

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S URBAN JOURNAL

# THE UNITER

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## Winnipeg blogs

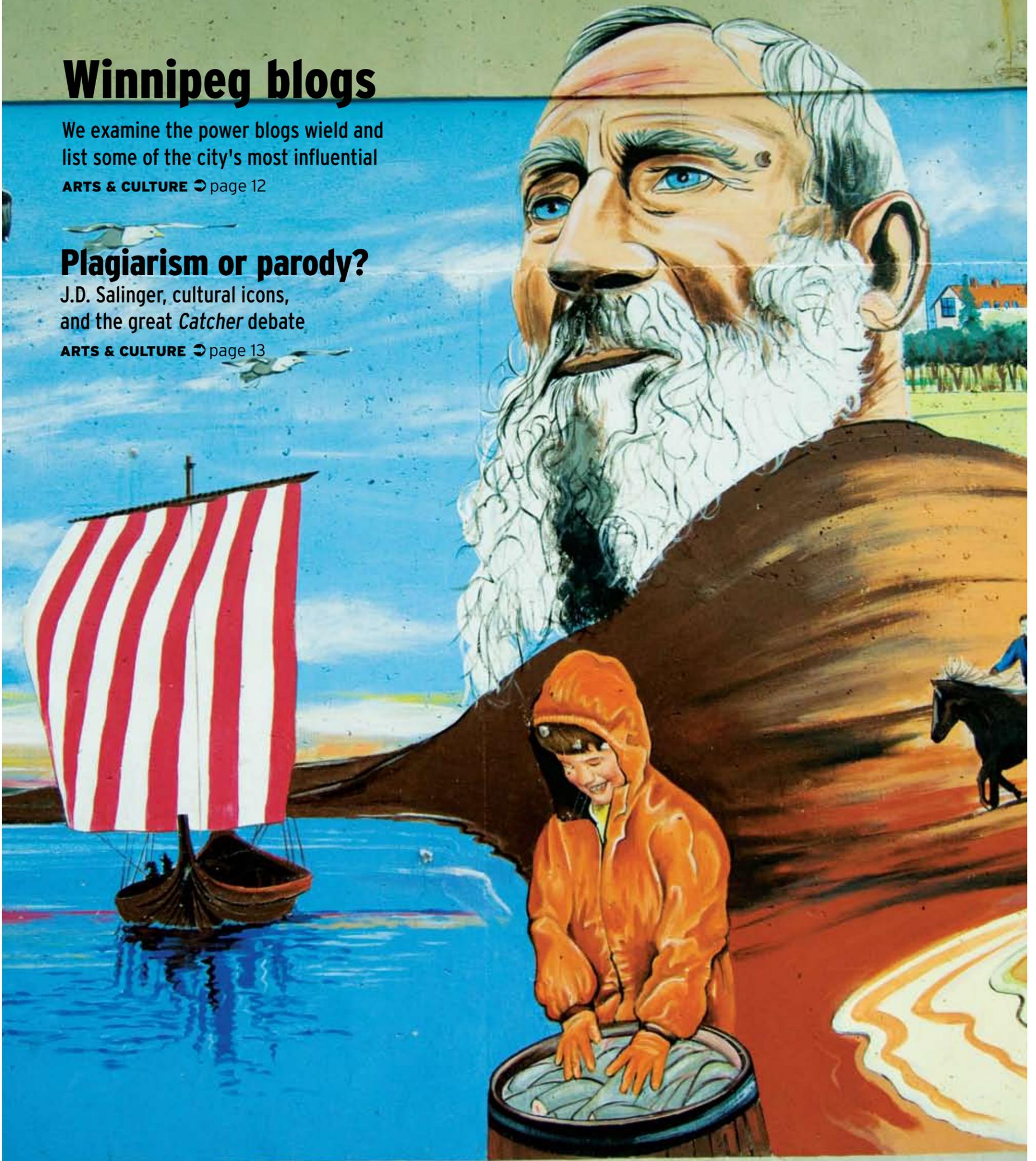
We examine the power blogs wield and list some of the city's most influential

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## Plagiarism or parody?

J.D. Salinger, cultural icons, and the great *Catcher* debate

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## The name sounds dirty, but they're not. Chatting with the F-Holes

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## Skin cancer and you

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## \*COVER IMAGE

Icelandic-themed mural at 563 Ellice Avenue by Dave Carty, 1999. Photo by Mark Reimer.

## News

# Will it really be OurWinnipeg?

SpeakUpWinnipeg.com sounds promising, but some worry it won't produce

ETHAN CABEL  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Despite the city's seemingly proactive approach to city planning as seen with the recent OurWinnipeg development plan and SpeakUpWinnipeg.com, some residents are worried their views won't be translated into action.

Lauren Lange, a city planning student and member of the Speak Up Squad, has heard such concerns firsthand.

"I assure them that the way this kind of active consultation translates into real policy is that the city will look at the repetition of certain themes throughout a broad perspective of different communities... And make amendments based on that consultation," Lange said.

OurWinnipeg and SpeakUpWinnipeg.com are initiatives launched by the city on April 25 that take a collaborative approach to city planning. SpeakUpWinnipeg.com gives Winnipeggers the chance to provide their recommendations, thoughts and reflections on the city planning process. The ideas gathered through the website will go towards the 25-year OurWinnipeg development plan, a departure from the past Plan Winnipeg de-

velopment strategies.

The Speak Up Squad has been present at Canada and Aboriginal day celebrations as well as at the Jazz Winnipeg Festival, gathering information on what Winnipeggers want from their city.

"I am optimistic about the process, as a whole and based on being out there with the Squad," Lange said.

Between April and October of this year, the Speak Up Winnipeg blog, a forum centered around topics that are high on the city's priority list, will be open to everyone. By November 2009, those reflections (as well as the notes gathered from community outreach and other discussions) will be drafted into a short report, ending phase one of the three-phase plan. The goal is to come up with a development plan next year that has been created with the continuous input of average Winnipeggers.

"The development process is usually very top down in nature with only those directly involved meeting to discuss and approve details and holding a couple community meetings," said Andrei Friesen, a graduate student in city planning at the University of Manitoba.

"This [Speak Up Winnipeg] is very good because it seems a lot more accessible for the planning



Lauren Lange, a member of the Speak Up Squad, has been out and about all summer talking to Winnipeggers about what they want to see in their city.

process... City planning is very important... It needs to be a consultative process."

In addition, several round-table discussions have been set up with urban aboriginals, the francophone community and other interested parties. In late June, Speak Up Winnipeg held "Imagine Your City," a workshop at the Winnipeg Art Gallery that guided citizens through focus groups. Over 400 Winnipeggers participated, according to Michelle Richard,

OurWinnipeg's co-ordinator.

"The average Winnipegger wants a community that works for them," said Richard. "Winnipeggers are responding in very interesting and creative ways throughout this process... We are hearing the same things in the malls as we are on the website and in focus groups that we've done throughout the summer and will continue to do through the fall."

What organizers are hearing is that Winnipeggers are vastly concerned with the livability and safety of their communities and want to deviate from our current automobile culture, she said.

"Winnipeg has been going in the wrong direction for a long time," said Friesen. "It is interesting that the mayor, who has professed not to be a visionary politician, is putting his reputation behind this."

The three phases of the OurWinnipeg initiative involve various forms of consultation and discussion. These discussions will go towards amending and drafting policy proposals, which are then enhanced or scrapped through further consultation. The process culminates with the formal adoption of the 25-year OurWinnipeg plan in April 2010.

## Bridging the Osborne gap

Active commuters concerned about underpass; say city isn't serious about active transport

COURTNEY SCHWEGEL  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

After waiting more than 30 years for Rapid Transit here in Winnipeg, construction of Phase 1, the Southwest Rapid Transit Corridor, has finally taken off. But already the project has hit a pothole.

A hazardous gap in the Active Transport pathway of the Osborne Street rail underpass has many in the community concerned for the safety of Winnipeg's cyclists and pedestrians. The plans show an abrupt end in the pathway just north of the underpass, which will force commuters off the pathway and beside traffic.

While the BRT system promises to include designated lanes for both Rapid Transit and Active Transport with the goal of creating a safer, more accessible city, the problems surrounding this gap are causing some to question the integrity of the Active Transport portion of the project.

Curt Hull, treasurer and project manager of Bike to the Future, an organization that aims to make cycling safe and convenient in



Janice Lukes, pictured in front of the Osborne Street underpass with Milan, is executive director of the Winnipeg Trails Association. Lukes worries Active Transport pathways aren't being given priority because of Winnipeg's cold climate.

Winnipeg, feels this problem signals a half-hearted effort to incorporate Active Transport into the BRT system.

"I think it is an indication that the Active Transportation component really wasn't integrated into the plan," Hull said by phone recently. Hull is also a member of Winnipeg's Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC), a group that advises the city on ac-

tive transportation needs.

Kevin Nixon, active transportation co-ordinator for the City of Winnipeg and liaison between the ATAC and the city, claimed the city does indeed take Active Transport seriously, pointing out that \$3.8 million has been allotted to Active Transport pathways in the project.

Janice Lukes, member of the ATAC and executive director of the Winnipeg Trails Association, a group that works to develop multi-use paths in the city, feels that the Active Transport pathways are not being given priority because Winnipeg is a winter city.

"In Winnipeg active transportation is not seen as a viable means of transportation," she said.

In efforts to prove that Winnipeg can and should embrace active transportation to a greater degree, Lukes has turned to the City of Minneapolis for help. With an advanced active transport system and similar climate and terrain to Winnipeg's, Lukes hopes that Minneapolis's active transport community can educate Winnipeg around how it can expand and improve its Active Transport system.

In the meantime, the ATAC continues to work with the City of Winnipeg on fixing the Osborne pathway gap. According to Nixon, the city is unlikely to invest in any long term solutions as the underpass will likely be redone within the

next 10 years.

"All the money would be thrown away," Nixon said, adding that building a tunnel or overpass for cyclists and pedestrians would cost between \$14 and \$20 million.

Nixon explained that an interim solution to designate the west sidewalk of the underpass to cyclists and the east to pedestrians has been discussed.

But Hull doesn't see this as feasible.

"I really am at a loss to understand how it would be a workable solution even as a temporary solution," he said. "The sidewalk isn't wide enough for two way bicycle traffic."

Lukes agreed. "There will be an accident and someone will be seriously injured," she said.

Nixon explained that though it may not be done immediately, the city will ensure that a solution will be reached.

"The cycling community may not get everything they want this year," he said. "It may take some time but we have every intention of [fixing the gap]," he said.

Hull remains hopeful but suspects Winnipeg's active transporters will be in for a wait.

"We have been waiting for rapid transit for 30 years. Are we going to have to wait 30 years for this?" he said.

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Our next issue comes out Aug. 12. If you'd like to get involved, e-mail editor@uniter.ca.

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## Campus News

# Big bookstore on the block

U of W's never ending expansion program now includes a bookstore, but will students lose out when selling their used books?

**LAURA KUNZELMAN**  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Downtown Winnipeg is getting another facelift: soon it will be home to one of the largest bookstores in the area, a brand-spanking new art gallery and more classrooms.

The bookstore—serving students, area residents and office workers—along with classrooms and other services will be in a newly-refurbished space in the Greyhound bus depot.

"The opportunity for students, staff and faculty will be better and the quality of the layout will be better," U of W's acting vice president of finance and administration Bill Balan said of the bookstore.

The classrooms and relocated Plug-In Institute of Contemporary Art Gallery will be housed in a new three-storey building constructed to a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Standard. The building will stand at the corner of Portage Avenue and Colony Street, in the spot formerly occupied by United Army Surplus Sales.

The projects were part of the \$75 million operating budget recently approved in the 2009/2010 Capital Budget.

The University of Winnipeg Bookstore will keep its current name even though it will be managed by new partner Follett Higher Education Group. Follett is a family-owned bookstore provider that manages more than 800 bookstores in the United States and Canada.

"We bring a lot of strength that



The now-empty shelves of the U of W Bookstore will soon be relocated to a renovated location in the Greyhound bus depot. The bookstore was only one of the expansion projects approved in the 2009/2010 Capital Budget.

will benefit students, especially with the used book program," said Follett's regional manager Kim Quarrie. "We are looking forward to partnering with the student government and are looking to benefit all students."

Quarrie didn't have details about the new bookstore's used book prices, and said they do not offer individualized programs for each university or college institution.

She is confident, however, about some of the bookstore's new products.

"We are going to expand the merchandise selection and we want to know from the students if we do have the right selection."

Balan said Follett will only make minor changes, like "managing [the bookstore] through a managing contract and they will be moving into facilities three times the size of its current location."

One of the key changes will be the use of online sales.

"As students register, students go online to place their book orders and they get delivered to their home or for pickup at the university," Balan said. "The university could not have developed the online program because it is an expensive process. What is so great is that the long lineups in the bookstore will be eliminated and they will have a larger inventory."

University of Winnipeg Students'

Association (UWSA) vice president advocate David EisBrenner is unsure whether Petrified Sole, the student-run used bookstore, will be affected.

"We'll have to wait and see how Follett does used books," he said.

For their part, some students seem sentimental about their used bookstore of choice.

"I always go to Petrified Sole to sell my books and texts and it's the first place I go to find a cheap book," said third-year U of W communications student Nicki Dola.

"I hope the new expansion project doesn't affect Petrified Sole because that place is great for students who don't want to go to the Cash for Books stand and get \$15 for a \$150 text book."

"We are glad that the student government offers a service like Petrified Sole," Follett's Quarrie said. "We currently have \$100,000 of inventory in used books where the students can have daily buy backs."

Follett's four newest partners are the University of Winnipeg; Southern University at Shreveport, Louisiana; South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, Louisiana; and Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. The Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, Manitoba is also a newer partner.

See "Our changing campus," below.

## Church might return to U of W

**C. JORDAN CROSTHWAITE**  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

A potential national headquarters move to the University of Winnipeg will be amongst the largest issues up for discussion at the United Church of Canada's triennial national meeting from August 9 to 14 in Kelowna, B.C.

The 2009 General Council will hear a proposal that could bring the bureaucratic centre of Canada's largest protestant denomination to the geographic centre of the nation.

And it seems the University of Winnipeg wants to give the warmest welcome to the United Church possible. The university has offered to include United Church offices in its future construction plans, possibly on the former site of the United Army Surplus building (see story at left).

The University of Winnipeg has a historical connection to the United Church of Canada, as the university was born out of the United College conglomeration of Manitoba College and Wesley College in 1938, and the subsequent foundation of the University of Winnipeg in 1967. The university still hosts the United Church archives.

Currently, the national offices of the United Church are in Toronto, where they have been since the denomination's formation in 1925.

"Getting the church to move ... is like pulling out a wisdom tooth—you have to loosen the roots first," said Bruce Faurschou, the executive secretary of the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conference of the United Church.

The move is projected for 2015, which Faurschou thinks gives plenty of time for the United Church to develop a plan for becoming more involved with Winnipeg and the University of Winnipeg.

The move, according to a university press release, would be part of the university's commitment to the downtown community.

The United Church would bring 170 downtown jobs if it came to Winnipeg, and also bring the United Church spirit of social justice and community building.

In a 2008 interview with *The United Church Observer*, university president Lloyd Axworthy named secularism in the university as a passing trend, but said he sees faith and religion playing a more present role in politics.

"One of my goals is to restore the life and energy that the department of theology brought to the university as a whole."

Axworthy, a longtime United Church attendee known for his commitment to social justice issues, hopes the Faculty of Theology will take on an "active role as a forum for intellectual discussion and debate."

Faurschou said he is "very excited to have an engaging relationship with the university and to be challenged by the university."

He is mindful of the diversity of community in Winnipeg and thinks the United Church can be a part of that in Winnipeg: "[The United Church] couldn't get away with being faceless in this community."

Building community with ecumenism is a primary tenet of the United Church of Canada, and Winnipeg offers a wide range of local denominational leaderships. Both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada National Synod and the Mennonite Central Committee call Winnipeg home.

While the move might seem like a good deal for the United Church, it's easy to wonder how the University of Winnipeg might be influenced by a more direct relationship with the Church.

In name a private institution, the University of Winnipeg's 36-member Board of Regents has 10 members appointed by the United Church, a continuation of the historical connections between United College and the university.

### OUR CHANGING CAMPUS

➔ 460 Portage Avenue (previously United Army Surplus Sales)

**Who:** University of Winnipeg's Division of Continuing Education Professional Programs; portions of the Faculty of Business and Economics; The Plug-In Institute of Contemporary Art Gallery

**What:** A three-storey, 37,500 square foot, eco-friendly building on the former United Army Surplus site, with the potential for future fourth floor development.

**When:** Fall 2010

**Cost:** Approximately \$12-million, which will be split between the university and Plug-In.

➔ 491 Portage Avenue

**Who:** The University of Winnipeg Bookstore; some student services

**What:** Renovations will be made to the 42,000 square foot main floor and lower level of the Greyhound bus depot. This will provide space for additional student services, add smart classrooms and enhance inner-city development.

**Cost:** Renovation and operating

costs will be covered by rental revenues and savings from lease reductions.

#### Includes:

*Campus and community bookstore – main floor*

**What:** The University will create a new 6,000 square foot bookstore inside the former bus depot.

The bookstore will meet the course requirements of students and have expanded books, magazines and merchandise for customers from downtown and the surrounding community.

The bookstore will also have a new website for online purchasing.

The main floor refurbishment will also include other retail activities such as a food and beverage outlet.

**When:** Early 2010.

*New classroom space – lower level*

**What:** An additional 10 classrooms with smart technology, a computer lab, offices, student lounge and meeting rooms.

**When:** September 2009

## University's faculty chips in Profes paying to ensure scholarships still available

**SAMUEL SWANSON**  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

The economic situation is hitting the investments the University of Winnipeg relies on to fund scholarships and bursaries, but faculty is trying to turn the situation around.

"Because of the basic economic downturn, the trust funds for scholarships and bursaries haven't worked out like years previous," said Pauline Greenhill, women's and gender studies professor and organizer of the fundraiser.

To make up for the losses, the University of Winnipeg Faculty Association (UWFA) recently voted unanimously in favour of fundraising for scholarships and bursaries through payroll donations.

Each year, between 1,800 and 2,000 students receive scholarships and/or bursaries from the U of W. For the fiscal year ending in 2009, the U of W paid out a total of \$3,238,000, which includes funds for scholarships and bursaries, external awards and graduate scholarships. They are hoping to remain at this level for this fiscal year.

The money donated by faculty goes to the University of Winnipeg Foundation, rather than to the university itself, so it remains entirely

### THE NUMBERS

**Scholarships and bursaries paid out by the University of Winnipeg as of March 31 for each fiscal year ending:**

2006	\$2,362,000
2007	\$2,601,000
2008	\$2,670,000
2009	\$3,238,000

confidential.

The University of Winnipeg Foundation will be waiving its usual five per cent administration fee, so 100 per cent of donations will go toward student scholarships and bursaries.

Due to confidentiality agreements, the total amount of funds raised by faculty is only speculative, but the goal of the initiative is to raise \$250,000—enough to match the contributions made by the University of Winnipeg administration this year.

To ensure that high priority scholarships like entrance scholarships are honoured, faculty members are asked to donate to a generalized fund set up by the Foundation, rather than to a specific award.

U of W administration said the

amounts to be awarded at the undergraduate level will remain the same. All entrance scholarships and all access scholarships and bursaries (on which students depend for attendance) are also expected to be honoured, but departmental awards might be lower.

"It is still kind of a work in process... On a case by case basis, the values might be less," said Dan Hurley, U of W's senior executive officer.

The Foundation also gave the university a \$600,000 operating grant to offset the shortfall, but the U of W is hoping to raise their own funds from outside sources so the Foundation's funds won't be eaten up, Hurley said.

One of these is the Alumni Association.

"The Alumni Association recently donated \$10,000 to award the Alumni Entrance Scholarships,"

As well, additional scholarship money is coming from the international student fee of \$10,500 per student that was implemented last September.

"We're pretty confident that we'll be able to award scholarships at roughly the same levels as last year," Hurley said.

## Comments

# Lost Winnipeg

Do you love learning about our city's past as much as we do? As part of a four part summer series, Robert Galston, author of local blog *The Rise and Sprawl*, will examine neighbourhoods' transitions over the past century, up until the most recent 2006 Census. In May he took a look at South Point Douglas, and in June he visited Roslyn Road and the beautiful homes which once lined the street. This month, we learn about Lord Selkirk Park, a neighbourhood in the North End



**ROBERT GALSTON**  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Of the transformations that changed the face and fabric of Winnipeg's old neighbourhoods in the past 60 years, none have been as sudden, total and tragic as the development of the Lord Selkirk Park neighbourhood in the 1960s.

Centred around Lord Selkirk Park, a small park on Stella Avenue just west of Main Street, the neighbourhood was made up of small blocks gridded by streets with stuffy British names like Schultz, Derby, Jarvis, and Dufferin. By 1911, the neighbourhood had developed from the semi-rural edge of the city into a teeming neighbourhood of mostly Jewish immigrants. A street-car line ran up Dufferin Avenue from Main to Arlington, and numerous commercial establishments dotted the neighbourhood, including the Dufferin Hotel, Levin's Kosher Deli, Malkin's General Store, and Dufferin Avenue Drugs (which prepared old country herbal remedies as well as modern prescriptions).

Beth Jacob synagogue was on Schultz and there was a farmer's market on King Street.

The neighbourhood was among the poorest in the city and had many instances of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions. Unlike the crowded immigrant quarters in larger cities at the time, made up of brick tenement blocks, much of

the housing in Lord Selkirk was still ramshackle wooden places built on speculation in the early 1880s, or little backyard tenements – second houses built at the back of the lot.

Elizabeth Cam, whose recollections of growing up in the neighbourhood in the 1910s appeared in the Autumn 1972 edition of *Manitoba Pageant*, wrote that her parents called the neighbourhood "Mitzraim," the Yiddish word for "Egypt." But to Mrs. Cam's father, who with his wife had escaped the pogroms in Russia years before, they could be doing much worse: "Thank God, here in Canada no one bothers us," he told his daughter. "Here we are free to work... we have here the privilege to educate our children."

As the second wave of Jewish immigrants that occupied the neighbourhood in 1911 established themselves in the new country, many were able to leave *Mitzraim* – if not for the Promised Land, then at least for the area north of Redwood Avenue.

In the 1950s, the city began looking at the idea of urban renewal, eliminating urban poverty by marrying suburban design to welfare state ideology, with the same violent intensity that Chicago, Baltimore and the Bronx were doing with their housing projects. And so Lord Selkirk was eyed for the massive new development. Val Werier, then with the *Tribune* newspaper, spent a week in the neighbourhood on the eve of its demolition in 1962



MARK REIMER



**In the 1950s, the city began looking at the idea of urban renewal with the same violent intensity that Chicago, Baltimore and the Bronx were doing with their housing projects**

Lord Selkirk Park as it stands today (top) and the area in 1961 (middle), just before it was demolished to make way for the community housing project. An empty playground (below) stands in the middle of the development.

Unsurprisingly, the pretenses of social reform only thinly veiled the plans of the city's traffic engineers and the conceptual plans focused mainly on eliminating the urban clutter on Dufferin Avenue to allow cars to move faster.

By the 1970s, the social and physical conditions of the developments were worse than those of the "slum" they were intended to replace. Now there was no private property and few housing options. No more clothing stores, grocery stores, butcher shops and barber shops, meaning fewer eyes on the streets of the new superblocks and less of what is called "employment opportunities" and "skill-building" in contemporary social work jargon. The urban renewal scheme also created a major net loss of places to live in the North End and the *Tribune* reported that thousands of residents were displaced, finding themselves without a unit

in the new development.

Walking through what was once the neighbourhood she grew up in, past where her father's grocery store stood, which had since made way for a public insurance claims garage, Mrs. Cam hoped "that whoever might live [here] should know the happiness of work with freedom, growth with respect, and responsibility with love."

While massive public housing projects, by their very nature and design, cannot offer happiness, freedom and responsibility to the urban poor, what Lord Selkirk Park does offer is a steady supply of good intentions from government officialdom, and a whole lot more grass. Isn't that enough?

Check out Robert Galston's blog at <http://riseandsprawl.blogspot.com>.

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MARK REIMER

# Crying wolf over gentrification

University students learn big word, feel they have to use it

GARETH DU PLOOY  
VOLUNTEER

It's a coup de grâce. The West End is finally and veritably improving and much, but very importantly not all, of the positive changes stem from various recent University of Winnipeg expansions. After years of planning and anticipation these positive changes are becoming reality, from the new Furby/Langside Campus to the recently announced board approval of the redevelopment of the former United Army Surplus and Greyhound bus depot sites (see page 3). Yet it is dishearteningly predictable that those who take the most ambiguous of stances on this issue are products of the university itself.

For instance, Owen Toews is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg who was interviewed in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on June 9. He has earned a Fulbright scholarship to City University in New York City for the great work he's been doing studying housing trends in Winnipeg's core area for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Toews, who is very concerned that the "gentrification of older housing is driving up the cost of homes" in the West

End and who "designed his own major of urban planning and social justice," is now headed off to the bright lights of New York City where the ravages of gentrification are all too evident.

Since the focus of his studies will be how to prevent gentrification, NYC seems an unlikely place for Toews to be. From art-house film festivals in TriBeCa to all night 20-something dance parties in Williamsburg to fusion cuisine and Thursday night poetry slams in Greenwich Village, Toews will have first hand exposure to the miasma of gentrification during his tenure at City University. I'm sure by the end of his time there he'll be more than ready to come back to Winnipeg and take up residence in one of our many affordable un-

**Tired cries of gentrification of the neighbourhoods surrounding the school come echoing from halls of the U of W**

gentrified neighbourhoods and will be even better equipped to, as he says, "address those issues" back at home and make sure those types of things never happen here.

Perhaps the new best breakfast joint in Winnipeg, located two blocks from the U of W, should have a sit down with urban plan-

ning students and discuss what can be done to mitigate all the gentrification pulsating dangerously outward in concentric circles into the neighbourhood from its interior. Open for shorter hours? Serve an average menu ensuring people from more affluent neighbourhoods won't want to visit the West End?

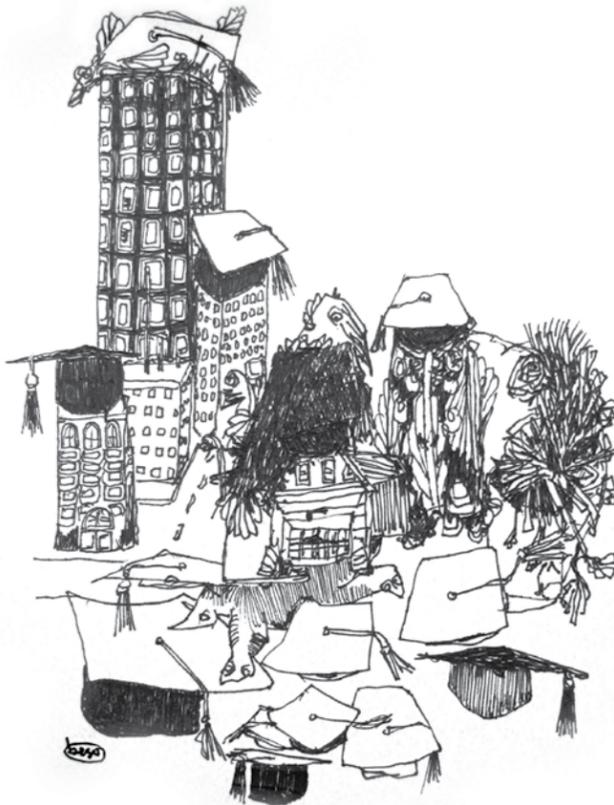
Take a heat gun to the new paint job? Apply fake bullet holes from a gag store on the window? We could create a GentiStat map, much like Winnipeg's online CrimeStat map, with ominous red hot spots for every new successful corner store, local theatre, or home renovation which serves "only" to send house

prices rocketing through the atmosphere unabated.

Neighbourhoods Alive! is the program created by the Manitoba government where Toews has been working. According to their website, the program's mandate is to "provide community organizations in designated neighbourhoods with the support they need to rebuild these neighbourhoods." How one can claim to be for rebuilding these neighbourhoods yet explicitly against the restoration and renovation of older housing is beyond reason.

I've lived as a renter in Winnipeg's core area for seven years and have now owned, lived in, and worked out of my home in the West End for two years, along with my wife and baby daughter. Each and every year for the last nine years, tired cries of gentrification of the neighbourhoods surrounding the school come echoing from halls of the U of W. Students spend a few years attending the U of W and some live in the area for that duration, but very few stay to live in the area for decades. A true home for them lies elsewhere. All too often, their interest in the ultimate fate of the neighbourhood, rather than being vested, is dictatorial, speculative, and at the end of the day, academic.

*Gareth du Plooy is a West End resident homeowner, father, husband, writer, IT consultant, and banjo destroyer.*



BILL BESO

## The king of what? Pedophile jokes?

Death and the media unfairly change society's perceptions

MATT AUSTMAN  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Just in case you haven't heard, a pretty famous celebrity died recently. Practically born into the spotlight, Michael Jackson was the good weird as he rose to fame. Different, talented, sexy and marketable, he declared himself the King of Pop to the world after the commercial ground making accomplishments of *Off The Wall*, *Bad* and *Thriller*.

Shortly after the latter however, society changed its opinion as it watched Michael Jackson's rise and fall as he engaged in a pseudo-obvious mental battle with himself and the media.

Born into the limelight, this psychological war had at first made MJ a talented and accomplished man. But there was a breaking point and since the early '90s we have seen MJ slip deeper and deeper into an abyss of mental self-decimation in a drawn out tug-o-war. The highly influential societal figure was a mere fragment of a man for years before his death. But that's not how society chooses to remember him, regardless of how they treated him.

His confidence to declare himself the King of Pop was certainly due to good press, but he lost that title with the first pedophilia accusation in 1993 and the proceeding ultra-negative media tempest. I suppose we could all deal with him changing his face after he got vitiligo (a relatively common skin disorder that causes depigmentation around the body), but once the child molestation charges started up, no amount of PR could ever save him.

He became the bad kind of weird. And like most people who

are believed to be the bad weird by the majority, they are not considered brethren. The media classifies them as a subclass of human and the majority agree since we don't feel comfortable thinking about it and would rather have a business define it for us. We absolutely let them define him as he collapsed underneath the weight of his own ego.

After a one-sided Martin Bashir documentary and another child abuse allegation in 2005, we all got a little uncomfortable when one of his songs came on the radio or by fault of the DJ at the bar. *Really*, who wants to dance to a probable child molester? At this point he was more like a troll who stole your kids as they walked by. The media dehumanized him and we helped. The public and the media make a great tag team when tearing down successful people who don't know how to deal with themselves. And the issue of whether he deserved it or not isn't really the problem.

The problem is the romanticiz-

ing of the individual and their life after death. As soon as one loses consciousness, we grasp the positive and suppress the negative. For MJ, this has been seen on an utterly massive scale that many seem to be oblivious to. It's expected that the media will do a complete 180 on a dead celebrity, but to now try and pretend he's perfect after nearly 20 years of bad press – *and successfully convince millions that he is* – shows they have an influence few people fully realize.

It's one thing for millions to stop in their tracks to acknowledge his passing – after all he was a very influential figure at one time – but why are we OK with his greatest enemy saying the eulogy? Society bought the magazines that suggested the "harsh reality" of the MJ situation, and how despite his acquitted trials, the jury was "wrong." So this begs a question: What role is society really comfortable playing? Are we going to pass judgment as the media presents it to us? Or do we idealize the weirdo

as a fallen hero? How can death rationally change how we remember him?

After all, he's not here to see us pay our respects.

However you feel about his death and the media's response to it, MJ died as the king of pedophile jokes, not pop, and it was thanks to our buying into the media's presentation of the issue. If we really want to pay our respects to him, society and the media should acknowledge how harsh we were on him for all those years. To deny that ever happened is to do a moon walk on his grave, no matter how quixotic we imagine death to be.

*Matt Austman is a University of Winnipeg student.*

## Letters

Re: "Falling down doesn't have to equal failure"

"Falling down doesn't have to equal failure" (June 18 edition of *The Uniter*). Right, it doesn't. I'm not certain why this article asserts that "failing grades" and "high standards" are necessarily connected to student success, as it provides very little evidence of either. In fact, there is ample research to the contrary about what motivates

students and where real learning takes place. Educational theorists like John Dewey, Alfie Kohn, Paulo Freire stress the idea that schools and education need to be regulated and centred around what students need to know, what they are interested in and what makes sense given their context.

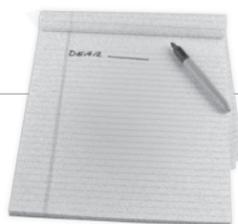
Extrinsic motivation may work well when you are trying to train your labradoodle, but with chil-

dren and young adults it is destined to fail.

Furthermore, punishment and rewards are simply a form of manipulation and in this standards obsessed education environment what we mean by success is often a code word for compliance. If we

really want to prepare youth to be successful and meet the challenges of a complex and ever changing world we will encourage them to be self sufficient and self motivated, skilled in taking part in policy making, and critical and active democratic citizens, not peons reliant on As or Fs to act.

*Cara Zurzolo*



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# Killing women's rights in 140 characters or less

POLITICS

## Twitter away, oh ignorant politicians



MATT SCHAUBROECK  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

There are few things in the world funnier than hearing that yet another politician has been caught with their foot rammed squarely into their mouth. It's not as if it is a rare feat anymore, either – it seems like almost every other week some elected official says something to land them in hot water.

Take the case of Alberta MLA Doug Elniski, who decided to post on his blog the speech that he said he delivered at Grade 9 graduation ceremonies in his constituency. In it, one can find advice such as

“there is nothing a man wants less than a woman scowling” and “Men are attracted to smiles, so smile, don't give me that 'treated equal' stuff. If you want Equal, it comes in little packages at Starbucks.”

Naturally, this produced a fair bit of outrage from women's equity groups. To defend his name, Elniski stated that he was paraphrasing a comedian in his blog. Skipping over the part where elected politicians really shouldn't be turning Grade 9 graduation speeches into a Second City-wannabe event, one has to wonder why it wasn't made clear that it was a joke in the first place. I suppose I missed the punchline in the rejection of “that 'treated equal' stuff.”

The kicker here is that I would be willing to give Elniski the benefit of the doubt and chalk all of this up to a rookie mistake if I didn't happen to glance at his Twitter and see some of his philosophical mus-

ings regarding this year's Edmonton Pride parade, including such gems as “i am surrounded by bumping and grinding lesbians wait 20 then send help.” Clearly, this guy is a bastion of integrity.

### If an elected official is going to say things that are so ridiculously zany, I'm glad to know about it

The one thing that I am grateful for in all of this is that Elniski had the common courtesy to post his thoughts up on his blog for the world to see. Frankly, if an elected official is going to say things that are so ridiculously zany, I'm glad to know about it. Think about it this way: Whether we know about it or not, Elniski seems to be against

women's rights and makes lewd and inappropriate comments. But now that we know about it, people are able to react accordingly (I have a hunch that the typical reaction will be anger).

Frankly, the Internet is the big winner in this one. Why Elniski didn't think his comments would blow up in his face is a source of great mystery to me. Don't get me wrong: Free speech is still very important, and people should have the right to post whatever they want on the Internet without fear of being persecuted. The key difference here is that Elniski represents thousands of Edmonton residents – many of who will undoubtedly be furious with the ethical views of their MLA, and rightfully so: They're completely disrespectful and insulting to a very large section of the population.

I just hope that political parties aren't going to start banning

their elected officials from being able to speak their mind on blogs or clamp down on Facebook and Twitter usage. That would really be the worst possible outcome because then how would we know whether or not politicians are putting forward an archaic social policy? Personally, I think that every politician in this country should have a blog and speak their mind so that we can spot the Doug Elniski's of this world and vote them out of office. Politics is not a comedy hour; it is a position for making serious decisions. If people like Elniski want to comment on Pride parades and make joke speeches, they should consider a career in blogging full-time – I'm sure voters would appreciate it.

*Matt Schaubroeck is a University of Winnipeg student.*

## Ignatieff's summertime blues

POLITICS

### Liberal Leader lucky to be stuck only with 'Ukrainian' baggage



ANDREW TOD  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Summer is a strange time for federal politics in Canada. Since Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff opted for the popular choice and refrained from forcing a summer election over a paltry disagreement with his Conservative counterparts over employment insurance legislation, Canadians will be without the sometimes-depraved and often hackneyed ruminations of the brutes from the House of Commons until the fall.

This does not mean, however, that we are totally free from federal politicians utilizing their newfound time off to ensure that they are not forgotten by Canadians, as those with visions of grandeur seem to consider the lack of any steady political activity as their own opportunity to mount the public soapbox. And so it is with Manitoba MP Vic Toews and his redundant public spat with Ignatieff.

In late June, the Steinbach MP emerged from his usual stoic role as president of the Treasury Board, in which his public decrees usually have more to do with constructing a new football stadium in Winnipeg than anything politically meaningful, to offer his feigned outrage at a paragraph Ignatieff published in a 1993 book.

The gist of Toews' reprimand of Ignatieff centred on a few lines which supposedly sullied the legitimacy of Ukrainian independence, while also equating Ukrainians themselves with anti-Semitism and of being less important than their Russian neighbours.

If Ignatieff had actually written such things, he might as well spend the rest of this summer applying for a job in his old career as an academic. His saving grace, however, is that many people who have actually read the book in question have refuted that these were ever Ignatieff's views. Rather, the paragraph, when read in context, actually serves as a deliberate exaggeration of historical animosity between Russians and Ukrainians.

Yet, while the trite blitzkriegs of disinformation so dear to the hearts of federal Conservatives are an unjustifiable waste of public funds, who can blame them for attempting to set the tone for Ignatieff's summertime introduction of himself to Canadians?

If the *king-hell* number they did on Stephane Dion is any indication, there are enough soft-minded dullards in this country to take this falsified slandering of Ignatieff to heart. In the world of smear campaigns, the truth is the first casualty.

This is perhaps why, in all of their haste to tarnish Ignatieff's political reputation before he has a chance to mould one, the Conservatives overlooked a truthfully despicable viewpoint which Ignatieff held as recently as the beginning of this decade.

Back when he was a darling of the British and American academic establishments and his public comments had little accountability attached to them, Ignatieff had the unnerving tendency to appear as though he advocated torture as an acceptable and legitimate method of counteracting the still-obtuse threat of terrorism. While he never stated outright that torture should be used with impunity, his musings in books such as *The Lesser Evil* and elsewhere could hardly be held as a clear refutation of these charges either.

With the public outrage over the plight of Maher Arar, who was sent to be tortured in Syria with the assistance of the RCMP, as well as a Supreme Court order that the Canadian government request the return of Omar Khadr from the site of the West's torture experiments – Guantanamo Bay – to label Ignatieff as an advocate of torture would most likely be a more effective smear for the Conservatives in the long-run than to label him as an arrogant Russian.

Yet, in true Conservative politico fashion, the reactionary boor within has overridden any appeals to the intellect and so the next few weeks of Ignatieff's reputation-building tour of Canada will be intertwined with damage control regarding Toews' tactless comments, rather than anything more serious to his aspirations to be prime minister. Ignatieff should, in fact, count himself lucky that clearly de-contextualized comments regarding Ukrainians were the ammunition that Harper & Co. thought would raise the ire of Canadians.

## Liberals blowing their party to bits

Sure Dion was a screw up, but Ignatieff ain't so great either

POLITICS



ETHAN CABEL  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

I can hear the fireworks. The sound is nearly rattling the walls of my little home in the federal riding of Winnipeg South Center. It is Canada Day, a day marking the confederation of this land into a united country. Celebration is abounding for a country that is, because of the freedom it grants and, ultimately, the stability and comfort it provides, the best place in the world. And yet I can't help but notice my surroundings.

Winnipeg South Center is the only federal riding in Manitoba that elected a Liberal member of Parliament last year.

Last year was a tremendously bad one for the Liberal Party of Canada. Few would disagree that this was primarily due to the compartmentalization of politicians into extremes of character that began, out of the Tory war room, with the campaign to smear Stephane Dion.

The loss the Liberals suffered last October was attributed to an insufferable little dweeb named Dion whose green schemes would have torn the nation apart. Harper, as always, was cast as George Bush's bedmate.

There is little doubt that the manner in which both the prime minister and his rival were characterized was slanderous, unfair and likely did more harm to the political landscape than good.

Why, then, are the Conservatives back on the smear trail, casting Michael Ignatieff as a tourist seeking the highest office in the land?

The Liberal leadership convention of 2006 was likely the last federal leadership convention to be battled out, ballot-by-ballot, with delegates elected by riding associations and vowing allegiance to a particular candidate before the convention begins. Eight candidates appeared on the first ballot of that leadership contest and, as the second ballot closed, it became a contest between the front-runner Michael Ignatieff and the dark horse, Stephane Dion. It is now common knowledge that Dion emerged the winner due to the dramatic and climactic nature



of ballot-by-ballot conventions. He won the leadership, on the fourth and final ballot, because the young and promising candidate Gerard Kennedy dropped out of the race to support him.

Stephane Dion was elected leader of the Liberal party on Dec. 2, 2006. Two years later he contributed to a gaffe that cost him that very leadership.

On Dec. 1, 2008, the NDP, Bloc Quebecois and the Liberal party signed the historic coalition accord. Shortly before the Governor General was slated to make her decision on the status of Parliament, Dion was called upon to address the nation on the merits of a coalition government.

His videotaped address showed up late to most networks and when it aired appeared odd, out-of-focus and amateurish. It is interesting, going back, to see the reaction from the Liberal faithful.

On Dec. 4, 2008, CanWest News service provided the following report:

“[Bob] Rae and [Michael] Ignatieff, two rivals to succeed Dion as leader, testified their support for the coalition process and indicated there is no move underway to replace Dion before the May 2 [2009] Liberal leadership convention in Vancouver. ‘The questions of leadership are not of the hour,’ said Ignatieff, a Toronto MP. ‘We have a leader. His name is Stephane Dion.’”

Within a week, on Dec. 10, 2008, Michael Ignatieff was crowned leader of the Liberal party through a caucus vote. His leadership was uncontested and thus officially ratified at the Liberal party convention in May of this year. At

that same convention, the process that elected Dion leader in 2006 (ballot-by-ballot) was scrapped for a one-member, one-vote system.

Is it outrageous to propose that Dion was subject to an undemocratic form of political assassination?

I find it difficult to believe that the events of December were as spontaneous and dramatic as we have been led to believe. The Liberal party is a national institution that has governed our country through the majority of our history. I find it suspect that within less than a month, its members not only decided to usurp the Conservative government by signing an agreement with political enemies but made up their minds to avert democracy in anointing a new leader because of a bad videotape.

Stephane Dion, despite his shortcomings in the latter part of last year, was a man of principle. He was a strident defender of unity and federalism in this country and proposed a progressive plan that tied together economic and environmental sustainability. Michael Ignatieff pales in comparison.

It is true that the Conservatives have launched a needlessly expensive and dirty ad campaign against Ignatieff but when we consider the means by which he has gained prominence and the fact that the majority of his adult life was spent away from this country, perhaps those criticisms are justified.

I can hear the fireworks. I am not impressed.

*Ethan Cabel is a University of Winnipeg student.*



## Arts & Culture

# Original theatre and fab fun in Winnipeg's Exchange

The Winnipeg Fringe Festival won't disappoint, no matter what your tastes



Rollerskating pixies are a common sight during Fringe Fest, which invades the Exchange District from July 15 to 26.

STACY CARDIGAN SMITH  
MANAGING EDITOR

In the mood for something fun and light-hearted? Check. Something for the whole family? No prob. What about something raunchy? You betcha.

The Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival has been making original theatre for 22 years, so it comes as little surprise there's something for everyone.

This year's official theme is Fringe Factory: Mass producing originality since 1988.

"The whole idea of mass producing originality is what we're all about," said Fringe Fest's executive producer Chuck McEwen. "A lot

of our themes are culturally-based, so this time we thought we'd do something different."

This year the Fringe features 146 companies performing in 24 venues for over 12 days from July 15 to 26, for a total of over 1,200 shows. The best part – Fringing is cheap, with shows costing between \$5 and \$9 each.

The Exchange District comes alive during Fringe Fest, and the beer gardens in Old Market Square are a favourite between-show hangout.

All fringe festivals are unjuried—meaning anything potentially goes and the audience decides – and this helps to ensure everyone will leave happy.

This year they had about 250

applicants and had to turn away about 100 shows, McEwen said.

"It's very tough to get into the Fringe each year."

With so many shows, how do you decide which ones to see?

"All you can do is pick what you like and go out. Word of mouth is still the best way to find out about the shows."

For more info, pick up a program for \$5 at the Manitoba Theatre Centre Box Office at 174 Market Avenue, the Info Tent in Old Market Square, any of the venues, or at Liquor Marts and Safeway stores throughout the city.

In the mean time, we've assembled a list of some of our faves and divided them up to correspond with your moods.

### In the mood for... Hard core speed rap?

#### MC Jabber & Friends [A Solo Show]

He's been described as an "artist of information overload," spitting his words at you through hard-core speed rap.

He was the first ever UK National Poetry Slam champ and is the male vocalist for Blue Foundation, the band featured on the *Twilight* and *Miami Vice* soundtracks.

Clearly, if you'd like to give your ears a listening workout, *MC Jabber & Friends [A Solo Show]* might be worth a go.

"I tend not to rehearse everything, because I find it quite interesting (though a little nerve-wracking) to keep the show quite open," said MC Jabber, a.k.a. Scott Martingell, via e-mail. "I tend to attract quite a young audience as well, so things can get a bit raucous sometimes," he added.

When a guy speaks so quickly, do audiences actually understand what he says?

"When it's that fast, it becomes more like vocal music than poetry. It's better to sit back, let it wash over you, pick out the words or phrases you can, and then make your own meaning with what you've absorbed."

### In the mood for... A mixture of classical and contemporary?

#### Breakdance for Solo Cello

Combining the freestyle form of breakdance with the somewhat rigid nature of Bach's *Suites for Unaccompanied*

*Cello*, might sound odd, but since breakdance is confined anytime it's put on the stage, it might not be such a stretch after all.

"If you want to see amazing breaking, you should go to a jam or battle, not a show," *Breakdance for Solo Cello* performer and artistic director Helen Simard wrote in an e-mail.

"Any time you put breakdance on stage, it has to be transformed and abstracted, otherwise, you get nothing more than a watered down form of the dance."

But where else will you see breakdancers performing with a cellist? At the Winnipeg shows, the Solid State Breakdancers will share the stage with Yuri Hooker, the lead cellist for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

"We hope that this will bring a new audience to a dance performance," Simard wrote.

### In the mood for... Something for the whole family?

#### School House Rock Live

Perhaps it's more of a journey down memory lane for the adults, but kids are sure to love *School House Rock Live*, too.

"It's a family fun show for all ages basically teaching the basics of English, math and sciences," said Nicholas Mather, who has the double role of both actor and executive producer for the show.

The musical, produced by Small Nest Productions, is based on the hit 1970s television show.

The show features some of the most

beloved songs from the show, including *Conjunction Junction*.

Some of the more American references, like *The Great American Melting Pot*, have been removed, however, as the producers felt they had the wrong feel and message for Canada.

What about *I'm Just a Bill*?

That one made the cut, "Cause that's one that everyone wants to hear."

### In the mood for... Zombies?

#### Zombie Prom

It's the '50s and on top of dealing with greasers, strict parents and cold war hysteria, Toffee must overcome the fact that her grad date is now a zombie.

Zombie Prom is a campy and satirical musical reminiscent of 1950s classics like *Grease* and *Rebel Without a Cause*. Complete with 16 actors and a four-piece band, the play is one of the larger Fringe productions.

"It's *Grease* meets *Rocky Horror* meets *Shaun of the Dead*," said actor, Aaron Pridham. "It appeals to a wide demographic. Kids will enjoy the quirkiness and older audiences will appreciate the references to old movies and musicals."

A \$2 discount will be given to anyone who comes to *Zombie Prom* dressed like a zombie.

- CHRIS HUNTER

### In the mood for... Something raunchy?

#### Inviting Desire: Theatrical Aphrodisiac

as actors, play writers, directors, producers, organizers and tech workers.

Honours student and fringe actor Aaron Pridham attributes the 50 per cent statistic to helpfulness of the staff.

"U of W theatre faculty staff are open and willing to help everyone."

Pridham believes it is the combined faculty's sheer passion for their art form that pushes students to succeed.

"Professors really want you to do well and encourage you to audition and contribute to shows."

Pridham contends there is no better opportunity for people interested in theatre.

This all-female show about women's sexual fantasies is sure to have something for everyone - except if you're looking for Internet-style porn.

"You go on the Internet and see naked girls spreading their pussy for you, but that's false," said Eleanor O'Brien, founder of Dance Naked Productions which is putting on the show.

The show tells the tales of four women.

"Some are sort of dark," she said of the stories. "Some are sort of taboo like the student/teacher fantasy and some are very funny... like there's one about Obama."

The show is for anyone, so long as they're over the age of 18, O'Brien, 37, said.

"It's very sexually positive. It's really embracing everyone - man, woman, gay, straight."

"It's a safe way to experience something outside of yourself, something different," she added.

### In the mood for... Getting in touch with your roots?

#### Heebz and Dweebz

Two-time Winnipeg Fringe Festival performer Amy Salloway is back, this time with *Heebz and Dweebz*.

"Compared to the two shows that I've taken to Winnipeg previously, *Heebz and Dweebz* is a little more classical storytelling."

The show sees four interwoven stories play out before audiences.

"There's a little more sense of narrative and storytelling and less running

around the stage frantically."

Salloway was initially concerned this change in technique would turn off Fringers, but she's since changed her tune.

And don't worry if you're not Jewish - Salloway said anyone can appreciate the show.

"I'd guess that most of my audiences haven't been Jewish."

### In the mood for... Boy bands?

#### Alter Boys

Don't worry if boy bands don't turn your knees weak.

"It appeals to all different audiences for different reasons. It's really about the camaraderie between the guys," said producer/director Kayla Gordon. "It's gonna appeal to a broad cross-section: The gay community, women over 40... and that's why it's been running off Broadway for two years."

Gordon was driven to produce *Alter Boys* after a challenge from a local actor and director who said she'd never find five local guys who could act, sing and dance.

When Gordon put out the casting call, she was met with 50 guys vying for roles as the five boy band members.

"They all have to be triple threats," Gordon said.

"I'm always amazed at the amount of talented people here between the ages of 20 and 35," said Gordon, a part-time University of Winnipeg theatre department professor and freelance director.

## U of W's theatre department contributes to the Fringe's success

Helpfulness of staff help actors of all skill levels put together great shows

CHRIS HUNTER  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

The Winnipeg Fringe Festival, conceived as an answer to the extremely popular Edinburgh Fringe Festival, has been around for just over 20 years. The festival has always served as an open and affordable oppor-

tunity to anyone interested in putting on a theatrical production. This, as you might imagine, is the ideal opportunity for University of Winnipeg students studying dramatic arts.

The Fringe is a great way for students to get started in the community. At around \$700, it is relatively inexpensive to rent a venue and produce a show. All the money made from tickets goes right back to the producers of plays and, being one of the most popular theatre events in the country, it is very rare that a fringe show will not make profit.

Nearly 50 per cent of Fringe shows are in some manner associated with U of W students and graduates. Students contribute

equipment," said Patty Hawkins, the theatre department's office manager.

The school has even dedicated a class to the fringe. "Special Studies: The Fringe" is a summer course that teaches students every aspect of producing a Fringe show. The class covers everything from public relations to acting to costume designs. This year the course will be producing Henrik Ibsen's classic, *A Doll's House*.

Pridham, Hasting and Hawkins assert the theatre faculty is very open and welcoming to anyone putting together a production.

"I don't think the Fringe would exist as we know it without U of W," Hawkins said.

# More accessible music for music's sake

Mixylodian's current reincarnation of Game Boy beats and sing-songy tracks takes Winnipeg

AARON EPP  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Kangaroos, koalas, throwing another shrimp on the barby – it's all in a day's work for Mikey Bwickers.

All right, that's not true at all. But, the 27-year-old Montreal musician is currently touring Australia with the latest incarnation of Mixylodian, the frenetic, analog synth-pop band he started in 2007.

Last year, when Aussie indie act Aleks and the Ramps toured eastern Canada, Bwickers drove them around in his 1979 Dodge van. To return the favour, they invited Mixylodian down under.

Only Bwickers could afford the trip, so the Ramps offered to learn all of the band's songs to back him up.

"We've been playing two sets a night – one as Mixylodian and one as Aleks and the Ramps," Bwickers wrote in an e-mail from "some sort of brick bunker" in Melbourne, Australia. "There's an elaborate costume change in the middle that masks their identities, so as to avoid conflict of interest."

Ditching one's bandmates might be weird for most bands, but it's just another part of Mixylodian's evolutionary process. What began as a solo side project has, at various points, been a nine-piece horn and string collective, a five-piece boy-girl pop ensemble, a four-piece boy band and a two-piece dance duo.



When you check out Mixylodian at the Lo Pub on Monday, July 27, be sure to ask him where we can find some of those fine camouflage tights.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIXYLODIAN

"The Canadian band has always been a kind of rotating roster of friends and lovers. Everyone who has ever played in Mixylodian... are some of the most amazing, lovely people I've ever met."

Bwickers describes the music as "kinda like if you threw a dozen '70s keyboards down a really echoey well, but then alternately, kinda

**"I make weird music. Sometimes I try to make less weird music."**

-MIKEY BWICKERS, MUSICIAN

like a post-apocalyptic desert island prison where one is forced to dance all day and all night to survive."

The songs are Bwickers' attempt at creating something that's more accessible than the music he wrote right after the dissolution of his last band, Dorian Hatchet, in 2006.

According to a 2008 article in *Nightlife* magazine, Bwickers developed a reputation in Montreal for being intensely devoted to practicing and writing music that was "just for music's sake" that "did not pander to the audience." Mixylodian is his way of breaking from that approach.

When asked about it, though, Bwickers' answer is short.

"I make weird music. Sometimes I try to make less weird music."

Whatever the case may be, Mixylodian are doing something

right. In addition to opening for the likes of Xiu Xiu and the Sunparlour Players, the group has earned rave reviews from *The Montreal Mirror* and *The National Post*.

Bwickers is currently planning the full-length follow-up to last year's debut EP, *K*.

"The Ramps and I are recording half of it while I'm out here, just for poops and giggles."

When he returns to Canada, Bwickers will tour back to Montreal under the Mixylodian name. He'll play the Lo Pub at the end of July.

"I'll be playing solo, with lots of Game Boy beats and sing-songy backing tracks," he promised.

And what else can Winnipegeers expect from the show?

"When I play live, my face scrunches up and my feet do dance moves that I am completely unaware of at the time."

⇒ See Mixylodian at the Lo Pub on Monday, July 27

⇒ DJ Co-Op, DJ Rob Vilar and Edmonton's Gobble Gobble will also perform

⇒ Doors open at 8 p.m. and the music starts at 9 p.m.

⇒ Visit [www.myspace.com/mixylodian](http://www.myspace.com/mixylodian)

## 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 issue will feature a new look from our city's streets and bars in an attempt to encourage individual expression and celebrate that you are really, really good looking.

**Andrea**  
"Just cruisin' around in my automobile."



## Free to be different

One man show High Watt Electrocutions happily cuts his own path

AARON EPP  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Ask Winnipeg musician Ryan Settee what inspires him to be different, and he'll answer with one word: Kittens.

Not the animal, but rather, the now-defunct Winnipeg noise-rock trio whose unique sound earned them a record deal with Sonic Unyon in the '90s.

In 1994, around the same time Kittens' music videos were being played on MuchMusic's *City Limits* show, Settee found himself in the same Glenlawn Collegiate art class as Kittens drummer David Kelly.

Settee couldn't believe that someone his age was making music that distinct from the mainstream, and being recognized for it.

"That was probably my epiphany around here that you could do something completely different," Settee said over beers at the Toad late last month. "It's gotten easier (to make music locally) since then, but I don't know if it's ever gotten better than that."

Settee, 30, is the brains behind High Watt Electrocutions, a one-man, drone-y, psychedelic metal act that is his own attempt at doing something different.

And different it is. His latest release, last year's *Desert Opuses*, is a concept album based, both musically and lyrically, on a Middle Eastern theme.



Ryan Settee likes to keep music as a hobby as it make him "pine for it a little more."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGH WATT ELECTROCUTIONS

Mastered by John Golden (Melvins, Sonic Youth), the album is a stoner/fuzz rock tour de force, drawing on influences like metal godfathers Black Sabbath and early '80s English rockers Spacemen 3.

As with his 2007 debut, *Night Songs*, Settee played and recorded almost everything himself in his home studio.

"If you can do something yourself, you should do it yourself. I hear full songs in my head, so it's hard to transpose it for another musician to play. It's not a control freak kind of thing – it's just easier to do it myself."

The LP version of *Desert Opuses* is pressed on to translucent gold 140 gram vinyl, and includes one track, *The Desert Winds*, that is not on the CD release. Conversely, the CD has two tracks, *Stripped Ruins* and *Evolution*, that are not on the

**"I think if you end up chasing whatever's popular, you'll just end up tomorrow's failure. So, you better find your own style."**

-RYAN SETTEE, MUSICIAN

LP.

It's all part of Settee's goal to provide music fans with a unique listening experience. He admits that *Desert Opuses* isn't for everyone, but he's also proud of that fact.

"I think if you end up chasing whatever's popular, you'll just end up tomorrow's failure. So, you better find your own style," he said. "If you can create something that's different, I think everybody should do that."

A tile salesman by day, Settee says he prefers to keep music as his hobby.

"If you don't do it (as a job), it makes you pine for it a little more," he said.

He adds that he has three albums' worth of material written that he's currently deciding what to do with.

"It's kind of hard to leave (music) alone if you really like to do it," he said. "It's liberating."

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE F-HOLES

## In and out with the F-Holes

The F-Holes share everything: Apartments, ideas, and wicked fashion sense.

### An intimate look at one of Winnipeg's favourite bands

IAN MCAMMOND  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

The F-Holes are a local band with unusual instrumentation: Five-string banjo, upright bass, trumpet, pedal steel, guitar, drums and mandolin are just some of the instruments the boys in the band change between. With such a variety of sounds, one wonders what their music sounds like.

"Asking what we sound like is like asking what you think you

look like. I look like Milt Stegal," said guitar man Blake Thomson.

The answer conveys a certain amount of truth, but after some gentle prodding Thomson gave a more reader-friendly answer.

"There's sort of a theme through this album. There's jazzy tunes, there's blues tunes, but I guess roots is how people tend to describe us."

Recording their self-titled debut came naturally to F-Holes. Formed in 2004 by friends Patrick Alexandre (vocals/bass), Eric Lemoine (banjo), Thomson (guitar) and Evan Friesen (drums), the band didn't find their current sound until trumpeter James McKee joined.

"The sound really came together three years ago when James joined the band on trumpet," said Lemoine. "That's when I started

playing banjo and Pat started playing the upright bass. Until then I played [electric] bass."

A weekly gig at Hooligan's Neighbourhood Pub allowed the F-Holes to experiment with different sounds and ideas while demoing acted as a filter to see what really worked. Still, this did not stop the band from recording a couple of last minute songs that had never been tested at shows ("Holding Out" and album closer "Goodbye"). According to Alexandre, the selection process was easy: They put on all the songs they wrote. To Lemoine, that may not be the whole story:

"The ones that sucked, we stopped playing."

Trial and error has kept the band flexible but has also allowed

them to find what works. When it came down to recording an album the guys knew exactly what they wanted, and they got it. Their weekly gig may now be a thing of the past, but that experience has certainly left its mark.

"It's pretty much how I learned to play the trumpet. These guys knew these songs and played together for a long time and I hadn't even heard most of them [the songs] before. I played for months without using a microphone because I didn't know that nobody could hear me!" said the sharply dressed McKee.

The F-Holes took their years of playing experience with them into the Bedside Studio in late 2008. Len Milne recorded the album over the course of three months. It was sealed and ready for their March

#### MUSIC AND EVENT LISTINGS

##### → Woodstock done by Winnipeg



The Times Change(d) redo Woodstock starting Friday, Aug 7.

Times sure have changed in the 40 years since Woodstock, but Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club is throwing a bash to commemorate the

anniversary of the three-day festival.

"It's a tribute to Woodstock from a Winnipeg perspective and that will make it particularly good because in the folk and roots vein I think we have the best scene in all of Canada," said a sleepy John Scoles, Times' janitor and president, at 10 a.m. on a Tuesday.

The party will run over two days and feature between 10 and 12 performances from a variety of musicians.

So far, the F-Holes have been commissioned to do a set at la The Band and Rodrigo Munoz (a.k.a. Papa Mambo) will play some Santana tunes, but many more will take the stage, Scoles said.

"These are regular talented musicians that have been influenced by them."

Times' Woodstock 40th Anniversary Show runs Friday, Aug. 7 and Saturday, Aug. 8 with music from the early evening till late. The cost is \$15 at the door and capacity is only 85, so get there early.

→ Summer Concerts at Historic St. James Church. Thursday evenings, with well-known bands including Still Standing, The Abigails, James Van Norma and Prairie Jewel. July 16, 23 and 30 and Aug. 13 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. James Church, corner of Tylhurst and Portage Avenue. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for seniors. For information phone 888-3489 or e-mail hgbirt@shaw.ca.

→ Tom Fun Orchestra, a nine-piece cluster rock ensemble from Cape Breton, NS, play the Park Theatre on Friday, July 17.

→ Fattooth, described as a new form of punk/metal that methodically touches every genre of rock and roll imaginable, along with Dreadnaut, play



COURTESY OF FATTOOTH

Fattooth play The Zoo Sat, July 25.

The Zoo on Saturday, July 25. They look scary, but their bark is probably bigger than their bite... We hope.

→ Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Ballet in the Park runs from July 22 to 24 at Assiniboine Park's Lyric Theatre. Free performances start at 7:30 p.m. nightly.



NATHAN BOONE

The Tom Fun Orchestra cluster rocks July 17.

→ Papa Mambo plays on top of the Winnipeg Art Gallery as part of the Jazz on the Rooftop series. Concert is Thursday, July 30, with doors and BBQ by Storm at 6 p.m. and concert at 7:30 p.m. at the WAG. Tickets are \$17 to \$20 and include admission to the gallery on the day of the concert. Other upcoming Jazz on the Rooftop concerts include The Brent Parkin Band on Aug.

27 release.

"It was a really good learning experience. It's very different compared to playing [shows] because you don't have to be so busy [dancing, looking good, etc.]. You can really orchestrate what you're doing. You can really play with the sound and what you're doing there because there's so much space," said Lemoine

The F-Holes say that their cohesive sound comes from spending so much time together. They readily admit that they barely practice and spend a heck of a lot more time getting drunk and biking around than sitting down and working on material. They not only hang out a lot and play in a band together, they also live together. Alexandre and McKee live in one house while Friesen, Thomson and Lemoine live in another. Being close friends means that they know each other's strengths and weaknesses and can be candid.

"One thing is everyone in the band respects each other's opinions. We can say 'that sucks' or 'keep doing that' but no one gets too mad about the 'that sucks' part," said Thomson.

When asked what they wanted readers of *The Uniter* to know about their music, Blake Thomson had an answer that was in keeping with their style:

"I am 6 feet tall, 205 lbs., blond with piercing Ukrainian eyes and when I take my shirt off, I look like Milt Stegal."

⇒ Want to see the F-Holes play live? Head out to the Manitoba Stampede in Morris for the weekend of July 17 and 18.

⇒ You can also check them out at the Fire and Water Festival in Lac du Bonnet on July 24 and 25.

⇒ For more information, see <http://www.myspace.com/patrickalexandre>.

13 and Walle Larsson on Aug. 27.

→ CKUW 95.9 FM presents the Downtown Coffee Ground 2nd Year Anniversary Party! 5 to 7 p.m.: kids' activities and all ages open mic; 7 to 8:30 p.m.: J.U.S.T. Words poetry in the round with host Werner VAN Harder and Better Homes For Meaner People, Zofia Monika, Juan Co. T'ai Pu, DINAC and more; 8:45 to 11:30 p.m.: evening program with featured guests Lois Gillespie, Sister Dorothy and Aliza & The KGB. Monday, August 10 at the Red Road Lodge, 631 Main Street. Cost is \$10. For more information: [downtown-coffeeground@gmail.com](mailto:downtown-coffeeground@gmail.com) or 480-8565.

Want your listing in *The Uniter*?

Send your info to [listings@uniter.ca](mailto:listings@uniter.ca) eight days before publication.

We publish once a month during the summer, and every Thursday during the school year. The next issue is out August 12.

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# Tour the world without hopping a plane

Folklorama celebrates 40th anniversary with passports

MARIA LAUREANO  
VOLUNTEER

With Winnipeggers' diverse ethnic backgrounds, it's no surprise that Folklorama is a local favourite, but many argue the two-week festival offers stereotypical "Canadianized" versions of culture rather than authentic portrayals.

Ron Gauthier, Folklorama's executive director, said feedback to date has found otherwise.

An internal survey conducted by Pele Research in 2007 found 85 per cent of those who attended the festivities said the pavilions met their expectations and 83 per cent were satisfied with the entertainment, he said.

Perhaps these high satisfaction rates explain why this year marks Folklorama's 40th anniversary.

People have enjoyed the festival since 1970, when the first Folklorama was created to celebrate Manitoba's centennial with 21 pavilions. Today, there are 41 pavilions running from Aug. 2 to 15.

To commemorate their 40th anniversary Folklorama is bringing back travel passports, which



Folklorama features 41 pavilions running over two weeks.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOLKLORAMA

have not been seen since their 25th anniversary.

Passports can be personalized with people's photos and any other information they are willing to share, just like a real passport.

Passports allow patrons unlimited access to pavilions and to bypass lineups. Folklorama will be

pre-selling these until the week before the festival with limited quantities available. Passports cost \$150 each, but if you consider that the \$5 entry fee to all the pavilions would cost \$205, the savings add up.

These are available online at [www.folklorama.ca](http://www.folklorama.ca) or by calling 982-6210.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Here's a quick guide to this year's festivities:

⇒ Folklorama runs from Aug. 2 to 15 with 41 pavilions.

⇒ The kickoff takes place Aug. 1 at The Forks. Activities start at 5 p.m., with main show taking the stage at 7 p.m. The headliner is a group from Uganda.

⇒ Travel guides tell you everything you need to know about Folklorama and can be picked up at any Liquor Mart or select Western Union locations.

Folklorama is also expanding its VIP world tour this year from two to three buses per day. The VIP tour allows people to travel to three pavilions and enjoy reserved seating and a progressive meal, with an appetizer at the first location, dinner at the second and dessert at the third, plus a drink at all three. World tours include a central location pick-up and travel in a luxury air conditioned motor coach. They cost \$64.95 per person.

Back for the second year is the popular Folklorama beer, specially brewed by Fort Garry Brewing Company. The beer can be picked up at the pavilions or at any Winnipeg Liquor Mart locations while quantities last.

For more information on Folklorama, visit [www.folklorama.ca](http://www.folklorama.ca).

## WHAT'S NEW

⇒ This is the first year for the Columbia pavilion (performing week 1) and the Cuba pavilion (performing week 2). Both are bringing in groups from their respective countries to perform. The Cuban pavilion will also feature a cigar roller from Cuba.

⇒ The Mexico pavilion is returning after a hiatus from Folklorama and will be performing week 1. They will also bring in group from their native country.

⇒ The Germany pavilion is also bringing in a group and will be performing during week 1.

# The young and the restless



Programs give emerging musicians and artists exposure at Winnipeg Folk Festival

AARON EPP  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Elvis Costello and Arlo Guthrie may have been the big names that drew audiences to the 36th annual Winnipeg Folk Festival, but up-and-coming musicians you've never heard of were in the spotlight on the Shady Grove stage during the festival's first full day.

For the 10th year, the Folk Festival presented its Young Performers Program. Over 40 young musicians between the ages of 14 and 24 took part.

"It was incredible – I've never played before so many people before," 19-year-old Sarah Skinner said after performing in front of the festival crowd Friday, July 10.

The Inglis, Man. native played two songs with her friend, Haylan Jackson.

The program began the day before, when participants spent the day preparing for their performances with one of five mentors from the festival's musical line-up.

"We've already taken a couple of the things that we learned [that day] and applied them to our music," said Jackson, who was mentored by Tony Dekker, lead singer of Toronto's Great Lake Swimmers.

Dekker said he mostly acted as a sounding board for the young musicians. Some asked questions about how to release a record, while others asked creative questions, like "Is this chorus too long?"

"I've never done anything quite like that before, and it was pretty gratifying to watch young people developing their styles and their songwriting," Dekker said.

While most of the performers hailed from Manitoba, a handful came from Alberta, Ontario and even Pennsylvania.

Machinery, an experimental indie trio, drove over 1,500 kilometres from their home in Grande Prairie, Alta. to be at the festival.



Magnus von Tiesenhausen (right) and Ashton Klassen (left) are both members of the Grande Prairie trio Machinery.

"We thought it would be a great opportunity to make connections, get exposure and meet a lot of people," said banjo player Magnus von Tiesenhausen, who heard about the program online. The 18-year-old was glad he and his band mates made the trip.

"It was really, really interesting. We kind of learned a lot about dynamics and arrangements, and



PHOTO BY AARON EPP

got to meet some really cool acts," said Machinery guitarist Ashton Klassen.

In addition to the 10th Young Performers Program, this year's Folk Festival marked the fifth edition of the Young Artists Program. Aimed at visual artists between the ages of 14 and 18, the program gives emerging artists the opportunity to make art for four days at the Winnipeg

Art Gallery (WAG) studios, which is later displayed at the festival.

This year's theme challenged artists to create eco-friendly artworks from materials made from scratch. Instead of paint, for example, artists used paprika, beets, grass and coffee.

"It was hectic and great because we collaborated with all these different artists and we were exchanging all these different ideas," said 17-year-old participant Christy Taronno.

"It's a pretty neat program – any time you get a chance to make art at the WAG studios, it's a good time."

Tamara Kater, the Winnipeg Folk Festival's executive director, says both programs are an important part of the festival's mandate.

"They're fostering a new generation of artists, and teaching the mentoring artists how to be better teachers," she said. "We really see it as our role to be leaders in that field and to try as much as possible to support the next generation of ... performers."

For more information, visit [www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca](http://www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca).

## FOLK FEST DELIVERS YET AGAIN

Great music, huge crowds and decent-to-excellent weather characterized the 36th annual Winnipeg Folk Festival, which took place July 8 to 12 at Birds Hill Park.

Rock legend Elvis Costello and his band the Imposters helped kick off an expanded five-day festival with their first performance in the city since the 1970s.

Other main stage highlights included The Del McCoury Band, Arlo Guthrie, Neko Case and the

Winnipeg debut of Texas singer-songwriter Sam Beam, better known by his stage name, Iron & Wine.

"This is a real treat," Beam told the crowd early on in his 13-song, Friday night set. "I don't think I've ever seen this many people outside, listening to quiet folk music."

On the alternative stage, Big Blue @ Night, highlights included performances by Bell Orchestre, DJ Logic and Patrick Watson.

The music wasn't relegated to just the night, though. Most of the 400

performers also took to the daytime stages, where festival goers took in workshops that featured the likes of C.R. Avery, the Punch Brothers, Loudon Wainwright III, Ridley Bent and Watermelon Slim.

In addition to the music, the festival featured various art installations including a labyrinth in the shape of an insert for a 45 record; small, original paintings by Winnipeg artist Cyrus Smith; and The Secondhandpants' ever-popular science-folktron jukebox sideshow.

The usual array of shops and eat-

ing options kept festival goers busy between musical sets. Parents with young children had the option of visiting the family area, where children could make art or listen to musicians like local legend Fred Penner.

Once again, the festival broke attendance records, with a reported average of 14,600 people on site every day.

Next year's festival is scheduled for July 8 to 11.

—AARON EPP

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# Not just fancy bronze cows

Joe Fafard's concurrent shows display his growth as an artist and varied abilities

JAMES CULLETON  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Artist Joe Fafard has concurrent exhibitions in Winnipeg this month. The magnitude and scope of these two exhibits highlight his incredible eye for detail and establish him as one of Canada's foremost sculptors and an expert in portraiture.

The first exhibition, a traveling retrospective currently at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG), will tour across Canada to seven different locations and includes over 70 sculptures. This exhibition is Fafard's first major solo retrospective and contains work from the past 40 years. The second exhibition, at Mayberry Fine Art, showcases some of his newer work.

Fafard, a francophone from Saskatchewan, is well known nationally for his portraits of people and animals.

The WAG exhibition includes "Manitoba," where the subject's facial expression is full of intrigue and Fafard's attention to detail comes out in the character's shoes and clothing. At times, the facial expressions and gestures of his portraits are so animated it feels as if the viewer is in the presence of a live person.

In most of Fafard's portraits of people, the objects within the piece help describe the people he is depicting. A worn wooden chair or cluttered workshop tell a lot about the characters and it's these details



Fafard's "Cibu II" (above) and "Trojan" (below) are on display at Mayberry Fine Art.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAYBERRY FINE ART



that offer insight into the hidden narrative of the pieces.

His animal portraits are also far from generic. As with people, Fafard captures the character of each animal he portrays. This often comes from working from photographs or "sitting with the animal and getting to know it," said Ryan Mayberry of Mayberry Fine Art.

Although he is mostly known for his cow sculptures and bronze

work, Fafard is constantly pushing himself as an artist.

Fafard's latest creative breakthrough is laser cut steel, examples of which are seen in both of the exhibits.

In a piece at Mayberry called "Othello II," Fafard uses the steel form of a cow to create a narrative using the images of birds, trees and people, which are delicately cut into the piece using a CNC (computer numerical control) router. The router, powered by a computer, uses a laser to cut Fafard's drawing out of steel.

"Joe isn't one to rest on his laurels," Shaun Mayberry said when discussing Fafard's creativity and constant push towards innovative sculptures.

In another Mayberry piece called "Trojan," Fafard creates a sculpture of horse made of scraps of wood and then casts it in bronze. The wood grain, now painted in black,

resembles burnt wood.

In "Cibu II," Fafard takes a two-dimensional line drawing of a cow and transforms it into a metal, free-standing sculpture. Somehow, in this transformation, Fafard's sculpture maintains the qualities of the line drawing, but at the same time manages to occupy a three dimensional space, which makes for a particularly interesting piece.

Fafard's two exhibitions show that he is not only innovative, but also very prolific. Each piece is rich in texture, depth and detail.

"Fafard's work is a combination of hard work, motivation and collaboration," said Shaun Mayberry. "He's a modern day Rodin."

Joe Fafard's work shows at the WAG until Sept. 27 and at Mayberry until Sept. 4.

## MOVIE REVIEW

### Punk's powerful influence, from Canada to Indonesia and back again

#### **The Punks Are Alright**

Directed by: Douglas Crawford

Running time: 1h 27m

Playing at: Cinematheque on July 24 and 25 at 9 p.m., August 12 and 13 at 7 p.m.

★★★★☆

LISA MOORE  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Douglas Crawford's documentary *The Punks Are Alright* traces the influence of punk music around the world, from Ontario to Jakarta, Indonesia. The film opens with Hamilton's Forgotten Rebels, part of punk's original wave in the late 1970s, and brings us to unlikely places thousands of kilometers and decades away.

Using interview and concert footage, *The Punks Are Alright* presents punk as a means of protest and expression that transcends language and geography. Crawford shows us how a decades-old Forgotten Rebels song



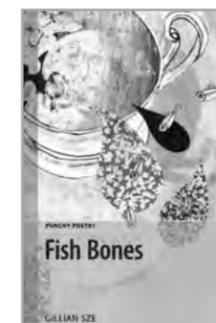
Not all bad: punk's influence on various countries is the topic of Douglas Crawford's documentary.

can inspire a kid in Latin America to start a band that in turn offers hope and a sense of community to a frustrated factory worker in Indonesia. For kids in the streets of Sao Paulo, punk and DIY-culture offer an alternative to drugs and gangs. In Indonesia, punk helps to channel the anger of the industrial working class.

In each country punk comes up against a different set of economic conditions and social forces and in each it is made anew.

Like the music itself, *The Punks Are Alright* is passionate, socially conscious and loosely structured. It's an earnest look at the power of art that, in the end, is lot of fun.

## BOOK REVIEW



*Fish Bones* a lively and engaging read

CHRIS CAMPBELL  
VOLUNTEER

Gillian Sze's debut book of poetry, *Fish Bones*, is anything but the cold fossil described in the title. Her poetry and imagination shimmer with life, vitality and peculiar beauty.

*Fish Bones* is a series of "powerful and precise artefact poems" – as described on the book jacket – which emerges from Sze's interaction with art-objects in galleries as varied as Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

But Sze's poetry, while receiving the "first spark" of inspiration from art-objects, stands worthily on its own. Her poetry is deeply sensual and charged with relational wisdom – romantic, familial, aesthetic, or otherwise. The very substance of interaction becomes the contact point of Sze's poetry, balancing tenaciously between past and present, memory and experience.

In "Forget-Me-Not," Sze describes the eruption of memory in the present moment. A husband is thrown back into remembrances of a former lover by his wife's pictures and anecdotes from a trip to Peru. Sze brings a vivid wisdom to this moment, writing of the husband's discovery "that the possibility to forget / is as brief as his reflection / on the window of a closing door."

In "Alone on the Other Side of the World," Sze describes the emotional effects of (physical) distance. "Tonight you feel farther than ever" begins the narrator, and then subsequently admits "My mind has started playing tricks." The cashier's words and the sound of a moth in the house become the presence of the poem's "you." Memory becomes the absent presence in the poem, which overtakes the narrator and comes to represent the experience of distance.

Throughout these poems, Sze manages to capture the gritty moments of life experience and the profound reality that the past informs the present. Inescapably, the past leaves its marks on the present and shapes a person's experience of others.

For example, "How To Be Dead" describes the thin line between existence and invisibility, taking the death of the unnamed "you" and considering one's own "ghostly" existence. "Animal Tracks" describes the significance of a forest excursion examining animal footprints with "sister" in terms of a past moment of diagnosis – "atypical cells / in your test results."

All in all, Sze's *Fish Bones* is a strong literary debut and worth reading. Her voice is both vibrant and wise, offering a perspective that reflects life, in all its unpredictability, and captures something of love.

Sze was born and raised in Winnipeg and now resides in Toronto. She has an MA in creative writing from Concordia University.

Sze will be giving two readings in Winnipeg at the end of August: on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at Aqua Books at 7 p.m., and on Thursday, Aug. 27 at McNally Robinson Polo Park at 7:30 p.m.

## FILM LISTINGS

### Nonsensical films?

Nonsense? Nonsense! is a film festival featuring the works of Toronto filmmaker Deirdre Logue and local filmmakers/performers Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan. It is curated by Jenny Bisch. "Unique in their specific expression, each film in this program takes internal conflict and turns it out," states a media release. "Through the physical manifestation of these struggles within, we can finally come face-to-face with ourselves." The films shown will include Logue's *Enlightened Nonsense*, and Dempsey and Milan's *Peril!* and *Medusa Raw*. The event will also feature an artist talk with Logue and Dempsey. The event takes place at 7 p.m. on Wed., July 22 at Cinematheque and is free.

## ART LISTINGS

**On the Fringe II??** Exhibition features local artists bringing art to street level. Opens July 17 at 7:30 pm and runs Thursday to Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m. until July 26 at Outworks Gallery, 290 McDermot.

**The Art of David Macri.** Drawings and paintings, exhibition and sale. Opens July 25 at 7 p.m. and runs Tuesday to Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. until Aug. 7 at the Exchange Community Building, 75 Albert (second floor).

**Peter Prince & Jackie Traverse.** Curated by Cliff Eyland. Opens July 16 and runs until Aug. 18 at Urban Shaman Gallery, 203-290 McDermot Avenue.

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# Winnipeg blogs

*In these changing times it's hard to know exactly the role blogs play and the power they wield, but they surely do help combat the apathy that so often plagues society. Below, we analyze the power of blogs in Winnipeg and beyond, and list some of our favourites.*

**Blogs offer a different take on the news, but beware the anonymous blogger**

**MATT PREPOST**  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

The point of any news organization is to break news – if they're not telling the story first, they're not remaining relevant to their readers.

The only problem is that some readers aren't even turning to the big daily newspapers or nightly newscasts anymore. Instead, readers are going online and turning to their favourite local blogs to gather information and opinions about the happenings in the world around them.

Blogs are changing the face of the news industry and giving an impatient and hyperactive society more options to gather information.

"People generally visit a news blog to get their daily fix of information and to weed out long articles and filler content from the wires that many other mainstream media websites publish from," said ChrisD, who runs the Winnipeg news blog ChrisD.ca. "In the era of social media and blogs, most users prefer to read short and to

the point posts to get the facts and move on."

"Blogs take a completely different approach to how a story is covered. The mainstream media aims to not step on anybody's toes – after all, they don't want to blow their chances at landing an interview with someone down the road. Bloggers don't really have that responsibility and tend to be more judgmental in their coverage and people appreciate that approach."

Still, blogs have a symbiotic relationship with the mainstream media, said Shannon Sampert, politics of mass media professor at the University of Winnipeg.

"Mainstream media works as a news generator on which blogs will comment," Sampert said.

Graham Hnatiuk, who runs the commentary blog Progressive Winnipeg, agreed.

"I depend on the mainstream media breaking a news story or press conference before I can comment on anything," said the 23-year-old University of Manitoba student.

But that doesn't mean the blogosphere can't scoop the mainstream media.

Hnatiuk was the only person in the city who reported details from a recent public consultation held by media mogul David Asper on

the new Bomber stadium – a consultation that crept by mainstream outlets with nary a whisper – which left Hnatiuk with plenty of questions on the state of mainstream media.

"Isn't that a local issue? Shouldn't there be a story on that?" he said. "Don't they have an obligation to their subscribers and more importantly, the citizens of Winnipeg, to report this stuff?"

Hnatiuk is comfortable with

stamping his name on his product.

"People know my real name and they can put a face to the website," Hnatiuk said. "People can make a personal connection with the things I write about."

Some bloggers, like ChrisD for example, choose to keep their identities partially hidden.

"Most people simply know me as 'ChrisD' anyway, so it's best to leave it at that."

He had his domain registered for

personal blogging long before it became a news service.

"I began blogging about events in my every day life, then turned it into more media and news focused topics," he said. "It snowballed from there and has stuck ever since."

Sampert cautioned that bloggers who choose to remain anonymous, like the political blog the Black Rod, could damage their credibility.

"Being anonymous, you can say all sorts of things you wouldn't say if you had to put it to your byline," she said.

Anonymous blogs tend to be partisan-driven, and "one-sided and incredibly misguided," Sampert said.

"Partisan blogs are only preaching to the converted and not saying anything that will change anyone's mind."

Being anonymous also increases the amount of "drive-by slander," something that Sampert has no use for.

"A valuable blog is one that attempts to do more than just create scandal and conflict," Sampert said. "It works on the side of fairness and balance and the values of trained journalists."

We were unable to contact the Black Rod for comment.



Graham Hnatiuk is the 23-year-old University of Manitoba student behind the Progressive Winnipeg blog. Unlike some city bloggers, Hnatiuk is comfortable associating his real name with his blog. "People can make a personal connection with the things I write about."

PHOTO BY GARRETT ELIAS

## NOTABLE BLOGS IN THE CITY

**There isn't any rhyme or reason to the order, and we realize we've missed some goodies, but here's a list of some of our favourite Winnipeg blogs. If you have any suggestions, e-mail editor@uniter.ca.**

### ChrisD.ca

<http://www.chrisd.ca>

One of Winnipeg's fastest growing blogs, ChrisD is a perfect example of citizen journalism, where readers are encouraged to send in news tips and photos for a chance to win prizes.

"Myself, and the other bloggers who write for the site, do cover a lot of the same stories as the mainstream outlets do," said ChrisD, a former University of Manitoba and Red River student who runs the blog. "We'll often go out with our own cameras to newsworthy events or press conferences and put up footage showing a different viewpoint, often shining the spotlight on the media."

That spotlight on the media has resulted in plenty of bloopers from local TV news, becoming a popular staple of the blog. A clip of a Winnipeg sports reporter flubbing a tennis player's name has over 30,000 views, driving traffic to the site, he said.

ChrisD works as an Internet marketer and website designer, but said maintaining the blog has quickly turned into full-time commitment.

- MATT PREPOST

### Progressive Winnipeg

<http://progressivewinnipeg.blogspot.com/>

It took Graham Hnatiuk awhile to find his blogging voice. What started as a local environmental blog blended with his passion for music, spawned into a larger commentary of the state of Winnipeg.

Hnatiuk seems to want what every Winnipegger wants – a rational, cohesive and progressive plan for the future of the city.

"I was thinking of names," Hnatiuk recalls. "I wanted something witty, maybe a bit

smart-ass and with meaning. One day it came to me, 'Progressive Winnipeg.' I thought, 'what a great oxymoron.'"

Progressive Winnipeg is non-partisan, and Hnatiuk admits that he's one of the youngest bloggers in the city.

"I'm a politically active person in a generation that is by and large completely apathetic to politics, locally or otherwise. I don't support any one political party, and I think that makes my voice important because I'm not looking at things through a filter. I'm using my voice to get my opinions out there just on what I think is the right thing to do."

- MATT PREPOST

### The Black Rod

<http://blackrod.blogspot.com/>

The identity of this blogger remains a myth, but rumours abound in both the blogging community and the mainstream media on this anonymous, popular and controversial blogger. Some speculate it's a disgruntled former *Free Press* employee. Others think Marty Gold from the Great Canadian Talk Show on KICK FM.

Either way, this blogger remains in the shadow as he continues to light flames underneath the feet of politicians and local media.

Posts on the Black Rod, however, tend to read like condescending lectures. To make things worse, if you manage to finish reading the lengthy essays, you aren't even given the option to comment, effectively shutting off any sort of public discourse. This, unfortunately, leaves the impression that the Black Rod is always right, and everyone else is always wrong.

- MATT PREPOST

### Winnipeg Love and Hate

<http://www.winnipeglovehate.com/>

Winnipeg Love and Hate shows us the city through the lens of photographer Bryan Scott, and it shows some of the city's most beautiful, and ugliest, sides.

"In one word, I guess I'm trying to capture the soul of Winnipeg, a soul at least I see," he said.

Scott, a 35-year-old graphic designer, has been blogging at Winnipeg Love and Hate for just over a year.

"It was through photography that I really started loving the city," he said. "When you point a camera at something, you have to find something worth taking a picture [of]."

Scott believes it's easy for people who live in Winnipeg to miss the beauty.

"Lots of the things about Winnipeg are easy to hate, especially compared to larger cities," he said, citing the weather, bugs and poverty.

Nonetheless, there is a magic about the city that comes through on the blog, which between 120 and 140 people view per day.

- STACY CARDIGAN SMITH

### West End Dumplings

<http://westenddumplings.blogspot.com/>

West End Dumplings is an assortment of thoughts from Winnipeg West Ender Christian Cassidy.

"It's just kind of like dim sum, I do an assortment," he said.

Before he started West End Dumplings, 41-year-old Cassidy would frequently contribute to local forums. He started his blog out of a desire to form something more permanent.

"You're kind of creating an archive of ideas and opinions and interesting links," he said of blogs.

With an interest in urban studies and history, Cassidy said he looks through Henderson Directories – old phone book-like documents that list people's occupations – for fun.

There is some relationship between such old directories and blogs, but Cassidy realizes an online archive is more fickle than the old Henderson Directories.

"Technology can change and you can take it all away."

Cassidy attempts to take a largely positive look at the city in his blog, which he started about a year ago and has had about 23,000 hits to date.

It's easy for people to criticize the city, and many do, he said.

"There's lots of places to bitch, but it's nice if you can get a blog and kind of point out interesting things."

- STACY CARDIGAN SMITH

### The Breakfast Connoisseurs

[www.breakfastwinnipeg.com](http://www.breakfastwinnipeg.com)

Wondering where to go for breakfast? The Breakfast Connoisseurs have got you covered.

Breakfast Winnipeg started after buddies Leif Norman and Andrew McMonagle decided they needed to expand their inventory of Winnipeg breakfast locales.

"We just really enjoyed going out for breakfast and realized we were going to the same places all the time – [mainly] The Nook – and wanted to expand," said McMonagle, who is a *Uniter* staff member.

The guys started their blog in June of 2007 and expect to write their 100th review in the late fall.

They have received quite a bit of publicity for their website, with a regular spot on CKUW's Eat Your Arts and Vegetables, and interviews with CBC radio and the *Winnipeg Free Press* under their belts.

They rack up about 900 hits per month on their website, and have a about 250 friends on their Facebook group.

"We've got a very long list of places to go on our Facebook group and people are always writing us and telling us places to go."

- STACY CARDIGAN SMITH

### Winnipeg O' My Heart

<http://www.winnipegomyheart.com/>

The trials and tribulations of three newcomers to Winnipeg is the topic of Winnipeg O' My Heart.

Aaron Fitchette, 28, Emma Wood, 28 and Laurel Fulford, 29, friends from the West Coast now blogging about their lives in the heart of the continent, have quickly won their way into 'Peggars' hearts. Since starting their blog in February, they've been featured on CBC Radio and interviewed by Bartley Kives, Ace Burpee, and filmmaker Paula Kelly.

"Things are going really well," said Fitchette. "To be honest, I think that most people blog negatively, not positively."

This positive outlook is what Fitchette believes draws people to the blog. But for this reason, some people have charged them of blogging for Destination Winnipeg and other booster organizations; Fitchette is adamant the Hearsters blog for themselves.

"We don't accept money for what we do because we enjoy it."

Compared to the West Coast, Fitchette said many Winnipeg blogs seem to focus on the wellbeing of the city.

"It comes back to an introspective side that Winnipeggers have. It's the Guy Maddin thing."

"Maybe blogging is just a creative expression of the musicians and the artists."

Much of the blog's traffic comes from their Tweets on Twitter. They are one of the only blogs in the city to utilize Twitter, Fitchette said.

- STACY CARDIGAN SMITH

### The Rise and Sprawl

<http://riseandsprawl.blogspot.com>

The Rise and Sprawl is one of the city's most authoritative blogs on urban living and development. Robert Galston, a regular *Uniter* contributor, started blogging back in January 2005. Since his early posts, he has found a voice and a lot of power in the city – breaking news stories, scooping the mainstream media, and getting quoted by many journalists.

"The blog has mostly been commentary, rather than looking for stories myself," he said via e-mail.

Some of the stories he has broken, however, include the West End Mark mural in the summer of 2008, as well as various development issues.

This 27-year-old practices what he preaches, raising his young family in North Point Douglas.

- STACY CARDIGAN SMITH

Read more at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca).

# Salinger wins suit over *Catcher* sequel

But who really holds the rights to Holden?

CAITLIN LAIRD  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

*The Catcher in the Rye* is one of those ecumenical books deemed to be a classic – mandatory reading for the masses and a mainstay of the high school English curriculum. But when a piece of literature becomes a part of our culture, where does creative freedom end and plagiarism begin?

A great many have become enthralled and subsequently zealous when it comes to Holden Caulfield, the unparagoned voice of the novel and one of the literature's most celebrated anti-heroes.

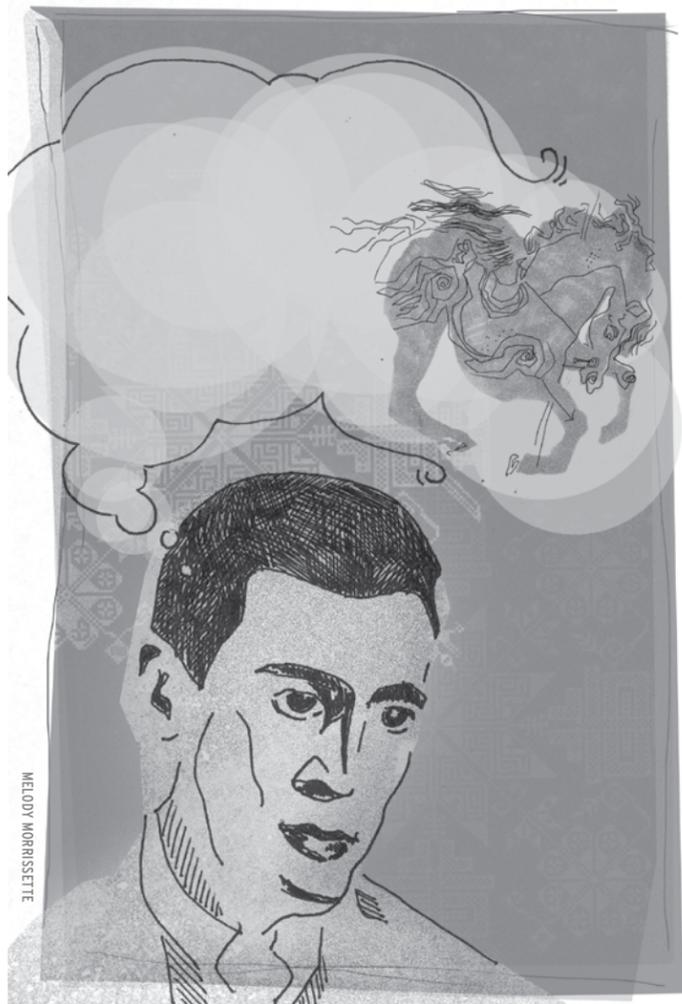
Now, a Swedish publisher writing under the assumed name John David "J.D." California has penned an unauthorized "sequel," *60 Years Later: Coming through the Rye*. *Catcher's* author J.D. Salinger has successfully sued him to ban publication of the book.

The presiding judge ruled for Salinger in early July, despite the assertion from California's camp that the banning of the novel impinged on the California's right to freedom of expression and creativity.

J.D. California has been the focus of much media attention and Internet speculation for the past couple of months. Needless to say, Salinger was not the only one adamantly opposed to a desecration of the sacrosanct Caulfield.

We got in touch with California via e-mail, who set the record straight. Sort of.

"I think if anybody is capitalizing on this it's Salinger. I have heard sales of *Catcher* have gone sky high...I don't think suing someone is the best solution for a man who just wants to be left alone," explains California, whose real name



MELODY MORRISSETTE

was recently revealed to be Fredrik Colting.

You mean J.D. California isn't his real name?!

For the past 50 years or so, Salinger has fashioned himself as the archetypal eccentric writer: reclusive and litigious. He has even sued to stop his own work from being published. Given his past

behaviour and the current media frenzy surrounding *60 Years Later*, questions have been raised as to whether the book was written purely to capitalize off of Salinger's highly publicized fury. Many have speculated that the book doesn't exist at all. Colting categorically denies both claims.

"It's not a money thing for me.

I have another job. I have enough to eat and live fine as it is. This is about creating. I find it appalling that things [which] belong to everyone, things you can't own like fantasy and creativity, are being vandalized by greedy authors and their childish lawyers, hiding be-

**"Things [which] belong to everyone, things you can't own like fantasy and creativity, are being vandalized by greedy authors and their childish lawyers."**

- J.D. CALIFORNIA, AUTHOR OF *60 YEARS LATER: COMING THROUGH THE RYE*

hind laws that were meant to boost creativity and creation and not hinder it."

Catherine Hunter, head of the English department at the University of Winnipeg, thinks Colting has a valid argument.

"The question of whether or not something is plagiarism or parody goes to intent. In this case, the author wasn't trying to pretend that he invented Holden Caulfield. Certain artworks and characters go beyond themselves and become culturally iconic. How can they not be reinvented?"

Caulfield has certainly carved out a corner of the public consciousness. This means that in a sense, he also belongs to those who have come to identify with him.

Rachel Vien, a 23-year-old University of Manitoba graduate, believes that of any book she has read, Caulfield as a character has been easiest to identify with.

"Holden is very relatable in the

sense that he was just a school-aged kid who was trying to find his way through life in his own unique way. He seemed to have different motives than everyone around him who was the same age."

Unauthorized sequels are not fresh territory. But while many canonical authors have had their works pillaged – think of the recent smash *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* – this case is slightly different because Salinger, albeit 90-years-old, is still alive and game for a fight when it comes to protecting his intellectual property. The plot of *60 years later* includes a characterization of Salinger as he relates to Caulfield, who is now in his 70s and escapes a retirement home to roam the streets of New York once again.

"I feel sympathy for Salinger," adds Hunter. "But as a citizen within society I find that banning the book could be creatively stifling."

Colting's lawyers argued the same thing. They also attested that *60 Years Later* was not a sequel at all but rather a critique of *Catcher*.

Unfortunately, the judge did not agree.

"The essence of *60* is to discover the results of when a writer creates and the responsibilities he has to it after...It's a modern day Frankenstein. I truly believe it has a lot to offer readers in terms of viewing the Salinger/Holden relationship. Many literary experts have examined and commented on *Catcher*. The fact that I've done the same in a highly creative way should make no difference," Colting said.

"In many ways I believe *60* is a much more creative story than *Catcher*...I had no idea Salinger would sue us. I'm just a guy from Sweden!"

## THE UNITER

### The Uniter is seeking a business manager

The University of Winnipeg's Student Weekly is seeking a dynamic and motivated individual to take over the business operations of the newspaper. This individual should have at least two years progressive responsibility in management. They must possess a solid understanding of the publishing industry and the needs of a controlled copy urban weekly that suits the needs of both the campus and downtown community.

This individual will be responsible for all business aspects of the paper including advertising, circulation, finances and business development.

The following job opportunity is for 30 hour per week part-time position from September to December 2009 and continuing on a full-time permanent basis there after. The position has a two-week holiday period as well as a Christmas break. It is based upon a \$21,000 salary per year (pro rata) with a chance for increased wages in March 2010.

Please note this is not an editorial position.

#### Skill Requirements:

- \* Ability to prioritize tasks, make decisions and work independently, act with a high degree of integrity and professionalism.

- \* Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.

- \* Knowledge and familiarity with Macintosh operating systems, computer software for Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Database management, e-mail and Internet, and accounting.

- \* Ability to manage the newspaper's circulation, advertising, and event contracts.

- \* Ability to oversee and coordinate financial management of the newspaper.

- \* Familiarity with publishing, web publishing and new media including the ability to oversee production of a weekly newspaper.

- \* Familiarity with grant writing, budgeting and project coordination a must.

#### Duties:

- \* **ADMINISTRATION:** Responsible for all office communications, by mail, phone, fax and e-mail, including inquiries and orders relating to circulation, finances, advertising, production, promotions and fundraising, etc.

- \* **STAFF SUPERVISION:** In association with the managing editor, the business manager will oversee all staff and execute the organization's human resources policy of a safe and healthy workplace.

- \* **CIRCULATION:** Manages the newspaper's circulation records by consistently

updating, monitoring and optimizing new and existing circulation drop points. Maintain a mailing list for *The Uniter*.

- \* **ADVERTISING:** Acts as the newspaper's advertising representative, recruiting new clients and managing current clients, preparing contracts, proposals and packages, revising rate cards, invoicing and collecting revenue.

- \* **MENTORING:** The business manager of *The Uniter* will be responsible for providing a mentoring environment for all staff of the paper and will from time-to-time be consulted upon for editorial advice and publishing expertise. The individual must also be able to assess, strategize and react to changing climates in the publishing industry as it relates to the newspaper's niche market.

- \* **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:** Oversees financial management of newspaper including payroll. Must prepare and submit annual budget and actuals to the Board of Directors.

- \* **PRODUCTION:** Oversees printing and mailing of magazine issues, and acts as a liaison with the printer and production manager. Manages printing contract.

- \* **DEVELOPMENT:** Works in conjunction with the board of directors to execute the Strategic Plan of *The Uniter*. This may include preparing grant applications to funding bodies and maintaining current contracts with appropriate funders. Coordinates grant project activities, reporting and budgeting requirements.

- \* **PROMOTIONS/SPONSORSHIP AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:** With input from the Board of Directors and staff, the business manager will plan and execute activities that engage the readership of the newspaper. This includes the speaker's series of Mouseland Press Inc. The business manager will administrate all sponsorship opportunities of the organization.

- \* **REPORTING:** The business manager will attend all Board and committee meetings and prepare reports for all board meetings on the newspaper's finances, circulation, advertising, results of promotions, and other information as needed by the Board.

Interested parties should submit a resume including references, a covering letter and a one to two-page essay detailing the importance of independent media by **12 noon on Aug. 9, 2009**. Interviews will take place the week of Aug. 10. Application packages should be sent to [board@uniter.ca](mailto:board@uniter.ca).

Questions can be addressed to business manager James Patterson at [business@uniter.ca](mailto:business@uniter.ca) or 786-9790.

We thank all applicants, however only those short-listed for an interview will be contacted.

# Cache the wave

Treasure hunting for the 21st century

CAITLIN LAIRD  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Looking for a novel excuse to migrate to the outdoors and enjoy the sun this summer? One that doesn't involve lethargy, a beach blanket and a bad book? You could always get out and go geocaching. That is, if you have any idea what it actually means to go geocaching.

"Geocaching is a great activity for anyone because it's relatively inexpensive, all you need is a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver that can start as low as \$100. It gets people outdoors and offers a source of exercise that doesn't feel like exercise," said James Kellough, geographic information specialist (GIS) and avid geocacher.

For those of you still scratching your heads in befuddlement, the Manitoba Geocaching Association can help. They describe geocaching as a sport for all ages where a handheld GPS is used to set up geocaches, post their latitudes and longitudes on the Internet, and have other geocachers seek them out. Once found, the finder will



A GPS like this one is all the equipment you need to start geocaching.

replace the found item in the geocache with another "treasure," or simply record their findings on the website. Tradable items in the cache are usually trinket items like stickers or coins. The so-called treasure is merely adjacent to the journey

itself.

"Geocaching can be very social as many hunters go caching in groups. The Manitoba Geocaching Association often hosts geocaching events. For me personally, the most appealing thing about geocaching is

that it is a great free family activity. Last week, my family and I participated in our first Geocaching event at the zoo," said Kellough.

Kellough stresses that despite his geography background, one doesn't

**"I think geocaching is a major breakthrough in bringing GPS technology to non-geographical people."**

- JAMES KELLOUGH, GEOCACHER

need to be a mapmaker to be an advanced geocacher.

"Unfortunately, being a GIS specialist doesn't make me a good geocacher, it just means I understand the technology and geographic principals behind the game. The majority of geocachers I've met have no educational or work background in geography. I think geocaching is a major breakthrough in bringing GPS technology to non-geographical people."

Over the past decade or so, geocaching has been gaining popularity

following the advent of improved GPS technology.

"It really is like treasure hunting for the 21st century," remarks Geographic Information Systems technician Tyler Munn, also a geography graduate. "What the advent of geocaching represents is how advancing technology can alter and affect leisure activities."

Barry Stevens, also a geo grad and co-ordinator of shipment and planning for Canadian Pacific believes that the value of promoting the use of GPS in a "fun and light way" can be seen not only in improving technological literacy, but also offers interesting opportunities for industry.

"It can be used as a way to facilitate travel and tourism," he explains.

Indeed, many caches can be found throughout rural Manitoba.

*For more information on geocaching and how to become a geocacher, visit [www.mbgeocaching.ca](http://www.mbgeocaching.ca).*

# Don't sweat the hot weather

You don't have to look like a schlub just because the heat makes you feel like one

KATHLEEN CERRER  
VOLUNTEER

Now that summer is in full swing, there's no better time to enjoy the fabulous weather and take in the many activities and festivals Winnipeg has to offer.

But summer can become quite hectic when we try to fit in every event, beach outing and vacation, and dressing up can become more of a hassle than a fun and exciting experience.

This summer why not take the time to get a few easy pieces that will take you effortlessly to and from every affair, and enjoy staying in style under the sun.

Hot summer days (and nights) require a wardrobe that is fresh and fun, yet remains practical for everything that summer may bring.

Flowy, long dresses and skirts are an essential this season when it comes to taking your outfit from day to night. An array of floral, animal and tribal patterns are must-haves, along with bold accessories. As seen in Anna Sui and Prada, the bolder the better.

Hats are a great accessory and can guard you from the hot summer sun. Straw hats add that country summer flair to your outfit and can be adorned with any of your favorite broaches, designs and flowers.

A large tote or purse can easily transport all your summer essentials from one happening to the next. Festive designs that include embroidery, sequined or beaded detail will definitely disguise the bottles of sun block and insect repellent.

Shorts are always included in a summer wardrobe, especially when it comes to men's wear. Denim or khaki, shorts are appropriate for almost every summer event. As

with women's wear this season, patterns are just as prevalent with mens trends, which can be seen on everything from printed blazers (Dolce & Gabbana), to plaid and stripes (Marc Jacobs and Burberry).

Candy colours, from red to pink to green and blue as seen in the DSquared collection, add that extra pop to a summer ensemble that keeps it fresh and exciting.

Good footwear is also essential when partaking in outdoor summer adventures. Well-made sneakers, sandals and even boots for those rainy days will not only keep you looking good and feeling great but will last you from season to season.

Look for clothing which is easy to maintain and which has lightweight breathable fabrics which won't retain moisture, but will keep you cool during those hot summer days.

Most importantly, add your own unique touch to your wardrobe this summer and get creative. After all, summer is all about having fun!



MELODY MORRISSETTE

The Uniter is on a reduced publishing schedule for the summer.

Our next issue comes out Aug. 12.

We'll return to publishing a weekly paper in September.

In the mean time, we still need writers. E-mail [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca)

or phone 786-9790 for more info.



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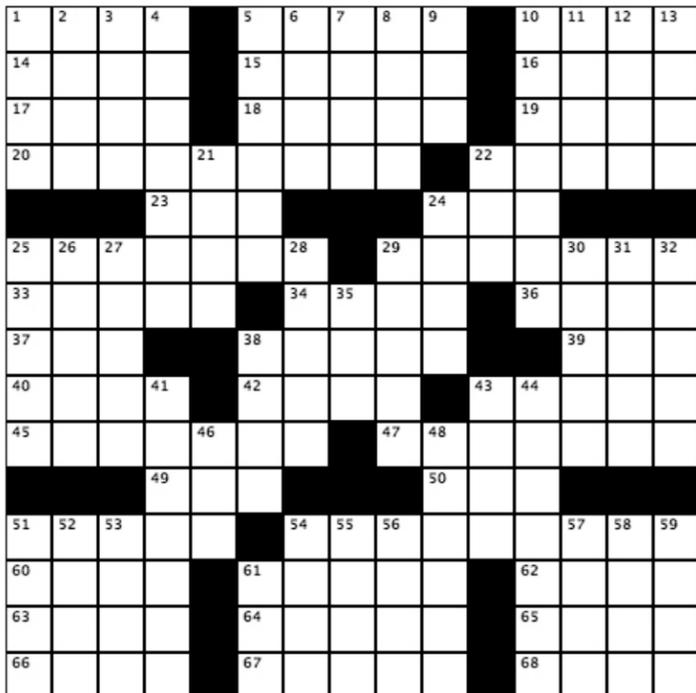
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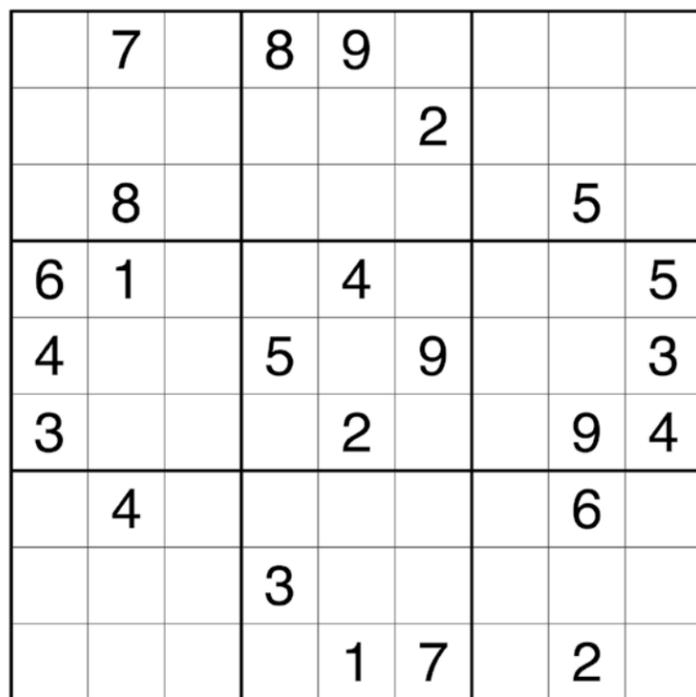
Crossword Puzzle

Solutions to crossword and sudoku will be printed in the next issue.



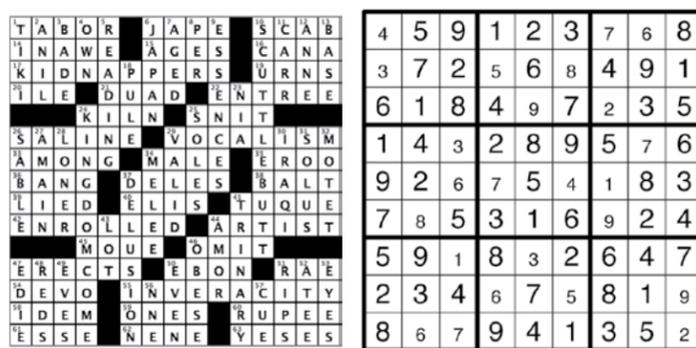
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Sudoku



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Solutions to June 18 puzzles.



- Across**
- 1- Coarse file
  - 5- Actress Christine
  - 10- Sharp bristle
  - 14- Forearm bone
  - 15- Anew
  - 16- "Night" author Wiesel
  - 17- Remove water from a boat
  - 18- Country residence
  - 19- Ad word
  - 20- Bistro
  - 22- Femme fatale
  - 23- \_\_\_ Kapital
  - 24- Born
  - 25- Vertical
  - 29- Cereal grass
  - 33- Small yeast-raised pancake
  - 34- Cries of discovery
  - 36- I could \_\_\_ horse!
  - 37- Arab instru-
- Down**
- 1- Bumpkin
  - 2- Exclamation to express sorrow
  - 3- Agitated state
  - 4- Heroic champion
  - 5- Princely
  - 6- Not "fer"
  - 7- Patriot Nathan
  - 8- Slant
  - 9- Actress Balin
  - 10- Assail
  - 11- Banned apple spray
  - 12- Anger
  - 13- "It's \_\_\_ real"
  - 21- Biblical trio
  - 22- Sun. talk
  - 24- Centrepiece of the human face
  - 25- German submarine
  - 26- Feathery
  - 27- One in a cab, say
  - 28- Sharp

- 29- Mother of Isaac
- 30- Attacks
- 31- Functional
- 32- Alma \_\_\_
- 35- So there!
- 38- Squealed
- 41- Chats
- 43- Problem with L.A.
- 44- Large sea wave
- 46- Negative vote
- 48- On fire
- 51- Terrier type
- 52- Legal claim
- 53- Not much
- 54- Basic unit of heredity
- 55- Collar type
- 56- Ornamental fabric
- 57- Muslim elder and prayer-leader
- 58- Sea swallow
- 59- Canadian gas brand
- 61- Not emp.



Murderers in plain sight

Hey everybody, I'm back again with some good and evil for you all.

This week I want to talk about something very dangerous that affects us all, but that very few people actually know about. I'm talking of course about houseplants and the clear and very real danger they pose to those who choose to harbour them.

In the past 20 years, houseplants have been responsible for at least 80 per cent of deaths in North America, yet few people are even aware that they pose any danger at all.

This is because the media in North America is completely controlled by the Evil Houseplant Lobby. Any news story that has anything at all to do with the nefariousness of houseplants is immediately suppressed by the powers that be, only to be replaced by something about Grizzly Bear attacks or the economy. This is why no one knows how serious this problem is. Even as I write these words, I am almost certain that they will be censored and changed because of the insane stranglehold that houseplants have on what we see and read every day.

On the off chance, however that the brave editors of this wonderful publication actually have the stones to publish these words of warning, I want to tell you all how to avoid the danger that is thrust upon us all by these seemingly innocuous organisms with whom many of us have cohabitated for years.

**Tip #1:** If you ever see one of your houseplants holding a weapon of any kind, get out of the house and call the appropriate authorities immediately.

Most houseplant-related crime is completely avoidable. Houseplants can only move inches a day, so if one has a knife, the best way not to get stabbed is to avoid standing motionless beside it for hours at a time.

**Tip #2:** If you are in a dark alley and a houseplant pulls up to you in a navy blue van with a tear drop window and asks for directions and then when you give it directions it says, "I can't hear you, you'll have to get into the back of my van," don't get into the van.

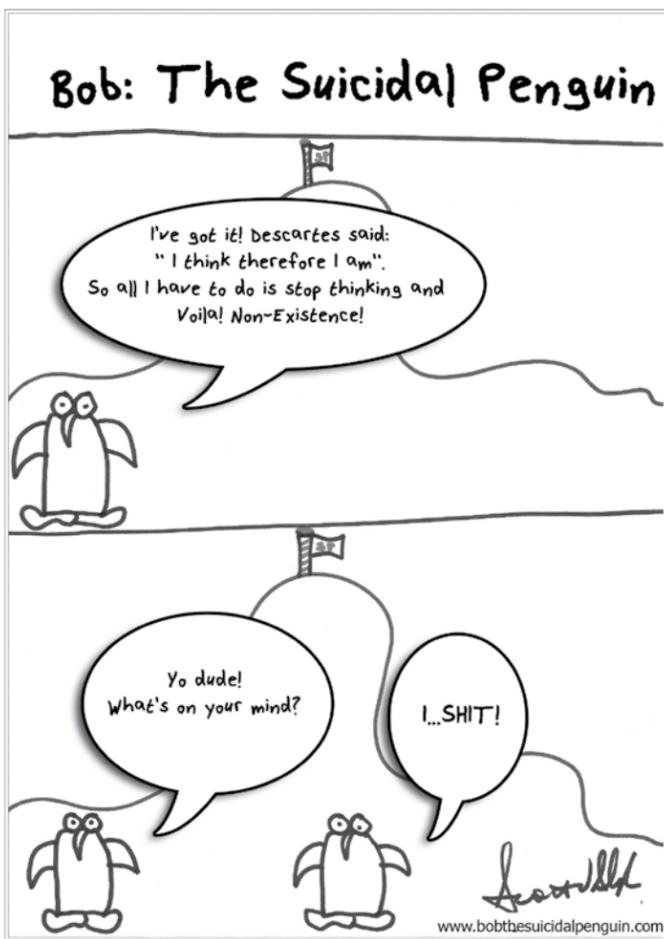
This is a common ruse that houseplants use to lure their victims into a vulnerable spot. Don't fall for it. When in doubt, just yell the directions louder and run like the dickens.

**Tip #3:** If you are at a bar and you leave your drink unattended to go to the bathroom, and then come back and see a suspicious houseplant standing over it looking guilty while laughing maniacally, have your friend test your drink before you finish it. (Also try to use the friends that you like the least to do the testing.)

Many houseplants will attempt to cause you harm by rendering you into an immobile state by luring you into their van to feed to roofies. As a rule, never eat anything that is offered to you by a houseplant unless it is a tomato. Even in the case of a tomato, it is prudent to make sure that what you are eating is in fact a tomato and not simply a rooify which has been painted to look like a tomato.

You are now all equipped to survive a houseplant attack. Please help other humans by passing on these words of warning...

*J. Willamez plays every Monday night at Shannon's Irish Pub - don't forget to ask him about his views on bedding plants.*



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# A sunburn now can cause damage later

VELANGELINE FERRIGNO  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

When you think skin cancer, you should think of the ways you can protect yourself; one of the best ways is by wearing sunscreen. It is recommended that you wear an SPF of 30 or higher daily – not just when going to the beach.

According to the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, Canadians born in the 1990s have a two to three times higher risk of getting skin cancer in their lifetime compared to those born in the 1960s. For those born in the '90s, there is a one in six risk of getting skin cancer; for those born in the '60s, there is a one in 20 chance.

These are some powerful statistics, especially given our advances in medicine and knowledge of the harm that UV rays cause.

## VANITY IN BED WITH HAZARD

One thing hasn't changed from the 1960s and that's the definition and perception of beauty. Some still see a tan as beautiful. The search for the perfect tan isn't restricted to the outdoors, either – tanning salons have become a growing industry.

The Canadian Dermatology Association states that, "There is growing evidence that exposure to ultraviolet radiation through the use of tanning beds and sunlamps, increase the risk of developing melanoma especially if exposure begins in adolescence or young adulthood."

"Some jurisdictions in the U.S. have restricted individuals under age 18 from using tanning beds," said Dr. Vince Bertucci, an Ontario-based dermatologist. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that, "it is known that young people who get burnt from exposure to UV will have a greater risk of developing melanoma later in life, and recent studies demonstrate the direct link between the use of sunbeds and cancer."

Skin cancer and socioeconomic status

When looking at a suspicious mole, remember your ABCDs:

<b>A</b> symmetry	One half of the mole does not match the other half in size, shape, colour, or thickness.
<b>B</b> order	The edges are ragged, scalloped, blurred, or poorly defined.
<b>C</b> olour	The colour of the mole is not the same throughout or it has shades of tan, brown, black, red, white or blue.
<b>D</b> iameter	Melanomas often grow in size and are usually, but not always, greater than 6 mm in diameter.

don't seem like two things that would necessarily be related, but as Dr. Bertucci explained, they may be.

Economic and lifestyle changes now see Canadians flocking to sunny destinations every year, increasing the amount of sun exposure they get.

"Today, many Canadians vacation down south, receiving more intermittent sun exposure. Years ago, this was less common and, living in a cold Canadian environment, they didn't expose themselves as frequently to the sun," said Dr. Bertucci.

## TYPES OF SKIN CANCER

The Canadian Dermatology Association states that the main cause of skin cancer is too much UV radiation.

Two of the more common skin cancers that we see are basal cell and squamous cell skin cancer, which appear on the skin as a spot.

These lesions can then be surgically removed or, in very rare occasions, fought using radiation therapy.

Basal and squamous cell skin cancers are



Dermatologists recommend you wear an SPF of 30 or higher daily.

thought to be caused by cumulative sun exposure.

A more serious type of skin cancer is melanoma, which is now the eighth most common cancer in Canada.

"Bad burns when you're younger can affect, and increase the risk of, melanoma later in life," Dr. Bertucci said.

The lifetime risk of melanoma for Canadian men is one in 74 and for women it's one in 90. Up to 70 per cent of all melanomas are first identified by patients themselves.

If you see something suspicious, get it checked by your doctor. If they say it looks fine but you are still concerned, you can keep a photo diary of that suspicious mole.

Hold a ruler up to the area of concern and take a picture every month to see if there are any changes. If there is a change, see your doctor again. (For more info, see graph.)

Skin cancer is treatable in most cases, and it's also preventable. If you must have a sun kissed look, try using a self-tanner (I like to mix mine with my moisturizer so I don't streak).

You can also try going to a spa that offers spray tanning.

There are alternatives to lying in the hot sun for hours, you just have to try them!

*Velangeline Ferrigno has been a freelance make-up artist for over eight years.*

# Fat doesn't have to be a bad word

They're essential to your diet, but make sure you're eating the right ones



## LIVING WELL

SAGAN MORROW  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

We know that fats are an essential part of a healthy diet. Fats act as an energy source and protect our organs from damage; dietary fats boost the immune system and are required for the absorption of certain nutrients.

But what kinds of fats should we be consuming? Which food sources should we be eating to ensure that we are eating the right fats? Is one form of fat better than another?

Oils, used often in cooking and baking, are a great place to start cleaning up your fats intake.

Fats are divided into saturated and unsaturated. Saturated fats are those found in animal products and coconut and palm oils. Although our bodies need saturated fats, we should limit our consumption of them because they have been shown to increase risk of heart attack by raising cholesterol levels.

Unsaturated fats are found in most plant sources. They are divided into monounsaturated fatty acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Monounsaturated are considered the healthiest fats because they lower the risk of heart attacks and heart disease by lowering cholesterol levels.

Polyunsaturated fats, including omega-6s and omega-3s, are necessary because these are essential fatty acids that the body cannot produce on its own. Our overly-processed North American diets, however, include too many omega-6 oils and too few omega-3s. Eating natural foods can remedy this problem. Cold-water fish, soybeans and nuts all contain omega-3s so they are good choices.

Olive oil, canola oil and safflower oil are some of the most common oils used in cooking and baking. They all contain plenty of healthy monounsaturated fats. Olive oil is flavorful and added to baked goods it offers a dense texture. It is best used for cooking food at low heat. Canola and safflower oil, on the other hand, are both fairly tasteless and can be used at a range of temperatures, so they are generally the go-to oils for cooking most dishes.

Peanut oil is usually used for cooking at high temperatures and is therefore good for stir fries. High in omega-3s, flaxseed and sesame seed oils burn at a low temperature so it is better not to cook with them; rather, add them to sauces, hummus, and dressings to reap the benefits of these nutritious oils.

Partially hydrogenated oil is man-made, contains trans fat and is incredibly detrimental to your health, so these kinds of fats should be avoided at all costs. Fully hydrogenated oil does not contain trans fat but it is incredibly high in saturated fat so it too should be avoided.

There are many kinds of oils on the market and plenty of opportunity to experiment with them to determine your preferences. Using a variety of oils will help provide you with a nutritious balance of different kinds of fats. As long as you use them in moderation, oils are an excellent way to incorporate healthy fats into your diet.

*University of Winnipeg student Sagan Morrow writes a health and wellness blog. Check it out at <http://livinghealthyintherealworld.wordpress.com>*

# Hot yoga heats up

The craze that has swept North America has a healthy home in Winnipeg



Hot yoga classes, like this one at Stafford Street Hot Yoga, not only help with flexibility, but can also make you feel grounded.

NATASHA TERSIGNI  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Hot yoga, traditionally known as Bikram yoga, is a series of postures and poses performed in a heated room; it doesn't just have physical benefits, but emotional and spiritual ones as well.

"Everyone should at least try hot yoga," said Tammy Beck, owner of Hot Yoga Winnipeg. "It has helped so many people in so many ways."

Hot yoga was created by yogiraj Bikram Choudhury. Bikram was an Olympic weightlifter who suffered a knee injury when he was 17-years-old. Doctors told him that he would never walk again. Bikram, who had practiced yoga since he was four, went back to his yoga school and began doing yoga again. Just months later, Bikram's knee was healed and he was asked to open yoga schools in India. His practices soon began to spread, and hot yoga is now practiced all over the world.

Hot yoga classes usually last between 60

to 90 minutes, and typically incorporate 26 poses. The main difference between hot yoga and other traditional yoga classes is hot yoga is done in a hot room.

"[The room] is like standing in your bathroom after a hot shower," Beck said.

Participants will sweat a lot, and are asked to arrive for class well hydrated and wearing tight fitting clothes. Many of hot yoga's benefits (such as increased flexibility and mental focus) come from being in the heated room and from sweating.

"Toning the body is just the bonus. It has helped people cope with stress, go off pain medications, antidepressants. It helps people to learn to be more confident and self-assured. Not to mention self-awareness of what is going on with your body and your mind," Beck said.

Ann Park Peters, owner/instructor of Stafford Street Hot Yoga, encourages beginners to try out classes and reassures students that they can go at their own pace and that most classes are geared towards first timers.

"The intensity will depend on the effort

that the individual puts in, but the heat and the humidity do facilitate a more intense workout than a non-heated yoga class."

"The workouts can be pretty intense until you become familiar with the positions, but if you like a challenge within a few sessions you can become fairly proficient with the moves," said Amy Brown, a student at the University of Manitoba who frequently does hot yoga.

Brown recommends hot yoga to anyone looking to increase strength and flexibility, and says it even helps with her schooling.

"It's great when I'm studying, because it helps me clear my mind for an hour or so. When I head back to my books, I'm ready for a fresh start."

It's important that people don't neglect their health in the summer months.

Though class sizes may be smaller in the summer, most studios usually keep to a regular schedule.

Summer is a great time for new challenges, so why not add hot yoga to your list?