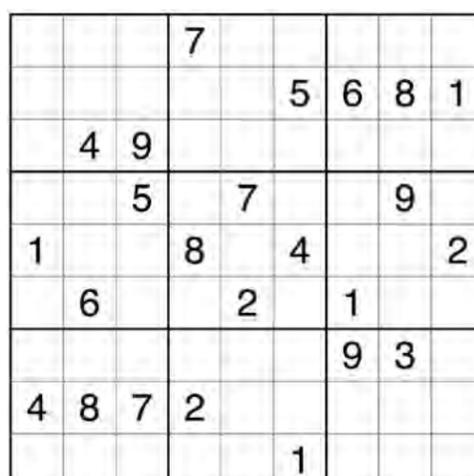
- 1- Declare
- 2- Pollen-bearing organ of a flower
- 3- Aptitude
- 4- Mountain ridge
- 5- Offensive
- 6- Unit of power ratio
- 7- Elevator man
- 8- Little flap
- 9- Fragment
- 10- Designer Cassini
- 11- \_\_\_-Mart
- 12- Hot time in Paris
- 13- Shelter
- 18- Seal

- 22- Primates with short tails or no tail
- 24- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer
- 26- Work the soil
- 27- Roman poet
- 28- Clarets
- 31- Former Russian rulers
- 32- Horn sound
- 33- Withered

- 35- Crime boss
- 36- \_\_\_ even keel
- 37- Routine
- 39- Pro follower
- 42- Curved like a bow
- 43- Gnarl
- 45- Calls
- 46- Whirling
- 48- Jumpy
- 49- Open shelter
- 50- Inflammation

- of the ear
- 51- Assails
- 55- Attempts
- 56- Pit
- 57- Expensive
- 59- Mischievous child
- 60- Teachers' org.
- 61- It breaks daily
- 63- Evergreen tree

## Sudoku Puzzle #20 Puzzle level: intermediate



### Last week's puzzle solution (#19)



### Last week's puzzle solution (#23)



## Sports & Fitness

### Figure skating still getting an icy reception What factors make or break the legitimacy of a sport?



JESS CHAPMAN  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Sit down with a piece of paper and a pencil, and try to write out a definition of the word "sport." It's not all that easy, is it?

As common as sports are in our daily lives, it's difficult for the average person to say exactly what a sport is. I bet you would have worn out that pencil if I'd asked you to write what it's not.

According to the *Random House Dictionary*, a sport is "an athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and often of a competitive nature."

If you've ever seen a figure skating competition, you can't say the activities are completely devoid of skill or physical prowess, and, well, it was a competition you were watching.

And by Yahoo! Sports columnist Dan Wetzel's own admission, "figure skaters are not just athletes, but remarkable athletes."

To sum up: Athletic activity, check. Skill, check. Physical prowess, check. Competitive nature, check.

So why did Wetzel's quote come from a screed titled "Why figure skating is not a sport?" Let's look.

First, he claims that a sport "needs a quantifiable way to determine a winner and a loser."

It is true that scoring in figure skating is largely based on the

opinions of individual judges. But who besides Wetzel is saying that an unquestionable scoring system is essential to credibility as a sport? Or is that just his opinion rearing its head?

Wetzel then declares, "An ugly person would stand at a considerable, if not insurmountable, disadvantage in skating."

Never mind that physical beauty is even more opinion-based than figure skating scores.

But Wetzel continues, "Ugly people can win in track, in ski-

ing, in the NFL, in soccer. Beauty doesn't matter. Style doesn't matter."

Does the emphasis on style in figure skating make it less of a sport? Or maybe it makes it more of one by adding an extra criterion for the athletes to keep in mind. You decide.

To illustrate this point, Wetzel cites the attack on Nancy Kerrigan in 1994, stating that it was due to Tonya Harding's jealousy over Kerrigan being "taller, prettier, more graceful" than Harding, even though she was supposedly "better at all aspects of skating than Kerrigan."

However, Harding's skating career peaked in 1991; she was placing third to Kerrigan's first in the 1993 U.S. Championships, and eighth to her second in the Olympics the following year. So perhaps Harding was jealous because Kerrigan was actually landing her jumps.

Considering that Harding has never confessed to conspiring to attack Kerrigan, there is no proof of her motivation.

Still not convinced? I challenge you to enter a figure skating competition yourself. After all, it can't be that hard to put on a glittery outfit and jump around on the ice for a few minutes. Then come back to me with your sprained ankles, bruised elbows, and ice-scraped palms and tell me it's not a sport.

ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN JANZ



### More than just a playoff beard

#### MJHL is down to final four



KEVIN CHAVES  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Is there anything better than playoff hockey?

No. Only in the playoffs can rivalries be taken to the next level and in a split second, another rivalry can be formed. Locally, the MJHL (Manitoba Junior Hockey League) playoffs are heating up and making new experiences for everyone watching and playing.

"The playoffs are interesting and exciting for the fans," MJHL commissioner Kim Davis told mjhlhockey.com. "The match-ups are excellent."

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League is down to their final four teams. In the Addison Division, the Winnipeg Saints are battling the Selkirk Steelers, while the Portage Terriers are going at with the Dauphin Kings in the Sherwood Division.

And with the playoffs come a lot of mixed emotions.

"You do have a small feeling of helplessness and nervousness but it's definitely more of an exciting feeling," said Winnipeg Saints assistant head coach Trevor Stokes. "All you can do is hope that your players have absorbed everything from the successful season and practices and use it to keep winning."

"There is usually a combination of excitement as well as nerves hoping the team is prepared and focused for the game," said coach Blake Spiller of the Portage Terriers.

There's no question its tough being a coach during these times. Sure, when you are winning it's all good and fun but what about when you're losing, all you can do is stand and watch. Besides benching or double shifting players, the only tool you really have is your words and you hope that your team can follow through with them.

"You work all season for this time of year," said Stokes. "If something is going wrong, we have practices and in be-

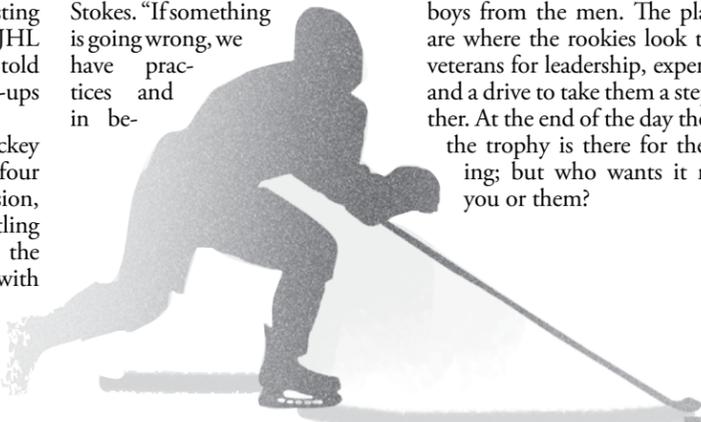
they have confidence in the game plan and are prepared to stick to it," said Spiller.

In the playoffs, there is simply too much to lose.

"It was physically and emotionally exhausting," Selkirk goaltender Alan Armour said after a recent game. "That's playoff hockey."

There is no question that a 62-game regular season is physically demanding but it is a time where a loss can be handled calmly since there are other games to make it up. On the other hand, the playoffs are a seven game series that make for a hard race to four wins; not much room for error.

This time of year separates the boys from the men. The playoffs are where the rookies look to the veterans for leadership, experience and a drive to take them a step further. At the end of the day though, the trophy is there for the taking; but who wants it more, you or them?



tween periods to hopefully fix things up."

Players must learn to control and maintain their emotions while not changing their game plans or trying to do too much as players.

"It is really hard to get a read on players' emotions - again we hope

## Wesmen

### A tale of two teams

#### Wesmen basketball shows signs of promise

SCOTT CHRISTIANSEN  
VOLUNTEER

Another season of Wesmen basketball has come and gone. They earned no division crowns, no conference championships and national titles, however not all was lost for our two teams.

The women had a strong season, consistently competing with the top teams in the country. They finished with a 13-9 record and second in the division, after losing to Regina in the Great Plains Division Final.

The team earned national ranking at times throughout the season, and managed to persevere through second year guard Amy Ogidan's injury early in the season. Ogidan, a standout in her first year, continued to develop, however her injuries stalled what looked to be a very promising season.

The season also saw the emergence of Catie Gooch as a top-level CIS guard. Catie contributed significantly in her first two years, but became a focal point of the offense this season. She led the team in scoring at the season's end, averaging 12.9 points per game.

Supporting them were veterans Randie Gibson and Jessica Stromberg, who led the team in rebounding, averaging 8.5 per game. As well, Alex McIver continued to provide a quality presence inside.

This group of players, all of whom are eligible to return next season, should make the Wesmen a legitimate contender in the conference.

The highlight of their season was perhaps their victory against their rival the University of Manitoba Bisons in the semi-finals of the Canada West playoffs.

The U of M led by three with 38 seconds remaining in the decisive game of the series, when Amy Ogidan scored to narrow the lead to a single point. Then, with one

second remaining in the game, Manitoba fouled Ogidan on an inbounds pass and she calmly drained both free throws to give the Wesmen the victory.

The game created one of the most memorable moments in recent Wesmen history.

The men's team had no such playoff drama, as they fell 2-1 in games in their first round playoff series against the Regina Cougars. That series mimicked the entirety of their season, which saw a slew of losses mixed with a few wins, the most impressive of which came in a sweep of Regina late in the regular season.

They finished 5-17 and can thank their provincial rival the Bisons for keeping them out of the basement of the Great Plains Division.

Despite their struggles, the Wesmen still had some exceptional individual performances during the season, including Nick Lothar's 43 point playoff performance against the Cougars. The third-year guard finished the season averaging an impressive 18.4 points per game, which put him in the top 20 in the CIS.

Peter Lomuro, Mike James and James Horaska, finished second, third and fourth in team scoring, respectively, and are eligible to return in the fall.

A difficult season might have been expected though, as the Wesmen did lose last year's top three scorers due to ineligibility and are looking to build from here on out.



Catie Gooch.

## college pro PAINTERS SUMMER JOBS

COLLEGE PRO PAINTERS is presently looking for responsible / hard-working University or College students for:

Full-Time Painting Positions  
May - August

No experience required,  
we will train you to paint.

Positions available in your area.  
If interested call 1-888-277-9787  
or apply online at [www.collegepro.com](http://www.collegepro.com)

# Snowboarding 'lifestyle' showcased at Falcon Ridge



Skier Matt Schumann flying high through the Manitoba skies.

## Another Big F@lcon Comp shows off top local snowboarders

MARKO BILANDZIJA  
 VOLUNTEER STAFF

To ski or snowboard in Manitoba is no easy task. Spotting a hill has much the same effect as discovering gold, and without moving out west, hopes at big time competition

can easily fade away. Enter Another Big F@lcon Comp (ABFC), a competition that usually occurs twice a year at Falcon Ridge Ski and Recreation Area, which is east of Winnipeg. Most recently, the competition took place on Sunday, Mar. 15. Dustin Shore is the owner of

Board anyone, the Kenora-based skate shop that recently presented ABFC. Shore agrees it is tough to make it big as a skier or a snowboarder in Manitoba. "Living in the prairies, anywhere you want to ride, to get to some sort of mountain is an hour and a

half in any direction." Sunday's competition was spread between two different events, but they were nonetheless a bit one sided. Skier Christopher Benson claimed first place in both events, with a score of 126.5 in the Jump-side competition and 101 on the Rail-side competition.

Brian Calling, one of the judges for the Rail-side competition, helped give some meaning to these scores by explaining the judging criteria. "A lot of style mostly, combined with the difficulty of the trick plus the line-up before the trick is attempted," he said.

The big winner Benson also earned the best trick award for the Big Air event after successfully completing a Switch 7 off the top table.

One of Benson's opponents, Stephen Champ, was slightly injured after the rail event, but he nonetheless placed second in the Big Air event. He landed the best Rail-side trick – a front flip off the cannon rail.

One of the other competitors, Max Schumann, placed seventh in Jump-side and fourth in Rail-side. He lives and works at Falcon Ridge, and has been skiing in the competition since he was 10 years old and snowboarding for the past three years.

He said to get to where he is and to go even farther along the path to big time skiing/snowboarding, you have to train and you have to train hard.

"I come out here every day and every time I can and just go ride a bit..."

For more info on the competition, log onto <http://tinyurl.com/dg7o77>.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

JO VILLAVARDE



### THIS IS THE GAME THAT NEVER ENDS

Marathons are for chumps. Try playing almost four hours of basketball – as Syracuse and Connecticut did on Thursday, March 12.

According to Yahoo! Sports, Syracuse outlasted Connecticut in a game that went on for an outstanding six overtimes. The teams combined scored 244 points total, 102 which were after regulation.

The game falls one overtime short of the record set by Cincinnati and Bradley on Dec. 21, 1981.

Just imagine being the losing team in this game. Harsh.

### FINE LINE CROSSED BETWEEN VICTORY AND DEFEAT, LITERALLY

Kristina Groves' celebration of her gold medal in the 1,500 metre speed skate did not last long as the officials quickly took it away.

According to TSN.ca, Groves narrowly hit the puck separating the lanes which resulted in her disqualification.

Groves skated an incredible 1:57.75 in the 1,500 m speed skate, nearly a full second under Germany's Anni Friesinger (1:58.66), who now earns gold. Netherlands' Ireen Wust has moved up to silver with her time of 1:58.83 and fellow Canadian Christine Nesbitt gets bumped up to bronze with her time of 1:58.88.

### YOUTUBE: THE NEW PARENTING TOOL

Kobe Bryant's kid might not be following in quite the same steps as her father. Natalia Diamante has shown big interest in soccer because Bryant showed her some soccer highlights on YouTube.

Bryant, who grew up in Italy, loved soccer and wanted a way to show his daughter the sport.

According to Yahoo! Sports, Bryant showed off highlights of soccer star Marta on YouTube and Natalia has loved the sport since.

Maybe showing kids YouTube videos of people cleaning their room will work, too.

### FOUNDER OF TAPOUT KILLED IN MOTOR ACCIDENT

Charles Lewis Jr., also known as "Mask," died Mar. 11 in a motor accident involving another vehicle.

According to Yahoo! Sports, the driver of the second car, Jeffrey David Kirby, is being charged with one felony count of vehicular manslaughter by unlawful act with gross negligence while intoxicated, one felony count of driving under the influence causing bodily injury, and sentencing enhancements for fleeing the scene of a vehicular manslaughter and causing great bodily injury to multiple victims.

Lewis, the founder of Tapout, a popular mixed martial arts apparel company, lived as a popular figure in his own right among mixed martial arts circles.

### NOW THIS IS DETERMINATION

You would think that breaking a couple vertebrae in his spine would stop Travis Tollett from racing, but that is not the case.

On July 19, Tollett is making racing history as he becomes the first quadriplegic to race in the "Race to the Clouds" event at the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb.

According to CBSsports.com, Tollett is riding in a specially equipped Mazda RX-7 Turbo II alongside teammate Steve Bennett.

Nothing, I repeat, nothing keeps this man off the track.

## Living well



SAGAN MORROW  
 VOLUNTEER STAFF

### Push ups aren't just for body builders

Push ups are the ultimate body weight exercise. Push ups affect the strength of our arms, shoulders, chest and core.

If push ups are performed correctly they can also help to support the muscles in the back. They are convenient because they require no equipment and can be executed anywhere, at any time.

Push ups, being a functional exercise, engage muscles we use on a daily basis. By doing a few sets of push ups several times a week you will be strengthening the muscles you use in regular lifestyle activity and thus your risk of injury will be lowered.

Your posture can also improve significantly from regularly doing push ups.

Furthermore, they can be done in various different ways. The placement of our hands and feet shifts the stress on the engaged muscles so that we work more muscle groups by doing several kinds of push ups rather than just focusing on the standard push up.

Push ups increase strength, endurance and physical well-being. One of the best ways to assess all-over physical strength is to see how many push ups (with good form) you can perform consecutively.

The 100 Push Ups Challenge is a 6-week program designed for participants to work their way up to complete 100 consecutive push ups. Learn more about it at <http://www.hundredpushups.com>.

University of Winnipeg student Sagan Morrow writes a health and wellness blog. Check it out at <http://livinghealthyintherealworld.wordpress.com>.

#### How to do a perfect push up

The following workout effectively targets multiple muscles because it makes use of variations of the basic push up:

⇒ Get in classic push up position (back straight and level, feet hip-width apart, abdominals contracted, hands shoulder-width apart), and perform one push up.

⇒ From the starting position, move your hands so that they are close together and almost touching; perform another push up.

⇒ Next, move your hands wide apart and do one push up from this position.

Shift your hands again so that the right hand is directly beneath your shoulder and the left hand is further ahead on the floor and perform one push up.

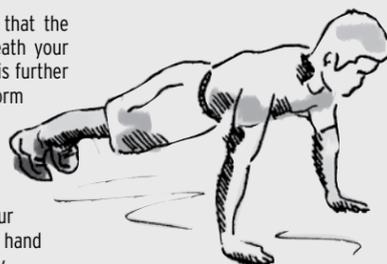
⇒ To complete this set, shift your hands in the opposite direction with the left hand beneath your shoulder and the right hand further away from your body.

⇒ After this set, rest for 30 seconds before completing this exercise over again, now trying to do two of each type of push up.

⇒ Rest for another 30 seconds and then perform three of each of the five push up variations.

⇒ After another 30 seconds of rest, do four of each push up; then rest for 30 seconds and do three of each push up.

⇒ Take 30 seconds, do two of each, rest for a final 30 seconds and complete the workout with one of each push up variation.



# THE **UNITER** Job postings

The following positions are based on a 30-week term running Aug. 10, 2009 to Dec. 4, 2009 and Jan. 4, 2010 to Apr. 2, 2010. Successful applicants will be expected to spend volunteer hours during the summer familiarizing themselves with the position, attending a mini-journalism conference organized by *The Uniter*, and planning for the year ahead. 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 e-mail [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 e-mail your 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 all positions is **Apr. 22 at 12 p.m.** Interviews will take place during the week of Apr. 27.

## News assignment editor

(\$110 per week)

*The Uniter* is looking for an organized individual with excellent leadership skills to co-ordinate a comprehensive eight to nine-page news section that examines university, local, national and international issues relevant to *The Uniter's* diverse and knowledgeable readership. In addition to demonstrating a critical eye for news content, the news assignment editor assigns, researches and writes news stories and blog entries; coordinates photographs with the photo editor and the production manager; and provides volunteer and staff writers with support, story development and story ideas. The news assignment editor works as a team with the news production editor.

## News production editor

(\$110 per week)

The news production editor edits all content for an eight to-nine page news section. Working closely with the news assignment editor, the news production editor aids in generating story ideas and helps writers to develop and write news stories. A strong understanding of journalistic style is mandatory. The news production editor is also responsible for researching and writing news stories and blog entries. Weekend work is required.

## Campus reporter

(\$60 per week)

The campus reporter ensures the goings on at the University of Winnipeg are covered in *The Uniter*. The successful candidate must have a keen eye for news and a knack for knowing what matters to readers. Liaising with students, the UWSA and faculty and departments is a necessity. The campus re-

porter generates story ideas and works closely with the news assignment editor to ensure coverage for a two to three-page section. They also research and write weekly stories and blog entries, and co-ordinate compelling visuals with the photo editor and production manager.

## Beat reporter x 3

(\$60 per week)

Beat reporters work closely with the news team to write two assigned stories per week and arrange for corresponding visual content. They must also regularly write blog entries on *The Uniter's* website. The chosen candidates will demonstrate a critical eye for news content, possess superior writing and interviewing skills, and work well under the pressure of deadlines. Beat reporters must be able to work in collaboration with others and well as independently.

## Comments editor

(\$85 per week)

The comments editor co-ordinates a weekly two to three-page section full of well-written and compelling arguments and opinions on a variety of current events and issues. The comments editor must be familiar with a wide variety of campus, local, national and international issues of relevance to *Uniter* readers. They ensure all commentary is fair and balanced, and edit all content. They work with the managing editor to develop a healthy dialogue between *The Uniter* and its readers.

## Culture reporter

(\$80 per week)

Are you a pop culture junkie? The culture reporter works closely with the arts and culture editor to develop story ideas

that examine cultural trends of relevance to readers of *The Uniter*. Along with the arts and culture editor, the culture reporter ensures sufficient content to fill four to five-pages. They also work closely with volunteer writers to develop story ideas and provide support when needed. In addition, the culture reporter writes and researches at least one story per week, and regularly contributes to the online blog.

## Listings co-ordinator

(\$85 per week)

The listings co-ordinator collects and compiles on and off campus event listings for *The Uniter's* comprehensive listings section. They are also responsible for writing brief descriptions of the events *The Uniter* chooses to highlight each week. The listings co-ordinator is also responsible for familiarizing faculty, student groups or other interested parties on and off campus with the procedures for submitting listings. In addition, they coordinate photos related to events to supplement the listings section. The successful candidate must be highly organized.

## Copy and style editor

(\$100 per week)

*The Uniter* is looking for an individual who demonstrates exceptional editing skills. The successful applicant assists the managing editor in final edits for the newspaper. The copy and style editor checks the entire copy for stylistic and grammatical errors. They are also responsible for compiling stylistic resources for staff. The successful applicant must be available to edit copy on weekends.

# MOUSELAND PRESS

ANNOUNCEMENT **Annual Meeting of the Membership** MOUSELAND PRESS INC  
12:30 p.m. March 25, 2009 Bulman Student Centre

### Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Previous meeting's minutes
3. Managing Editor and Business Manager Reports
4. Approval of 2009-2010 Budget
5. By-law Changes
5. Nomination of new Board of Directors
6. Election
7. Election of Chair and setting of initial BoD meeting.
8. Presentation to outgoing board members
9. Adjournment

### The following people are nominated to sit on the Mouseland Press Board of Directors:

Shawn Coates  
Michael Rac  
Courtney Berthelette  
Alex Freedman  
Shannon Sampert  
- Election will take place at the AGM.

### The following people are also up for re-election at the AGM:

Rob Nay  
Brian Gagnon