

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

THE **UNITER**

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BUT HAVE WE LEARNED ANYTHING?**

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"Namakan Lake Minnow"

Photograph by
Bill Beso

News

Manitoba rejects harmonized sales tax

Province would lose money if GST and PST amalgamate, finance minister says

ETHAN CABEL
BEAT REPORTER

The Manitoba government has decided that tax harmonization – a federal proposal to amalgamate the GST and the PST – will take away provincial tax control and hurt consumers along the way.

"We are no longer considering the option of an HST," said Rosann Wowchuk, Manitoba minister of finance. "When the federal government makes a proposal we must study it and as we see it right now, Manitoba would lose money."

Manitoba would lose over \$240 million in tax revenue according to a C.D. Howe Institute report, she said.

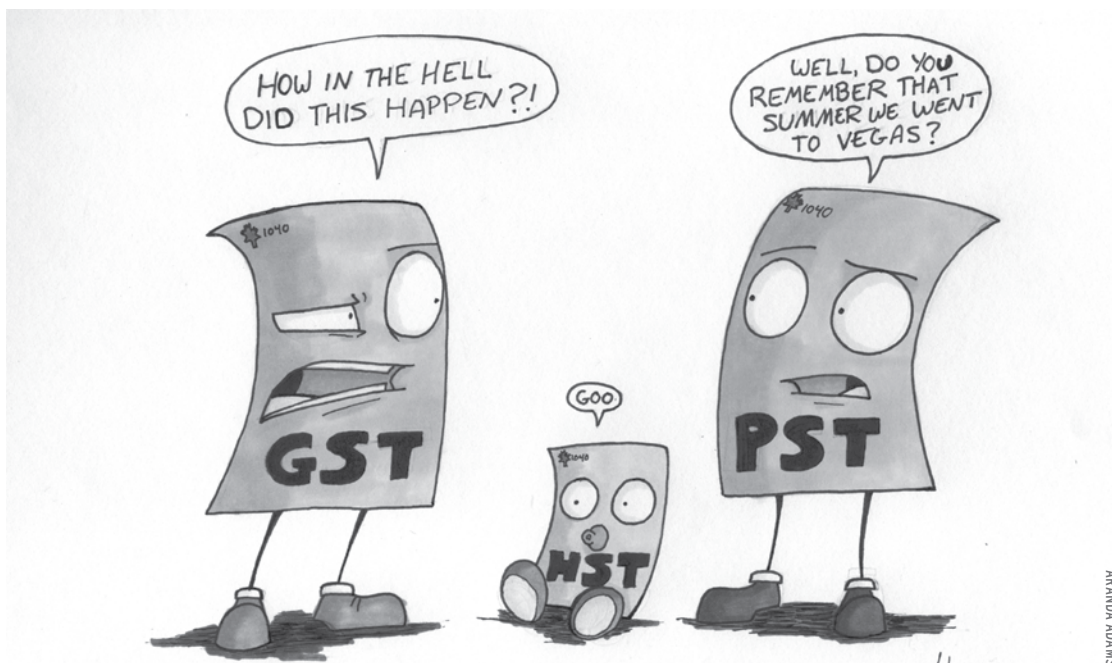
This makes Manitoba one of few provinces not going ahead with harmonization. Both Ontario and British Columbia plan to adopt an HST by 2010, while the three Atlantic provinces continue to implement a combined HST rate.

The proposal to harmonize would have seen Manitoba's seven per cent PST eliminated and added to the five per cent GST to create an overall HST of 12 per cent.

Meanwhile, the government seems to have made a decision, but some remain convinced that harmonization could benefit the province.

Businesses, particularly small businesses, are widely considered the main benefactor in the adoption of an HST.

"Businesses would definitely save money on administering taxes," said Sohrab Abizadeh, a professor of economics at the



ARANDA ADAMS

University of Winnipeg.

According to many, including the federal government, businesses are currently subject to convoluted tax regulations because they are forced to administer two different taxes (PST and GST), based on the product or service. Harmonization would eliminate this problem by giving businesses only one rate to administer.

Manitoba businesses would no longer have to pay the PST on operating materials (computers, cash registers), which would be covered under the federal input tax credit, along with the GST.

"An HST would reduce the cost of bookkeeping for businesses substantially," said Abizadeh. "However, consumers will end up paying [additional] tax on services."

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce recently estimated that an HST would cost Ontarians \$905 million in additional sales taxes a year, while the bill for companies would reduce by \$1.6 billion.

Purchases that are currently exempt from PST – from haircuts to essential items like children's clothing and diapers – would be charged an additional seven per cent under harmonization in Manitoba.

"Taxation is about more than just raising revenue," said Lynne Fernandez, an economist at the Manitoba office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. "It can be used as an incentive or disincentive for certain behaviour ... harmonization decreases this ability."

Whatever the federal govern-

ment chooses to tax through the GST, the province would be obligated to include the PST in the charge. This will diminish the province's ability to use tax-exempt services to encourage better behaviour and purchases, Fernandez said.

There have been several suggestions over possible changes to the HST rate, or the adoption of tax rebates for consumers, but Manitoba remains unconvinced that harmonization is the answer for the provincial economy.

"We cannot harmonize unless there is a different formula in place," said Wowchuk. "Right now we don't see any advantage for the general public. In fact, we see a disadvantage due to declining revenue."

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STREETER

BY COURTNEY SCHWEGEL

Q: HOW DO YOU STAY OUT OF DEBT?



Tolu Ilelaboy
Third-year, rhetoric/French
"I just work my ass off all summer. I am not a fan of taking out loans."



Kristie Matheson
First-year, undeclared
"I just watch what I spend. It is as simple as that."



Jared Kesler
First-year, kinesiology
"I try not to go out as much. I just save all the money I can and put it towards school because it is the main priority right now."



Eleni Vailas
assistant manager, Barnes and Castle
"I just make sure I am putting whatever is priority ahead of everything else. No frivolous spending."



Rod Teske
lead operator for the City of Red Deer, Alberta
"It's almost impossible isn't it? But if I want to buy something, I save as much as I can before I actually buy it. Start saving!"



Allen Richter
sales representative, Telus Mobility
"Still working on that one. I try to save money and possibly even get a second job. I think accountability with money is a big one that I am going to start doing."

Sidestepping debt in a credit-driven world

Credit cards may be a necessity these days - just watch how you use them

CAITLIN LAIRD
BEAT REPORTER

Odds are if you are over the age of 18 you fall into one of three categories: You have (a) never obtained a credit card and therefore have no credit history and can't use eBay; (b) obtained at least one credit card and found yourself saddled with some amount of unwanted debt, with moderate difficulty paying it off; or (c) obtained multiple credit cards, made several large, ill-advised purchases, racked up tens of thousands of dollars in debt and suffered as a result.

James Sinclair falls into the first category.

"I have never had a credit card. I am sort of fundamentally opposed to them," the 24-year-old University of Manitoba linguistics major said.

Sinclair, who has worked primarily as a freelance graphic artist



Being debt-free simply isn't documentation enough that you are a fiscally sound individual.

While some students are able to avoid credit cards, others have massive debt after purchasing luxury items like couches and big screen TVs.

throughout his studies, said obtaining a credit card with virtually no employment history is tough. He also knows that his credit-free existence is a temporary one.

There is the unavoidable anxiety created by the fact that in order to purchase a big-ticket item - like a house - you also have to build credit. Being debt-free simply isn't documentation enough that you are a fiscally sound individual.

"I'd prefer not to have one, but I will probably have to get one eventually to have any buying power," said Sinclair.

The best way to avoid debt is to never buy anything you don't need and to live within your means, he said.

Charmaine Jennings, a creative communications student at the University of Winnipeg, got two credit cards to use while traveling

and found that upon returning home she quickly maxed out each one - racking up between \$1,500 and \$2,000 in debt - on purchases like clothes and CDs.

"I had a part-time job before I got a credit card," said Jennings. "I always liked to shop but it wasn't until I got credit that I fell into debt."

Jennings said after missing several minimum payments, credi-

tors began pestering her at work. She is now working to pay off her remaining debt in one lump sum, but because of the missed payments she couldn't obtain a lease for her apartment until it was under someone else's name.

However, Jennings' debt woes pale in comparison to Doug's hellish ordeal.

"I've had about eight credit cards," said Doug, who asked that his last name not be printed. "My total debt from that and a loan which I took out to pay that debt off was about \$25,000 by the time I was 21. I bought things like a couch and two big screen TVs."

Doug then used a debt pooling service called Canada Debt Assistance to help streamline his monthly payments. Upon handing them the last \$10,000 he owed to them, the company inexplicably vanished and he lost it all, putting him back where he began.

He offered some advice for avoiding a credit tailspin.

"If you have debt and use debt pooling, be sure the company is sound. Don't get credit cards for stores, like Future Shop for example. And if you do, read the fine print."

Giving people a voice where they live

There are many benefits to living in a housing co-op

SAMUEL SWANSON
BEAT REPORTER

Housing co-operatives are an oft-ignored alternative to apartment or townhouse living. In a co-op, everyone owns an equal share of the project. Often this results in lower monthly payments with more control over executive decisions.

"You can't live here unless you're a member and every member is a part owner," said Jenette Goodman, president and resident of Betelstadur Housing Cooperative.

Each member owns a share of the building, as opposed to owning a unit at a condominium. That way the building is legally owned by those who live there. A board of directors is elected from within the membership.

The cost of shares typically ranges from \$500 to \$1,000.

"It's set up so that you get your investment back when you leave, but it also goes toward upkeep," said Cheryl Krostewitz, the property manager of six Winnipeg housing co-ops.

On top of the deposit-type share there are housing costs that are comparable to rent.

"I think we tend to be around seven to eight per cent below market," said Stephen Troubridge, vice president of Westboine Park Housing Cooperative.



"It's all designed for people to get to know their neighbours and interact with their neighbours."

- JENETTE GOODMAN, PRESIDENT OF BETELSTADUR HOUSING COOPERATIVE

Westboine Park Housing Cooperative vice-president Stephen Troubridge says not having a landlord lets co-ops keep their prices down.

Goodman said a 600 sq. ft., one-bedroom with air conditioning, a balcony, free laundry and utilities costs \$534 per month at Betelstadur.

"There's no landlord pocketing money so we're able to keep the costs down and those savings are passed down to the members," said Troubridge.

Instead of a single landlord, it's up to each housing co-op to decide

what their needs are.

The board of directors sets the course for the co-op by setting up committees. For example, at Betelstadur there's a membership committee that decides who can and cannot live at the co-op. At the moment, members must be 55 or older.

"There's a building committee that looks after stuff like how often the caretaker has to clean the front

hallway and nitty-gritty stuff like that," said Goodman.

Part and parcel with the governing system of a housing co-op is a sense of community.

"It's all designed for people to get to know their neighbours and interact with their neighbours," said Goodman. She remembers one instance when a member at a different co-op fell ill. The community rallied to assist her back to health,

she said.

"You have a voice in how your co-op's being run," said Krostewitz. "If you live in [an apartment] you don't have that at all, you do what your landlord tells you."

For more information on housing co-ops, see Samuel's blog at <http://uniter.ca/blog>.

International News Briefs

Compiled by Brooke Dmytriw

LETHAL INJECTION CANNOT BE PERFORMED DUE TO UNSUITABLE VEINS

CHICAGO, Illinois: Death row inmate Romell Broom was given a week's reprieve from his execution after the executioners could not find a suitable vein to insert the lethal injection. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland issued the stay of execution upon the warden's request. Broom was convicted of the rape and murder of Tryna Middleton in 1984. Prison spokesperson Julie Walburn said prison officials would consult medical personnel about the future performance of the execution. In 2006, convicted murderer Joseph Clark sat up to inform his executioners the lethal drugs were not working, according to Reuters. The prison then added a step to its execution procedure where the warden attempts to rouse the condemned after an initial injection of sedatives.

FARMERS CRYING OVER SPILT MILK

CINEY, Belgium: In an act of protest, Belgian farmers dumped 3 million litres of fresh milk onto pastures and roads across the country. The farmers are protesting a decrease in dairy prices, which have fallen 40 per cent since the spring. CBC reported farmers dragged milk containers with tractors through fields and pastures, leaving the equivalent of a day's worth of milk in their wake. Last week farmers also closed the Belgian border crossings with Germany and the Netherlands to drive home their demands. Milk prices are a contentious issue in the European Union. Most nations agree there is a problem with prices but cannot agree on a solution.

WOMAN REGAINS SIGHT AFTER TOOTH IMPLANT

MIAMI, Florida: Doctors used a woman's tooth to help her regain her sight. Sharron Thorton had her eye tooth, or cuspid, implanted into her eye socket as a base for a prosthetic lens. Thorton lost her sight nine years ago after an illness. She qualified for the procedure at University of Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, the first of its kind in the United States. To date, the procedure has only been performed 600 times worldwide. CNN reported that after two weeks, Thorton's visual perception was 20/70. The surgery involved both dentists and ophthalmologists, and took several months to complete.

SLUMBERING TEEN NARROWLY MISSES DEATH ON TRAIN TRACK

PARIS, France: A French teen was nearly killed by a high-speed train after passing out on a railway track. The teen passed out face down on the track near Saint Nolf in Brittany. The driver of the Paris-bound train saw the body lying on the tracks but was unable to stop in time and halted metres past the slumbering man. According to Reuters, the police department credits his slumbering state with keeping him alive. Unconscious, he was like a dead body, allowing the train to pass merely 20 centimetres above him. Only grease stains were found on his jacket. Police and firefighters were able to wake the teen, who flipped the finger before rolling over to go back to sleep. According to the police, the young man was returning home from the Saint Nolf music festival when he decided to nap on the rail line.

Better than composting?

Ancient Japanese process breaks down waste by fermenting it

PATRICIA BENHAM
VOLUNTEER

Creating food waste is not a good thing for the environment, but how do we stop? Some say composting is the answer.

Michael Gordon, a Bokashi Cycle product distributor for Canada, disagrees.

"Composting does not occur anywhere in nature," he said.

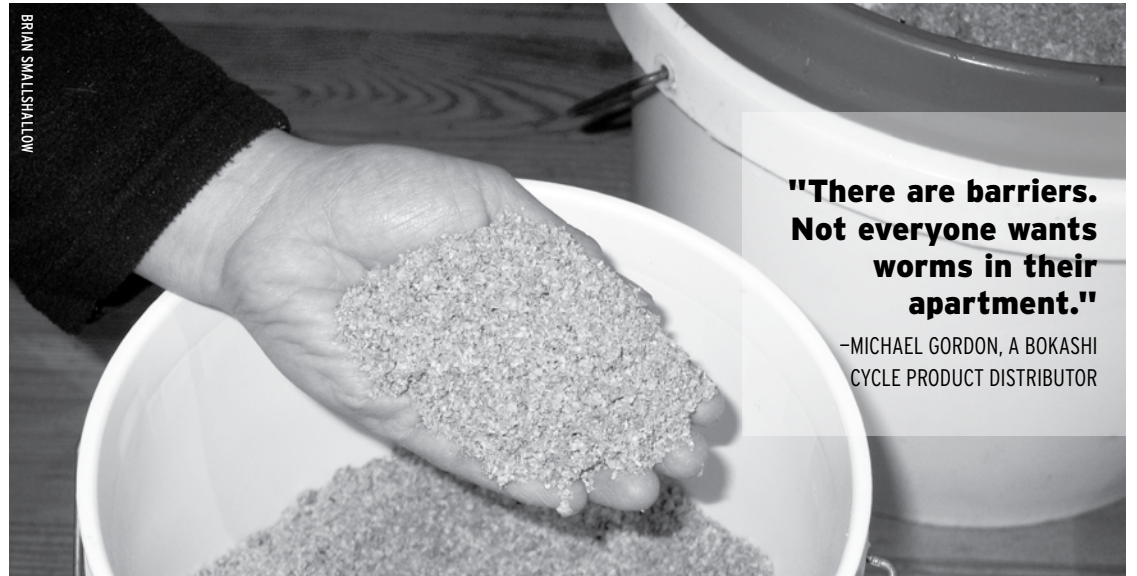
According to Gordon, even though people think they are being environmentally friendly when they compost, the process actually produces and emits methane because it is exposed to the environment.

Bokashi, an ancient Japanese process, breaks down food products without oxygen in airtight containers, so that no greenhouse gasses are allowed to escape.

Bokashi uses "effective microorganisms" (EM), consisting of fungus and yeast already found in soil, to break down food. Because no energy is allowed to escape, it remains in the mixture and feeds the soil much more productively than regular fertilizer.

"It goes to work on the waste by fermenting it, whereas compost works by spoiling and putridity," said Gordon.

Sylvie Hébert, compost project coordinator for Resource Conservation Manitoba, said that although large-scale composting can produce methane because of the lack of air being distributed, digester machines are used to trap it



Pickled garbage: Bokashi breaks down food products without oxygen in airtight containers, so that no greenhouse gasses are allowed to escape.

"There are barriers. Not everyone wants worms in their apartment."

—MICHAEL GORDON, A BOKASHI CYCLE PRODUCT DISTRIBUTOR

and actually convert it into productive energy.

The bokashi process takes about three to five weeks in the bucket until it is ready to bury and another 10 to 14 days once it's in the ground in order to completely return to soil.

"Compost, after six weeks underground, is still rotting garbage," said Gordon.

Hébert admits composting can take between six months to three years, depending on your dedication, and agrees composting is not always ideal.

"There are barriers. Not everyone wants worms in their apartment," she said.

Bokashi can also break down meat and dairy without the worry of attracting pests.

Gordon's Bokashi Cycle system includes two buckets, a three-month supply of bokashi mixture and a shaker and spoon. The package costs about \$120.

Bokashi enthusiast Brian Smallshow argued that you don't have to pay a lot of money to do it. He uses livestock feed to dilute the EM mixture and he uses restaurant supply buckets to store the food/bokashi mixture. It costs him about \$25 every one or two years.

Smallshow said that even though he can't compare the bokashi process to traditional composting be-

cause he has never tried it, kitchen composting is something that everyone should be doing.

"[The bokashi method] makes it a lot nicer to deal with because it's not stinky and unpleasant. That alone is enough reason to use it," Smallshow said.

To learn more about Bokashi, go to www.beyondcomposting.com. You can get your organic waste picked up for free by Samborski's Garden Supplies or drop it off at a community garden. To learn more, go to www.resourceconservation.mb.ca.

The harsh reality of accessible transportation

Ontario man travels 650 kilometres by wheelchair to raise awareness

JESSICA IRELAND
INTERROBANG (FANSHAWE COLLEGE)

LONDON, Ont. (CUP) — Two batteries, two vans, two sets of tires, one control box, a tonne of driving, a tonne of energy, two joysticks, 650 kilometres, one man, one wheelchair.

These were all the things Jeff Preston, 26, needed as he traveled by wheelchair from London, Ont. to Ottawa last year as part of his Mobilize March. His purpose was to bring awareness to the issue of accessible transportation.

"People said, 'Are you sure you can do this?'" said Preston. "My response? 'Why wouldn't I be able to?'"

While on the road, Preston was diligent in taking footage of the journey, which culminated in

his documentary, *Idling: A Transit Story*.

The reason behind putting his work into a documentary was twofold, said Preston.

"It aims to educate, and it aims to inspire," he said. "News stories give justification for excuses like (accessible transit) costs too much. It's never explained how bad the system is."

"I talk about the reality, what's happening on the ground, day-to-day."

The first chapter of the documentary was released online on Sept. 4, and subsequent chapters have been released each week after that. The goal is to have the entire hour-and-a-half documentary available for free at the end of September.

While the idea of having a public screening is possible, the facilities to house that many viewers in wheel-

chairs are difficult to find. Also, many would require special transit to get to and from such an event, so it would likely not pan out, said Preston. It made more sense to put it online where people could easily watch it from their homes.

Preston hopes the documentary will inspire those watching to feel they can do something about making transit accessible.

"There's power in knowing you're not the only one frustrated by it," he said. "They can fix this, they have the power to do it."

The more individuals his documentary can affect, the more encouraged he hopes they'll feel going head-to-head with city hall.

"I dare them to say it to our face they can't fix it," he said.

Preston, a doctoral candidate in media studies at the University of Western Ontario, is currently promoting his efforts online with

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Digg and has garnered some big name attention.

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation have been "retweeting" his posts, something he said he never expected would happen.

Preston's been working to get his message and documentary out to viewers, but he also just wants to show people what one man is capable of doing.

"We as a society are so focused on what we cannot do," he said.

For more information on Jeff Preston and his documentary, *Idling: A Transit Story*, follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/getmobilized>, check out his website www.getmobilized.ca, or contact him directly at jeff@getmobilized.ca.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sage Garden Herbs hosts a FALL EQUINOX FESTIVAL with workshops, music and artisans. Saturday, Sept. 26. 3410 St. Mary's Road. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ROCKIN' RICHARD'S RECORD AND CD SALE at the Victoria Inn, Sunday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Challenge your brain with host ACE BURPEE at the first annual MANITOBA LOTTERIES TRIVIA CHALLENGE in support of the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba on Thursday, Oct. 22 at Stereo Nightclub. 7 p.m.

FREE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLASS.

An opportunity to meet with other students and Canadian friends while learning English and the Bible. Takes place on Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Elim Chapel, 546 Portage Ave. For more information call Val & Veda Chacko at 257-1670.

STOMP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS is a grape-stomping food festival with proceeds going to build the Museum of Human Rights, on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Mona Lisa Ristorante.

ON CAMPUS

SMART START, a study skills workshop series, helps students improve their study skills and succeed in university level courses. Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. in room 1L04. Register in advance by calling 786-9863 or e-mailing a.weir@uwinnipeg.ca.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL is looking for volunteers for the celebration of aboriginal music, art and culture. The festival runs from November 4 to 8. Visit www.manitoahbee.com or call 956-1849 for more information.

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT IN THE UNITER? E-MAIL LISTINGS@UNITER.CA

Greyhound keeps rollin' on down the highway

Creating a Crown bus service one option for future

ETHAN CABEL
BEAT REPORTER

After a week of threats and negotiations, Greyhound Canada has decided to continue running their Manitoba passenger bus routes beyond Oct. 2, their previous date of withdrawal from the province.

The threat of withdrawing from the province, which would have cut off service to nearly 160 cities and communities, has some questioning whether Greyhound is the answer for long-term transportation in Manitoba.

"I do not agree with a government subsidy [to help Greyhound]," said Jim Maloway, member of Parliament for Elmwood-Transcona. "Where do you stop when you're bailing out private companies?"

Earlier this month, Greyhound was demanding either a \$15 million government subsidy or reforms to the Highway Traffic Act, in order to break even on unprofitable routes. Manitoba was targeted, in large part, because the Highway Traffic Act stipulates that Greyhound must run buses in several rural areas in order to operate in higher populated and more profitable communities.

The provincial government has acknowledged Greyhound's need for assistance and is willing to enter into negotiations.

"This is not an easy issue and



Greyhound Canada will continue running their passenger bus routes to nearly 160 cities and communities in Manitoba.

"There are many providers interested in providing bus service in this province but working with Greyhound is our first priority right now."

- RON LEMIEUX, MANITOBA MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

not everything is solved," said Ron Lemieux, Manitoba minister of infrastructure and transportation. "But we must realize that a business that has been in Manitoba for nearly 75 years must make a profit."

Although working with Greyhound remains the first priority of the province, Lemieux remains open to other long-term strategies for transportation in Manitoba.

"Greyhound's decision has given us time to see any options in the short- and long-term," he said.

One of the options on the table is the idea that a Crown corporation be set up for transit services in Manitoba, similar to Saskatchewan's inter-city bus service. The Saskatchewan Transportation Company is a Crown corporation that provides bus service to over 260 communities in Saskatchewan, with a considerable profit taken in by the province. Maloway has suggested repeatedly that a pub-

lic option for bus travel may be Manitoba's best bet.

"The Saskatchewan company has been around since 1946," said Maloway. "No one, despite change of government, has changed or dismantled it."

A partnership between Manitoba and the Saskatchewan company is also being considered, but as long as Greyhound remains in the province and willing to communicate, it is unlikely that a public option will come to fruition.

"[A public option] is one thing we're considering," said Lemieux. "There are many providers interested in providing bus service in this province but working with Greyhound is our first priority right now."

Post-secondary poverty

Welfare system not set up to help students

CAITLIN LAIRD
BEAT REPORTER

Students are not known for being flush with cash but few can truly relate to being periodically homeless and still showing up for class.

"I stayed at Siloam Mission for three days last December. It's terrible," said Wendy Stevenson. "They close the building up three times a day ... You have to stand outside for an hour every time. There are no rooms. Just beds. There are no walls. No safety. Anyone can walk in. You just have someone lay in bed beside you. There are only cots."

Stevenson described her ordeal as a university student liv-

ing on Employment Income and Assistance – also known as welfare.

Last winter, she found herself without anywhere to live after a series of housing mishaps, brought on by incompatible roommates and a lack of funds. This occurred all while she put herself through school on virtually no income.

Michelle Dubik, director of policy and program development with Employment Income and Assistance, said that students are not welfare's target demographic.

"We are there to help you find work, not to help you get an education," she said. "Other programs, like Student Aid, are geared towards that. Welfare is also a program of last resort."

Poverty is widely acknowledged

as the primary barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education.

"People on social assistance have trouble getting the basic education required to get into university in the first place. It's a problem of getting the proper credentials to begin with," said Jim Silver, chair of politics at the University of Winnipeg.

If they make it that far, there are further hoops to jump through.

"Another problem is there probably aren't enough scholarships and bursaries to participate in, and they probably aren't aware of those kinds of programs as much either," said Silver.

Stevenson, who is working towards an honours arts degree, receives \$285 dollars a month which must go to her rent.

Few can truly relate to being periodically homeless and still showing up for class.

Silver said even if a student were able to obtain a scholarship on welfare, they would still struggle to make ends meet.

"The shelter component of social assistance doesn't provide enough rent for adequate accommodation. The amount they get for rent, \$285, I can well see that some of them end up in a crisis situation with housing, where they might have to take rent from their scholarship and rent from their food allowance."

Local News Briefs

Compiled by John Gaudes

INTERIM MINISTERS ANNOUNCED BY PREMIER

As ministers Andrew Swan, Steve Ashton and Greg Selinger recently resigned from their current positions to pursue a run at the premier's job, the empty seats left by these three men needed filling. In order to cover the open posts, Premier Gary Doer gave further duties to Rosann Wowchuk, Ron Lemieux and Nancy Allan, who will all become interim ministers for the positions left open by the candidates.

BODILY FLUIDS ACT TO SUPPORT AID WORKERS

The province is hoping to assist those individuals who put their health at risk when they come into contact with bodily fluids in the performance of their duties.

The province recently announced the Testing of Body Fluids and Disclosure Act. Under the act, paramedics, police or Good Samaritans may request a testing order if the person they helped refuses to submit one.

The source-individual will have 24 hours to submit an objection.

TOP RESTAURANTS TAKE PART IN FRIENDLY COOK-OFF

Top chefs from around the city gathered at St. Norbert's Farmers' Market to take part in a local food cook-off at this year's market.

"It's important we showcase what our province has to offer," Ben Kramer, executive chef with Diversity Food Services at the University of Winnipeg, said in a press release. He said it's a great way for local restaurants to show what they're made of.

EXCHANGE DISTRICT GETS ITS FIRST GROCERY STORE

Long known for its high-brow shopping and dining, the Exchange District witnessed the opening of its first grocery store recently. Tropica General Food Supply, located at 333 Garry St., stocks the same goods as an average suburban grocer.

According to the blog *Rise and Sprawl*, Tropica opened its doors with relatively little fanfare.

Some view this as the beginning of the end of the Exchange District, but others see it as a step toward improving quality of life in the historic district.

AMENDMENT ANNOUNCED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT

The province has announced an amendment for public schools in Manitoba, where the elections of board members at a select few school divisions would be publicized and open to the public.

This would be a suitable way of getting around the ward system, which is unfavourable to schools in small geographic areas. These school boards would be allowed to establish the number of trustees to be voted for.

The amendment will come into effect for the 2010 school board elections.

Hey you? Wanna write for *The Uniter*?

Mouseland Press publishes *The Uniter* weekly in print and on the web. Mouseland Press aims to provide opportunities for students of The University of Winnipeg and members of the surrounding community to learn about and practice journalism, and also to provide a forum to express, exchange and criticize ideas.

To get involved, send an e-mail to editor@uniter.ca

Campus News Briefs

Compiled by Karlene Ooto-Stubbs

IN THE CHIEF'S OWN WORDS

University of Winnipeg history professor Jennifer S. H. Brown and northern Algonquian history scholar Susan Elaine Gray will launch *Memories, Myths, and Dreams of an Ojibwe Leader* on Thursday, Sept. 24 at McNally Robinson Grant Park at 8 p.m. The book follows Ojibwe Chief William Berens in the 1930s using first-hand stories and provides a rare look at the Berens River communities during this period. Brown is the director of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies and holds a Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal History at the University of Winnipeg.

UWSA DAY-CARE NOW OPEN

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association officially opened its new day-care facilities last week. The centre will eventually accommodate 112 children and is open to U of W students, staff and the general community. The day care helps student parents find time to continue their education while juggling their busy lives. The new 10,000 square foot facility is built to LEED Silver Standard and will include a green, natural outdoor play area for children. It is also a practicum site for training early childhood development students from St. Boniface College, Red River College and U of W.

DEAN OF EDUCATION WINS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS

The International Centre for Innovation in Education presented University of Winnipeg dean of education Ken McCluskey with its inaugural ICIE Creativity Award at an August ceremony in Ulm, Germany. The award verifies McCluskey's work in leadership, his development of international projects and his contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of giftedness and talent development. The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children also gave McCluskey its International Creativity Award at its August conference in Vancouver. The dean has presented at more than 125 conferences, published more than 100 articles and has written 15 books.

JUICE 9 LAUNCHES SEPT. 25

Juice, the literary journal for the University of Winnipeg, is having its ninth book launch in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall on Friday, Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. Published annually, the literary journal is written by and for U of W students. It features fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and drama selections. Friday's launch features readings from the writers, as well as cookies and juice. *Juice* was co-created by Catherine Hunter of the English department and former U of W head librarian Mark Leggott, with the help of the University of Winnipeg Library and the UWSA. Copies will cost \$5.

MCFEETORS HALL OPENS

The Furby-Langside campus officially launched last week with the opening of McFeetors Hall. The building includes 25 townhouses and 172 dorm-style single and double-bedroom suites on the upper levels. There are two lounge areas with nine-metre windows and wireless Internet access. Great-West Lifeco chairman Ray McFeetors donated \$1.67 million to launch the project. Great-West Lifeco donated a further \$1 million for a combined total of \$2.67 million to help make the student residence a reality.

Campus News

My campus is greener than yours

Universities challenged to one week of eco-friendly commuting

SAMUEL SWANSON
BEAT REPORTER

Despite the jam-packed bicycle racks at the University of Winnipeg, the school's participation in last year's Campus Commuter Challenge was less than two per cent. Resource Conservation Manitoba challenges students of various Manitoba campuses to see which can register the most students for the challenge.

"Transportation, more so than most things, is one of the ways you can save money while making a difference," said Stephanie Fulford, co-ordinator of the student transportation network at Resource Conservation Manitoba.

Students that register for the Campus Commuter Challenge are pledging to commute eco-friendly throughout the week of September 21 to 25, as well as entering themselves in several draws with prizes that include a full school year's worth of free bus passes, a \$400 gift certificate to Natural Cycle, along with gift certificates for Canadian Tire and Canadian Footwear.

University of Winnipeg's environmental awareness group, Ecological People in Action (EcoPIA), will be letting students know about the challenge by setting up an information table on campus around the time of the event along with handing out advertisements for the challenge.

"I was looking at the U of W website and at least 10 per cent of people are biking, so we should at least get all the people already biking and then try to get more people," said Seren Gagne, member of EcoPIA and co-organizer of the U of W's participation in the Commuter Challenge.

For those who aren't cycling already, it's an advisable alternative, said Fulford.

"Cycling is a one-time investment of however much you can afford. You can pick up bikes for cheap and fix them up for cheap or you can buy a new bike for a couple hundred dollars."



EcoPIA is hoping to improve U of W's two per cent participation in last year's Commuter Challenge.

Cycling, of course, isn't the only eco-friendly mode of transportation. Many university students use the transit system to get around. If you're already doing that, don't let it dissuade you from registering for the challenge.

"If you are taking the bus anyway, then for sure sign on," said Fulford. "It's also about rewarding people who are doing good things already."

Fulford said universities basically compete for bragging rights in two categories: the greatest overall number of students registered and the highest percentage of students registered for the challenge. Last year, Red River College's Princess Campus won the "greatest overall" category.

James Cooke, vice-president of the Princess Street campus, won't be pulling any punches this year either.

"So far, I've just set up the Facebook group to get initial awareness, and then after that it's going to be me and two other students during the week trying to get people to sign

up," said Cooke. "Not only are you saving money, you're saving the earth while you're doing it."

For more information on the commuter challenge, including eco-friendly transportation alternatives, see Samuel's blog at <http://uniter.ca/blog>.

2008 COMMUTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

A run-down of how many students participated

Booth College	70/155 (45 per cent)
Canadian Mennonite University	164/614 (27 per cent)
Red River College, Princess Street campus	253/1,500 (17 per cent)
Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface	37/1,690 (2 per cent)
University of Winnipeg	163/9,000 (2 per cent)
University of Manitoba	114/28,783 (0.4 per cent)
Red River College, Notre Dame campus	11/6,700 (0.16 per cent)
Brandon University	0/3,836 (0 per cent)

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OLSAS

Ontario Law School Application Service

November 2, 2009: Application deadline for first-year English programs

May 3, 2010: Application deadline for upper-year programs



TEAS

www.ouac.on.ca/teas/

Teacher Education Application Service

December 1, 2009: Application deadline for English programs

March 1, 2010: Application deadline for French programs

www.ouac.on.ca/orpas/

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Faculty fundraising efforts a success

U of W unites to support student scholarships and bursaries

COURTNEY SCHWEGEL
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of university faculty and pay cuts taken by staff and administration, students this year received nearly the same level of financial aid as past years, despite the weak economy.

As *The Uniter* reported on July 17, the endowment investments the University of Winnipeg relies upon for scholarship and bursary funding were hit hard by the recession. This threw into question how much funding students would receive.

Senior executive officer Dan Hurley explained that because some money is restricted to specific scholarships, the university used an unrestricted fund to make up some of the difference.



Despite paying off their own student debt, professors like Angela Failler donated money to help fund scholarships for students.

"[This] help[ed] meet part of the need, but not all of the need," Hurley said.

For the rest, the university asked donors for more money.

In addition, the administration and support staff raised \$200,000 for the cause. To raise this money, over 300 support staff agreed to take days off without pay and senior administration took pay cuts ranging

between six and 10 per cent.

The University of Winnipeg Faculty Association raised approximately \$95,000 through payroll donations.

Pauline Greenhill, professor of women's and gender studies and organizer of the UWFA fundraising efforts, said an overwhelming amount of faculty made donations.

"We are very concerned about

"We are very concerned about the possibility that students might be negatively affected by the current economic situation."

-PAULINE GREENHILL, U OF W PROFESSOR

the possibility that students might be negatively affected by the current economic situation," she said.

Greenhill also said some faculty who are still paying off their own student debt still made contributions.

Angela Failler, assistant professor of sociology and women's and gender studies, is one of the faculty members who contributed to the UWFA scholarship fundraising efforts. While she is still currently paying off her own student debt from finishing her PhD, she still felt compelled to help U of W students out financially.

"Yes, it is financially challenging for me to contribute to this fund,

but in terms of principle it is not," she said. "The spirit of the faculty contributing to the scholarships fund is to say that we are all about opportunities for students. We support the effort to make the university a more affordable and accessible place."

Hurley agreed with Failler and is proud of the university's overall efforts.

"People have had to make sacrifices and have had to make some personal decisions to help with the cost ... but it is important that when difficult times come, they come together," said Hurley.

Greenhill said the close relationships between students and professors at the U of W inspired the extensive measures.

"We care about our students. We see one on one the effect that our students' economic situation has on them and the stress that it has on them," she said. "We didn't want [lack of funding] to keep people from coming to university and continuing in university."

It's cool to compost

University composting program kicks off its third year, but will students take part?

COURTNEY SCHWEGEL
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

With the ban of plastic water bottle sales, the sourcing of local food in the cafeteria and a campus recycling program, the University of Winnipeg is consciously striving towards environmental sustainability. And as the compost program on campus continues to gain momentum, the university will further reduce its environmental footprint.

Compost bins made their debut on campus in August 2007.

Kisti Thomas, materials conservation co-ordinator at the University of Winnipeg, said the program got off to a slow start.

"There were a lot of problems because if you just stick out compost bins and you don't show people how to compost ... then everything is contaminated because people didn't know what to put in it," she said.

Thomas said a compost bin becomes contaminated when it contains too many non-compostable items. When this happens, the entire contents of the bin cannot be composted.

In its second year, the program began to progress due to a greater emphasis on educating students around what is and what is not compostable. From April 2008 to March 2009 the university composted 11.1 tonnes of materials – a drastic improvement over the 1.5 tonnes of materials composted the previous year.

Thomas is pleased with last year's outcome, though she said there is still room for improvement.

"I can say that the compost bins are still being contaminated," she



Last year, many compost bags had to be thrown out because they were contaminated with non-compostable material.

said, adding that many students may still be confused around what constitutes a compostable item.

She pointed out that although the coffee cups distributed by Diversity Food Services are compostable, coffee cups from off-campus locations, like Starbucks, are not.

"If you are not sure, put it in the garbage because at least the rest [of the bin's contents] can be composted," she said.

But for some students the issue with composting is simply one of awareness.

Grace Bowness, a third-year English major at the U of W, said many students don't even realize there are composting bins on campus.

"They don't seem to be advertised so students are kind of left in the dark," she said, adding that since the bins are not well marked, students may mistake them for garbage bins and throw the wrong materials in them.

Geoff Scott, professor of geography at the U of W, agreed with Bowness that composting on campus should be better advertised.

Scott, who has studied soil in several countries, stressed the importance of students making use of the compost bins.

"For the students here on campus, it should be part of everyday life," he said, adding that composting organic matter returns nutrients

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COMPOSTING ON CAMPUS

There are three bins located on campus:

⇒ Pangea's Kitchen in Riddell Hall

⇒ Malecón on the fourth floor of Centennial Hall (Buffeteria)

⇒ Café Bodhi in Lockhart

What to compost:

⇒ cooked and uncooked food products

⇒ any food storage containers from Soma Café and Diversity Food Services

to the soil, enriching it immensely.

In addition to soil enrichment, which benefits food production, composting reduces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas that is produced when food waste breaks down in landfills.

Thomas hopes that U of W's composting efforts will inspire others to embrace composting as well.

"The community looks to the university to set an example of what they should be doing," she said, adding that the U of W is currently the only post-secondary institution in Manitoba with a composting program.

Down to the wire

Wesmen recalls favourite memory from last season

SARAH REILLY
VOLUNTEER

"One second! One second on the clock!"

It was the Wesmen Women's Basketball Team's last game against crosstown rivals, the University of Manitoba Bisons, in a three-game playoff series earlier this year.

There was one second left in regulation time and the Wesmen were losing 61-60. The ball was inbounded to second-year guard Amy Ogidan, who caught it, and managed to make a shot.

As the buzzer sounded to end the game, the referee's whistle blew to call a foul. Ogidan went to the foul line with no time remaining on the clock. She had to make both of her foul shots for the Wesmen to advance to the Great Plains championship against Regina.

Ogidan sunk the first, to tie the game, then hit the second, giving the Wesmen a 62-61 win over the Bisons.

This is 19-year-old Kaitlin Frison's favourite memory with the Wesmen. The third-year forward, from Eaton, Sask., said she first began playing basketball because her dad was a coach.

"I joined my first team when I was six," Frison said.

Almost 14 years later, Frison is working towards a bio-chemistry degree, "geared towards pre-optometry," and she's still playing basketball.

When asked why, she said simply, "I have the opportunity to continue doing something I love."

Frison said she thinks the team is going to do well this year and is looking forward to their first home game on Friday, Oct. 9 against Lakehead University.



Kaitlin Frison is a third-year forward with the Wesmen. ➔

Comments

Forget tuition – we need a vanity freeze

Education would be easier to pay for if we kept things in perspective



MELANIE MURCHISON
VOLUNTEER

Like no other generation before, ours is expected to gain a post-secondary education. It seems that nowadays, a bachelor's degree has about as much prestige as a high school degree used to have. Whereas a high school degree used to at least be a guarantee of relatively steady employment, obtaining one in the present day doesn't tend to get you far in the way of the work force. Most jobs now require at least some form of post-secondary education.

That being said, a three-year post-secondary arts or sciences degree from a Canadian university

costs anywhere from \$15,000 to \$28,000 before residence and other fees, depending on where it is you plan to study. For international students, that number almost triples. No matter what you go to school for, it takes a lot of money to gain that seemingly necessary education.

Our generation is also unique because it is starting off with an obscene amount of debt. Student loans and lines of credit abound. I'll be the first one in line complaining that tuition fees are too high and that it's unfair to burden us with such a heavy cost so soon in our adult lives, but when you add up the money maybe the cost of school really isn't the problem.

How many of us live on our own when home is still a perfectly viable option?

How many of us have cars, iPods or laptop computers? All of these items and things are depreciating assets. That means that once you buy them, they'll only decrease in value. You'll never get more for these things than you

I can't even count the number of students I personally know who have put their BlackBerries and reading week vacations on their student loans

originally paid.

In contrast, can you say the same about your education? Yes, school is expensive, but when you compare the cost of a Canadian degree against the same American one, it takes one-third as much money to receive the same piece of paper and, likely, a similarly-placed job.

When the economic crisis hit last fall, students in the United States started coming up to Canada in huge numbers – particularly to the University of Toronto and Dalhousie University – instead of universities on the eastern seaboard, because they realized how much better we have it up here,



even with their own cost of living factored in as well.

Many post-secondary students have been brought up in an age of instant gratification where if you want something, regardless of whether or not you can afford it, you can have it. Credit cards, loans and lines of credit make it possible for students to live well beyond their means. Weighing needs has become irrelevant in an age of want.

I can't even count the number

of students I personally know who have put their BlackBerries and reading week vacations on their student loans and chalked the expense up to being a student.

Now that the credit crunch has tightened up the bursary, loan and credit card strings, it's getting a little more difficult to secure those "want" items and, in some cases, even the "need" items.

I think that's actually a good thing.

Maybe it's time that we all look at our want items for what they really are: things that we desire, but don't really need.

It'd be awesome if tuition were cheaper – don't get me wrong, I'm not for making us pay more money for school – but I am in favour of students thinking about what is important to spend money on and what is not. And maybe, just maybe, an iPhone is not one of those important things.

Melanie Murchison is a University of Winnipeg student.

The root of all evil and trust

Most can be trusted with a life, but money is another matter altogether



ALEXANDER KAVANAGH
VOLUNTEER

If there is one thing that I'm sick of hearing people say, it's: "I'd trust this person with my life."

It's annoying because what it indicates, to me at least, is that someone has a basic level of human decency. And to make basic human decency an ultimate declaration of trust is misguided. The fact is, I would trust *most* people with my life.

Think about it. If you saw some stranger hanging from a cliff, what would you do? You'd freak out just like any other remotely decent human being and help that person.

My point is, most people are at least inherently good enough that they would not just let a stranger die if they could prevent it.

No, the real test of trust is not with a life, but with money. It's a hard thing to live with if you let another human being die. But money, on the other hand, is the easiest thing in the world to compromise one's own morals over.

Let's face it: Currency is something that all people strive to accumulate and a lot of us will do whatever it takes to get more of it. People lie, cheat and steal to get money. People will sell drugs to get it and money is even a common motive for murder.

We live in a world that is driven

by the attainment of money, whether it's trying to make enough just to get by or it's the kind of corporate greed that lands financial tycoons in prison. People spend their whole lives and a lot of energy trying to "stay in the black."

But the truth is that society sets us up for failure right from the start.

Take me for instance. Like many students, I'm in the process of accumulating a massive amount of debt from student loans. So much so, I'll probably spend the next 20 years paying it off after I graduate.

To add to a student's financial woes, credit card companies were estimated to have spent \$15.4 billion in a single business quarter alone on advertising in 2001. As if the pressure to have a credit card wasn't bad enough, companies make it so enticing to spend beyond our financial means, since it doesn't feel like spending real money.

To keep us indebted, major credit card companies have invested obscene amounts in lobbying governments to make it harder than ever to get credit card debt cleared by filing for bankruptcy.

So long as we live in a world driven by money, it shall always remain the primary source of greed in the world. That means money is an evil which makes it easier than any other for us to betray another person over.

So, the next time you really want to convey that you trust someone unconditionally, try saying "I'd trust them with my money" instead.

Alexander Kavanagh is a University of Winnipeg student.

The dream shouldn't die

Analysts couldn't predict economic collapse, so don't let them predict your future



ROB HOLT
VOLUNTEER

"No catalogue of horrors ever kept men from war. Before the war you always think that it's not you that dies. But you will die, brother, if you go to it long enough."

—Ernest Hemingway

Lord, what kind of terrible, evil opening was that? I doubt Hemingway, speaking from his experiences in the First World War, ever imagined his words would be used to describe the bleak world of finance. But this, of course, is how we've been talking about the economy for slightly over a year now. A quotation such as Hemingway's could fit above virtually any article in any newspaper's financial section. Or perhaps they could use something from the book of Revelations. What comes to mind is *"the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell to earth."*

That the North American economy has seen better days isn't a surprise to anyone. In fact, there's a word being tossed about by economists now to describe what's happening. That word is *hysteresis*, which comes from the Latin word for *late*. Let me explain.

Remember that time you got drunk and threw your cellphone against a brick wall because you were mad at it? Well, hysteresis – in an economic sense – is like your

broken cell phone. Even if your phone isn't completely fucked, it would take a staggering amount of time and effort to repair. It's far more likely that you're just going to have a busted cellphone from now on.

The combination of this brutal economic outlook with 15.9 per cent youth unemployment in Canada (18.5 in the United States) has prompted many observers, analysts and pundits to offer bleak advice to young people entering the job market. Namely, abandon the hunt for your dream career. You'll be better off finding an entry-level position in a cubicle farm somewhere, burying yourself within the bureaucracy and slogging through 40 or 50 years of safe, dependable employment.

This isn't the time or place for lofty goals, big risks or high expectations. This is time to bite the bullet. After all, work is *supposed* to suck, right?

I would like to humbly disagree.

One doesn't need to look much further than the people giving this advice to realize that it's terribly bad. The very idea that your job should be a mind-numbing, soul-crushing experience, that your career choice should be based solely on the money, only makes sense to the types of people who grow up to be economic analysts.

The risks and uncertainties associated with pursuing one's dream career are not new concepts. If

economists and hired pundits want to angle into the crushing-young-people's-dreams market, they ought to take jobs as high school guidance counselors.

Fleeing from the big risks and running head first into the sort of career you have to "learn to like" is a fate worse than death.

While I would encourage anyone entering the job market to aim for more than just a job they hate with a wage they can live with, let's be honest; not everybody who chases their dream gig is going to be successful. Some of us, suffice it to say, are not going to hack it.

But fleeing from the big risks and running head first into the sort of career you have to "learn to like" is a fate worse than death. The prospect of failure – however amplified by hired geeks – shouldn't hold anyone back who's set to give their dream career an honest shot.

Rob Holt is a University of Winnipeg student who hopes the economy is in better shape when he graduates. Just in case.

Epitaph for all those multicoloured bills?

The digital age could mean the end of money as we know it



PAUL FIGSBY
VOLUNTEER

Ever hear of the plan to get rid of the Canadian penny? What about getting rid of paper money altogether? As it turns out, these two ideas are not so far-fetched.

Last year, Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin unveiled his grand plan for abolishing the Canadian one-cent piece. Since it costs more money to produce the penny in costly copper than it is worth as currency, the idea makes economic sense. Several countries, notably Australia and France, have already ended the use of their smallest coin denominations.

While the reason for ending the circulation of the penny is seemingly benign, it is part of a changing understanding of currency in this country and elsewhere. Indeed,



JONATHAN DYCK

the use of digital payment has risen to a point where it is now more popular than cash.

It has been a quarter century since debit cards were first introduced in Canada and their availability has fundamentally altered the relationship between individuals and their money.

In 1994, the role of debit cards was expanded with the launch of

the Interac Direct Payment system, which first allowed consumers to make their purchases with client cards.

The popularity and availability of debit payment is astronomical, especially in Canada. Only seven years after its launch, payment for items on debit surpassed payments made in cash. Today, there are an estimated 550,000 Interac termi-

nals in Canada which account for over \$150 billion worth of transactions annually.

Moreover, the mandatory payment option for most large corporations, public institutions and government employees is the direct deposit method, where one's pay is automatically deposited in their bank account. Few objections have been raised about this process, as it is far more convenient than traveling to the bank every two weeks to deposit a cheque.

But between a digital deposit and a few debit purchases, it is very possible for one to never see any of the money they have made. Currency is now far less tangible than it has been in the past and "invisible money" will be the norm for future generations.

While paper money has not disappeared yet, the influential U.S. Council on Foreign Relations has laid out the first steps of a plan to do so.

Along with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, global financial thinkers have called for the creation of geographically based currency systems similar to the Euro. The "Amero" would be the base currency for the Americas, while others would be adopted for all of Africa and Asia. By remov-

ing the national constraints of hard currency, it is thought that globalization will become a more efficient and profitable process.

Proponents of such currency amalgamation efforts claim that financial systems will be more easily regulated under this new method and that they would be less subject to the political instability of individual states.

While a world of only five or so currencies may sound attractive to some, the magnitude of such financial centralization is more than a little ominous.

Where currency goes from such a point is anyone's guess, but there are a few hints about what the future may hold.

Pilot projects in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Netherlands have seen the expansion of transit pay cards into use within the wider electronic cash system – meaning that cash has been relegated to being a total inconvenience.

It may be only a matter of time before financial thinkers openly contemplate a world without physical money that you can hold in your hand.

Paul Figsby is a University of Winnipeg student.

Letters

Letter to the Editor

In response to Andrew Tod's article ("Sharing time is over," Sept. 10) I just want to suggest that you open up the call for cyclists to share their horror stories of being a cyclist in Winnipeg! Many motorists in this city are completely hostile to cyclists, and these attitudes should not be tolerated.

My girlfriend and I are not the poster children for bicycle advocacy, but both of us do enjoy cycling during the spring and summer months. This summer while cycling, my girlfriend was hit twice by cars. The incidents occurred in June and July, and since the second incident she has become completely terrified to get back on a bike.

Although I have yet to be hit by

a vehicle, it feels like open warfare when I try to bike down Stafford Street to work around 4 p.m. on a weekday. I have had multiple vehicles that pass me and then pull over to hug the curb and prevent me from passing them. Sometimes this is done while slamming on the brakes, almost causing me to hit the car.

These kind of selfish and dangerous driving acts should not be tolerated. I encourage you to open up your paper to accepting stories from Winnipeg cyclists to bring attention to the perils that face individuals trying to break away from Winnipeg's car culture!

*Sincerely,
Lindsay Collins*

A loss of culture that has been lost in history

First World War detention camps have a Northwest Rebellion connection



BRIAN RICE
VOLUNTEER

Often when beginning my aboriginal education class, I will ask students where their families originally come from. This often leads into discussions about ethnicity, cultural background and language. A segment of any given class will say that they are of Ukrainian background but never learned to speak their language. Older generations of their families had immigrated to Canada around the beginning of the twentieth century yet many didn't pass on the Ukrainian language to their children or grandchildren.

Was this simply a question of assimilation or was it something else?

During the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, as Métis and Cree resisters were being suppressed by Maj.-Gen. Frederick Middleton's 8,000-man army, an incident was playing out which would have consequences for both Ukrainian-Canadians and others immigrants from Eastern Europe some 29 years later.

One of Middleton's subordinates, Lt.-Col. Otter, decided he would attack a Cree chief named Poundmaker who had tried to keep the peace between the warring factions. Poundmaker had set up camp with his people at a place called Cutknife Hill. Forewarned

For many, living in Canada was made easier by suppressing their identity and assimilating as best they could.

about Otter's advance on the camp, Poundmaker's right-hand man, Fine Day, proceeded to outflank Otter's troops and began picking them off one by one. Poundmaker, when told of what was happening, went to the battle and called off Fine Day. His men allowed Otter and his troops to escape, thus avoiding a massacre.

When the Northwest Rebellion ended, Poundmaker was sent to Stony Mountain Prison and received a three-year sentence. Seven other Cree leaders, some of whom had participated in the killing of civilians, were hanged along with Louis Riel.

Otter never defended Poundmaker in spite of the fact that Poundmaker spared his life and the lives of his men. After his release, Poundmaker succumbed to the severe treatment he had received while in prison.

Some 29 years later 5,000 Eastern Europeans – many of them of Ukrainian descent – were rounded up as enemy aliens and placed in 24 detention camps across Canada. While there, they suffered under the harshest of conditions with

some dying in the camps. Others were shot while trying to escape.

Another 80,000 immigrants had to register as enemy aliens and carry identification papers with them at all times. This was because they had come from places such as Galatia, which was considered a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that was at war with the British Empire, of which Canada was a part.

And who was in charge of the 24 detention camps? It was Otter, the same man that Poundmaker had allowed to escape with his men and who had refused to come to the chief's defence when it was needed following the Northwest Rebellion.

Similar to the experience of Aboriginal people who spent time in the residential schools after the Northwest Rebellion, those Ukrainians and other Eastern Europeans who were sent to the detention camps didn't want to talk about their experiences there.

For many, living in Canada was made easier by suppressing their identity and assimilating as best they could.

As a result, their children and grandchildren never learned the Ukrainian language.

Brian Rice is an associate professor of education at the University of Winnipeg.

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Arts & Culture

Volcanoless in Canada, acoustically inclined in Saskatoon

Saskatchewan dance-rockers bring their music to the 'Peg

MIKE DUERKSEN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

If you look up the word “volcanoless” in the dictionary, chances are you won’t find it. But that hasn’t deterred Saskatchewan acoustic dance-rock outfit Volcanoless in Canada from capitalizing on its catchy ring.

“It was a geology student’s Internet display name that our lead singer snatched,” bass player Enver Hampton explained on the phone from his Saskatoon home, days before embarking on a tour that will bring Volcanoless in Canada to the Lo Pub on Friday, Sept. 25.

Not only does the word not exist, but it’s also a misrepresentation of Canada – a country that boasts a number of volcanoes, though most of them are dormant.

“Therein lies the irony of the [name],” Hampton said, laughing. “We’re a rock band with no electric guitars.”

What started out as an acoustic guitar trio in Yorkton, Sask. six years ago quickly turned into a five-piece with the addition of a bass player and a drummer.

After independently selling over 2,500 copies of their debut EP, the band knew they were onto something.

“Playing with acoustic guitars definitely adds a sensibility to it, a certain charm that the electric guitars don’t quite have,” Hampton said.



Kids in the hall: Saskatchewan rockers Volcanoless in Canada pose for an aesthetically pleasing photo.

However, when it came time to record their sophomore outing, *The Way Forward*, electric instruments were included to enrich the infectious tunes.

“It adds a bit more flavour, more edge to the sound,” Hampton said. Onstage, however, the acoustic guitars remain.

“An unconventional use of the acoustic guitars is plugging them in, cranked to nine-and-a-half with distortion. ... It adds a completely different twist!”

Although the current tour will take the band and its music all the way to New York for the famed CMJ music festival, it has already seen its fair share of the world.

With some songs being conceived in London, England, the band recorded the album in Saskatoon before sending it to Brooklyn for mixing.

“Our guitar player sent out a whole bunch of e-mails to producers to see who we could get to try and achieve a certain sound that we

were looking for,” Hampton said. “A certain energy, or ferociousness.”

Alex Newport (The Mars Volta) took on the project and tweaked the songs to perfection. Renowned engineer Troy Glessner then added the final mastering touches in Seattle.

And while the chances of “volcanoless” being included in the English dictionary anytime soon are slim, Hampton hopes it will at least catch on in the Canadian music landscape.

“Collectively, we want to make this a career,” he said. “We want to tour the world and make music.”

⇒ See Volcanoless in Canada Friday, Sept. 25 at the Lo Pub (330 Kennedy St.)

⇒ Weatherman Underground and Oldfolks Home will also perform

⇒ Visit www.volcanolessincanada.com

Cheering for the Bad Guy: More hardcore than most punk

Local musician Sheldon Birnie explains his love of country music

MIKE DUERKSEN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

These days, Sheldon Birnie can be seen straddling with an acoustic guitar and crooning dusty, hard-luck country tales with the Winnipeg band he fronts – the amusingly named six-piece Cheering for the Bad Guy.

A few years ago, however, you would’ve found the 26-year-old power-strumming his way through fast, angry, overdriven punk rock anthems.

“I grew up in small town northern B.C., so country was all around us. I wasn’t particularly fond of it. I listened to mostly punk rock and rock ‘n’ roll,” Birnie said by phone last week from the University of Manitoba where he’s a third-year environmental studies major. “But then, when I sat down and listened to artists like Steve Earle or Townes Van Zandt, I found out they’re probably more hardcore than most punk people I was listening to.”



Forget about the likes of Keith Urban and Taylor Swift. Winnipeg's Cheering for the Bad Guy are the new face of country music.

That realization came to Birnie when he was vagabonding through Canada in 2004, working short stints here and there while touring part-time with the bands he was playing with.

In between tours however, Birnie needed a creative outlet for his musical ideas. With no one else around but his acoustic guitar, he started

writing country tunes.

“I found punk and country were very similar, at least the songs I was writing. If I slowed them down, the rhythm translated nicely to your basic Hank Williams style,” he said.

Besides song structures, Birnie found another commonality between the two genres – ideology.

“The ideas I found were quite the same in punk as in the outlaw country I liked. Down and out, poor, not making ends meet, drinking a lot and partying seemed to be a similar scene, just a different language,” he mused.

“But as opposed to punk rock, you can get mad at the system, or mad at your situation, without hav-

ing to be jacked up and pissed off all the time.”

In keeping with that ribald spirit, Birnie derived the name of the band from his love of villains in Western movies.

“The bigger people who are generally portrayed as good guys don’t normally end up being the good guys,” he explained.

Rounded out by Dan Stewart, Daniel Peloquin-Hopfner, Nathan Ham, Ben Moir and Jon Voss, the band’s eponymous self-financed 2008 debut – an old-timey, bucolic-sounding affair – was recorded in a North End basement studio.

And while their songs touch on subjects like low wages and hard travels, Birnie is quick to point out the band is primarily about having fun.

“We try to get people to stop in their tracks and start dancing and drinking. We have a blast playing together and we try to extend that fun to the audience,” he said.

“The songs aren’t mindless party tunes, but we like to infuse them with a bit of fun.”

⇒ See Cheering for the Bad Guy Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Times Change(d)

⇒ The Bushtits and Gordie Tentrees will also perform

⇒ Download CFTBG’s debut album for free at www.cheeringforthebadguy.com

Not throwing herself in other people's faces

Winnipeg singer-songwriter doesn't play by the rules when it comes to her career

AARON EPP
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

This week Demetra Penner's in Winnipeg, next week she could be in Churchill. This year she's concentrating on her music, next year it could be her painting. Not knowing for sure doesn't phase her.

"You've got to be present," the petite 24-year-old said over drinks on a Corydon patio last week.

It's that attitude that's brought Penner to places like Thailand, Nepal, the Arctic Circle, Costa Rica and Guatemala. She's a certified yoga instructor and self-taught visual artist whose paintings have hung in Vienna, Barcelona and New York.

Somehow, in between all of that, she's managed to become a sought-after singer-songwriter whose beautiful, dramatic voice and spacious folk songs have been showcased at the Winnipeg Folk Festival twice as part of the young performers program.

This Saturday, Sept. 26, she'll play a show in Winnipeg – something that's rare because of her self-professed "lack of knowledge about how to promote myself."

"I'm not good at throwing my-



LARRED FALK

"Life is really short. I didn't want to wait years and years and years to make a big, fancy album."

-DEMETRA PENNER, MUSICIAN

self in people's faces," Penner said. "People come to me [to arrange shows] and when they do, I'm very grateful. Plus, it's hard to play a lot of shows when you travel."

But it's because she travels that she's developed her singing and songwriting over the past four years. Growing up on a farm near Altona, Man., Penner was a prolific painter in high school who dabbled in music at the occasional coffeehouse.

When she began traveling, music became her medium of choice simply because she could write songs wherever she was – much easier than tracking down paints and a canvas.

In 2007 she went into MCM Studio with her friends Darryl

Happy in galoshes: Winnipeg's Demetra Penner is a singer-songwriter as well as an accomplished painter.

Neustaedter Barg, Paul Bergman and Karl Redding to record some songs for posterity. In one evening she ended up recording six songs, which she turned into her debut EP.

"It was more just to put [the songs] down to have something tangible and to share it," Penner said. "Life is really short. I didn't want to wait years and years and years to make a big, fancy album."

Since then, Penner's managed to sell nearly all 500 copies of the EP. She's taken part in Mike Petkau's Record of the Week Club and is currently writing songs with Matt Peters of The Waking Eyes.

If she manages to settle in Winnipeg for more than six months, she hopes to make another CD and then tour Canada.

"I consider art and music my own language and no one can tell me how to express it," she said. "I don't really follow the rules or script. I just *do*."

⇒ See Demetra Penner Saturday, Sept. 26 at the The Folk Exchange (211 Bannatyne Ave.)

⇒ Tickets are \$8 in advance at the Folk Festival Music Store or \$10 at the door

⇒ Visit www.myspace.com/tidessweetlyrolling

Getting in the zone

Maestro Alexander Mickelthwate confidently leads the WSO into its 2009-2010 season

AARON EPP
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

When he talks about what it's like conducting the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, music director Alexander Mickelthwate uses sports language.

"If I'm in the zone and get all the musicians in the zone, that is when something new happens," he said.

And if everything clicks on stage, the audience becomes a part of it, too.

"It becomes a completely concentrated group consciousness. It's just really amazing, actually."

Mickelthwate will lead the 65-plus members of the WSO (and hopefully the audience) into the zone this weekend (Friday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 26) when they open their season with performances of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4*.

Speaking by phone from his River Heights home early last Friday morning, the 39-year-old maestro said that people who have never been to the symphony don't know what they're missing.

"Live classical music is the purest way to get to somebody's heart, I feel," Mickelthwate said in a light German accent. "Music itself is simply pure emotion put into sound. ... It's the strangest thing to have 80 people playing together, creating sounds together in unison – it's highly unique. No other art form takes you in like that."

And to think he almost became a stock broker.

Growing up in Frankfurt, Germany as one of three sons, Mickelthwate studied piano, cello and voice as a youth. In his teens, he never imagined being a professional musician because he thought it was only musical geniuses like Beethoven who could make it in



COURTESY OF WSO

"Live classical music is the purest way to get to somebody's heart, I feel."

-ALEXANDER MICKELTHWATE,
WSO CONDUCTOR

WSO conductor Alexander Mickelthwate puts down his baton and gets decidedly casual.

the world of music.

At 17, he was considering a career in finance when a teacher asked him during recess if he'd ever considered becoming a conductor.

"The lightbulb went on," Mickelthwate said. "I remember where I was standing when this happened."

After training in Germany for a time, Mickelthwate's studies brought him to the U.S. Various conducting gigs across North America and in Germany followed.

Prior to being named music director of the WSO in February 2006, Mickelthwate was the associate conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he was praised for his "splendid, richly idiomatic readings" (*LA Weekly*) as well as his "fearless" approach and "first-rate technique" (*Los Angeles Times*).

When he isn't rehearsing with the WSO, Mickelthwate is in meetings, helping plan the 2010-2011 season. He's also studying the scores for upcoming concerts, often for five hours at a time.

During the week of a performance, Mickelthwate and the symphony will rehearse for two-and-a-half hours on Wednesday and Thursday, do a dress rehearsal on Friday and then perform that evening as well as the next.

It's easy to get sucked into work completely and forget everything about home life, he said. That's why he's clear with his calendar on when it's time to work and when it's time to be with his wife, California-born fashion designer Abigail Camp, and their two young sons, Jack and Jake.

Mickelthwate once told the *Winnipeg Free Press* that there's always a golden era for orchestras and

he wants to make that happen in Winnipeg. Are we there yet?

"It's going really well. We're creating new festivals, we're balancing the budget, we're connecting with different communities – it's just gelling right now. Everything is very inspiring and satisfying," he said.

"I don't know if this is the golden era, but it feels good."

For more information, visit www.uso.mb.ca.

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The pillar problem

Artist Michel de Broin questions the structural integrity of Plug In ICA with *Disruption from Within*

JAMES CULLETON
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Winnipeg art enthusiasts have not one but two chances to see the work of Montreal artist Michel de Broin this fall.

Last week, de Broin was in Winnipeg to open his new solo exhibition, *Disruption from Within*, at Plug In ICA. He also unveiled *Monument*, the inaugural sculpture for the Jardin de Sculptures at Le Maison des Artistes Visuels in St. Boniface.

Appropriating from traditional art methods, de Broin focuses on drapery in *Monument*. The piece started as an investigation into René Magritte's *Les Amoureux*, where a couple kisses under a sheet.

"I'm interested in intimate space versus public space."

The Plug In show goes in a different direction, though.

"When I was invited to show [at Plug In] I looked at the space as a problem I needed to deal with, and specifically that problem was the pillars," de Broin said. "By removing the pillars, I opened up the space, but placed the gallery in a dangerous position because without them the ceiling would fall."

In a series of oil paintings called *Decolonisation*, de Broin illustrates a deconstruction of the interior of the gallery space by pulling down its pillars and then reusing them as



Monument by Michel de Broin is the inaugural sculpture for the newly developed *Jardin de sculptures* in St. Boniface.

sculptural elements.

In his third version of a piece called *Shelter*, de Broin creates a structure out of 10 tables he found in Winnipeg to create an assemblage, a form of sculpture comprised of found objects and arranged in such a way that they create a piece of art.

The tabletops in *Shelter* face inward. Presenting the tables in this new way creates an interesting dialogue for de Broin.

"This piece shows the tables' underside, or dark side."

Some of de Broin's art applies technology in a playful way to make a point. In a piece called *Keep*

on *Smoking II*, de Broin modified a bicycle to generate clean smoke, playing on the hypocrisy of the world's recent green movement.

"Big companies pretend to make greener things, like clean burning coal and things like that, and really it's not true," he said.

De Broin said he feels more like a contractor than a visual artist at times and pushes the boundaries of what people might expect of an artist.

"During modernity, artists were hidden in their studios, but before that they were building cathedrals and acting as contractors – working with teams of people and making sure everything [looked] right. I do a lot of that," he said.

When asked about his studio practices, de Broin said he's uncomfortable with the fact that studios are places where artists get a bunch of tools together and those tools are tied to a particular place.

"I like to be free to choose any medium at any given time. Sharing studios with other artists permits this. They are often set up to make something different and we can collaborate."

Disruption from Within is at Plug In ICA (286 McDermot Ave.) until Nov. 21. Visit www.micheldebroyin.org.

MOVIE REVIEW

And a five, six, seven, eight!

How much you enjoy the documentary *Every Little Step* will depend on how much you enjoy musicals

ADAM KLASSEN
VOLUNTEER

Every Little Step

Directed by Adam Del Deo and James D. Stern, 2008

96 minutes

Plays at Cinematheque Friday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27 at 9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30 and Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m., and 9 p.m.

★★★★☆

Adam Del Deo and James D. Stern's documentary *Every Little Step* tells the dual story of the original production and the current revival of one of Broadway's most beloved musicals, *A Chorus Line*.

How much you enjoy this movie will depend entirely on your feelings about musicals. If you are someone who would rather bang your own head against a wall than listen to Julie Andrews singing about the hills being alive with the sound of music, it might be best to steer clear.

But if you understand that grease is the word and why that rain in Spain always seems to end up on the plain, this would be a good one to check out.

Every Little Step gives a candid look at the current Broadway audition process as well as the fascinating history behind this musical, which is itself about the Broadway audition process.



A scene from the movie *Every Little Step*.

We begin with glimpses of the thousands of hopefuls as they vie for the few coveted roles. Unfortunately, little time is spent on the real people and, as a result, we do not get to know them beyond their passion for the role they are going for. Most of the actors appear as nameless faces passing by just slow enough to be judged. This makes it entertaining enough but also the weakest part of the film.

Deo and Stern were able to film all aspects of the audition process. We see how quickly those in charge must make a decision based on such little time with each. These scenes

give the audience the *American Idol*-like experience of critiquing along with the professionals – a fun game, but one that could tire quickly if this was all the film had to offer.

Thankfully, it isn't.

The most interesting aspects of *Every Little Step* are when it looks at the original production. *A Chorus Line* had its origins in a single night's meeting when a group of Broadway performers got together and talked about their lives. This was recorded and many of these stories are played throughout the film.

These sections are honest and moving, giving one a new respect for dancing as a profession. There is such passion and desire within these people and the original production was able to tap into that.

This film makes it clear how much of an impact *A Chorus Line* had on the Broadway world. It was able to tap into a truth and show those on the outside what goes on within this world. It also stripped away all the makeup and costumes and sought to tell the stories of the real people who are always performing.

GALLERIES

REGENERATION by JOAN SCAGLIONE explores the critical need for humans to enter into dialogue with nature. The exhibition will be launched Thursday, Sept. 24 by University of Winnipeg's Gallery IC03 at 4 p.m.

KEN GREGORY: WIND COIL SOUND FLOW launches Thursday, Oct. 1 at Gallery IC03 in conjunction with the Send & Receive Festival. Exhibition displays until Saturday, Oct. 31.

The Plug In Gallery is hosting MICHEL DE BROIN's exhibition *DISRUPTION FROM WITHIN* until Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery display photographic portraits by YOUSUF KARSH. Some of the famous faces include Muhammad Ali, Winston Churchill, Audrey Hepburn, Grey Owl and Pierre Trudeau. Opening Saturday, Sept. 26 and continuing until Sunday, Jan. 3.

The University of Manitoba's Gallery of Student Art hosts BLOODLINES, a sculptural essay of genetic impurity, by JOSHUA PEARLMAN, until Friday, Oct. 9.

ART CITY invites artists to submit proposals to conduct workshops at its community art studio located in Winnipeg's West Broadway neighbourhood. Proposals will be considered for the Art City Professional Artist Series in 2010.

ART OF MUSIC at the Folk Exchange features drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures inspired by music. The show runs until Friday, Oct. 30.

Wayne Arthur Gallery invites you to view SUB-URBAN photographs by HEATHER ROBERTSON. The exhibit is on display until Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Come out to the Ken Segal Gallery to take in A GLOBAL INUIT (Sex, Jokes and Polar Bears) by Milos Milidrag, which runs until Oct. 3.

Platform: Centre for Photographic and Digital Arts is pleased to present the group exhibition AS THE SIDEWALK BLEEDS, on display until Saturday, Oct. 24.

MICHAEL JOYAL'S artwork TRINITY: PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS and COLLAGE is on display at the Cre8ery until Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The Urban Shaman Gallery is hosting CONDOLENCE, recent works by Greg Staats. Exhibition runs until Saturday, Sept. 26.

The Blankstein Gallery in the Millennium Library presents the photographs of BRUNO WOJNICZ throughout September.

THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

Sarasvati Productions presents FEMFEST 2009: HERSTORY, Winnipeg's festival of plays by women for everyone. Shows are at the CanWest Centre for Theatre and Film from Thursday, Sept. 24 until Sunday, Oct. 4. Check out www.femfest.ca for more details.

FILM

SAY MY NAME, a film about women in hip hop, will be having a free screening followed by a panel discussion on Thursday, Oct. 1 in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall at the University of Winnipeg, 7 p.m.

The WINNIPEG SHORT FILM-MASSACRE is now accepting entries for the 2009 festival. Enter your horror film (10 minutes max.) and have it screened in front of a live audience. Entry deadline is Monday, Oct. 5. For more information visit www.winnipegshortfilmfestival.com.

This week at CINEMATHEQUE you can watch THE COVE, a documentary on the dolphin trade and humanity's treatment of the blue parts of our planet. Also playing this week is FOOD, INC. and HOW TO TALK BACK TO YOUR TV SET: FILMS THAT CHALLENGE THE BOOB TUBE. For more information and show times visit Cinematheque's website, www.winnipegcinematheque.com.



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H1N1 UPDATE

Forward thinking fiction

New major network TV series asks the question: What would you do if you knew your destiny?

JAYA BEANGE
VOLUNTEER STAFF

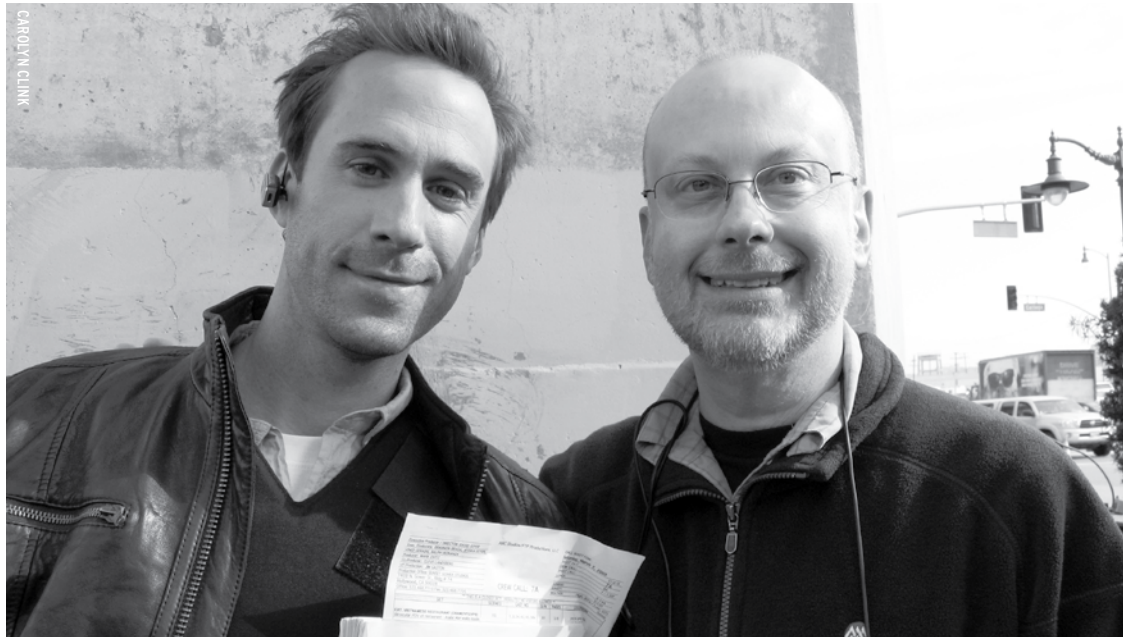
Ontario-based author Robert J. Sawyer easily ranks among the sci-fi greats – illustrious among those in the know. He is one of only seven people to have won all three of science fiction's top awards for best novel of the year: The Hugo, the Nebula and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award.

Now Sawyer's work is being taken to another level. Thursday, Sept. 24 marks the premiere of ABC's *FlashForward* – a new television series inspired by Sawyer's 1999 novel of the same name.

The Thin Air Winnipeg International Writers Festival has arranged a premiere party at McNally Robinson Polo Park that evening. Sawyer is looking forward to speaking at the bookstore (one of his favourite Winnipeg haunts) before and after the show airs.

"My inspiration for *FlashForward* came from a 20th anniversary high school reunion that was held at my house," Sawyer said by phone from his Mississauga home last week.

"Everybody was saying the same thing: 'If only I knew then what I know now, my life would have been so much better. I wouldn't have had that dead-end job or the bad marriage. Everything would have been better had I known.' So I suggested a thought experiment: let's find a way to see if that really



Author Robert J. Sawyer (right), pictured on location in Los Angeles with *FlashForward* star Joseph Fiennes.

is true. *FlashForward* explores that issue at length – would we better off with knowledge of our destinies?"

In the book, the entire human race loses consciousness simultaneously for just over two minutes as the result of a scientific experiment gone awry. During that time, nearly everyone sees themselves about 21 years in the future – or, in the show, six months.

FlashForward explores how the characters respond to this knowledge of the future.

Sawyer has been writing for his entire life, making his first sale at the age of 19. The original *Star Trek* television series as well as movies like *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Planet of the Apes* provided inspiration.

"The '60s were good but I thought things could be even better in the future. We were in the process of deciding what we would do as a species for the rest of time."

Sawyer sees himself as a child of

"I've always wanted to help to make the world a better place – to set a good example with my work."

- ROBERT J. SAWYER, SCI-FI WRITER

science fiction. Whenever the question arises as to what direction the human species will take, Sawyer has sought to provide an optimistic example, echoing the work of Arthur C. Clark, Isaac Asimov and Gene Roddenberry.

"I've always wanted to help to make the world a better place – to set a good example with my work."

When asked if there's anything that makes his work distinctly Canadian, Sawyer responded that his settings are all Canadian. He added that this has posed no prob-

lem in attracting international markets. His characters are also of diverse nationalities, reflecting the diversity of Canadian society.

Perhaps most interesting is a more subtle difference that distinguishes Sawyer's work from novels from the U.S.

"American science fiction novels end triumphantly and this is like the American approach to life. They are big and powerful and they get their way. Canadians tend to seek compromise."

The FlashForward premiere party begins at 6:30 p.m. Sawyer will also appear at the University of Winnipeg's Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall on Friday, Sept. 25 at 2:30 p.m. with fellow sci-fi writers Nick DiChario and Robert Charles Wilson on a panel discussing the future. Visit www.thinairwinnipeg.ca and www.sfwriter.ca.

LITERATURE

Have breakfast with author HAL NIEDZVIECKI, as he discusses social networks like Facebook and Twitter, at Prairie Ink Restaurant in Grant Park McNally Robinson at 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

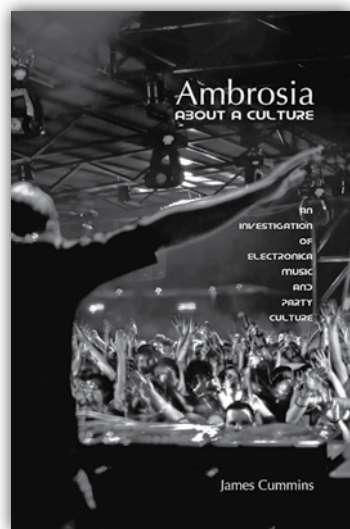
The launch of JUICE 9 is on Friday, Sept. 25 at the University of Winnipeg's Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Features local writers reading their juicy thoughts from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

LYNN JOHNSTON, creator of the popular comic strip *For Better or For Worse*, reads from FARLEY FOLLOWS HIS NOSE, a collaboration with BETH CRUIKSHANK, at the CanWest Global Performing Arts Centre at the Forks from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Attend THIN AIR 2009 for a week of literary feasting. Writers from Canada and around the world come to Winnipeg for readings, lectures, interviews, conversations, book launches and more. In fact, there is so much happening in town for the literary festival that you'll have to visit www.thinairwinnipeg.ca for a complete list of scheduled events.

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BOOK REVIEW



JAYA BEANGE
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Ambrosia: About a Culture – An Investigation of Electronica Music and Party Culture

James Cummins
198 pages
Clark-Nova Books, 2008

Ambrosia is the attempt to fill a niche – an expose of the ins and outs, the highs and lows of a culture, a genre of music, a way of

life: Electronica.

I applaud James Cummins for his attempt to approach a by-and-large un-academic (perhaps even anti-academic?) area academically. Few would be acquainted both with the underground movement and also disparate, in this case often philosophical, sources that could serve to explain the essence of electronic music.

This is Cummins' fourth book and his second on the topic of electronica. He begins by defining a plethora of terms such as the sub-genres of electronica and the major roles played within the industry.

He goes on to discuss the culture that surrounds this music – drug use, dance and light shows – and proceeds to examine their past, present and future realities. It's a survey that is both interesting and informative. Often after finding myself questioning why such-and-such an issue hadn't been addressed (spiritualism, escapism), I'd happily encounter it later in the work.

The overall intention seems to be to establish electronica as a force to be reckoned with, or the herald of a new era. Cummins attacks many misconceptions with statistics and anecdotes.

It's obvious that a great deal of research was conducted in the making of this work – interviews with hundreds of people with opinions on the subject, including the founders (so the author insists, though his insistence suggests that this is a

major point of contention) of the entire movement. Occasionally, however, the relevance of these opinions appears questionable.

The philosophical exploration of the subject is interesting and often captivating, but just as often, the relevance is unclear. Most would have difficulty understanding the relevance of philosophers like Kierkegaard or Schopenhauer and those that would be sympathetic to this attempt at philosophical explanation, would find the work lacking in depth and clarity.

The point being made requires clarification and distracting typos need to be fixed. Even metaphors, though sometimes apt, often seem contrived and superfluous, such as this passage:

"Each art form embraced a wave of change ... that wave crashed on the shores of every major city worldwide. The bulge of pent-up expression spilled over and then knocked down the dykes that had been built around the norm. The flood just swept away any person who tried to put any of their 10 fingers in the way."

After reading this book, I am better informed on the subject of electronic music, but I am still unable to properly distinguish between subgenres.

I also remain unconvinced that electronica is as holy as the author suggests and certainly not that it is "the purest form of sanctity."

Arts Briefs

Compiled by C. Jordan Crosthwaite

CENSORSHIP IN SCOTLAND

The Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art is hosting a retrospective of contemporary art based on issues of sexuality – and are censoring the exhibition as a result of criticism.

The *Guardian UK* reports that the exhibit, which attempts to raise awareness of gay, lesbian and transgender issues, has banned children from attending and has moved some of the more provocative works to a lesser known venue in another part of the city.

The censorship comes after the gallery faced criticism and pressure from religious and cultural groups.

The exhibit, titled *sh[OUT]*, features the work of artists including David Hockney, Robert Mapplethorpe and Catherine Opie. The exhibit opened in full force back in April, but scaled back its most controversial pieces after receiving letters of complaint. The amended show runs until November.

THE JEDI FACE DISCRIMINATION

Adherents to the religion of *Star Wars* may have to find a new place to buy their groceries. When an adherent of the Jedi Church wandered into a Tesco in Northern Wales, he was refused service for not removing his hood, according to *The Sun UK*.

England has a strange history of banning hoods, when back in 2005 shopping malls outlawed hoodies to cut down on violent shenanigans in commercial centers. The Jedi faith apparently requires members to cover their heads at all times, which is getting tricky when an aspiring Jedi wants to buy a can of beans for lunch.

This particular Jedi, upon being removed from the supermarket, cited the burqa worn by Muslim women and claimed prejudice. A Tesco representative responded with a bit of Jedi theology: "Obi-Wan Kenobi, Yoda and Luke Skywalker all went hoodless without going to the Dark Side."

MONKEY'S PREFER MONKEY MUSIC, METALLICA

Scientists interested in the way monkeys hear music made a surprising discovery. Tamarin monkeys, when tested with different sounds, from Bach to Tool, only responded to Metallica, the *Guardian UK* reported.

Researchers wanted to discover if human sounds could elicit response from the monkeys and, while most sounds didn't, Metallica's boring blend of power chords and ear-piercing solos had the effect of calming the monkeys. Metallica was the only human music that changed the monkeys' behavior, while music composed of monkey-made sounds would get a response from the Tamarins.

The sound test was designed to see if animal calls and human music were associated in gaining emotional response from primates, and to learn about how evolution is related to the creation of sounds and music.

Perhaps we should have left the apes in Metallica behind with the Stone Age.

PUNKERS GO PRANCING

Two weeks ago *The Uniter* reported that Alice Cooper named Green Day as one of his top picks for hard-rocking American rock 'n' roll bands. This week, a musical version of the band's 2004 album *American Idiot* made its debut, according to *RollingStone.com*. The iconic punk rockers were pleased with the frolicking rendition of the album.

The musical, which opened in California, was staged by the Berkeley Repertory Theater and directed by veteran stage-man Michael Mayer. The musical takes a few narrative liberties, including setting the action in Jingletown, USA.

Alice Cooper must be proud of his favourite band, what with actors prancing around in campy costumes and singing their heart-wrenching songs like *Jesus of Suburbia* and *Wake me Up When September Ends*.

Slowing down and living the simple life

University of Winnipeg IDS course teaches students how to do more with less

JAYA BEANGE
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Fasten your safety belts for a lightning-fast tour of a movement that encourages people to do just the opposite: *Slow down*.

While the dominant script dictates that people do things faster, bigger, better and stronger, and that people acquire more and more things, a class at University of Winnipeg's Menno Simons College offers an alternative – simple living.

Listed as one of the core classes in the college's International Development Studies program, the course is called "Study of Voluntary Simplicity."

Voluntary simplicity is the mindful choice to be less dependent upon material things. Because practitioners consume less, they reduce their ecological footprint. Because they're less dependent upon income, they have more time for self, family and community.

Many people are familiar with some of voluntary simplicity's outer practices: composting, recycling, biking rather than driving, eating organic food, yoga and regular exercise. Though helpful, there's more to simple living than just these outer forms.

"Voluntary simplicity is also the inner situation, to be really connected to what is *your* life purpose, why *you* are here, grounded in what *you* feel most called to do," said Karen Ridd, who teaches the course.

It's not exactly a new idea – countless spiritual leaders like Jesus and the Dalai Lama have practiced simple living. But perhaps global-

"If we lived more simply, less consumptively, we would have more time for each other and could re-knit social relationships."

- MARK BURCH, AUTHOR

ization, consumerism and the information era have pushed society to a point of no return, where alternatives are hard to come by, particularly when it comes to the environment.

"Consumer culture has taken us over an environmental cliff and I think even people who pretend to be unaware of that and pretend to be unconcerned are still aware and concerned at some level and this



Mark Burch, director of campus sustainability at the U of W, has written books on the topic of voluntary simplicity.

brings a frenzy to life," Ridd said. "It's as if the party is almost over and so everybody wants to get their share."

Mark Burch designed the course U of W offers. A freelance writer and speaker who has published a number of books on the topic,

Burch insists that environmental issues are the source of trouble in so many other spheres.

"I don't think voluntary simplicity would, say, solve the conflict between Israel and Palestine, but it certainly would help with climate change, environmental deteriora-

tion [and] with this international globalized trade which so quickly fuels conflicts," he said.

"All of this stress has contributed to the deterioration of our communities – people feeling unloved, lost, feeling existential pain every day. If we lived more simply, less consumptively, we would have more time for each other and could re-knit social relationships. People would see their own welfare as tied-in closely to that of their neighbours.

"There would be more of a sense of common fate and a generally improved sense of social harmony."

Voluntary simplicity offers a potential solution to much of what ails the world. As a result, many people are singing its praises.

"I think most of us, if we think about it, we have an intuitive sense of what simple living means and that intuition is often enough to get us started and its helpful to know what some of the myths are," Burch said. "I don't necessarily have to go to the farm, wear a black hat, submit to a religious regime, give up my computer and cell phone and ... live in poverty. There are no ten commandments for simple living. You just make it up as an artwork as you go along."

Visit www.simplicitycentre.org.

Plush, crocheted breasts and penises

Artist encourages you to know your body

FIONA O'CONNOR
THE LINK (CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY)

MONTREAL (CUP) – Penis puppets, crocheted cocks and malleable mammaries – Shannon Gerard makes them all.

The 34-year-old Toronto-based artist is the force behind *Boobs and Dinks* early detection kits – the plush, crocheted breast and penis sets that take a fresh and creative approach to sex education.

She is also the author of the comic book series *Hung*, from which her *Boobs and Dinks* work stems.

The third issue of the autobiographical zine deals with themes of fear and human vulnerability as it tells the story of Gerard's partner who, one day, discovers a mysterious lump in his testicle.

"My response to being afraid of something is to write a story about it," she said. "I started crocheting penises with little lumps in them" and in turn, the project "became a primary focus."

A mainstay of the indie zine community who also teaches a course on nano-publishing at Toronto's Ontario College of Art and Design, Gerard was inspired to develop a separate work based on *Hung* for two reasons.

Firstly, in the wake of her partner's scare, she found that while information relating to women's reproductive health was abundant, resources on men's was considerably scarcer.

Secondly, Gerard was artistically compelled by the possibility of es-



Toronto artist Shannon Gerard has created *Boobs and Dinks* early detection kits - plush, crocheted breast and penis sets to help with sex education.

establishing a "continuous creative process" related to, but distinct from, her comic series.

"I like the idea of having a companion to the story," she said.

Whereas the relationship between author and reader ends once a book is published, a work like *Boobs and Dinks*, with its tangible quality and "personal and freaky" dimensions, opens the channels for "an ongoing personal dialogue with the readers."

The project is Gerard's first venture in the crochet medium, and

since 2007, the artist has been crafting the plush privates with love and dedication.

Each boob and dink is made with a lump sewn inside of it, and by following the instructions in the early detection kit's accompanying booklet, people can learn how to check their own nether parts for potentially unwelcome bits and bumps.

"A lot of the medical tools make assumptions about gender and about people's bodies," said Gerard.

Making the toys in a range of sizes, colours, and with optional foreskins, she hopes that the practice of self-examination will become more accessible and familiar to all.

"It's about breaking down barriers so that people laugh," she explained. "The medical dialogue around the value of self-examination is regimented, clinical."

Instead of the traditional mantra of "Check your breasts" or "Check your balls," – approaches that, by Gerard's count, inject un-

necessary anxiety into the feeling foray – the artist's message is "Know your body," a motto that alternately encourages overall body consciousness.

Gerard has presented *Boobs and Dinks* with a variety of adaptations in a range of contexts, including art galleries, book fairs, and Planned Parenthood.

"As it's branched into different communities, the vocabulary has changed," she said, a process that has undoubtedly contributed to the project's multi-faceted relevance.

Incorporating illustration, print techniques and crochet, *Boobs and Dinks* straddles the conceptual divides of art, craft, and education, with its genre classification ultimately decided by a public's unpredictable reactions.

Last year, a collaborative installation called *Playing Doctor* featuring a display of Gerard's work – this time a pair of crocheted breasts and a pierced penis mounted on large cut-out dolls – was dismantled from the York University Bookstore.

Allegedly, an unidentified professor considered the display offensive.

Gerard says the much blogged about controversy failed to push the debate towards what she sees as its constructive limits.

"I wanted it to create a dialogue that went beyond censorship to one about the fear of the body," she said. "But that didn't happen."

"People are okay with boobs, but not OK with a giant crocheted cock with a Prince Albert."

All about the other student debt

You're so worried about paying off your student loan – but what about your library fines?

C. JORDAN CROSTHWAITE
CULTURE REPORTER

Statistics Canada cites that 45 per cent of undergraduates at universities carry debt, with an average of nearly \$20,000. Those statistics surely refer to Canada Student Loans and student credit at banks. But librarians, barkeeps and video store clerks tell a story even more horrific than Statistics Canada.

Students regularly rack up large late fees at the University of Winnipeg library and at Movie Village, though apparently students are good at settling up at the end of a night of binge drinking.

"A lot of students do get library fines, especially at the beginning [of the year], because they don't realize there are fines," said Pat Russell, the circulation supervisor at the U of W library.

You'll be paying 50 cents a day for most books and up to a dollar an hour for reserve material.

When a fine gets big enough the consequences are more serious.

"We send out a bill, and they can't take out more books until the fine is cleared up," Russell said.

English student Rebecca Peters

tells a painful story of not returning her books on time. She had nearly 80 books out when she collected a \$380 fine.

"When people are dinkheads, you're going to make them pay."

- ERIN CRAWLEY, VIDEO STORE SUPERVISOR

"I started getting these things in the mail, but I was ignoring them," Peters said. "I had this drawer that I put all these letters in."

Eventually, Peters' fiancé convinced her to check on the overdue books. She was shocked by the amount and finally forced to settle up when her account at the university was locked and she couldn't register for classes.

Avoidance is common strategy among young debtors. At Movie Village, it's common practice for large late fines to go unpaid and for

renters to never return.

The largest fine at Movie Village was \$1,230, which caused the renter to disappear.

"He just never came back," said Erin Crawley, a supervisor at the video store.

Fines at Movie Village will run you 50 cents for older films and \$2.50 for new films. They were recently lowered out of courtesy, according to Crawley.

At Movie Village, Crawley exercises discretion when assessing fines and has the authority to lower or erase them based on circumstances.

"If [people with late fines] want to come back, Movie Village is lenient about working something out. I'm not going to make someone pay \$200," said Crawley, who has both movie rental and library fines herself.

Crawley's authority is wielded with a certain amount of joviality, too.

"When people are dinkheads, you're going to make them pay."

Which movies get fines most

frequently?

"Crappy action movies that people forget about. They forget they rent them, or forget to watch them, or forget they watched it," Crawley said.

"People argue all the time. It's like a sport. The best is when people try to talk their way out of a 50 cent late fine," she added with a smug smile.

Fines have caused more serious grief at the video store. Police were called once when a patron became irate.

Peters didn't get irate or try to make excuses when paying her fines because she felt anxious over the gravity of the large debt.

"I went to the library and sat there trying to work up some courage, trying to figure out which librarian is the nicest," she said.

When she eventually approached an amenable-looking clerk, he was quite familiar with her case.

"I said 'I have a big fine,' and he said 'I know,'" Peters recalled. "I said 'Can we make this less?' I didn't have any money."

Because the fine was well over \$100, little negotiating could be done. Peters ended up on a payment plan, made an initial \$80 payment, but hasn't followed up since.

"I just avoid, avoid, avoid and then hide," she said.

Her fine wasn't the largest at the U of W library though, where librarian Russell has seen a fine over \$1,000.

Perhaps libraries and video stores can learn to control debt from their local pub. Cousins Deli, a famous student hangout, rarely has trouble with unpaid tabs.

"I feel very loved by my clientele – I've never had a problem," said Yen Nguyen, the owner of Cousins. "People come back the next day and pay, or even six months later. They always remember."

Nguyen cites mutual respect and mutual affection as reasons people are honest with their bar tabs. He claims to know 95 per cent of his clientele by their first name.

"People bring me business, and I give them something intangible – I get to know them," Yen said.



RYAN JANZ

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LIVING WELL

Quality food may be more expensive than the alternative, but it's worth it



SAGAN MORROW
STAFF WRITER

It can't be denied that quality food is expensive. Eating organic, free-range and all-natural products tends to be in the higher price range. It's no wonder that we turn to "cheap" fare: fast food and junk food.

Fast food appears to be the more budget savvy option in the short term. With an abundance of sugar in the world, manufacturers can afford to sell it cheaply.

But before you reach for the bag of chips or drive through the nearest McDonalds, think about the real expense of the cheap food.

Barry Popkin's *The World is Fat* details how the way we spend our money on food has drastically affected our health over the years.

Fifty years ago, less than 100 million people were overweight; today, the number of overweight and obese people is over 1.6 billion across the globe.

Fifty years ago, the food industry changed drastically. Today, we're paying for it with our health.

Social occasions today revolve around food. We never have to worry about what to eat because it is available to us wherever we go.

Portion sizes have also increased substantially from what they once were. What was once a regular-sized drink at a fast food restaurant is now considered kiddie-sized by today's standards.

Buying food in bulk is a good way to save money, but it's wise to think ahead when we have these opportunities for buying larger quantities at a lower price. An extra-large chocolate bar, for example, is likely going to be eaten just as quickly as a regular-sized chocolate bar.

Saving a couple cents on buying bigger candy is going to cost you more than a quick sugar rush. The effects of the extra amount could be harmful not just to your teeth, but it could also contribute to the development of disease. In the long term, a few more cents are worth it to protect your health.

While we in the West are eating more, people living in Third World countries are still battling malnourishment. The United Nations World Food Programme has recently issued a news release which warns that even if the economic crisis is subsiding, the worldwide hunger crisis is, if anything, increasing.

Lately, much of our concern has been about the economy as opposed to our health. However, we should be taking advantage of the attention we are now giving to the economy.

We can do this by thinking about how we can recover from the crisis – for example, buying local and living green – rather than just worrying about it. This is also a great opportunity to bring awareness to important issues regarding our health and food distribution.

Quality food costs a bit extra in terms of dollars but the savings on your health are astronomical. It is something that everyone in the world should have the chance to appreciate and enjoy.

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

To dine in or to dine out? That is the question

Separating fact from fiction when it comes to restaurant food



Our obsession with food has hit a new high. We're enamoured with it at every level.

NATALIE DYCK

MELISSA HIEBERT VOLUNTEER

Dining out is a popular get-together option. You can be with friends, family or co-workers, enjoy some food made by professional chefs and taste some special drinks you can't always have at home.

We are living in the age of what CBC calls *The Food Revolution*. Our obsession with food has hit a new high. We're enamoured with it at every level – from production, appearance and size to how it gets to our supermarket and more.

We are also living through a difficult economic time which makes our food desires harder to attain. Many people you ask will tell you that they think restaurants are overcharging for their meals and that they feel ripped off.

With this as the general public's view, this writer decided to see if this was mere speculation or fact. How much more does it cost to

eat a meal at a restaurant than to make it at home yourself?

I looked specifically at one restaurant and one supermarket. Kelsey's was chosen because they are the most generous in giving their menu prices over the phone and Safeway was chosen because their flyers are everywhere!

There are a few popular feature meals at Kelsey's. I chose one, the 11 oz. Triple-A New York striploin steak with a side of Yukon gold mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables for \$20.99.

Add the chef's salad or soup for \$4.47 and a soft drink for \$2.79 and the meal comes to \$28.25 total.

No Yukon gold potatoes were found at Safeway, just red potatoes which come in the bags for \$0.99/pound. The AAA steaks (New York style) are \$7.99/pound. Ingredients for a chef's salad or soup come to around \$8 or more (tax included).

So if you bought a five-pound bag of potatoes and two-pounds of steak, plus the salad or soup ingredients and a bottle of pop, the bill would come to \$34.50 – \$6 more than

purchasing it at Kelsey's.

That said, you would have leftover ingredients to use for a future meal.

Some other meals this writer compared restaurant prices against grocery ingredient prices were chicken linguine, grilled salmon, chicken and ribs. The difference remained at roughly \$6 no matter what the meal. If you purchase a meal at a restaurant or at the supermarket they will roughly be around the same price.

So it all depends on your preference: How much you want to spend and if you intend to have any leftovers that taste any good.

Some think dining out is a waste of money, but they're wrong. Look at the ingredients in your meal next time – the herbs, veggies, meat and sauce. Could you actually duplicate that at home for a good price? Unless you're also a certified chef, it's not likely.

The Man isn't always out to get you. So this week, treat yourself to a night out – it'll be worth it.

Bon appétit!

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WEEKEND EVENTS FRI, SEPT. 25TH SAT, SEPT. 26TH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

5:30PM Pre-Kickoff Kickoff In-store Performance w/ Nestor Wyrnash, Pip Skid + Birdapres @ Into the Music

8PM CONCERT: Mass Appeal Freestyle III Kickoff w/ Birdapres, John Smith + Ismailia @ Lo Pub, \$5

MON, SEPT. 25TH 12:30PM NOON - 2PM SK8 Demo & Freestyle III Kickoff BBQ w/ DJ Kutdown @ Spence Commons

12:30PM - 1:30PM Workshop Make Rap Happen 1 w/ Pip & Ness @ Bulman MPR

TUES, SEPT. 29TH 12:30 - 1:30 PM Workshop B-Boy & B-Girl Techniquel w/ B-Boy Bob & Loa @ Bulman MPR

12:30PM - 1:30PM Workshop Make Rap Happen 2 w/ Pip, Ness & Kutdown @ Bulman MPR

WEDS, SEPT. 30TH 12:30 - 1:30PM Workshop DJ Skills w/ DJ Kutdown @ Bulman MPR

7PM Screening & Concert Slingshot Hip-Hop & DAM @ The Park Theatre, \$8

THURS, OCT. 1ST 12:30 - 1:30PM Workshop Graffiti Art with the Graffiti Gallery @ Quad

12:30PM - 1:30PM Workshop "Round Table Discussion" The Business @ Bulman MPR

7PM WINNIPEG PREMIERE Free Screening "Say My Name" @ Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall U of W

FRI, OCT. 2ND 12:30 - 1:30PM Workshop The Beatdown w/ DJ Kutdown @ Bulman MPR

7PM FREE CONCERT Class of Freestyle III - CD Release @ Bulman MPR

8PM Free Screening FREESTYLE - THE ART OF RHYME @ Bulman MPR

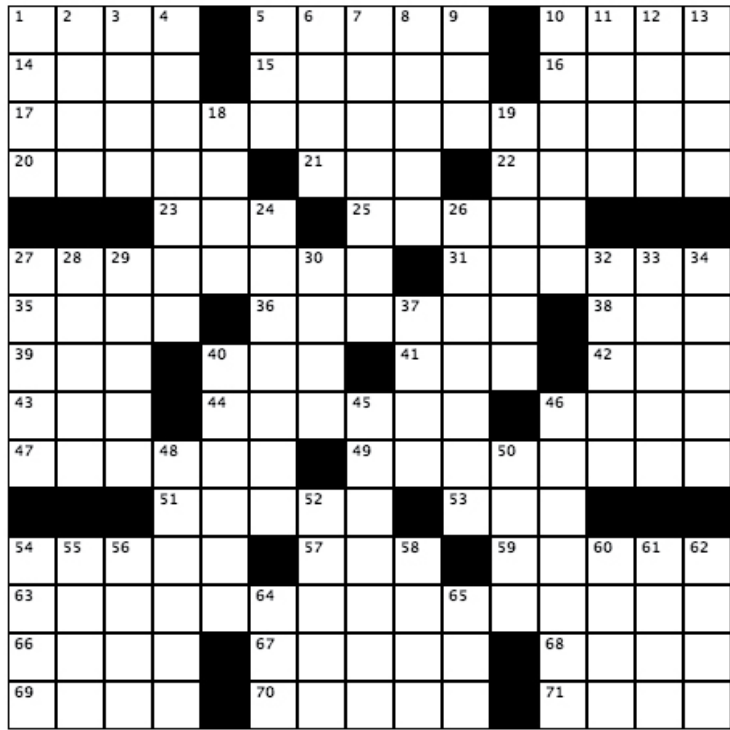
8PM Free Screening "Planet B-Boy" @ Bulman MPR

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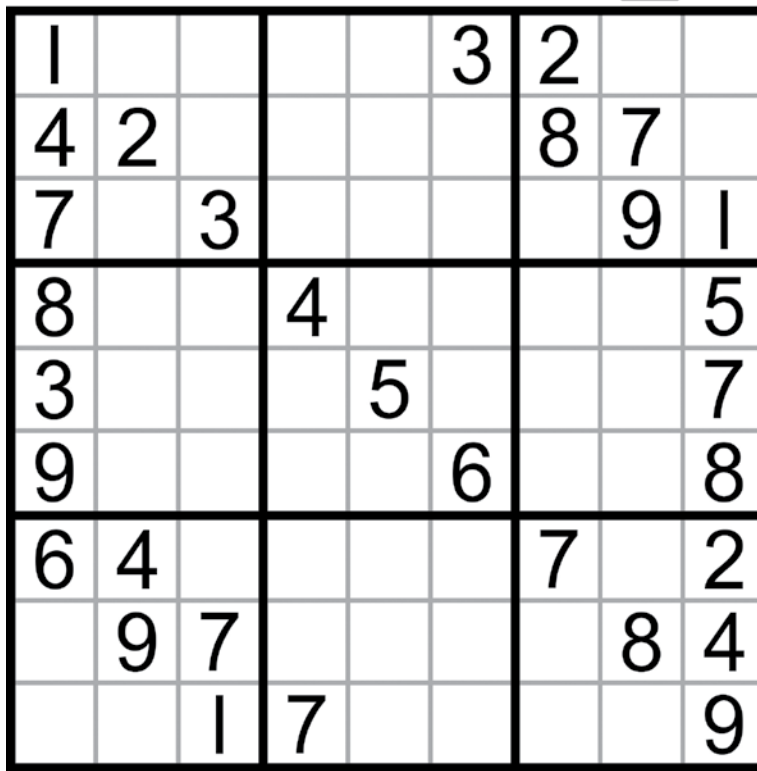
Crossword Puzzle 04

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



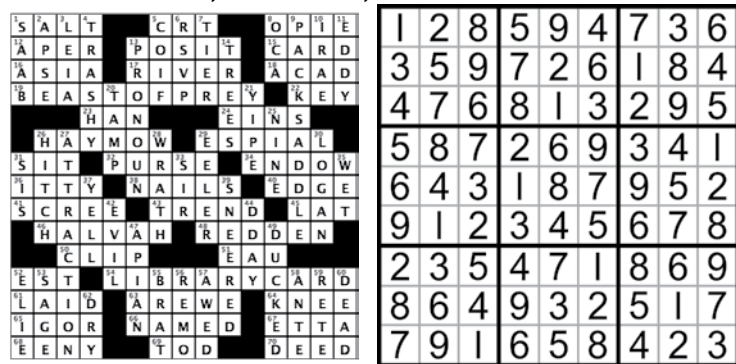
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Sudoku Octagon 



will.octagon.gibson@gmail.com

Solutions to September 17 puzzles.



- Across**
- 1- Idle away time
 - 5- Senate attendants
 - 10- Before long
 - 14- ___ Domini
 - 15- Author Calvino
 - 16- It's blown among the reeds
 - 17- Make urban
 - 20- Relaxed
 - 21- Casino area
 - 22- Lustful deity
 - 23- Paris possessive
 - 25- Minimum
 - 27- Emasculate
 - 31- Stops
 - 35- Mountain range in central Europe
 - 36- Inchworm
 - 38- Acapulco aunt
 - 39- Philosopher ___-tzu
 - 40- Gives birth to
 - 41- Illustrative craft

- 42- Commercials
- 43- DDE's command
- 44- Soak up
- 46- Supplements, with "out"
- 47- Happened to
- 49- Empty display
- 51- Shake like ___
- 53- The Company
- 54- Stickum
- 57- Bad-mouth
- 59- Heals
- 63- Think about
- 66- Knot in wood
- 67- Entreaties
- 68- French 101 verb
- 69- "...countrymen, lend me your ___"
- 70- Suit fabric
- 71- Side;

- Down**
- 1- Gammy
 - 2- Draft classification
 - 3- Formicary residents
 - 4- Tree plantations
 - 5- Lulu
 - 6- On
 - 7- U.S. space probe to Jupiter
 - 8- Best of a group
 - 9- Drunkard
 - 10- Musical composition
 - 11- Passing notice
 - 12- Exuding moisture
 - 13- Not e'en once
 - 18- Baltic feeder
 - 19- Declare
 - 24- OK to vend
 - 26- Sour in taste
 - 27- Biblical spy
 - 28- Winged
 - 29- Parody
 - 30- Chuck

- 32- Post
- 33- Bird that gets you down
- 34- Fresh
- 37- Young salmon
- 40- Hebrew liturgical prayer
- 45- Constable
- 46- Ornamental shoulder piece
- 48- Diners
- 50- Size of type
- 52- Designer Simpson
- 54- Diving position
- 55- Editor Wintour
- 56- Celestial body
- 58- Adult male deer
- 60- Baptism, e.g.
- 61- Poet Pound
- 62- Appear
- 64- CD forerunners
- 65- Application



Beware Bob, the animals are coming

As citizens of a society, it is our duty to act as ethically as we can. However, in our quest to do the right thing, sometimes we misjudge the consequences of a particular action and end up doing something that we later regret.

There are a lot of examples of this; each of us have probably been in this very situation dozens of times. This week, I'd like to deal specifically with one example.

Anyone who has ever played hooky from school or been unemployed (or who has been my grandmother) is well acquainted with the daytime television game show called *The Price Is Right*.

The show features excitable people competing for prizes by guessing the prices of everyday items and spinning a giant wheel covered in numbers. The show's host, until recently, was a kind and gentle old man named Bob Barker who would stand, show after show, calmly poised, holding a long, skinny microphone.

Unlike most game show hosts, Bob Barker had a special message to pass along to his viewers - one that really set him apart in the field of game show hostery. At the end of every broadcast, he would tell his audience to help control the pet population by having their pets spayed or neutered.

This always seemed to me like a strange thing for a game show host to say. It really had nothing at all to do with the show, it was just sort of what Bob always said and no one seemed to question it. I'm sure Bob meant well by giving this advice to his viewers, but what he might not have considered is how dogs and cats might feel about his cause. I find it hard to believe that the future recipients of the *Barker Procedure*, as I sometimes like to call it, would think that his crusade stopped anywhere short of being absolutely sadistic.

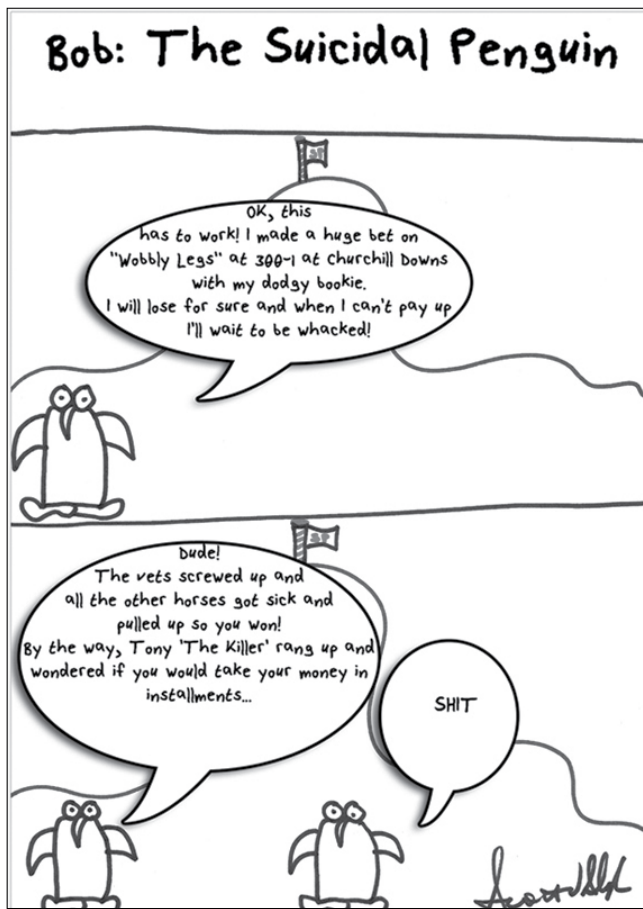
One thing I know for sure is that if there were a famous television personality who, on a daily basis, said something along the lines of "thanks for watching and don't forget to cut off J. Willamez's balls," he or she would most definitely be justified in expecting a punch in the mouth from this guy.

This is a good example of how the subjectivity of morality makes it hard to make the "ethical" decision. Sure, Bob Barker is doing what he thinks is right, but is he doing what horny cats and dogs think is right?

I guess what I'm getting at here is that no matter what you do in life, you will never be able to please everyone. All you can really do is what you think is *right*, whatever the *price*. Then, stand behind your decisions while hoping that there aren't millions of nutless cats and dogs waiting to tear you to pieces in hell.

Good luck, Bob.

J. Willamez is a local musician with enough free time in the day to think this stuff up. See him Wednesday nights at Shannon's Irish Pub.



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TW	Artist	Recording	Label
1	*Black Mold	Snow Blindness is Crystal Antz	Flemish Eye
2	Neko Case	Middle Cyclone	Anti
3	Sonic Youth	the Eternal	Matador
4	!Grand Analog	Metropolis is Burning	Urbnet
5	Dinosaur Jr.	Farm	Jagjaquar
6	*Metric	Fantasies	Last Gang
7	Vieux Farka Toure	Fondo	Six Degrees
8	John Doe & The Sadies	Country Club	Bloodshot
9	!Jackpine	Brand New Good Old Days	Dollar tone
10	*Great Lake Swimmers	Lost Channels	Weewerk

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Great looks for great prices

Second-hand stores prove you don't need to go into debt to look good

KATHLEEN CERRER
STAFF WRITER

Second-hand shops offer a wide variety of clothing, accessories, footwear and other knick-knacks. It's like one big treasure hunt to find that one-of-a-kind item or vintage piece.

Most second-hand shops have such a vast selection that it's best to leave yourself plenty of time to sift through every rack, shelf and bin to find something special. Because these stores are filled with items that have history, shopping second-hand is different and unique, much like the items you find.

The big fashion trend for fall/winter has elements of a distressed, worn-out look and this goes hand in hand with second-hand shops.

Thrift shops urge you to experiment with your usual look and get inspired by every interesting piece you see. They're also an excellent place to make the most out of your cash while pulling off the same look seen in high-end boutiques and glossy magazines.

Instead of going to the same old store and buying that one, mass-produced top, opt for a vintage shop and discover what all the fuss is about.

Here are some places to start:

BIBLES FOR MISSIONS THRIFT STORE
919 MCLEOD AVE.

This hidden gem is definitely a one-stop shop and it's almost guaranteed you will find something that catches your eye.

Located away from downtown and from any major shopping areas,

Bibles for Missions offers "excellent quality used merchandise at reasonable prices" in a retail outlet atmosphere, as stated on their web site www.bfmthriftstores.ca.

Chain-linked purses, fur jackets and flowy blouses in neutral earth tones are just some of the ever-changing selection available.

RUBY SLIPPER VINTAGE SHOPPE
970 SARGENT AVE.

A well-known consignment shop in the city, Ruby Slipper is a popular place to go for fashionable finds.

The extensive accessory collection is great for sporting over the top jewels. Vintage brooches, bold necklaces, as well as earrings of all designs are great investment pieces to wear all year round. Handbags of all brands and styles as well as a fabulous selection of hats – in fur, velvet and leather – are sure to get your creative juices flowing.

Silk scarves are also available in an array of styles and colours and, at a fraction of the price of a new scarf, you'll have enough money to stock up.

Also, donating your unwanted, good condition apparel to consignment shops allows you to earn money as others put your clothing/furniture to good use.

VINTAGE GLORY
88 ALBERT ST.

Finds at Vintage Glory include classic leather jackets, funky shoes and a variety of sequined, jeweled and colourful dresses. The mix of the old and the new creates a modern and vintage feel.

Located in the heart of the Exchange District, this vintage boutique-like shop definitely blends the many genres of fashion into one, as reflected through their merchandise. Pieces here can be interchanged with outfits and the versatility makes it worth the while.

Looking for more second hand shopping? Visit these other places:

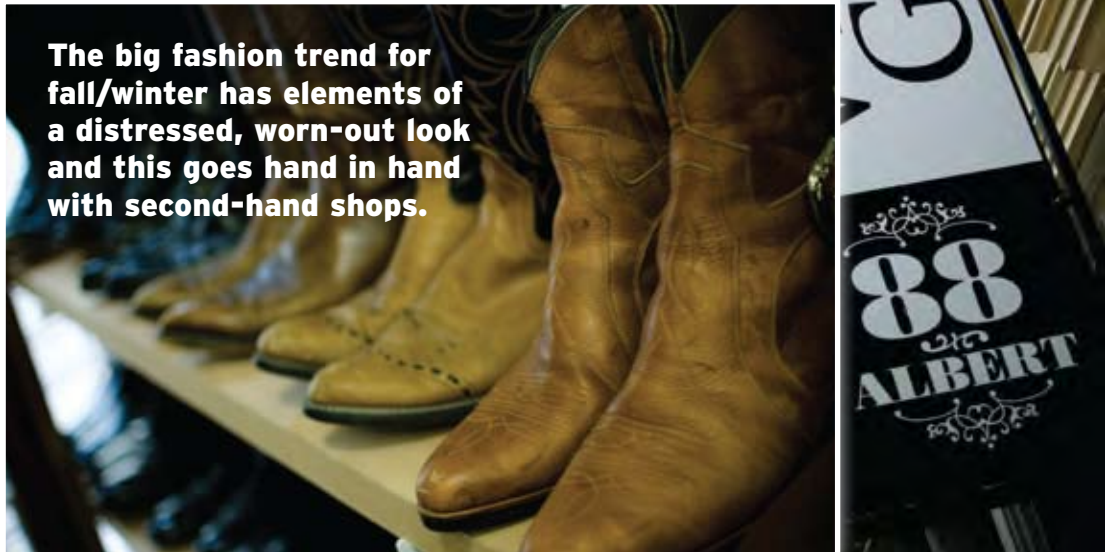
⇒ Antiques & Funk, a furniture store, at 474 Main St.

⇒ Vintage in the Village at 194-A Osborne St.

⇒ Slic Chics Boutique at 845 Henderson Hwy.

⇒ Village Antique Mall, a clothes and furniture store, at 197 Osborne St.

The big fashion trend for fall/winter has elements of a distressed, worn-out look and this goes hand in hand with second-hand shops.



Vintage Glory on Albert Street is one of many great vintage stores in Winnipeg.

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Does your co-worker ooze style? Should we photograph him/her for the Fashion Streeter? Send an e-mail to arts@uniter.ca

FASHION STREETER

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



Kristel
"My favourite fashion decade is the '60s."