

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

THE

# UNITER

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Part of "The Photo-op"  
by Megan Driedger

Acrylic on canvas

See more of Driedger's artwork at the Mennofolk exhibit, on display at Outworks Gallery from Feb. 27 until March 3.

Photograph by Lisa Varga

## News

# Employing the unemployed

Siloam Mission program employs Winnipeg's homeless, needs funds and resources

ETHAN CABEL  
BEAT REPORTER



The MOST program employs people in Winnipeg who are homeless. While doing jobs like snow removal, participants in the program earn minimum wage and develop the skills they need to enter the Winnipeg job market.

Winnipeg's downtown sidewalks may look a lot cleaner thanks to a program that employs the city's homeless population with beautification projects – like picking up litter or removing snow – along the streets and sidewalks of the inner city. The Mission: Off the Streets (MOST) program was created in 2006 as a partnership between the Downtown Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) and Siloam Mission.

"Revitalizing the inner city goes beyond attracting people; we must address the problems within our local community," said Stefano Grande, executive director of the Downtown BIZ.

MOST was established in order to provide nearly unconditional employment for the city's homeless. The only requirements are that participants show up for work sober and that they actively participate in Siloam Mission's transitional support programs, like counseling to help with housing issues or addiction recovery, said Grande.

Although the program has helped many homeless Winnipeggers

find employment and support, it remains underfunded and understaffed.

Wilard Andrew Mitchel is a 50-year-old recovering alcoholic who has worked through the program for over a year. He hopes he can graduate into full-time employment by the spring.

Mitchel spent the majority of his life on the Poplar River First Nation reserve located on the east side of Lake Winnipeg before moving to Winnipeg nine years ago. Mitchel's 18-year marriage, which produced four children, ended in divorce and he began to drink more and more heavily before spending six years on and off the streets of downtown Winnipeg.

"I lost everything," he said. "I

drank away my life savings."

During the initial months of the program, Mitchel found it difficult to transition into full-time employment.

"When I first started [the program] I went back to drinking and smoking my weed ... it was just part of my life, so I go back to my old ways," he said. "You will never go hungry in this city if you know where the resources are. But I didn't just need food, I needed a job and to be given a chance."

Mitchel now works five days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the minimum wage provided by MOST. Since starting with the program he has found adequate housing and has gone through various support programs to increase

his self-esteem and battle his addiction. Now, he says, he needs the resources to find full-time employment in Winnipeg's job market.

Out of the 50 participants the MOST program has fostered in the last four years, 11 have graduated into full-time employment elsewhere.

"Personally, I feel great about that figure," said Frank Ulrich, acting director of the MOST program. "Resume writing and job counseling [however] are things that need to be more developed."

In order to strengthen employment supports, the MOST program requires more teamwork and greater partnerships among those in the community, said Ulrich.

The Downtown BIZ provides \$30,000 to \$40,000 in funding for the program per year. However, due to increased demand for employment, the BIZ would like to double or even triple that contribution if it can receive the assistance to do so. Siloam Mission receives 85 per cent of its funding through private donations.

"Unfortunately, because of limited funds we can only provide opportunities to a limited number of people," said Ulrich. "Organization wide we have a wealth of volunteers, but when it comes to the MOST program, there is a tremendous need."

There is currently only one volunteer that works consistently on MOST, which is not enough to provide the job counseling needed for its current eight participants, he said.

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## STREETER

BY KAREN KORNELSEN

**Q: DO YOU THINK WINNIPEG OFFERS ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPLOY THE HOMELESS?**



**Stefan Braun**  
restaurant server  
"I think Winnipeg provides a small amount of opportunities. But I don't think we offer enough motivation to ensure the homeless stay in these jobs long enough to excel."



**Dustin Schollenberg**  
fourth-year student, criminal justice  
"Yes, I've heard of the MOST program and I think they're doing a lot of good things."



**Jessica Aligea-Labun**  
third-year student, pre-med  
"There are available opportunities but we need to have more long-term positions for the homeless."



**Carolyn Gregory**  
retail  
"I don't think there's enough advertising for these jobs. If you're living on the street, you might not be aware of the opportunities."



**Colin Peterson**  
fourth-year student, theatre  
"I don't see any programs advertised. It is clear and evident we have a homeless problem. Maybe we have some good things going on but we could be doing more."



**Channelle Birks**  
musician  
"I think there are opportunities that exist at places like Siloam Mission but there definitely needs to be more awareness."

# Projector wants autonomy

Red River College's campus paper makes bid to break free from students' association

SAMUEL SWANSON  
BEAT REPORTER

*The Projector* is seeking freedom. The Red River College Students' Association (RRCSA) board of directors heard the Red River College campus newspaper's bid for autonomy on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

*The Projector* editor-in-chief Matt Preprost and Canadian University Press (CUP) president Rob Fishbook headed the presentation, explaining the reasons for independence from the students' association.

"There's a lack of long-term commitment [from the RRCSA]," Preprost told *The Uniter*. "They're disengaged and disinterested in the publication."

The main goal in becoming an autonomous paper is to increase credibility, as well as heighten the student body's connection to the paper. Preprost provided a tentative business plan for the RRCSA, which included a proposed \$2 student levy per semester for operating costs, as well as a \$30,000 advertis-



Matt Preprost (right), editor-in-chief of *The Projector*, stands with sports editor Kalen Qually (left). Preprost is leading the paper in a bid for autonomy from the Red River College Students' Association.

ing credit from the RRCSA, which would cover start-up costs for a newly autonomous *Projector*.

The current CUP president was a one-time editor-in-chief of *The Fulcrum*, University of Ottawa's newspaper, which he led to autonomy.

"It was based a lot on advertising," Fishbook said.

The main problem for a non-autonomous student paper is the inability to develop a long-term business strategy.

Business management for the RRCSA is focused on various finances for a wide variety of school endeavours and is not solely focused on *The Projector*. According to Preprost, if the business manager has multiple projects to deal

with, there's often not enough attention directed at the business of the paper.

*The Projector's* editor-in-chief from last year, Melody Rogan, encountered numerous issues with the RRCSA.

"We had no control over the advertising, no control over the printing process and no control over the hiring and general operation processes. We had to operate out of a small section of a classroom that, while we could always have access to it, was noisy and not at all private," Rogan said.

RRCSA advertising director Guy Lussier believes he's doing the best he can for *The Projector* with the money the RRCSA has.

"If you have a budget of \$20,000,

you try and cut corners as best you can," Lussier said.

A major benefit of an autonomous paper is the assurance of full editorial freedom.

"In terms of freedom of the press, we [CUP] believe in absolute freedom," said Fishbook.

The RRCSA believes that editorial autonomy is not an issue at *The Projector*.

"It's so clear that we have no say in what they write," said Jeff Long, vice-president of the RRCSA at the Princess Street campus.

Rogan disagrees, citing conflicts with the students' association over published material.

"In one issue we had a review of a new restaurant that opened near the Princess Street campus and the advertising director was pissed off that we hadn't instead done a review of a particular restaurant that advertised in the paper," Rogan recalled. (Lussier says he wouldn't go so far as saying he was "pissed off," but that he did recommend *Projector* staff talk to some of the businesses that advertise in the paper about reviewing their establishments before reviewing places that don't advertise in *The Projector*.)

Long is not opposed to autonomy, but argues that the paper will lose a lot of support from the students' association even though they will have more money to work with. Long believes *The Projector* should work towards their goals with the RRCSA's support before going autonomous and cutting those business ties.

## A new home for Harvest

Food bank to expand promotion of healthy choices

KRISTY RYDZ  
BEAT REPORTER

Winnipeg Harvest wishes it didn't have to exist. But with 18 per cent more Manitobans using the food bank last year than in 2008, as reported in Food Banks Canada Hunger Count 2009, the organization is expanding.

The non-profit food bank that distributes food to over 40,000 Manitobans each month is set to rebuild its current building with the help of government funding as well as private sponsors.

According to executive co-ordinator David Northcott, Winnipeg Harvest has outgrown its current 30,000 square foot warehouse location at 1085 Winnipeg Ave. Since the joint federal/provincial funding announcement last May, plans to find additional sponsors for a new two-storey, 52,000 square-foot building have been moving forward with the goal of construction being finished by 2011.

"There's a lot of homework being done right now. We want to have the best package possible to sharpen the tools we use to meet our commitment of responding to those in need," Northcott said.

With a price tag of approximately \$6 million, the new facility will combine the organization's headquarters, a larger food distribution centre and additional training rooms. The expansion will give more room to programming, such



With 18 per cent more people using Winnipeg Harvest last year than in 2008, plans to rebuild and expand Winnipeg Harvest's current location at 1085 Winnipeg Ave. are in the works.

as staff training, personal income tax courses and courses on nutrition, Northcott added.

Healthy habits often lose out to paying the bills for those living on a low income, according to former Winnipeg Harvest client Kate McKee.

"It feels like a luxury getting fresh fruit and vegetables. You really start to see what you have to go without and what's really a luxury when you're on a tight budget," McKee said.

Three years ago, the 27-year-old single mother was living on Employment Insurance while taking the Library and Information Technology program at Red River College. Some months her budget was so tight she couldn't afford to feed herself and her 3-year-old daughter, so she turned to Winnipeg Harvest.

"I got raspberries and I was ecstatic," McKee noted about one of her visits to the soon-to-be-reno-

vated location. "Healthy choices are really what people living on a low income are lacking."

Looking to express the struggles that McKee and others surviving on low incomes deal with, Winnipeg Harvest partnered with the Social Planning Committee of Winnipeg (SPCW) in 1997 to pioneer a study called the Acceptable Living Level (ALL) report. Since then, it has been successfully updated in 2000, 2003 and will be done again in 2010.

By asking families of a variety of makeups to track their budgets, needs and purchases for everything from cans of soup to child care, candid insight has been gained, according to SPCW senior associate Donald Benham.

"The great thing about [the ALL Report] is that it looks at what it actually costs to live low income. It's a very realistic look at the cost of being poor in Winnipeg," Benham said.

### FOOD BANKS BY THE NUMBERS

Hunger Count is an annual report compiled by Food Banks Canada to demonstrate the demographics and number of Canadians relying on food banks across the country each March. The following statistics were stated in their latest summary from 2009:

- ⇒ 794,738 individual Canadians used a food bank in 2009, which is an 18 per cent increase from March 2008.
- ⇒ In Manitoba, 47,925 individuals received help, 55.4 per cent of which identified as aboriginal.
- ⇒ 37 per cent of those receiving help from a food bank were children and half of the households that use food banks have children.
- ⇒ Food bank use steadily increased from coast to coast in 2009, with an increase of 61 per cent in Alberta, 20 per cent in Nova Scotia and 19 per cent in Ontario.
- ⇒ Overall, 2.4 per cent of Canadians were aided by food banks in March 2009.

Benham, who also serves as the public education co-ordinator for Winnipeg Harvest, believes that while Canada does have a low-income cutoff, this frontline research is crucial to change.

"Our real agenda is to eliminate poverty, so it was just important for us to have a handle on what being poor means."

## Local News Briefs

Compiled by John Gaudes

### WINNIPEG LAWYER EARNS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION

Following Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize award in 2009, the nominations for this year's prize have been announced - and on the list is David Matas, a Winnipeg lawyer and human rights advocate. Alongside former MP David Kilgour, Matas earned the nomination for his work in alerting the international community of the murdering and organ harvesting of Falun Gong followers in China, according to the *Winnipeg Free Press*. "It's an honour to be nominated," commented Matas. "Our goal is to stop the abuse. I can't say it's stopped yet." Kilgour and Matas have written three reports on the Falun Gong organ harvesting, with one being released as a book.

### LOCAL FIGHT CLUB BROKEN UP BY MOM

In a frightening example of teens turning movies into reality, a group of Winnipeg boys aged 15 to 17 were found by police fighting in the basement of an East Kildonan house after a tip by one of the boys' moms. They had been taking part in a fight club, a notion based on the 1999 movie *Fight Club*. Sonya Titanich, the mother, reported that her son and his friends had been recording the fights and uploading them to YouTube - and that he would often come home swollen and bloody on Thursday nights. According to CBC News, because the fighting was consensual, no criminal charges were laid. The police did, however, lecture the group on the inherent dangers of such activities.

### YOUTH FOR CHRIST FACES POLITICAL CRITICISM

It was recently reported that the faith-based organization Youth for Christ might be given \$2.5 million in funding from the City towards a new recreational facility near Higgins Avenue and Main Street. According to CBC News, the political backlash has been fierce. The strongest voice has come from MP Pat Martin who commented that the youth group has a mandate to convert its members to Christianity and public office has no right funding such actions. While some councillors agree, mayor Sam Katz has pointed out the facility would be open to all youth, not just those of Christian faith.

### PET OWNERS PUSH FOR OUTLAWING NO-PET RULES IN RENTALS

After 2,500 pet lovers joined a Facebook group in support of Liberal leader Jon Gerrard's proposed opposition bill, the talk has begun over whether landlords in Winnipeg should allow pets into their rented apartments. According to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the proposed bill would get rid of any no-pet rules in local apartments but would still allow landlords to set appropriate cleanliness and pet behaviour rules. Groups such as the Winnipeg Humane Society have also joined the battle to get the bill passed, since pets that are not allowed into apartments end up in shelters around the city.

### USING THE WEB TO FIND NEW HOME FOR STRAYS

In other pet news, it's time for eHarmony to move over. Now Winnipeggers searching for that special furry friend need to look no further than Animal Services on Petfinder.com. According to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, since Animal Services of Winnipeg joined the popular pet-finding website last year, adoptions have been up 62 per cent. At Petfinder.com, adoptive owners have the opportunity to view pictures and watch videos of prospective pets without having to physically visit the facilities.

## International News Briefs

Compiled by Brooke Dmytriw

### GIVING UP IPODS FOR LENT

LONDON, Great Britain: English church leaders are calling on parishioners to give up their iPods for Lent. The Bishop of London, Richard Charles, and the Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones, are encouraging people to give up their popular technological devices instead of common Lent vices such as chocolate or alcohol. The church offered 46 daily suggestions, most involving actions that would help the environment. According to Reuters, in addition to fasting from iPod use, leaders proposed flushing the toilet less and cutting meat and vegetables leaner so they cook faster. Lent began Feb. 17 and runs until Easter (Apr. 4).

### STRANDED SNOWBOARDER SETS CASH ON FIRE TO BE SPOTTED

ALPS, Austria: A stranded German snowboarder was rescued in the mountains after he lit his cash on fire to draw attention to his location. Dominik Podolsky was stuck on a chairlift for six hours in temperatures near the -20s after it had been shut off for the day. As it grew darker, Podolsky began lighting papers from his wallet on fire. BBC News reported he started with restaurant receipts and business cards. After those ran out he started lighting the 120€ in cash that he had. Podolsky was stranded 10 meters above the ground and had forgotten his mobile phone that day. A ski-run cleaning crew finally spotted Podolsky after he set his last 20€ note aflame. The 22-year-old was taken to a nearby hospital and treated for hypothermia. He was able to take the train home to Munich later that night.

### ANTS USED TO COMBAT TOADS

SYDNEY, Australia: Researchers have discovered that cat food may help in their fight to control cane toad populations. Scientists at the University of Sydney found a few tablespoons of cat food placed next to ponds will draw out vicious Australian meat ants. These insects will in turn attack baby cane toads coming to shore. CBC reports cane toad populations have exploded in recent years, threatening other species in Australian water systems. The cane toad was introduced to Australia in 1935 from Hawaii. Meant to control beetles on sugarcane plantations, the introduction of the toad failed. Since then, Australians have used golf clubs, cricket bats and even carbon dioxide to kill off the toads. The scientists figure the ants, by preying on fledgling toads coming out of the water, will help lower the numbers. A single toad can lay up to 30,000 eggs at a time. A study done in 2008 showed that 98 per cent of toads were attacked by the ants within two minutes of exiting the water and of the toads that escaped, 80 per cent died of their ant-inflicted injuries.

### THREE WOMEN CANED FOR TRANSGRESSIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: Three Muslim women were caned for adultery on Feb. 9. This is the first time such a sentence has ever been carried out in Malaysia. Under Islamic law, women can be caned for their adulterous transgressions. Home minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the canings were carried out at a women's prison just outside the city. He also stated the punishments were conducted "to educate and make the offenders realize their mistakes and to return to the right path." According to CNN, he also said the women were not injured and the women were remorseful and repented. Malaysia is typically considered a moderate Muslim country, however, Islamic courts function in conjunction with civil courts.

## Aging demographic top concern for economic sustainability: report

EMMA GODMERE  
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) – Move over, students and youth. Canada's aging population is set to be the government's top priority in the next few decades, according to a new report released by Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page.

Released Feb. 18, the independent and first-ever "Fiscal Sustainability Report" suggests that the long-predicted demographic shift of baby boomers moving from working age to retirement age is right around the corner, and it's up to the government to take action sooner than later in order to ensure the country's economy remains sustainable.

The report details the demographic issue is two-fold: not only will there be more pressure on the government to provide more funding for health care and elderly benefits and programs as Canadians hit retirement age, but the labour force will be effectively smaller – and so will the population from which the government collects its taxes.

"Although it is important to acknowledge that many elements of a long-term projection are uncertain, the demographic transition underway in Canada is not," reads the report.

According to the budget officer, as of 2008,

there were about five prime working-age Canadians (aged 15–64) for every individual aged 65 and over. This ratio is expected to drop to just under four-to-one by 2019 and 2.5-to-1 by 2033 – a considerable decline, yet one that has been present for decades: in 1971, there were approximately 7.8 workers for every retiree, according to the report.

Page is also projecting a decline in GDP growth – while the gross domestic product per capita has normally been growing by 2.1 per cent since the 1960s, the report suggests that going forward, Canadians will likely be seeing an average growth rate of only 0.9 per cent, until 2059.

The report states outright that the government's current financial structure is not sustainable, as the national debt – more specifically, Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio – is expected to increase substantially if the government continues to function as they are now. To achieve long-term financial sustainability, the report recommends "permanent fiscal actions" by way of increasing taxes, reducing program spending, or a combination of both to equal an amount between 1 and 1.9 per cent of GDP – a goal that, despite amounting to billions, the PBO emphasized is reachable.

"The fiscal action required to achieve sustainability does not need to be taken im-

mediately ... however, a significant delay in implementing fiscal actions substantially increases the required amount of corrective measures," the report warns.

Page indicated that plans and transparent measures are necessary to get the country on the right track toward a sustainable economy.

"We do not have a fiscal plan with targets ... With no targets, we have effectively no budget constraints and that encourages the government to balance and re-balance political priorities," he noted at a public pre-budget debate on Feb. 3.

"The bottom line is, Canada has a fiscal gap. It is prudent to deal with it sooner rather than later."

While the report provided extensive data to back up its financial and demographic projections, the budget officer stresses in its pages that it, "should not be interpreted as predictions of the most likely future outcomes. Rather, they are simply a set of 'what if' scenarios that attempt to illustrate and quantify the implications of leaving the government's current fiscal structure unchanged over time."

Canadians will see what financial plans the government has in store on March 4, when the 2010 federal budget is presented in Ottawa.

nominations due: march 5, 2010 at 4:30pm, voting starts: march 15-18, 2010  
contact jennifer myles [at] cec@theuwsa.ca



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# Prorogation back on national agenda

## Opposition parties, grassroots seek to limit PM's power to prorogue

ETHAN CABEL  
BEAT REPORTER

The nationwide uproar may be over, but the Liberal Party of Canada, the NDP and several grassroots organizations are still lobbying the federal government to limit the prime minister's power to prorogue Parliament.

"Our meetings continue not only because of our dedication to Canadian democracy, but also because of the friendships that have been created [through the organization]," said Greg Furmaniuk in an e-mail.

Furmaniuk is a member of the Winnipeg chapter of Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament (CAPP), a largely Internet-based movement against Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament until after the Winter Olympics.

The Winnipeg chapter of CAPP organized a large rally that took place outside the Manitoba legislature on Jan. 23, the day Parliament was originally set to resume. The rallies were organized across the country through Facebook groups as well as over NoProrogue.ca, a website created to facilitate a national network of local chapters to organize and protest.

"The rallies [against prorogation] accomplished a realization among people that they do have a place within the political system between elections," said Colin Carmichael, creator of NoProrogue.ca.

CAPP's Winnipeg chapter is made up of



Devin Johnston, a third-year law student and NDP political blogger, believes the Standing Orders of Parliament in regard to prorogation need to be amended.

everyone from young students to concerned seniors. The group meets every weekend at Cousin's Deli on Sherbrook Street but is still unclear whether they will hold another rally on Wednesday, March 3, the day of the Conservative government's throne speech.

The group does, however, approve measures to reduce executive power, including proposals by the federal LPC and NDP parties, said Furmaniuk.

The NDP plans to table a bill in the next session stipulating that the prime minister could only seek the dissolution of Parliament with the consent of the majority of the House of Commons. The Liberals have made similar proposals but rather than passing legislation that could be subject to constitutional

scrutiny, they intend to amend the Standing Orders of Parliament, permanent written rules that regulate parliamentary procedure.

"I think it would be better to proceed with an amendment to the Standing Orders because it is unclear whether the House has the constitutional authority [through legislation] to limit the power to prorogue," said Devin Johnston, a third-year law student and NDP political blogger.

The power to prorogue Parliament is technically the power of the Governor General and as such would require a constitutional amendment with unanimous provincial support to change or abolish.

Any proposal by opposition parties will pass as long as the party can demonstrate that the prime minister's right to request prorogation is a routine procedural matter that does not interfere with the power of the Governor General, said Johnston. He added that any proposal is more likely to pass as a joint effort by the Liberals and NDP.

Although many in the anti-prorogation movement agree with the proposals, there are some who feel that the goals of the movement are too narrow and that wider democratic reforms are needed.

"People are all over the map right now, but as the issues begin to be sorted out it will come down to issues like our voting system," said Larry Gordon, executive director of Fair Vote Canada, a national organization that lobbies for electoral reform. "The electoral system is the foundation of democracy and the fact that Canada does not have a modern voting system is appalling."

To read more of the interview with Fair Vote Canada's Larry Gordon, and other ruminations about Canadian politics, visit Ethan Cabel's blog at [www.uniter.ca/blogs](http://www.uniter.ca/blogs).

### THE OPPOSITION WEIGHS IN

#### NDP policy:

⇒ Prime minister can only prorogue Parliament with the majority consent of the House of Commons.

⇒ NDP seeks to make changes through a bill to be tabled in the next session.

#### Liberal policy:

⇒ Requires at least 10 days written notice from the prime minister of his intention to seek to prorogue.

⇒ Requires the prime minister bring the issue of prorogation before the House of Commons for a full debate.

⇒ Prevents a request for prorogation within the first year after a Speech from the Throne, unless the House consents.

⇒ Prevents a prorogation longer than one calendar month without the consent of the House.

⇒ Prevents a request for prorogation if a matter of confidence has been scheduled in the House, unless the House consents.

⇒ Allows parliamentary committees to continue to function during the period when Parliament is prorogued until the start of the new session.

⇒ Liberals seek to make changes through amendments to the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, rather than through legislation.

With files from Liberal Party of Canada website.


Public Service Commission of Canada
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*We thank all candidates who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration in the process will be contacted. Preference will be given to Canadian citizens. We are committed to Employment Equity. The Public Service of Canada is committed to developing inclusive, barrier-free selection processes and work environments. If contacted regarding this competition, please advise of the accommodation measures which must be taken to enable you to be assessed in a fair and equitable manner.*

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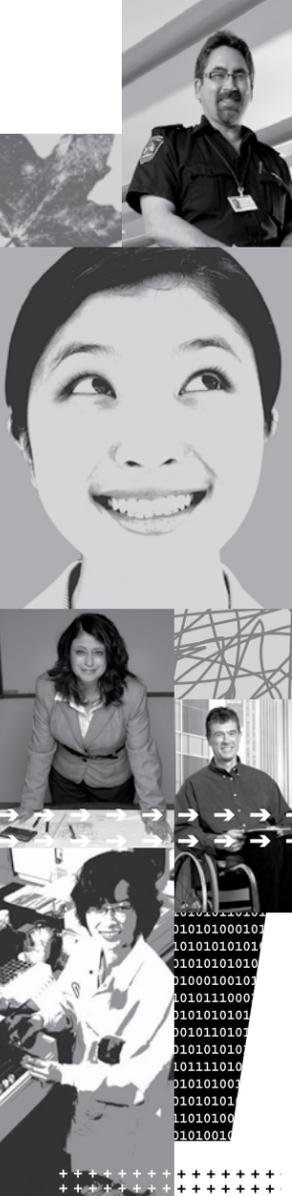
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*Nous remercions tous ceux et celles qui poseront leur candidature. Nous ne communiquerons qu'avec les personnes retenues pour la suite de processus. Nous souscrivons au principe de l'équité en matière d'emploi. La préférence sera accordée aux citoyens canadiens. La Commission de la fonction publique du Canada s'est engagée à mettre en place des processus de sélection et des milieux de travail inclusifs et exempts d'obstacles. Si nous vous contactons au sujet de concours, veuillez nous faire part des mesures d'aménagement qui devraient être prises pour que vous puissiez bénéficier d'une évaluation juste et équitable.*

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TDD access – 1-204-945-1437

People. Purpose. Progress.


## Campus News Briefs

Compiled by Laura Kunzelman

### FLASH MOB AT THE FORKS

On Sunday, Feb. 7, students from the U of M and the U of W braved the snow and windchill to set up a "Flash Mob" at the Forks. This event brought together students from two university chapters of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), a nation-wide student group dedicated to fostering global understanding through education and training. The goal was to raise awareness and funds for WUSC's Shine a Light initiative, designed to assist young women living in refugee camps in pursuing their education. For more information about Shine a Light or to make a donation, please visit [www.shinealight.wusc.ca](http://www.shinealight.wusc.ca).

### GENDER FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA

For the finale of Gender Week 2010, the University of Winnipeg Students' Association LGBT Centre, the UWSA Womyn's Centre and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies present the Gender Fair Extravaganza, featuring Kate Bornstein with her "Survival Tips for Sex and Gender Outlaws." Kate Bornstein is an author, playwright and performance artist whose work to date has been in service of sex positivity, gender anarchy and the building of a coalition for those who live on cultural margins. The free event will be held Friday, Feb. 26 in Riddell Hall at the University of Winnipeg beginning at 8 p.m. Contact 786-9025 or [lbgctr@theuwsa.ca](mailto:lbgctr@theuwsa.ca) for more information.

### MATH PRODIGIES IN WINNIPEG?

Dr. John Mighton claims that "even children who are failing math or who are labeled slow learners can excel in math." A public lecture by Mighton will be held on Wednesday, March 3 at Convocation Hall, second floor Wesley Hall, at 12:30 p.m. In addition to holding a PhD in mathematics, Mighton is a successful Canadian playwright who has won multiple theatre and literary awards, including a Governor-General's Award and the \$100,000 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. Founder of JUMP (Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigies), Mighton will argue that society is harmed in many ways because we fail to teach children according to their true potential in mathematics. He will explore how we teach children mathematics. For more information, contact Anna Stokke at 786-9050.

### AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY

The Honourable Flora MacDonald will be speaking at the University of Winnipeg on her humanitarian work in Afghanistan. Everyone is welcome to attend this free public lecture. MacDonald works with Future Generations, Canada's development projects in Afghanistan that focus on stimulating and encouraging self-sufficiency on the part of the Afghan people. The event is presented by the University of Winnipeg's Global College and the Winnipeg branch of the Canadian International Council and will be held in Convocation Hall, on the second floor of Wesley Hall, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17. A small reception will follow featuring Afghan cuisine.

### FILMMAKERS WANTED

The University of Winnipeg's Department of Theatre and Film invites submissions for its 8th Annual University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival. The free festival will run from Wednesday, Apr. 21 until Friday, Apr. 23 in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall at the University of Winnipeg. To be eligible, you have to be a student registered at a post-secondary institution between April 2009 and April 2010. The deadline is Monday, Apr. 5 at 4 p.m. sharp. For submission forms or details on how to enter, go to <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca> or contact John Kozak at 786-9951.

## Campus News

# Students have the power

Being aware of the appeal process can ensure students avoid academic troubles

COURTNEY SCHWEGEL  
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

Although university procedures are complex and at times difficult to understand, students are not powerless against the system. In fact, the right to make appeals is a right many students do not know they have.

"A lot of students might not ... realize that they have the option of extending an exam deadline or dropping a course after the drop date," UWSA vice-president advocate David EisBrenner said. But according to EisBrenner, awareness of the appeal process seems to be growing.

EisBrenner said that during the fall term he noticed an increase in the number of students coming to him with questions about appeals. Most of the concerns, he said, pertained to assignment extensions, retroactive withdrawals and concerns with professors.

Senate and grade appeals are the two types of appeals students can



make. Senate appeals are reviewed by the senate student appeals committee and include appeals to defer exams, extend deadlines for incomplete coursework and withdraw from a course after the official drop date.

According to U of W registrar Colin Russel, the 2008-09 fall/winter term saw a total of 80 appeals to defer exams and 125 appeals regarding incomplete term work.

"We need to have regulations to run everything by, but we don't

want them to be set in stone," Russel said.

Bronwyn Jerret-Enns, a second-year English major at U of W, is thankful that the appeal process is in place for students.

"I'm glad I had a recourse action to take," she said.

Last year, Jerret-Enns made an appeal for retroactive withdrawal. Although she registered for courses for the fall/winter semester, she was unable to attend university without a student loan.

"I assumed I would just be withdrawn from my classes," she said, adding that she did not attend any of them.

But in December of last year she received a letter from the university notifying her that her tuition fees were overdue. Consequently, since she had not notified the university that she had not been attending classes, she would receive failing grades in the courses she was registered in.

After receiving the letter, Jerret-Enns met with an academic advisor and submitted an appeal for retroactive withdrawal.

"It was stressful ... because there was the potential to be on the hook for owing a lot of money and [receiving] seriously damaging marks," she said.

The senate reviewed and accepted her appeal.

"The appeal process is there to allow students to tell their side of the story and to put their case before an independent body that has no ties to either side of the argument," EisBrenner said. Although EisBrenner stressed the importance of the appeal system, he said it is a process that should not be used frivolously.

"Appeals are sort of the last step," he said, adding that students should take advantage of supports on campus, such as tutoring and counselling, to avoid having to resort to appeals.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

The International Women's Day March on Sunday, March 7 begins at 1 p.m. at the Legislative Building. At 2:30 p.m. there will be a Feminist Fair at the MERC at 430 Langside St.

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 until 1:30 p.m. at Elim Chapel, 546 Portage Ave. For more information call Val & Veda Chacko at 257-1670.

### ON CAMPUS

Kate Bornstein will give a talk entitled HELLO CRUEL WORLD: SURVIVAL TIPS FOR SEX AND GENDER OUTLAWS at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26 in Riddell Hall.

AFTERSHOCKS IN HAITI: DOING GOOD IN THE LONG TERM, a round-table discussion will take place in Room 3C01 in Centennial Hall on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Relax between classes by attending a free YOGA class on Wednesdays at 12:30 in OT19 (the theatre building) or a free MEDITATION workshop on Thursdays at 12:30 in the UWSA Boardroom. The program ends March 25.

Andrea Smith will speak on SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND AMERICAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS on Wednesday, March 10 in room 1L13, Lockhart Hall. 12:30 p.m.

The Honourable Flora MacDonald will give a talk on her humanitarian work in Afghanistan in Convocation Hall on Wednesday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

The UWSA General elections will take place from Friday, March 12 until Friday, March 19.

The UWSA SAFEWALK PROGRAM is looking for volunteers to walk students, faculty and staff to their cars, bus stops or residences within a reasonable distance. Each four-hour shift will receive an \$18 honorarium.

Every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. there is an interfaith university chapel service in the Carl Ridd Sanctuary in Bryce Hall. All are welcome.

## It's playoff time!

CASANDRA ANDERSON  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Whether you're a basketball or volleyball fan, you can look forward to some exciting playoff action from both Wesmen teams starting Thursday, Feb. 25. The Wesmen women's basketball team and the Wesmen men's volleyball team will be working hard in the next week at playoff games in B.C. to bring glory back to the prairies.

The Wesmen men's volleyball team will kick off their playoff run in style in Langley, B.C. on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 8:15 p.m. CST, taking on the Trinity Western Spartans. Games will be hosted by Trinity Western University on Thursday, Friday and possibly Saturday.

Andrew Town of the Wesmen men's volleyball team received special recognition when he took to the home court at their last game in the season. He walked off with a fifth-year veteran plaque. Town has graced the team with five years of loyal, hardworking service and will definitely be missed next season.

Unfortunately, the Wesmen women's volleyball team just couldn't grasp the playoff line. They won one of their sets 3-1 against the University of Calgary Dinos on Friday, Feb. 12, but lost on Saturday's game 1-3. They could not hold their playoff spot.

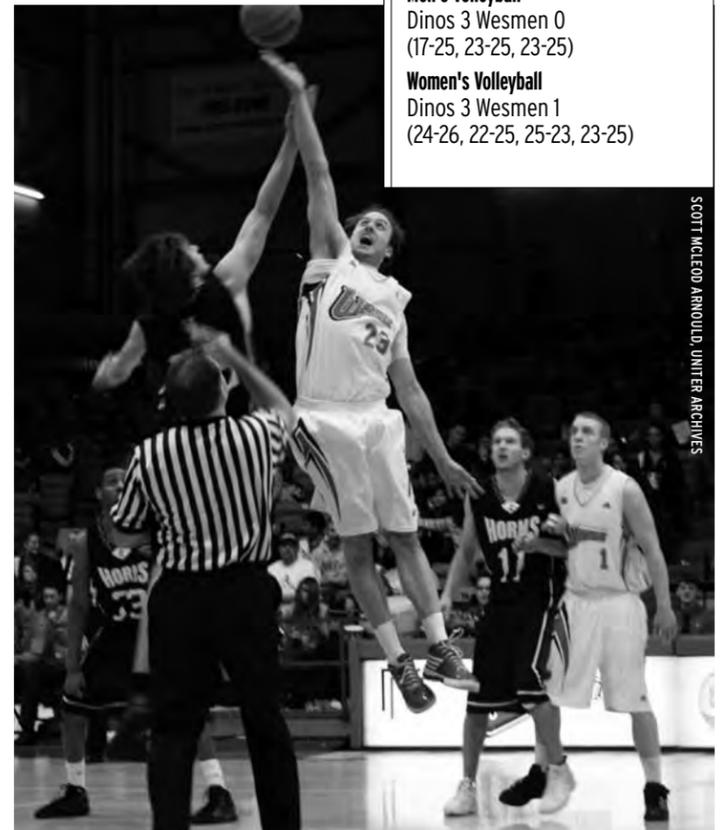
All teams showed great strength during this season, notably, the Wesmen men's basketball team, whose first win was their last game of the season. The team experienced a lot of problems this season, but kept up their endurance throughout. The big win by the Wesmen men's basketball team was on Thursday, Feb. 11 when they beat the University of Manitoba

Bisons 88-65.

The Wesmen women's basketball team were able to secure their spot in the playoffs. Even though they lost their last season game on Thursday, Feb. 11 to the Bisons, it didn't alter their post.

They will also be heading west to take on Simon Fraser University. Their games will commence at 9 p.m. CST on Thursday, Friday and if necessary Saturday, Feb. 27.

Both B.C. university websites will be airing the game for those Wesmen fans who can't make the 26-hour drive to cheer on their teams.



The Wesmen men's basketball team ended its season Thursday, Feb. 11 with its first and only win.

### WESMEN GAMES RECAP

#### Thursday Feb. 11

Women's Basketball  
Bisons 72 Wesmen 69

Men's Basketball  
Wesmen 88 Bisons 65

#### Friday Feb. 12

Women's Volleyball  
Wesmen 3 Dinos 1  
(13-25, 25-19, 25-18)

Men's Volleyball  
Dinos 3 Wesmen 1  
(23-25, 25-23, 25-18, 25-17)

#### Saturday Feb. 13

Men's Volleyball  
Dinos 3 Wesmen 0  
(17-25, 23-25, 23-25)

Women's Volleyball  
Dinos 3 Wesmen 1  
(24-26, 22-25, 25-23, 23-25)

## Comments

# Christianity in 2010: Who cares?

Christianity was in the news this month when it was reported that Youth for Christ, an evangelical social-service organization, plans to build a \$11-million youth centre at the northwest corner of Main Street and Higgins Avenue.

Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin railed against a plan proposing that the City contribute funds to the project, calling it "taxpayer-funded proselytization."

"These people are evangelical fundamentalists," Martin said. "Offering much-needed sports opportunities is just their way of luring in young prospects."

**For the next three issues of *The Uniter*, Rev. Jack Duckworth will explore the topic of Christianity.**

Specifically, he'll look at three questions, each in a separate article: What is a Christian? What does it mean to be a non-Christian? And: What does it mean to no longer be a Christian?

**Each week a different *Uniter* writer will respond to Duckworth's article, demonstrating the wide-ranging and passionate opinions that arise when questions of faith are brought to the table.**

What do you think? Let us know by e-mailing editor@uniter.ca.

## What is a Christian?



**JACK DUCKWORTH**  
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN

Today, Christianity is on a level playing field with all other belief systems. This is good and bad.

It is good because the question considered in this article has to be answered credibly. It is bad because values, once assumed as universal, are lost in today's broad field of enquiry.

To this end, it is useful to clarify: What is a Christian?

A Christian follows Jesus Christ, but Jesus's claims are disconcerting because they are both exclusive and global. Who he claims to be and his call to follow him are extreme.

For example, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I give eternal life ... I and the Father [God] are one." Jesus states he is God, which is tough to read.

Jesus also claims to offer the only way to God. To Thomas, the great doubter, he says: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 NIV).

These are extreme statements. His exclusive invitation is not easy to grasp.

Accepting the invitation comes at a cost. A Christian accepts the claims that Jesus and God are one, Jesus is the only access to God and willingly gives his or her life to following him every day. In short, Christians live immersed in Jesus's ways.

These claims are not easy to process. After all, who does Jesus think He is?

In point of fact he answered the question. Yet, in our multicultural nation (which I enjoy and appreciate), how on earth can anyone accept such claims?

They can be accepted if we understand that Jesus's exclusive claims are a globally inclusive invitation, not an imposition.

His claims are offered in a pluralistic culture. In fact, the Westminster Confession of Faith (an historically significant document published in 1646) grasped the reality of pluralism, where it says some accept all that Jesus claims and offers and know life eternal while others reject it. This invitation extends to all humanity regardless of age,

gender or ethnicity.

A Christian life is counter-intuitive. Christians now live out of the margins of our culture. Regardless, Jesus died for the sake of all people who would follow him (John 10:11). In like manner, he teaches that there is no greater love than that of one who lays down his or her life for their friend (John 15:13).

Anyone can choose to do this, but Christians, even as they are honest about their flaws, live out this conviction empowered by the Spirit of God to make a difference in others' lives (John 6:63, John 14:26). The life that is promised to those who follow Jesus is a life of spiritual abundance (John 10:10). Christians are taught through Jesus to live a life in service to others.

What then is a Christian?

First and always, it is someone who has responded to and understands the spiritual faith commitment of the invitation of the living resurrected Lord (Acts 16:14, Ephesians 2:1-10). Second, they live life with integrity – though flawed and off target at times (Matthew 23:14-23). Third, they serve together with others (Hebrews 10:25). And fourth, they understand their commitment to following Jesus exists in culture but does not integrate with other belief systems with Biblical teaching.

Therefore, as Lesslie Newbigin notes in his book *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, Christians are bonded in two interpenetrating purposes – individual and mission – with the call to live one's faith in Christ through the local church and serve the concerns of the world and its people.

*Rev. Jack Duckworth is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church Winnipeg and is available as volunteer chaplain at the U of W Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. He invites all interested to dialogue sessions in room 3M50 related to the articles: "What is a Christian?" (Wednesday, March 3 at 12:30 p.m.), "What does it mean to be a non-Christian?" (Wednesday, March 10 at 12:30 p.m.) and "What does it mean to no longer be a Christian?" (Wednesday, March 17 at 12:30 p.m.).*

## Christianity is rife with the corrupt and the contemptible



**ETHAN CABEL**  
BEAT REPORTER

Those without religious affiliation are the fastest growing minority in North America.

The Statistics Canada census of 2001 demonstrates that 16 per cent of Canadians are not religiously inclined. Considering that secularism saw a four per cent jump between 1991 and 2001, the number of Canadians that boast to be free of religious servitude has doubtless increased in the last nine years.

This upsurge of secularism in Canada is justified and indicative of a move toward reason rather than superstition, and tolerance rather than prejudice.

It is impossible for many to believe in a divine creator without first posing the obvious question: Who created God?

It is further impossible for many to believe in a deity prone to doing personal favours.

The rise of secularism can be attributed to the intellectual shortcomings of religion (there is literally no evidence for the existence of God) but is due more to the evil often committed in the name of religion.

Canadians are becoming increasingly wary of preachers and spiritualists that claim to be "the way, the truth and the life" because their claims lack evidence and their supposed moral superiority turns out, more often than not, to be fraudulent.

The representatives of the American Christian right are not content to be obsessed with a moronic doctrine that would deny rights to homosexuals, institute mandatory prayer/creationist theory in schools and outlaw the practice of abortion. They seek to foster prejudice amongst their congregations and are often corrupt and contemptible.

For example, in 2004, the Christian evangelist Jimmy Swaggart spoke to an American television audience about gay marriage: "I've never seen a man in my life I wanted to marry. And I'm going to be blunt and plain, if one ever looks at me like that I'm gonna kill him and tell God he died."

Swaggart has been thrice caught with a prostitute in his car or leaving motel rooms in 1988, 1991 and 1995.

In a *New York Times* article written at the height of his popularity, it was reported that Swaggart and his wife travelled in a personal jet, drove his and hers Lincoln town cars and lived in a \$1.5 million home along with a condominium in Palm Springs, Calif., and that these luxuries were purchased through donations to the Jimmy Swaggart Ministries.

The Christian will argue that Swaggart is an extreme example of hypocrisy. What they forget is that the climate of religious privilege allows demagogues like Swaggart to profit.

Religious institutions in North America are not subject to the same financial scrutiny as businesses. At the height of his popularity, Swaggart (because he ran a church) was not obligated to make financial reports to the United States Internal Revenue Service. Instead, he filed reports with his denomination, the Assemblies of God, while he was their largest financial contributor.

Swaggart maintains a large ministry and television presence that has defrauded ignorant Americans out of millions. His brand of hate-mongering and corruption is in no way an isolated case.

Canadians have looked closely at the systemic sexual abuse facilitated by the Catholic Church over the last several decades and are just beginning to condemn the backwards and tribal sexual restrictions that are found in all monotheistic faiths. These range from homosexual discrimination to the mandatory circumcision of Jewish males, the ban on contraception and masturbation instituted by the Catholic Church, or the estimated 130 million women worldwide that have had their clitorises forcibly removed in the name of Islam.

It must be granted that a great deal of humanitarian work and philanthropy is done by proudly religious organizations. Take a look at Siloam Mission and the Salvation Army here in downtown Winnipeg to see the positive impact a faith-based organization can have on the city's downtrodden.

But I must reiterate an atheistic challenge put forward by American atheist/journalist Christopher Hitchens: "Name me an ethical statement made or an action performed by a believer that could not have been made or performed by a non-believer."

*Ethan Cabel is a beat reporter for The Uniter.*

## The changing nature of 'gay'

As the signifier becomes more mainstream, confusion abounds regarding its meaning



ALANA WESTWOOD  
VOLUNTEER

When an out homosexual character on a prime-time sitcom exclaims, "Can you have him paint us something a little less *gay*?" it sounds like being gay isn't entirely about sexual orientation.

Gay is an ambiguous term these days. In fact, some have renounced it altogether.

Academic, poet and drag queen Sky Gilbert has quit being gay. He has since declared himself an ESP (for "effeminate sexual person," pronounced "espie"). He claims that being gay has become too mainstream and therefore meaningless. In a recent *Globe and Mail* article, Gilbert stated, "when being gay is the same as being straight, there's no need for gay anything ... gay culture as we know it will eventually disappear."

Gilbert bemoans the loss of genderplay (the manipulation of one's expression of gender) in gay culture, which he equates with the loss of the culture itself. But is genderplay part of sexual orientation, or is it a separate culture that happens to overlap? And when it comes to the important questions – particularly questions of equality – should genderplay figure in the discussion at all?

Genderplay has been historically tied to LGBT communities. Think "gay" and one image is of pride parades featuring equal amounts of skin and androgyny. Ask the wider population for synonyms of gay and you may hear "dyke," "fairy," "butch" and other derogatory slurs.

However, this vernacular speaks to aesthetics rather than sexual orientation. These stereotypes are harmful and illogical. They assume that a certain appearance equates a certain sexual orientation – which it doesn't.

Unfortunately, the inflammatory rhetoric

goes both ways.

Adam Lambert of *American Idol* fame has been lampooned by some LGBT groups for his flamboyance. This, too, confuses the issue. Lambert isn't representing his sexual orientation with his makeup; he is representing a culture that engages in genderplay – a culture which is not the same as gay culture, since gender-bending is enjoyed by many straight people. In fact, for the gay community to appropriate genderplay as their own is an act of exclusivity – seemingly the antithesis of the inclusiveness they promote.

How does this fit into the LGBT rights movement?

The representation of gay people in popular culture is increasingly positive. There are lesbian and bisexual characters all over prime-time television (*Bones*, *Grey's Anatomy* and *House*, just to name a few shows). These characters bear two things in common: an aesthetic quality that doesn't involve genderplay and enormous audiences.

It is these "normal" gay characters, marching into the living rooms of the straight world, who are the new ambassadors of equality. The straight majority may still balk at genderplay, but in much of North America, being gay is becoming accepted.

That's not to say gender roles don't need revision, they certainly do. But if it means more recognition and less discrimination, perhaps mainstream gay isn't so bad.

Confusing genderplay and sexual orientation, or trying to promote both on the same agenda, only poses additional barriers. It isn't until equality has truly been realized that we can fight for Sky Gilbert's right to wear tights and have no one bat an eyelash.

*Alana Westwood is an evening and weekend philosopher whose blog can be found at <http://gapingwhole.wordpress.com>.*

## The clarity of separating church and state

This principle not only protects those without religion, but those who practise it



ALEX GARCIA  
VOLUNTEER

Whenever I hear someone questioning the need for a separation between church and state, I shake my head. In response to Josh Bernier's article "The ambiguity of separating church and state" in the Feb. 11 edition of *The Uniter*, I don't understand how such a fundamental principle of a modern democratic society can be questioned or considered ambiguous.

Perhaps Bernier doesn't understand the wording of the phrase "separation of church and state," or perhaps how it is that many people would like nothing more than to impose theocracies in their respective parts of the world.

Worse yet, perhaps he doesn't understand how many people live in parts of the world where there are distinct fusions between church and state and suffer because of them.

A recent example in so-called "Western Civilization" would be the prevention of homosexual marriage in California under Proposition 8, a bill around which various religious organizations rallied to pass as retroactive legislation barring Californian citizens from exercising rights others are afforded. While a mixture of private and religious organizations supported the bill, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints penned a letter meant to be read in every congregation nationwide, encouraging members to do everything they could do to ensure the amendment passed.

This example can be taken further yet, considering that after the passing of Proposition 8 there were religious organizations, Christian and Jewish alike, in California that argued that the passing of the law infringed upon their religious right to bless marriages they deemed valid.

On one hand the state of California infringed upon its citizens' civic rights, and on the other, their religious freedoms.

This is a less than ambiguous example of religious organizations directly affecting the lives of people that do not share the same beliefs they do.

Examples of religious infiltration of

public policy are worldwide and varied, from the pending atrocities concerning the slaughter of homosexuals in Uganda, to the oppressive regimes in Middle Eastern countries, to full scale wars between nations such as that of Palestine and Israel. Just because these conflicts don't occur in "Western Civilization" does not mean that they don't exist.

In his article, Bernier argues for a balance between church and state, where public officials are not asked to "check their beliefs at the door."

To this I respond: public officials serve the public. Not just the public that identifies with their set of values, but the whole public. Unless these public officials and institutions are willing to represent all religious beliefs and views held by their constituents, it seems only fair to instead represent none of them.

**The notion of a separation between church and state is not just a protection against theocracy, or some ambiguous principle that is shouted by leftists and atheists without reason. It is a protection against the infringement of certain liberties that, if infringed upon, can have incredible consequences.**

This is not to say that religion should be outlawed or that they should be condemned, but the contrary. The same laws that protect my right to live my life without religion equally protect others to live their lives with religion.

But the notion of a separation between church and state is not just a protection against theocracy, or some ambiguous principle that is shouted by leftists and atheists without reason. It is a protection against the infringement of certain liberties that, if infringed upon, can have incredible consequences. Perhaps we don't value the separation of church and state because we live where we do, but that is no reason for us to ever forget its importance.

*Alex Garcia is a human rights and global studies student at the University of Winnipeg.*

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# Canadians 'get tough' on crime for all the wrong reasons

Misunderstanding the rates and causes of crime leads to wrong solutions



BRITTANY THIESSEN  
VOLUNTEER

A new poll shows that Canadians are favouring harsher punishments for criminals than previously shown. The latest Angus Reid poll found that 62 per cent of respondents in Canada favour capital punishment for murderers and 31 per cent believed that rapists should be put to death.

It appears that Canadians have acquired tougher feelings towards crime, as a poll done in 2004 showed only 48 per cent favouring capital punishment.

Furthermore, the latest poll shows that 65 per cent of Canadians believe mandatory minimum sentences are sending a message to criminals that Canada is getting "tough on crime." With mandatory minimum sentences, judges are not able to consider all relevant circumstances pertaining to the accused during sentencing, such as

background and previous criminal record. Instead, if the accused is found guilty they are sentenced according to a "mandatory minimum" punishment for the crime they have committed.

If a person commits a relatively minor crime, they may be too severely punished because of mandatory minimum sentences. What is worse is that mandatory minimums have been found not to work. As *The Globe and Mail* recently stated, Canadians are ignoring warnings that mandatory minimums don't deter crime.

"They are not thinking the way criminals think: most criminal acts are impulsive, not well thought out," said Sanjeev Anand, a University of Alberta law professor.

Craig Jones, director of the John Howard Society of Canada, said offenders pay little attention to the sentence and more about how best not to get caught, suggesting that deterrence isn't an effective strategy. Deterrence doesn't take into consideration the causes of why people commit crimes.

Sixty-two per cent of Canadians thought that long prison sentences are the most powerful way to reduce crime. Even though the majority of Canadians support harsher sentences, statistics have shown that incarceration has no significant im-



pact on overall crime rates and is only effective when used for violent and high-risk offenders. Forty-four per cent of Canadians also believed that crime rates have been increasing over the last five years, when crime rates have actually been decreasing for years now. Only a mere 26 per cent believed that crime rates have decreased.

The majority of Canadians are oblivious to the fact that crime is dropping, and therefore still support harsher sentences. It's clear that Canadians have a distorted perception of crime rates, but how does this happen?

The majority of Canadians get

**If a person commits a relatively minor crime, they may be too severely punished because of mandatory minimum sentences. What is worse is that mandatory minimums have been found not to work.**

their information about crime and the criminal justice system from television and the newspaper. The

problem with this is that the media tends to sensationalize and over-represent violent crimes, which in turn distorts Canadians' perception about crime, leading them to believe that violent crimes are increasing.

What they don't realize is that media reporting does not reflect the actual crime patterns. Violent crimes only account for 11 per cent of all reported crimes. Property crime, on the other hand, accounts for 45 per cent of all reported crime, yet you rarely hear about property crime in the news. Also, the media rarely explores the causes of crime pertaining to the individual, such as poverty, family life and abuse, which is a significant factor in why they commit the crime.

We need to focus our efforts on the causes of crime and judges need to start considering alternatives to prison when possible, because prison doesn't reduce crime and is grossly expensive. Canadians need to realize that harsher prison sentences will not translate into less crime. We need to understand why people commit crimes and to focus our efforts on the prevention of crime before it happens.

*Brittany Thiessen is a criminal justice and sociology student at the University of Winnipeg.*

## Letters

**Re: "Taking out the trash" (Feb. 4, page 12)**

Our government's promises to reduce our city's waste and make our planet greener are nice. However, they really need to re-evaluate their methods.

Take for instance the city's new garbage collection program. The only problem with our current program is that we produce more waste than we'd like. However, the new plan has the potential to damage our planet more and is neither easy nor convenient.

The government plans to have all Winnipeg houses equipped with one container that holds the equivalent of three large garbage bags. The idea is that by reducing our space for garbage, we'll reduce our overall waste.

This plan was doomed to fail from the start. When families have more than three bags of waste, where will the excess trash go if not in the container? Who will clean up that extra trash when our winter winds scatter it around?

Questions haven't been answered, but containers are already in northwest Winnipeg. And now with a "claw" taking over the job of the garbage collectors, what job will they be given? A driver who operates the "claw" is all that's needed. Last week the city dispatched workers to clean the streets because winds had blown around garbage not in the containers.

Lastly, Winnipeggers will pay a waste bill, which will come with their monthly water bill; just one more money-making idea.

My idea – everyone should dump their excess garbage on parliament's steps and see how they like having to clean it up.

*Amanda Feenstra*

**Re: "Free graffiti walls elaborate prank, city says" (Feb. 11, page 3)**

Pat Lazo's comments are a clear indication that the only people who benefit from legal graffiti walls are the few and the proud who would actually use them. Everyone you meet can think of 50 things wrong with Winnipeg, but you will typically find that absent from those lists is a complaint that our graffiti isn't pretty enough – more likely, they'd say that our graffiti isn't gone enough. Why would they want to see even more self-indulgent versions of it all over public property?

If the owner of a private establishment wishes to open their exterior walls to graffiti, that would be much more acceptable than making the civic government the arbiter. Unless they do, the worst-case scenario would be graffiti artists sticking to really big sheets of paper, which would be no loss to the rest of us.

*Jess Chapman*

**Re: "Fashion Streeter" (Feb. 11, page 11)**

I don't like when people only write when they have something bad to say, so I'm sorry. I'll start by letting you know that I really enjoy reading *The Uniter* and I try to read it most weeks. I'll sometimes go out of my way to grab a copy so I can read it on my bus ride home – which is exactly what I did with the last week's issue. I was going to the Ian La Rue & The Condor's CD release on Feb. 12 and wanted to read the article that I knew was in there thanks to your Twitter updates.

However, while I was reading the article, the *Fashion Streeter* kept distracting me. It one of my favorite features in *The Uniter*, but you really flopped with this one. Isn't the point of the *Fashion Streeter* to pick a subject that is fashionable? Is that why it's hidden in the middle this issue?

I'm sure she's very nice, but it makes me sad that this is the outfit you picked for the issue that will be out for two weeks because of Reading Week. Reading Week is probably why I have extra time on my hands to write you about something like this but still – Winnipeggers already have a reputation as being bad dressers. Let's not prove it to be true.

So other than this little misstep, keep up the good work!

*Caitlin MacGregor*

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- ...New blogs are posted daily at [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca).
- ...You can follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/TheUniter](http://www.twitter.com/TheUniter).
- ...We're publishing two summer issues after April 1: one in mid-May and one at the end of June.
- ...We're hiring. Go to [www.uniter.ca/jobs](http://www.uniter.ca/jobs) for more info.

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## Arts & Culture

# Crazy trains and accordion choirs

Local singer-songwriter talks about touring in support of her debut full-length, *Broken Tambourine*

**SAM HAGENLOCHER**  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

If you're looking for interesting stories, Ingrid Gatin's got a few.

Whether it's touring alone (like, really completely alone), singing for her transportation, or conducting an accordion circle, the Brandon-born songstress has an unusual resume.

But conducting an accordion circle?

"It was for Accordion Noir Radio in Vancouver. We had about 12 accordions all going at once. I got to conduct them through one of my songs, which sounded incredible," Gatin explained excitedly over coffee at the Neighbourhood Cafe last week.

"You don't believe me, but it was amazing. So fun. And it just happened to be my birthday, too."

Gatin, 23, moved to Winnipeg three years ago to study at the

University of Winnipeg, but has since abandoned school to pursue music, her main love.

Her first full-length album, *Broken Tambourine*, which was released last fall, is a culmination of the songs from her journey so far, some even from when she first started writing.

Prior to the album's release, Gatin took the songs across the country, performing on the passenger train in exchange for food and transport along the way.

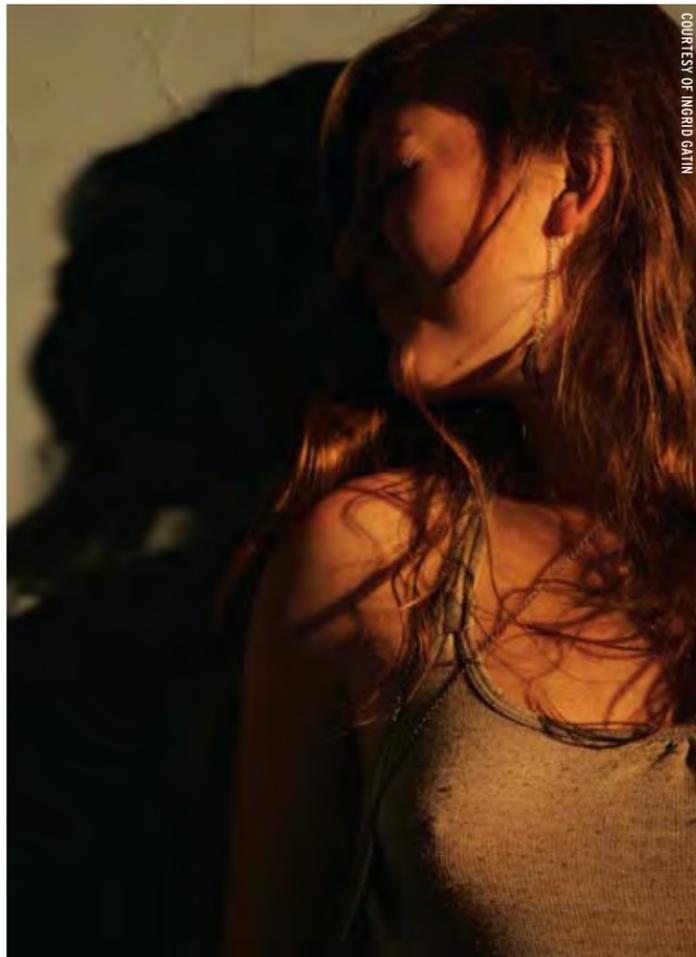
She did this solo, with an accordion, a keyboard and a whole lot of baggage to carry.

"It was a really fun experience, but I don't think I would do it solo again. Too much to carry. But I love performing on the train. I highly recommend it to any musicians traveling. I've already done it twice," Gatin said.

When she sets out to tour country again this May, she will be doing so with a full band in tow, rest assured.

Gatin will be performing at the West End Cultural Centre March 3, sharing the bill with fellow musician Aimee Lane, as part of the venue's new music series, *Melodies on Mercredi*.

The series, which had its first event earlier this month, will feature young Winnipeg singer-songwriters performing in the building's new Assiniboine Community Hall acoustic space, while surrounded



COURTESY OF INGRID GATIN

Ingrid Gatin has done a lot of unusual things, but not like this. She will be performing at *Melodies on Mercredi* this Wednesday, a series of events at the WECC that brings local musicians and visual artists together for one cohesive evening every month.

by art work inspired by their very own music.

Andraea Sartison, operations assistant at the WECC, created the event which happens on the first Wednesday of every month this spring. She hopes it will inspire people to get involved and continue past the summer.

"It's really about creating a sensory experience. We play the music for different artists in different mediums and allow them to use it as inspiration. We really want to combine these forms, of story, of dance, of animation, of song, and really create something that is completely unique that you won't find anywhere else," Sartison explained.

For this particular performance, she recruited students at Sister MacNamara School to paint and draw what inspired them from these two musician's songs.

For Gatin, who currently teaches students in multiple visual mediums at the Graffiti Gallery part-time, this kind of experiment is right up her alley.

"I can't wait to see it all. I have no idea what to expect, and that's exciting," Gatin said.

⇒ See Ingrid Gatin and Aimee Lane perform at *Melodies on Mercredi* Wednesday, March 3 at the WECC

⇒ Tickets are \$5 at the door, and pudding is available for purchase

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

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## THE UNITER

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### Production Manager

*The Uniter* is looking for a hard-working, creative and talented individual to take on the responsibilities of Production Manager. The successful applicant will be responsible for the overall design and final layout of the newspaper, in co-operation with the section editors and Managing Editor, on a weekly basis. The Production Manager is also responsible for uploading content onto *The Uniter's* website each week. This person must be proficient with Adobe Creative Suite, comfortable using a Mac OS X platform and possess a sound understanding of design principles for a weekly print publication. The Production Manager must be available to work Sunday to Wednesday. Some additional ad design will be required and paid accordingly. Some office hours are required. Time commitment is 25+ hours per week.

The successful applicant will work on *The Uniter's* two summer issues (May and June) and then begin their term in late August.

Please send your resume and a cover letter to [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca). The deadline for this application is **Friday, April 2 at 12 p.m.**

95.9 FM CKUW Campus/Community  
Radio Top 10 CD - Albums  
February 3 - 9, 2010

! = Local content \* = Canadian Content

**CKUW**  
95.9 FM

TW	Artist	Recording	Label
1	!Various Artists	Buried Treasures	SuperOldies.com
2	!Paperbacks	Lit From Within	Parliament of Trees
3	*Bloodshot Bill	Git High Tonight	Transistor 66
4	Flaming Lips	Embryonic	Warner
5	Vivian Girls	Everything Goes Wrong	In the Red
6	!Various Artists	Best of Franklin	SuperOldies.com
7	Tom Waits	Glitter & Doom Live	Anti
8	*Little Girls	Concepts	Paper Bag
9	*Patrick Watson	Wooden Arms	Secret City
10	*Alex Cuba	Agua del Pozo	Caracol

# For your entertainment

Canadian dance duo Woodhands promise to rock the show - with or without their synthesizers

SAMUEL SWANSON  
BEAT REPORTER

The two-man band isn't all too common in the world of hard, dirty tubthumping beats. But it has proven to be effective if done right. The White Stripes, Death From Above 1979, er - The Carpenters?

Again, uncommon.

Stretching the uncommon for Toronto's Woodhands is that one guitar isn't part of the show. Instead, Dan Warb uses synthesizers to create explosions of imagination. Because the synth is profoundly digitally manipulated, it can easily be presumed to be the product of beat-looping software.

"We don't start with a computer," Warb said. "We just use what's at our disposal. We don't come out of production. I'm a piano player and Paul [Banwatt]'s a drummer."

Although the stage at Woodhands shows is littered with distortion peddles and technology fit for a Hollywood soundstage,



"These hands... They long to scratch you..." Toronto synth/drums duo Woodhands has no regrets about their latest album, the much acclaimed *Remorsecapade*, which was released earlier this year.

Warb refers to all that as the icing.

"Even if everything breaks, we can still do a show. Even if it's just me screaming and Paul banging on whatever's around."

Banwatt is also the drummer for The Rural Alberta Advantage and plays the drums like Animal from the Muppets - even on the slow songs.

With Woodhands, the term "slow songs" must be taken with a grain of salt since even the slow ones include a cornucopia of hard, dirty synth beats, making down-tempo danceable. The danceability factor is ensured by Warb.

"We don't fuck around. We're interested in connecting with our audience," Warb said.

**"Even if everything breaks, we can still do a show. Even if it's just me screaming and Paul banging on whatever's around."**

-DAN WARB, MUSICIAN

Woodhands' latest album, *Remorsecapade*, is overpoweringly electronic and incredibly danceable, with more hits than misses.

"We really wanted to stretch out emotional range and be quite evocative with it," said Warb, who admitted he was wary about releasing the album, their sophomore release. "We think it's an evolution. It felt a lot more fresh and different. Any time you do more, not everyone comes with you."

The duo initially built a fan base with the success of the songs *Dancer* and *I Wasn't Made For*

*Fighting* from their debut album *Heart Attack*.

In addition to two original albums, Woodhands has also built a strong reputation in covers and remixes, most notably, their refreshing, not-safe-for-mainstream-clubs take on Katy Perry's *I Kissed a Girl*.

"We're all the sums of our influences," Warb said. "If you really own a cover or a remix, all of your other songs will sound like your influences."

Although their MySpace page places them in Toronto, Warb is from Vancouver and lived in Montreal for several years, so Woodhands is really a national effort.

The duo will be spanning the country on their Canadian tour and will be stopping in Winnipeg on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Lo Pub.

Dan will yell, Paul will bang on things and hopefully all the equipment will remain in tact.

⇒ See Woodhands Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Lo Pub

⇒ Brasstronaut will also perform

⇒ Tickets are \$10 at Music Trader, Into the Music and Ticket Workshop

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



## Meet Wesley

### our mine-detection dog

Wesley is UWinnipeg's two-year old Belgian Shepard-Malinois who just began his training in Bosnia.

UWinnipeg would like to thank everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

Once trained, he will be working in Bosnia and saving lives of civilians.

Mine detections dogs are **10X** more efficient than conventional methods. A dog and his handler can clear the size of a football field in three days. Without the dog, it takes one month.

These incredible dogs are remarkably adept at identifying the location of mines without coming into direct contact with them.

The health and safety of the dog is a primary concern and no dog has ever been hurt or injured in the line of duty.

**Info on Landmines**

Landmines are indiscriminate weapons - they do not distinguish between a soldier's footstep or a child's. Their toll is devastating and the consequences of their use are felt years after the war is over.

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



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## MUSIC LISTINGS

## The Sheepdogs



Let the SHEEPDOGS engulf you in that blissful '70s pop-rock sound of vocal and guitar harmonies, melodic organs and big drums, when they take to the stage at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club on Friday, Feb. 26. Winnipeg is the first stop on tour in support of *Learn & Burn*, the band's third full-length album.

## The Fancy Pants

Have you always wanted to see WEEN play live but just couldn't make the trip to a different city? Now all you gotta do is head down to the Cavern on Saturday, Feb. 27 where local tribute band The FANCY PANTS pay homage to the genre hopping Gener and Deaner.

## DRUMHELLER

Toronto's veteran drummer Nick Frasier and his jazz quintet DRUMHELLER draw from the rich history of jazz and put forth a modern interpretation of the genre. The Park Theatre is about halfway between their hometown and the valley of their name-sake, it is also where you'll go to see them play live at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25.

## THURSDAY, FEB. 25

YACHT and BOBBY BIRDMAN make the Pyramid sweat.

BASIA BULAT is singing at the West End Cultural Centre.

Toronto jazz innovators DRUMHELLER are playing at the Park Theatre.

DAVEx2 - the Dave's from local bands Absent Sound, Twin and Vampires - play at the Yellow Dog Tavern.

WANG THE MERCILESS plays at the Academy.

WALE is at the Republic.

MOONBEAM JAZZ at the King's Head.

ROUTE 59 Jam Night at the Cavern.

FFV open jam night at the Standard.

READYMIX with DJs DAN L and DIAL UP at Ozzy's.

DAVID BART Celtic night at Shannon's Irish Pub.

NEIL PINTO plays at Saffron's.

## FRIDAY, FEB. 26

THE NODS and ALVERSTONE both reunite for this one-off show at the Cavern.

A TIME TO RISE, FIVE HUNDRED POUND FURNACE, MELLOW POLLUTION and KILL KATIE cram onto the stage at Ozzy's.

FLYING FOX AND THE HUNTER-GATHERERS perform their live musical version of *Where The Wild Things Are* at the Park Theatre.

Saskatoon's SHEEPDOGS return to the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club with local songstress ROMI MAYES playing an early show at 7 p.m.

DJs CO-OP and HUNNICUTT finish their tour at the Pyramid Cabaret, with guests LEBEATO.

MUZO releases his debut album *Making Momma Proud* with guests FABII FLO and DJ KEESH at the West End Cultural Centre.

The Young Performers showcase at the Folk Exchange features JAY RAHN, BRODIE SANDERSON, MATT WARD, INGRID GATIN and THE CARLY DOW BAND. 7:30 p.m.

The DR. DAVE TRIO perform with guitarist GREG LOWE at Paragon.

DR. RAGE AND THE UPPER CUTS play at Shannon's Irish Pub.

The Don't Panic Party at the Zoo features COCKTAIL HOSTAGES, SLOW BURN WINTER, J.WILLIAMEZ and SOULBERRY.

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs the music of QUEEN at the Centennial Concert Hall. 8 p.m.

The AARON SCHORR TRIO plays at the Standard.

## SATURDAY, FEB. 27

Dynamic duo WOODHANDS are joined by BRASSTRONAUT at the Lo Pub.

MOLLY JOHNSON is performing at the Burton Cummings Theatre, with opener WILL BONNESS.

SUBCITY share some musical love at the King's Head Pub.

FANCY PANTS pay homage to Gene and Dean WEEN, with the debut set by DUST=ATOM=DUST at the Cavern.

JACK STRAIGHT takes to the stage at the Park Theatre.

CON'T..

The Young Performers showcase at the Folk Exchange features WIL GRIERSON, JAMES STRUTHERS, MICAH EREBERG, FROM THE MOON, MASON WESELOWSKI and the EVAN REEVE BAND. 7 p.m.

VAMPIRES, SPILLING SEED and DISCOVENANT are playing at War On Music.

Metallica tribute night at the Zoo with MISERY, OBVIOUS COMPLETE and DESTRUCTION.

Menofolk 2010 presents the LIPTONIANS and BLUE SKY ADDICTS at the Outworks Gallery. 7 p.m.

AMF, LIVING IN RED, MODE 7 and STACKED pack themselves onstage at the Pyramid.

ALPHABET SOUP Music and Art Party at Pure Nightclub.

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs the music of QUEEN at the Centennial Concert Hall. 8 p.m.

Local roots group NATHAN are joined by RIGHTEOUS IKE at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club.

INFILTRATOR, KILLBRIDE, LEFT FOR DEAD and SILENT DISSONANCE baste your ears in sound at Ozzy.

RED SEED plays at Shannon's Irish Pub.

THE JUSTIN LACROIX BAND are playing at Sam's Place.

## SUNDAY, FEB. 28

The benefit concert for Brian Richardson at the West End Cultural Centre features LOREENA MCKENNETT, FRED PENNER, PHOEBE MAN, KATE FERRIS, MICAH EREBERG, SAM BROVERMAN, FRANKENSTAN and TI HALLAS

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs the music of QUEEN at the Centennial Concert Hall. 2 p.m.

Saddle up to the bar and listen to BAD COUNTRY at the Standard.

Blues jam with BIG DAVE MCLEAN at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club.

ALL THE KING'S MEN at the King's Head.

## MONDAY, MARCH 1

The incomparable J.WILLIAMEZ performs at Shannon's Irish Pub.

Watch James Brown run from the bar to the turntable at the VINYL DRIP in the Cavern.

KARAOKE at the Standard.

NEIL PINTO at Shannon's Irish Pub.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Soul Night with THE SOLUTIONS at the Cavern.

DEFLATED EGOS play at Shannon's Irish Pub.

The EXPERIENCES take the stage at the Royal George Hotel.

Open-Mic Night at the Academy.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

KARAOKE at the Cavern.

DON'T BE SHY, live open mic at the Regal Beagle.

BIG CITY FILTER play at Shannon's Irish Pub.

WILD AND WICKED WEDNESDAYS at Ozzy's.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 4

THE CROOKED BROTHERS are performing at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club.

THE F-HOLES and NATHAN have a hootenanny at the Academy.

ERIC THE GREAT comes in off the street to play a show at the Pyramid.

Join the packed floor dancing to DJs ROB VILAR and MIKE in the Lo Pub at GOODFORM.

MOONBEAM JAZZ at the King's Head.

ROUTE 59 Jam Night at the Cavern.

READYMIX with DJs DAN L and DIAL UP at Ozzy's.

JIMMY G AND THE DOO-WOPS play Jaguar's in the Club Regent Casino.

DAVID BART Celtic night at Shannon's Irish Pub.

NEIL PINTO plays at Saffron's.

ELECTRIC SIX at the Royal Albert Arms, Wednesday, March 17.

BABY DEE at the West End Cultural Centre, Tuesday, April 20.

NOFX at the Burton Cummings Theatre, Monday, April 26.

HOLLERADO and THE BESNARD LAKES at the Royal Albert Arms, Wednesday, April 28.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS and SAID THE WHALE at the West End Cultural Centre, Wednesday, April 28.

CHARLEY PRIDE at the Centennial Concert Hall, Saturday, May 1.

GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS at the Centennial Concert Hall, Saturday, May 22.

## CD REVIEWS

## MAGNUM K.I.

Magnum K.I.

Faultone Records

★★★★☆

Magnum K.I. picks up where their 2008 *Gunshy* release left off: cultivating a West Indie vibe with subtle jazz touches over molasses-thick beats. The trio of DJ Kutdown, Ismaila Alfa and Rob Crooks continues here in an obvious trajectory. Three tracks carry over to this release, but the new treatment is nothing short of phenomenal. Proper respect must be paid from start to finish: meticulously crafted beats, deep couch-comfortable microphone work and superb mastering by Darcy Ataman (Grand Analog) that brings the levels to the clarity that this deserves. Delicate sax touches on *Rhythm Addict* and piano flow on *No Way* are reminiscent of Black Sheep's debut, while Ismaila's calypso/reggae chattah style bear comparison to KRS-One or even Das Efx. They seamlessly mix Native Tongues with '80s-style synth rock, Caribbean flavour and boom-bap head-bangin' beats to great result. My sub-woofer is still smiling.

-Lee Repko



## STORY OF THE YEAR

The Constant

Epitaph Records

★★★★☆

Epitaph was always a label that you could count on for great punk rock of all styles and flavours. More often, however, their imprint finds its way onto some total garbage (I'm looking at you *Escape the Fate* and *I Am Ghost*). Being arguably the most successful indie label in recent history, they have the capital from their successes (i.e Tom Waits, The Weakerthans) to invest in all types of music that might possibly sell to the masses. It has served them well, as the mall-punk set gobbles up a lot of this post hardcore/present-crapcore by the bucket-load. Enter SOTY's latest release *The Constant*. It has killer production, great eye on current grunge-pop trends and enough angst not to upset the soccer-mom set. But it's the cry baby lyrics, soft/LOUD/soft/ANGRY LOUD arrangements and child choral touches that will sell boatloads of this at Warped this summer. But not to me. Ever.

-Lee Repko



## SEA WOLF

White Water, White Bloom

Dangerbird Records

★★★★☆

Sea Wolf's ambitious sophomore album revolves around nature and the loneliness of winter in an impressively sweeping musical collective. *White Water, White Bloom* entangles densely poetic lyrics with inventive indie folk melodies and strong acoustic guitar driven rhythms. The album is littered with quality orchestral licks and carried passionately by Alex Brown Church's hauntingly honest voice. *Oh Maria* would be the love child of Franz Ferdinand and Bright Eyes, with wailing vocals overtop catchy throbbing percussion. A technically brilliant album, *White Water, White Bloom* was recorded by Bright Eyes producer Mike Mogis, whose experience rubs off greatly on the finished project. Church wrote most songs while in love in Montreal, with the city's landscape impacting his interpretation of the seasons. All told, *White Water* is just good quality easy listening.

-Karlene Ooto-Stubbs



## TANYA PHILIPOVICH

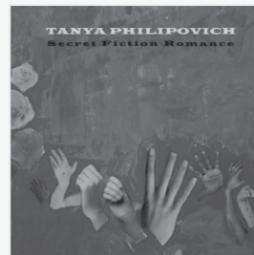
Secret Fiction Romance

DoIn' Time Records

★★★★☆

Toronto's Tanya Philipovich looks like a bleached-blonde Maggie Gyllenhaal in the '50s and sounds like a somber Lucinda Williams combined with that cute folk-girl you met in the park. With *Secret Fiction Romance*, her sophomore release, the songs are calm and rhythmic, but most sound alike. Her voice is generally soft and inviting, but it occasionally veers away from the safety of her mid-range style. Her low notes sound like a bad impression of an obese man while her high ends are strained and unnatural. On *Holy Tomato*, she sings existentially, "Holy tomato, don't know what to do with my lifestyle" - though it probably makes more sense in Toronto. She admits that she "should be visiting (her) grandma in Winnipeg," who may not know what to do with her lifestyle, either. Philipovich's rambling guitar licks and alt-country twang make this a great lazy Sunday afternoon listen. A perfect side stage act for Folk Fest.

-Andrew McMonagle



# Wild Things makes these artists sing

Flying Fox and the Hunter/Gatherers (and friends) take a beloved children's book and make it a rock-opera

IAN MCAMMOND  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Following on the success of last year's *Songs from Jesus Christ Superstar*, Jesse Krause and Darren Grunau of local orchestral funk six-piece Flying Fox and the Hunter/Gatherers are at it again.

This time they have adapted Maurice Sendak's classic children's story *Where the Wild Things Are* into a brand-new rock opera.

*The Wild Things*, premiering this Friday, Feb. 26 at the Park Theatre, will also be featured at this year's Fringe Festival.

The story follows the young hero Max as he sails from his bedroom to the island of the Wild Things.

This is not the first time Sendak's story has been set to music or adapted, let alone recently, as mere months ago film director Spike Jonze released his personal take on it as well.

"I thought it was stunning visually. I thought the costumes were fucking sweet," said Grunau over a beer at Carlos and Murphy's last week.

Writing a rock opera was a natural step for Krause and Grunau.

The two are members of local party darlings Flying Fox and the Hunter Gatherers, whose music has been taking on an increasingly theatrical bent recently.

Couple that with *Jesus Christ Superstar* last year and the trajectory starts to become clear.

"It takes a lot of work, but it's a more interesting niche. We don't want to be playing in bars for the rest of our lives ... There's also the power of creating a narrative rather than a bunch of disconnected songs," explained Grunau.

plained Grunau.

Sitting in on their first rehearsal, it must be said that the masks and costumes the band has created, mostly with their bare hands, are unique and wonderful.

They are nothing like the ones in the big-budget film adaptation, but they're memorable all the same.

The apparent minimalist approach to set design adds to the whimsy of the rock-opera.

They do not distract from the action but lend credibility to the story.

If the sets were more like the ones used by some 'professional' companies, all of the child-like magic Sendak creates between the lines of his book would be lost.

Additionally, the music Krause, Grunau and their merry band has created here is unabashedly fun, rollicking and often, like a true rock-opera, brilliantly epic.

The actors, musicians and stage hands work as a collective, bouncing ideas off each other while each section (of musicians, actors, etc.) maintains semi-autonomy.

*The Wild Things* is, in all senses of the word, what theatre was meant to be: an event you have to see to believe.

For those who do not yet have tickets, beware: Friday's performance is already sold-out.

But that just means you'll have to wait until this summer's Fringe Festival to see what all the fuss is about.

⇒ See Flying Fox perform *Wild Things* at the Park Theatre Friday, Feb. 26

⇒ Mariachi Ghost will also perform, in addition to a screening of *The Devil Wears a Paper Hat* by local filmmaker Curtis Wiebe

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



JAMES WALL

"...And for my next number: *Billie Jean*." Jesse Krause (above) of local orchestral funk group Flying Fox and the Hunter/Gatherers, is awaiting the debut of his latest opus, a musical adaptation of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.



## MORE MUSIC THIS WEEK



Existential synth dance rockers YACHT (Young Americans Challenging High Technology) will be in Winnipeg this weekend.

### YACHT

YACHT (Young Americans Challenging High Technology) is an experience engulfed in mysticism, triangles, co-operation and contradictions. Physically consisting of two members, Jona Bechtolt (light) and Claire L. Evans (darkness), the lines between spectator and performer will blur inside of the Pyramid Cabaret on Thursday, Feb. 25.

"From the first step inside the room, the audience should feel as though they are members, not watchers," states the group's mission statement. "We try to do everything we can to render that division between stage and floor transparent, if not annihilated."

The show will certainly include the enigmatic dance floor gems contained on their latest release *See Mystery Lights*. Their tour mate Bobby Birdman, Goodform DJs Mike B and Rob Vilar, as well as local indie rockers Not Animals will also perform.

—J.P. PERRON



Juno award-winning jazz-pop singer-songwriter Molly Johnson started out as a dance choreographer, and later fronted two rock bands, Alta Moda and Infidels, before becoming a successful solo artist.

### MOLLY JOHNSON

Canadian jazz singer took an unusual path in becoming a top-notch solo performer. Born in Toronto, Johnson started out a child performer. She trained at the National Ballet School and the Banff School of Fine Arts, and later turned her sights on choreography. She fronted a disco band at age 17 (*The Chocolate Affair*), and later fronted hit rock bands Alta Moda and Infidels. She finally released her first solo album in 2000 (*Molly Johnson*), and has since released three others (2003's *Another Day*, 2006's *Messin' Around* and the 2009 Juno award-winning *Lucky*) to much critical acclaim. Along with becoming an officer in the Order of Canada in 2007, she also made history at the Toronto Jazz Festival, becoming the first female vocalist to sell-out a mainstage show in the festival's history. Catch the multi-talented singer as she performs Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

—SAM HAGENLOCHER



"Sweet Caroline..." American heavy metal band and Grammy nominee Shadows Fall will be thrashing their way through Winnipeg March 1 at the West End.

### SHADOWS FALL

Hailing from Springfield, Massachusetts, heavy metal band Shadows Fall have cemented their place in the American metal scene since forming in 1995. In that time, the band has released six studio albums, two compilation albums and one DVD – no small feat for any band. Though the band has been notorious for its lineup changes, the majority of the band's recordings have been made with the same members at the time of their first release, minus alternating drummers in 2002. In 2000, dreadlocked singer Brian Fair took the reins after two previous leaders quit the band. Since then, the band's profile has continued to grow, and has been nominated for two Grammy awards (Best Metal Performance for 2006's *What Drives the Weak* and 2009's *Redemption*). Shadows Fall will be thrashing their way through the city Monday, March 1 at the West End Cultural Centre with Vancouver metal-heads Bison B.C.

—SAM HAGENLOCHER

VISIT [UNITER.CA/LISTINGS](http://UNITER.CA/LISTINGS) FOR MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING



## FILM

THE MOST DANGEROUS IN AMERICA: DANIEL ELLSBERG AND THE PENTAGON PAPERS tells the story of a man wracked with guilt over the Vietnam War until he decides to turn over top secret government papers to *The New York Times*. Playing at Cinematheque Saturday, Feb. 27, Sunday, Feb. 28, Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m.



📽 Filmmaking father-daughter team Peter and Mira Wintonick travel around the world and through different styles of film in *pilgrIMAGE* at the Cinematheque on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. Peter Wintonick will introduce the film. On Saturday, Feb. 27 at 11 a.m., he will host a master workshop on DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLING.

Big Smash Productions presents GRAPHIC SEXUAL HORROR at Aqua Books on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

FREEZE FRAME, the international film festival for kids of all ages, takes place from Thursday, March 4 to Saturday, March 13 at various Winnipeg locations. Visit [www.freezeframeonline.org](http://www.freezeframeonline.org) for details.

There is a call for submissions to the 8th annual University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival. Forms can be picked up at the UWSA info booth. Deadline is Monday, April 5 at 4 p.m. The films will be screened at the festival from Wednesday, April 23 to Friday, April 25.

CRUDE: THE REAL PRICE OF OIL plays at the Cinematheque at 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25.

Teenagers love horror films, so here's a chance to enrol your kids aged 14-18 in a film criticism course on some classic flicks. The program will take place from Tuesday, March 30 until Thursday, April 1 at Aqua Books. For more information, visit the Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies at [www.big-smash.com](http://www.big-smash.com).

## LITERATURE

WILD WEST BROADWAY, a book spear-headed by Jill Winzowski and created with a collaborative effort by residents of Winnipeg's most vibrant neighbourhood, gets launched on Friday, Feb. 26 at the Standard Tavern. 6 p.m.

BEAUTIFUL MERCY: A BOOK OF HOURS is a collection of poems, songs and prayers put together by the artistic members of Saint Benedict's Table, the Anglican church. The release will feature musical performances by Steve Bell, Gordon Johnson, Mike Koop, Jaylene Johnson and Byron O'Donnell. Tuesday, March 2 at McNally Robinson at 8 p.m.

Aqua Books presents a writer's workshop with Jake MacDonald entitled WRITING YOUR LIFE on Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday March 4.

A collection of nude photographs taken by Rodney S. Braun for the JUST AS I AM project is released at McNally Robinson on Tuesday, March 2 at 7 p.m.

The 2010 Prairie Fire Press and McNally Robinson Booksellers Literary Contests will be awarding \$6,000 in cash prizes. For full contest rules or more information visit [www.prairiefire.ca](http://www.prairiefire.ca) or call (204) 943-9066.

SEND YOUR LISTINGS INFO TO J.P. VIA LISTINGS@UNITER.CA

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Public Enemy Number One

**The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers**

Directed by Judy Erlich and Rick Goldsmith, 2009

93 minutes

Plays at Cinematheque

Saturday, Feb. 27, Sunday, Feb. 28, Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

★★★★☆

TIM PENNER  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Portions of the Pentagon Papers were first published in a *New York Times* exposé June 13, 1971. The series of monumentally important articles would lead to an increasing freedom of the press in the United States, a shattering of trust in public officials, the eventual end of the Vietnam War and the end of Richard Nixon's presidency.

*The Most Dangerous Man in America*, a new documentary by Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith, tracks Daniel Ellsberg, the state official behind the leak of those papers. As one of the original propagators of the war, Ellsberg worked fervently on the report on United States-Vietnam relations, which became an impetus for the United States declaration of war against Vietnam. But he became disillusioned with the effort after visiting Vietnam and felt increasingly personally culpable for America's actions.

In order to stop what he saw as a gravely unjust war, Ellsberg took on the task of making copies of all



Pentagon insider turned anti-war activist Daniel Ellsberg speaks out against the "Imperialist" presidency of Richard Nixon, and the mass murder plot of the Vietnam war in *The Most Dangerous Man in America*.

7,000 pages of the report and delivered them into the hands of 17 major American newspapers.

Ellsberg, who acts as the narrator of the film, is portrayed as a somewhat reluctant yet fiercely idealistic crusader against what he saw as a war being waged under false pretences and sold to the American people by a government uninterested in dealing honestly with its people.

The film makes excellent use of talking head interviews, archival footage, re-enactments and even the occasional animated sequence to craft a story of corruption and eventual redemption.

It is particularly chilling to hear Nixon's reactions to what Ellsberg was doing. The use of recorded audio allows us to hear the vitriol in his voice and at the same time im-

plicate him in an irrefutable way.

The film is about a lot more than politics; Ehrlich and Goldsmith have created a stirringly contemplative piece on the nature of principles, conscience, justice and corruption in any era.

An obvious parallel is being drawn between the America of 1971 and today. Although there are no direct mentions made of America's current international debacle, the warnings and challenges resonate throughout.

This is most clear in the final words of the film delivered by Ellsberg to a rally sometime in the '70s: "It is the courage, at last, to face honestly the truth and the reality of what we are doing in the world and act responsibly to change it."

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**The Uniter is seeking a business manager**

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

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

The following job opportunity is a 30-hour per week part-time position for a one-year contract beginning April 15, 2010. The position has a two-week holiday period as well as a Christmas break (approx. two weeks). It is based upon a \$21,000 salary per year with a chance for increased wages April 1, 2011 (with contract renewal).

Please note this is not an editorial position.

**Skill requirements:**

- Ability to prioritize tasks, make decisions and work independently, act with a high degree of integrity and professionalism.
- Excellent communications skills, both oral and written.
- Knowledge and familiarity with Macintosh operating systems, computer software for Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Database management, e-mail and Internet, and accounting.
- Ability to manage the newspaper's circulation, advertising and event contracts.
- Ability to oversee and co-ordinate financial management of the newspaper.

- Familiarity with publishing, web publishing and new media including the ability to oversee production of a weekly newspaper.
- Familiarity with grant writing, budgeting and project co-ordination a must.

**Duties:**

- ADMINISTRATION: Responsible for all office communications, by mail, phone, fax and e-mail, finances, advertising, production, promotions and fundraising, etc.
- STAFF SUPERVISION: In association with the managing editor, the business manager will oversee all staff and execute the organization's human resources policy of a safe and healthy workplace.
- CIRCULATION: Manages the newspaper's circulation records by consistently updating, monitoring and optimizing new and existing circulation drop points. Maintain a mailing list for *The Uniter*.
- ADVERTISING: Acts as the newspaper's advertising representative, recruiting new clients and managing current clients, preparing contracts, proposals and packages, revising rate cards, invoicing and collecting revenue.
- MENTORING: The business manager of *The Uniter* will be responsible for providing a mentoring environment for all staff of the paper and will from time-to-time be consulted upon for editorial advice and publishing expertise. The individual must also be able to assess, strategize and react to changing climates in the publishing industry as it relates to the newspaper's niche market.
- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: Oversees the financial management of newspaper, including payroll. Must prepare

and submit annual budgets and actuals to the board of directors.

- PRODUCTION: Oversees printing and mailing of magazine issues, and acts as a liaison with the printer and the production manager. Manages printing contract.
- DEVELOPMENT: Works in conjunction with the board of directors to execute the Strategic Plan of *The Uniter*.
- PROMOTIONS / SPONSORSHIP AND SPECIAL PROJECTS: With input from the board of directors and staff, the business manager will plan and execute activities that engage the readership of the newspaper. This includes the speaker's series of Mouseland Press Inc. The business manager will administrate all sponsorship opportunities of the organization.
- REPORTING: The business manager will attend all Board and committee meetings and prepare reports for all board meetings on the newspaper's finances, circulation, advertising, results of promotions, and other information as needed by the Board.

Interested parties should submit a resume including references, a covering letter and a one- to two-page essay detailing the importance of independent media by **6 p.m. on March 26, 2010**. Interviews will take place the week of March 29. Application packages should be sent to [board@uniter.ca](mailto:board@uniter.ca).

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

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

## BOOK REVIEW



ASHLEY WIEBE  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

**An Unexpected Break in the Weather**

Deborah Schnitzer  
179 pages  
Turnstone Press, 2009

*An Unexpected Break in the Weather* is the story of two women, Gertrude and Mildred, and the hardships and life-changing decisions that come with old age.

Set on the Corydon strip in Winnipeg, Millie and Gertrude co-own A Rose, a bridal dress shop on the avenue. After a series of unexpected events, the women begin to come to the realization that age is finally catching up with them and make plans to close the shop for good.

Through the story, Schnitzer introduces characters who, though they're not related, act as missing roles of family members in the lives of Mildred and Gertrude. In order to help their adopted family, Millie and Gertrude decide to plan a wedding and a funeral while closing their store. There is no stopping what these women aim to achieve.

The novel provides an interesting perspective on Winnipeg, making many current references to what the city has become. As the story goes back and forth between past and present times, it unfortunately becomes a little confusing and hard to follow. Additionally, Schnitzer often decides to break sentence structure rules and divides parts into unnecessary paragraphs.

Though there are several subplots going on within the story, readers may find the novel to drag on at times with nothing pushing it forward. The exception is the ample amounts of avoidable information, which readers may find a little puzzling.

Deborah Schnitzer was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. and currently resides in Winnipeg. She teaches English literature at the University of Winnipeg and has developed courses in gay and lesbian literature, Aboriginal literature, as well as picture books for children.

Schnitzer is known for being an activist, editor and writer, with other works including *Gertrude Unmanageable* and the long poem *Loving Gertrude Stein*, along with countless scholarly articles and critical anthologies.

For those seeking stories of relevant but nonetheless life-changing events that may help them get through their own, look no further than *An Unexpected Break in the Weather*. But if perhaps you aren't looking for something deep, the book should still make for a pleasant read on a typical Winnipeg afternoon.

# A dynamic mosaic of ideas and methods

WAG collection of Canadian artist Tony Scherman's works is bold and imaginative

SAGAN MORROW  
STAFF WRITER

Displaying a dozen paintings created between 1977 and 2005, the Winnipeg Art Gallery's showcase of Tony Scherman's artwork (titled *Tony Scherman: A Major Acquisition*) is an impressive collection of still-life images and pensive close-ups of the human face.

Scherman dynamically plays with colour in much of his work. Drippings of paint trickle over the images, suggesting carelessness, but careful smudging between shades of colour in other areas effectively smoothes the artwork. The drips and splatters of paint hint at an artist in frenzy, yet there is a deliberation in the bold strokes that make up the main image.

Scherman seems to want the audience to focus solely on that main image in each of his works; the background is lovely to look at as well, but in each piece it remains simply the



"Jim Morrison" by Tony Scherman. Encaustic on canvas.

PHOTO BY ANTOINETTE DYCKSMAN

backdrop for the feature part.

The subjects that Scherman has chosen to paint vary between an omelette on a plate to a child crawling on a tabletop to the detailed facial features of people who stare openly at the viewer.

Scherman's earlier work is intense and wild. He uses bright splashes of colour and experiments with geometric shapes and patterns.

In more recent years, the paintings maintain a lively nature, but these depictions appear more consciously arranged than in his earlier work.

*Brando as Napoleon* (2003-2005) allows the viewer to see *into* the art, enabling us to re-

late to and interact with the subject in the painting.

Some of the paintings are of an almost disturbing nature.

*Dog* (2004-2005) and *Untitled* (from the series *Tabletop*, 1985) leave it open to interpretation as to whether the dog is screaming or whether the child's leg is growing from the drumstick placed strategically beside it.

*Jim Morrison* (2002) is also left to speculation. The aesthetic appeal of blushed shades contrasts beautifully with abstract details that frame the main subject.

Scherman's decision to paint faces that take up the entire space of the canvas is overwhelmingly intense in his portraits.

In other pieces, such as *The Servant's Entrance: Versailles* (1989), he illustrates depth and eases the intensity with stylistic lines in the foreground and the woman's face in the background.

Whereas Scherman's earlier pieces are almost too bright and flat in a one-dimensional sense, his style developed so that the viewer can have a relationship with the art.

Experimenting with brightness and softness, still life and portraiture, Tony Scherman demonstrates his imaginative skill with his ability to connect directly with the viewer.

*Tony Scherman: A Major Acquisition is on display at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until Sunday, March 14.*

## THEATRE REVIEW

# The Caravan of Courage

MTC's adaptation of Brecht's anti-war masterpiece not perfect, but still a transcendent cautionary tale worth retelling

## *Mother Courage and Her Children*

Directed by Peter Hinton

Presented by Manitoba Theatre Centre

Plays at the John Hirsch Theatre (Mainstage) until Saturday, March 6

★★★☆☆

IAN MCAMMOND  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Not since Manitoba Theatre Centre's legendary production in 1965 has *Mother Courage and Her Children* graced a Manitoba stage. For that show, MTC founder John Hirsch directed, Zoe Caldwell starred and people flocked from all around to Winnipeg to see it.

I've heard about it my entire life, mostly from people who themselves did not see it.

Set during the Thirty Years' War, Brecht's masterpiece follows Mother Courage and her wagon as she travels Europe peddling her wares. Courage is forced to choose between the well-being of her children and making a profit, and she often does not make the right decision.

Mother Courage is one of Western theatre's toughest roles for an actress, and Tanja Jacobs makes it through without a hitch.

The supporting cast delivers equally strong performances. Particularly powerful is Waneta Storm's portrayal of Courage's mute daughter Kattrin; the genuine look of worry on her face is unforgettable. Storm's performance is certainly worth the price of admission.

Peter Hinton's adaptation of this world-renowned masterpiece is an ambitious undertaking, but perhaps a tad unnecessary. Brecht to my mind is always fresh. While I'm not opposed to adaptations on principle, I am always suspicious of them.

That said, at some level Hinton has succeeded with this adaptation, particularly with his addition of more "modern" lingo. His retention of actors announcing the action of the next scene is pure Brecht.



Tanja Jacobs as Mother Courage and Waneta Storms as Kattrin in Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*, now at MTC.

One neat touch is that during the intermission the loudspeaker plays a recording of the German playwright's appearance before HUAC. Unfortunately, because of *Courage's* slightly longer running time (approximately 3 hours with a 20-minute intermission), not all stuck around to hear it.

Brecht was a lifelong communist and it was cute to see the program refer to him as having had "leftist-leanings."

MTC has a strong history of producing Brecht. From their first performance at their current stage in 1970 (Brecht's earlier war drama *A Man's a Man*) to their second Master Playwright Festival *Brechtfest* in 2002.

Written in just over a month in response to Germany's invasion of Poland, *Mother*

*Courage* itself is thought by many to be the greatest anti-war play ever performed. With Canadian troops still in Afghanistan, Brecht's cautionary tale seems as relevant today as when it was originally written in 1939.

This may not be John Hirsch's *Mother Courage*, but it is clear that MTC has its heart in the right place.

Don't wait another 45 years to see it.

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## GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

JUST AS I AM, an exhibition and book filled with portraits of over 80 individuals who honour their bodies by being photographed unclothed, opens Friday, Feb. 26 at the Cre8ery.

MENNOFOLK, a showcase of Manitoba's artistic Mennonite community, is hosting a visual art opening at the Outworks Gallery (290 McDermot Ave.) on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. The art show closes Wednesday, March 3.

Mayberry Fine Art launches FIVE NEW ARTISTS, featuring work by HASHIM HANNOON, TERRY WATKINSON, MANDY BUDAN, CELIA NEUBAUER and NIKOL HASKOVA from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. The show will be on display until Saturday, March 13.

WRITING HOME, the art of Bonnie Devine, opens Friday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. alongside the works of artist John Hupfield, BECOMING UNWRITTEN. Both exhibits will be on display at the Urban Shaman Gallery until Saturday, March 27.

The Wayne Arthur Gallery hosts REFERENCE POINTS, an exhibition of Joel Bouchard's paintings of elevators and train stations in rural Manitoba. These reminders of obsolete landmarks will be on display until Wednesday, March 3.

KAREN ASHER presents her photographic portraits NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN at the Platform Centre for Photographic Arts. The prints will be up until Saturday, Feb. 27.

Artist TONY SCHERMAN's encaustic paintings will be on display at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until Sunday, March 14. He will give a talk at the WAG on Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

The High Octane Gallery in the lobby of the Gas Station Theatre presents IRON MAIDENS by Arlea Ashcroft.

Celebrate the colour of winter with the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library's exhibit WHITE WORKS. Artists work in a variety of mediums but no colours. The exhibit will be on display until the snow fades to brown dirt in early May.

The Costume Museum of Canada will display bridal wear from the First and Second World Wars in their exhibition WARTIME WEDDINGS. Teaming up with the Urban Shaman Gallery and Jenny Western, the Museum will also display a collection of NATIVE/AMERICAN APPAREL. Both exhibits run until Sunday, April 4.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery hosts DELICATE BEAUTY: THE RUBY ASHDOWN PORCELAIN COLLECTION. These decorative art pieces were donated to the WAG by Ruby Ashdown and come from 18th and 19th century Britain. The exhibition is on display until Sunday, April 18.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery presents RICHARD HARRINGTON: ARCTIC EXPLORER until Sunday, March 14.

15 MINUTES is a showcase of local art happening the first Thursday of every month at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Local artists can submit their work for the series to art-educator@wag.ca.

## THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

Bertolt Brecht's play MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN will be at the Manitoba Theatre Company's mainstage until Saturday, March 6.

Daniel Thau-Eleff's play REMEMBER THE NIGHT is being staged by the Moving Target Theatre Company from Tuesday, March 2 until Sunday, March 14 at 8 p.m. nightly.

FLYING FOX AND THE HUNTER-GATHERERS perform their live musical version of *Where The Wild Things Are* at the Park Theatre on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

The Prairie Theatre Exchange is staging Morris Panych's play LAWRENCE AND HOLLOWMAN until Sunday, Feb. 28.

RICK: THE RICK HANSEN STORY, a play on Rick's Man in Motion wheelchair trek, will hit the stage at the Manitoba Theatre For Young People from Friday, Feb. 25 until Thursday, March 4.

2 SCAN DEEP and ASWANG, OBJECT! are choreographer Christina Medina's two most recent pieces. The dancers will perform at the Rachel Brown Theatre on Feb. 25, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m.

DANCING WITH THE DOCTOR features artist Sarah Anne Johnson's first performance work at Ace Art until Friday, March 5.

The world premiere of LOOKING BACK - WEST, performed by the Manitoba Theatre Company, will be onstage in the Tom Hendry Theatre at the MTC Warehouse until Saturday, March 6.

The Fantasia Affair presents GENDER OUTLAWS featuring KATE BORNSTEIN at the West End Cultural Centre. Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

PUNCHLINES FOR PEACE, the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour laughs its way into the West End Cultural Centre on Thursday, March 4 at 8 p.m.

Comedy night with SCOOTS MCTAVISH every Thursday at Shannon's Irish Pub.

Sunday night open mic comedy at the Cavern, featuring JOHN B. DUFF.

Every Tuesday night head down to the King's Head Pub for a free comedy performance.

# This is how they roll

Winnipeg's Murder City Maidens prepare for the city's first roller derby event in 30 years

SAMUEL SWANSON  
BEAT REPORTER

Roller derby will be back in town for the first time in 30 years this weekend, showcasing the Murder City Maidens, Winnipeg's finest women on wheels, full-speed, viciously hip-checking each other to the cold, hard floor.

The Winnipeg Roller Derby League oversees the Maidens, their travel team and a wealth of recreational derby ladies who will be split into two teams for an exhibition game before the main match where the Maidens will be facing the Thunder Bay Babes of Thunder.

"It's a good physical sport and family-friendly," said Michelle Nyhof, also known by her derby name Portage n' Maim, at the Legislature where she works during the day.

Although the event is slated as family-friendly, this program may contain short skirts, fishnet stockings and violent women. Parental discretion is advised for children under 13.

The league was born in January 2008 out of a Facebook page started by Nyhof after a vigorous session of watching roller derby YouTube videos and looking for a Winnipeg outlet, of which there were none.

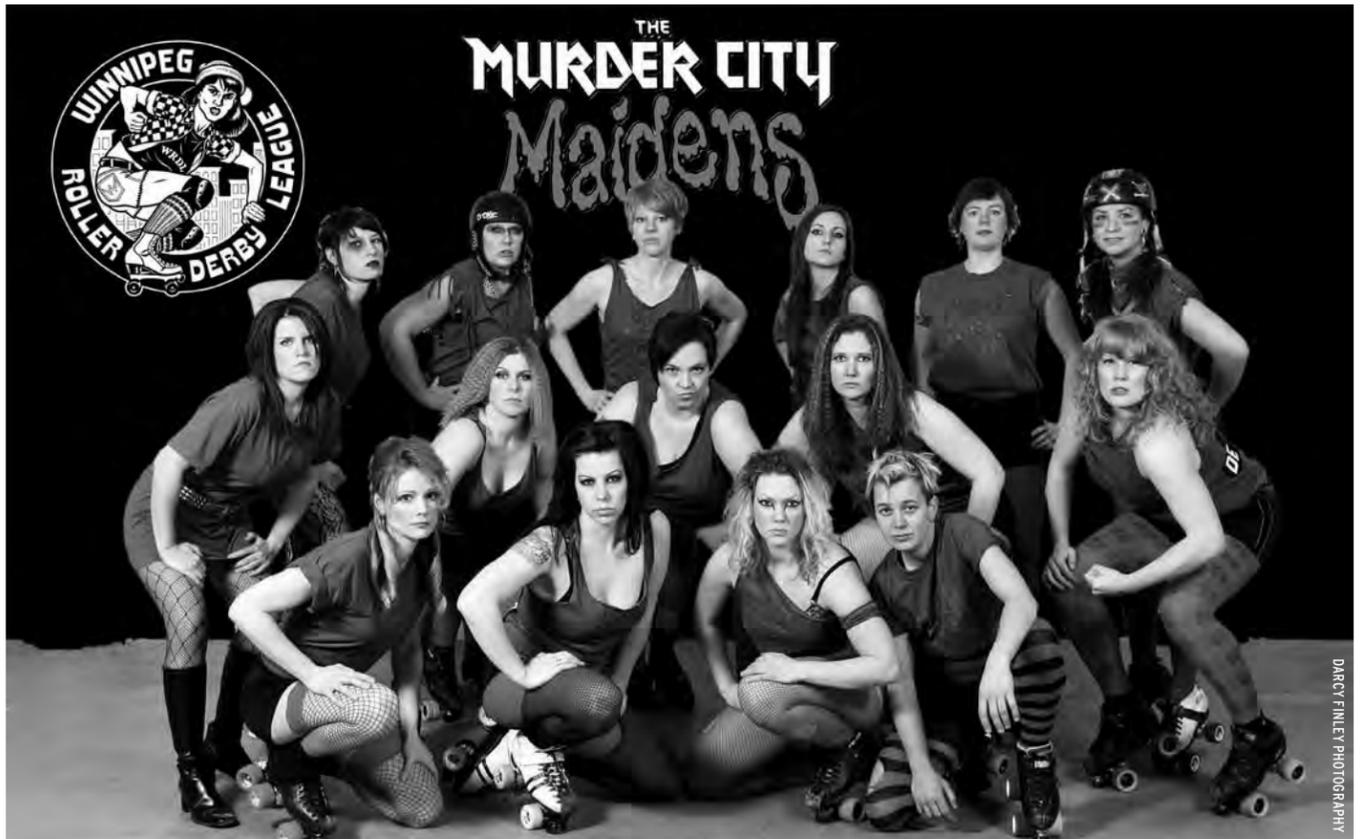
"Coincidentally enough there was another girl who posted a similar group just a few hours earlier. We didn't know each other so we went for coffee and decided we would do this together," Nyhof said.

Within a couple of weeks, the group had 20-some-odd members and the makings of a roller derby team.

At this point, the team is not only formed and organized, but practicing six hours per week in preparation for their bout with the Babes of Thunder.

The inaugural event comes 30 years after the last time the derby visited Winnipeg. The difference this time is that the sport aspect will be favoured over the theatrics.

"It's like WWE," said Tannys Moffatt,



They will, they will rock you: The Murder City Maidens are ready for their first Winnipeg competition this Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Convention Centre.

a.k.a. Ani Position, a high school teacher who plays the pivot position for the Murder City Maidens, referring to the old-style derby you may have seen on TV years ago.

The reason for participating in derby is a unanimous consensus amongst the derby girls – it's good rough-and-tumble exercise.

"There aren't a lot of full contact sports for women," said Moffatt.

"There's a demand for it. Not so much from the general public yet, but from the actual girls and women skating in it," Nyhof explained.

Even as a woman opposed to violence, Kristen Andrews (derby name: The Krisco Kid) loves the rough stuff in the context of sport.

"I'm still a total pacifist at heart," she said.

Andrews is the jammer – the skater who

**"It's a good physical sport and family-friendly."**

—MICHELLE NYHOF, A.K.A. PORTAGE N' MAIM, MURDER CITY MAIDENS, WINNIPEG ROLLER DERBY LEAGUE

earns points for the team by passing the others while being the target of the opposing team – like the golden snitch in a game of Quidditch.

Of course, the game includes some inherent dangers. Most derby girls will likely have more than one bruise at any given time and broken bones aren't unusual either; but things like learning how to fall and being comfortable on skates help to prevent injuries.

"The more that you practice, the less chance you have of getting hurt," Andrews

said.

Andrews also owns Raggickers, an outlet to buy tickets to the derby along with The Standard Tavern, and said that the store is going through tickets fast.

"Most people are buying four to six tickets at a time."

The event will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre with capacity for a crowd of 2,000. More than half the tickets are already gone.

"We anticipate it selling out," Nyhof said.

See the Murder City Maidens in action on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Tickets are \$12 at Raggickers, The Standard Tavern and online at [www.winnipegrollerderby.com](http://www.winnipegrollerderby.com).

## Sin City is a safe bet

Travelling to Nevada's bright lights doesn't have to drain your wallet

ANDREW MCMONAGLE  
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Las Vegas is a shimmering, tempting paradise of party, especially to students looking to get away from a snowy winter. This past February, I counted myself as one of the many who succumbed to the lure.

The key to having a good time in Las Vegas is simple: Don't gamble. Save your money for the shows and the food. It's easy for me to say that as I'm not much of a gambler in the first place, but I'm aware that for many people, gambling is the main attraction. It's what everybody asked me when I told them I was going, and it was what everybody asked me about when I returned. Gambling and Las Vegas go together like farmer sausage and perogies. Like drinking and smoking. Like sin and repentance.

Las Vegas is a fantastic destination for a student on reading week, spring break or for anybody cobbling together a reason to escape Winnipeg's dreary months. The weather was

warm (think Vancouver summer – shorts in the day but pants in the evening), the plane fares were cheap (I paid about \$700 for return flight and five days in a nice hotel, through Expedia) and they don't care where you drink. Seriously, I was able to walk into a 7-11, buy a single, giant can of Heineken, and open it soon as I was outside. Maybe it was just the novelty, but I sure loved drinking beer on the sidewalk.

If you've ever seen *CSI*, *The Hangover*, *Ocean's Eleven* or any of the other thousands of pop-culture salutes to Las Vegas, you're familiar with the casinos. They offered spectacle in and of themselves – let alone the gambling and drinking – including animal shows (dolphins, tigers, lions), carefully choreographed water fountains, indoor rain showers and rollercoasters 15 stories up. The casinos had no security at the doors, but were packed with enough cameras to film several reality TV shows at once.

The highlight for me was seeing Cirque du Soleil's *Ka*, a show celebrating Chinese history, resplendent with martial arts and song. It was amazing. The stage was set on a giant robotic arm that allowed it to spin and pivot like a bird tied to a string. At one particularly breathtaking moment, the stage inclined to about 75 degrees and the actors ran up and down it, harnessless. It, like most of Las Vegas, was the most spectacular thing I had

ever seen.

I had fun in Las Vegas, but one thought just wouldn't stop nagging at me – everything was artificial. Every building, every plant, every persona – fake. I wasn't expecting a nature retreat, but the glitz got to me. Las

Vegas is a city in the middle of nowhere that takes an army to maintain and is powered by a huge dam and human hope.

To that end, I might not return, but I'm glad I went once. That's one off my bucket list.



# Cry havok and release the dogs of war!

With the growing popularity of LARP, gamers are suiting up for battle (sort of) and moving outside their basements

COURTNEY SCHWEGEL  
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

For most of us, deciding what to put on our toast in the morning can be the most exciting part of the day. For others, coming face to face with an angry minotaur doesn't even come close to how thrilling things can get.

Live action role-playing (LARP), commonly referred to as "larping," is a form of fantasy game that allows mere mortals to physically immerse themselves in a make-believe realm where anything is possible. Here in the Winnipeg LARP scene, *Havok*, a Dungeons-and-Dragons style LARP, is a game that has gained popularity over the past 11 years.

Pedro Bedard, owner of Imagine Games and Hobbies in the Exchange District and one of the creators of *Havok*, said there are two *Havok* larping groups in Winnipeg along with groups that indulge in other LARP games, some of which attract more than 70 players a session.

According to Bedard, who began his gaming life 34 years ago with the original Dungeons and Dragons, larping's appeal is much more limited compared to other styles of fantasy games.

"It has very specific appeal," he said, adding that computer and tabletop games have always been much more popular. "Not a lot of people are going to take the time, energy and money to make costumes and swords and spend the weekend running around in the woods dressed like an elf or a knight."

Professional hobbyist, avid tabletop strategy and *World of Warcraft* player Paul Sorenson, who admits to cultivating the air of not being geeky, thinks of larping as the ultimate geekiness.

"For me that's a really extreme end. I personally wouldn't do it," Sorenson said.

But for the elite hardcore larpers, the time and effort is well worth the thrill they get out of creating and engaging in a fantasy world of their own.

"It makes us feel better that we have this small little world we can go and have fun in," said John Francisco, a *Havok* larper with seven years of experience.

According to Francisco the most amusing aspect of the fantasy world, which in *Havok* is called Vaithan, is the magic. In order to use their magical powers, players use their imaginations.

"If a player wants to cast a spell they would take a beanbag, you say the spell and throw it at somebody," Francisco said, adding that players can also visualize the incantation, chant and wave their hands.

But their imaginations aren't the only



thing on creative overdrive – larpers have got mad costume-making skills and make most of their garb from scratch.

The photos of highly detailed costumes on Francisco's computer screen, from glorious glossy gowns to elaborate cloaks, masks and elf ears, seem to be thoughtfully designed and crafted.

Basic costumes, he said, can take a week or so to make, but more detailed work can be much more time consuming.

"One guy made a suit of chainmail," Francisco said, pointing to a photo of a man clad in authentic looking chain.

**"[Larpers] are the nerds that other nerds make fun of."**

—PAUL SORENSON, AVID HOBBYIST AND GAMER

Although Sorenson admits to spending hours building and painting game pieces for *Warhammer*, devoting hours to sewing costumes is one of the things that makes larping much too geeky for him.

"[Larpers] are the nerds that other nerds make fun of," he said.

But according to Bedard, the sense of total physical immersion in the game is the reason that larping beats the pants off other fantasy games.

"When you larp you are escaping into something that you yourself are actually controlling. Your character becomes part of an ongoing story."

For Francisco, live combat gives him the greatest sense of reality in the fantasy world.

"I like it because I can get in armour and make a weapon out of foam and latex and run out and start hitting things ... instead of holding a controller and playing video games," Francisco said.

Although combat can get pretty heated, Francisco said larpers make an effort to stay safe.

"There is contact but ... we don't hit each other with full force," he said.

But in Sorenson's opinion, putting any sort of weapon in anyone's hands is dangerous, especially when the lines between reality and fantasy are blurred.

"It's like UFC players. When it's game time they will beat the living trash out of each other," he said.

But whether your thumbs are the only thing moving or you physically assume the persona of a character, fantasy gaming in general is undoubtedly gaining popularity.

"Ten years ago if you told people you played video games, they would think you must be a geek," Sorenson said.

But times are changing.

"I think a lot of people still think of [fantasy] games and stores as a place where the high school nerds go ... but it has gotten a lot more mainstream," Bedard said, adding that there are four thriving fantasy gaming stores in Winnipeg.

So if this is the case, it looks like people may have to start redefining what constitutes a geeky gamer.

## SECOND LIFE: A MORE REALISTIC FANTASY

A fantasy world doesn't have to have elves, goblins and magical creatures to be a place of escape from our daily reality. In fact, it can be much like our own world with a few little improvements.

*Second Life*, a free online game often compared to *The Sims*, allows players to create avatars to inhabit a 3D virtual online world created and designed by players. Not only do players create their avatar's appearance, they select their occupation, attend events, go on dates with other avatars and even purchase real estate.

Apparently, the idea of having a second self is something many find appealing. According to Lubbock Online, an average of 1 million players each spend 40 hours a month puttering around in the virtual world.

And while some may think that living a virtual life would be just as boring (and time consuming) as living a real life, others can't get enough. According to the *Second Life* website, over 18 million people worldwide have created accounts on *Second Life* since its creation by Linden Lab in 2003.

Perhaps what is most appealing is that *Second Life* is a utopia devoid of many of the problems we are faced with in the real world. Not only does the virtual world have a booming economy, the bars are always open and the weather is always gorgeous.

Check it out at [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com).

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# AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

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

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG AWARDS:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards>

## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES APPLICATION EXPENSES BURSARY

The purpose of this bursary fund is to provide some assistance to students with respect to the high costs associated with applying to Graduate and Professional Schools. Application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid Office in Student Services (first floor Graham Hall) or on our website. Students may apply any time during the Fall/Winter academic year, provided that funding is available for this bursary. Applications will be evaluated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## AWARDS OFFERED BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

### AUCC AWARDS

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada provides 150 scholarship programs on behalf of the Federal Government, domestic and foreign agencies, and private sector companies. Check out their website [www.aucc.ca](http://www.aucc.ca) and look under the heading Scholarships and Internships for Canadian Students.

**Deadlines:** Various

### IDRC/CRDI AWARDS

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a Canadian crown corporation that works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable and more prosperous societies. Various research and academic awards are available for application. Please visit their website for more information on their award programs: [www.idrc.ca/awards](http://www.idrc.ca/awards).

## CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS

**1. Leo J. Krysa Family Undergraduate Scholarship in Education, History, Humanities, Social Sciences** - Up to \$3,500 is annually awarded to a student in the Faculty of Arts or Education about to enter the final year of study in pursuit of an undergraduate degree. The applicant's program must emphasize Ukrainian and/or Ukrainian-Canadian studies, through a combination of Ukrainian and East European or Canadian courses in one of the above areas.

**2. Research Grants in Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian studies in History, Literature, Language, Education, Social Sciences, Women's Studies, Law, Library Sciences.**

**3. Marusia & Michael Dorosh Master's Fellowship in Education, History, Law, Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Women's Studies, Library Sciences** - \$10,000 is annually awarded to a student writing a thesis on a Ukrainian or Ukrainian-Canadian topic in one of the above areas. Because funding is for thesis work only, all other degree requirements must be completed by the time the award is taken up. Students in non-thesis, course-based programs are not eligible.

**4. Helen Darcovich Memorial Doctoral Fellowship in Education, History, Law, Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Women's Studies, Library Sciences** - Up to \$13,000 is annually awarded to a student writing a dissertation on a Ukrainian or Ukrainian-Canadian topic in one of the above areas. Because funding is for dissertation work only, all other degree requirements must be completed by the time the award is taken up. Fellowship holders may apply for a one-year renewal.

**5. Neporany Doctoral Fellowship** - It is awarded to one or more doctoral students specializing on Ukraine in political science, economics and related fields (social sciences and political, economic and social history). Preference will be given to students completing their dissertations as well as to students at Canadian universities or Canadian citizens or residents. The amount of the award ranges from \$5,000-\$15,000. Holders of major scholarships/fellowships (\$13,000 or greater) are ineligible to apply. All applicants must submit: a current curriculum vitae (CV) and transcripts, a précis of their thesis, publications, two letters of recommendation, and information on awards received or applied for.

Application forms are available from, and completed applications should be submitted to:

Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies  
430 Pembina Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H8  
Tel: 780-492-2972  
Fax: 780-492-4967  
Email: [cius@ualberta.ca](mailto:cius@ualberta.ca)  
Website: [www.cius.ca](http://www.cius.ca)

**Deadline:** March 1, 2010

### KEN DRYDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Ken Dryden Scholarships are awarded to young people (30 years old or younger), currently or formerly in the care of the Canadian child welfare system, who demonstrate great achievement and promise. Each scholarship covers up to \$3,000 or 80% of the cost of tuition and fees, whichever is less, and is renewable annually. Three letters of reference, proof of involvement with CFS and transcripts are required. Please visit their website to apply: [www.youthincare.ca](http://www.youthincare.ca).

**Deadline:** March 5, 2010

### DALTON CAMP AWARD

Established by Friends of Canadian Broadcasting in 2002, the Dalton Camp Award honours the memory of the late Dalton Camp, a distinguished commentator on Canadian public affairs. Each year up to two Canadians are selected to win a \$5,000 prize for excellence in essay writing on the link between democratic values and the media in Canada. To apply visit: [www.daltoncampaward.ca](http://www.daltoncampaward.ca).

**Deadline:** March 15, 2010

### LEONARD FOUNDATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Leonard Foundation scholarships are awarded to students enrolled or enrolling in an accredited undergraduate degree program in a college or university in Canada. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Students must be enrolled in their first undergraduate program as a full-time student. Only students pursuing a B.Ed. or M.Div. are eligible for continuing support. All applicants will be considered but preference will be given to daughters or sons of ordained clergy, licensed elementary or secondary school teachers, Canadian military personnel, graduates of a Canadian Military College, members of the Engineering Institute of Canada and members of the Mining and Metallurgical Institute of Canada. Preference is also given to those who have previously received an award from the Leonard Foundation.

The value of the award is usually \$1,000 for those who do not need to set up a second residence to attend university and \$1,500 for those who do. These amounts may vary according to the final decisions of the General Committee. Approximately 140 awards are made annually. Successful applicants are expected to obtain employment during free time to help defray the costs of their education. In addition, they must participate regularly in athletic, fitness or military activities. Personal qualities showing a potential for leadership are also a requirement. Please visit their website to apply: [www.leonardfnd.org](http://www.leonardfnd.org).

NOTE: You must also contact a nominator before submitting an application. The list of nominators is on their website.

**Deadline:** March 15, 2010

### THE CANADIAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION BURSARIES

The Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation invites applications for 2009-2010 Bursaries of \$500 to \$1,000 (at the discretion of the jury) to facilitate study in Denmark, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Finland, Norway or Sweden. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants registered in a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral program or equivalent in Canada. Applicants' proposed program of study in Scandinavia must be pursued at a recognized/accredited post-secondary educational institution or equivalent. Due to the limited annual varying number of bursaries, selection is very competitive and based primarily upon Nordic relevance of the proposed program of study, as well as applicants' academic records, references and support material (if applicable). In your application, please describe why it is important or even essential to undertake your studies in one of the Nordic countries as opposed to elsewhere in the world. Successful applicants will be required to provide proof of travel, such as a boarding pass, and submit a brief report upon completion of their project, as well as recognize the contribution of CSF whenever possible. Application forms are available from their website [www.canada-scandinavia.ca](http://www.canada-scandinavia.ca) or from the Awards & Financial Aid office on the first floor of Graham Hall.

**Deadline:** March 15, 2010

**Please note:** the application deadline of March 15, 2010 is for studies undertaken in Summer 2009 (retroactive), Fall semester 2009 (retroactive) and Winter semester 2010 (current) ONLY. For future studies in Summer 2010 and beyond, another deadline will be announced at a later time.

### THE MILLER THOMSON FOUNDATION NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The purpose of this program is to encourage and promote the attainment of higher educational goals for individuals who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement, have made a positive contribution to their school through involvement in extracurricular activities and have made significant contributions of time and energy to community service programs. This scholarship program is a long-term, ongoing initiative funded by The Miller Thomson Foundation. It annually awards one-year scholarships of approximately \$1,000 to 200 recipients within Canada. The number of scholarships and the dollar amount is determined annually by the Foundation's Board of Governors. Only students attending a Canadian secondary school, currently in their final year of high school and who will be attending a post-secondary institution in the fall to pursue a course of study within Canada leading to a degree or diploma from the accredited community college or university of their choice. Applicants must obtain a secondary school diploma. Quebec students should apply in their final year of CEGEP planning on attending a Canadian university. Commencing Dec. 1, 2009, students must submit their application form online via our website at [www.millerthomson.com](http://www.millerthomson.com).

**Deadline:** March 15, 2010

### RABIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PEACE & TOLERANCE 2010-2011

This award of \$13,000 US provides an opportunity to spend one academic year in Jerusalem, Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Applicants must be Canadian citizens and enrolled in an accredited doctoral or post-doctoral program focusing on areas relating to the pursuit of peace and/or the enhancement of peaceful forms of social life. For further information or to receive an application package, please call 1-888-HEBREWU or 1-416-485-8000.

Fax: 416-485-8565  
E-mail: [admissions@cfhu.org](mailto:admissions@cfhu.org)  
Website: [www.cfhu.org](http://www.cfhu.org)

**Deadline:** March 25, 2010

### SIRC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The 2010 SIRC Research Development Award designed to encourage development of research writing skills with an emphasis on preparing research reports that are comprehensive and yet can be disseminated and understood throughout the sporting community. SIRC invites Canadian undergraduate students to submit their literature review research papers in consideration for the 2010 SIRC Research Development Award. Winners will receive \$1,000 each, as well as media exposure throughout the Canadian academic and sporting community. This year the 2010 SIRC Research Development Award has two categories. Your submission must fall into one of these two categories: Health and Sport or Participation and Sport.

#### Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a Canadian citizen currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at a Canadian university or college.
- Your paper must be written in English or French.
- Your paper must be a minimum of 2,500 words and up to a maximum of 3,000 words (excluding references).
- Your paper must include an executive summary.

Research papers are electronically received by [researchaward@sirc.ca](mailto:researchaward@sirc.ca). In addition, a complete hardcopy of the applicant's submission, which includes a bio, an abstract, a photo of the applicant (passport photo) and the signed SIRC Content Licence agreement and eligibility outline, with original applicant signature, must be received by 4:30 p.m. EST.

Forms are available from the website: [www.sirc.ca](http://www.sirc.ca).

SIRC's mailing address: 180 Elgin Street, Suite 1400, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 2K3

**Deadline:** March 26, 2010

### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN HONOUR OF STUART NESBITT WHITE

The PS Research Fellowship in Honour of Stuart Nesbitt White promotes Canadian expertise, education and research capacity in emergency management. Each year, up to eight students are awarded fellowships of \$19,250 each. These awards are available for graduate-level research in emergency management. This includes work in one or more of the four pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Research focused on the all-hazards approach to emergency management is encouraged, as are studies in cyber security, disaster management and critical infrastructure protection and assurance. Multidisciplinary work is preferred

in disciplines such as regional planning, engineering, environmental studies, computer science, geography, sociology, economics, risk modeling and system science. Application and evaluation procedures are administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). Interested students can view the application poster and procedures on the AUCC web site: [www.aucc.ca](http://www.aucc.ca).

**Deadline:** March 31, 2010

### C.A.S.C. SCHOLARSHIPS

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) is calling for applications for the three Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) scholarships:

**Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship** - The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada established the Laidlaw Fellowship to honour Dr. Alexander Fraser Laidlaw, the father of the non-profit co-operative housing movement in Canada. An outstanding Canadian adult educator and co-op leader, Dr. Laidlaw served the cause of the co-operative movement for over 40 years. The Laidlaw Award, valued at \$1,000, is available to graduate students only. The award is based on the applicant's academic record, as well as on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad.

**Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship** - The Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation established the Amy and Tim Dauphinee Fellowship in recognition of the outstanding contribution these two leaders made to the development of the credit union movement and the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation. The award, currently valued at \$3,000, is available to graduate students only. The award will be based on applicants' academic records and on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad.

#### Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award

- Available to both undergraduate and graduate students, the Lemaire awards are intended to encourage students to undertake studies which will help them contribute to the development of co-operative in Canada or elsewhere. Eligible candidates will have been involved with co-operatives, must demonstrate reasonable knowledge and understanding of co-op principles and their application, and be able to indicate how the proposed studies will contribute to the co-op movement. Full-time or part-time students, taking full- or partial-credit courses at any university or university-equivalent college are eligible to apply. Eligible candidates must take a minimum of one course about co-operatives. The bursaries will be awarded in multiples of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$3,000. The amount of the awards will be proportional to the significance and contribution of the studies to the advancement of co-operatives.

For all three scholarships, applicants must either undertake studies at Canadian universities or university-equivalent colleges (regardless of citizenship) or be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants studying at such institutions outside Canada. To be eligible to receive the award, recipients must undertake their proposed study within one calendar year of the fellowship being awarded. Application forms are available from their website [www.coopscanada.ca](http://www.coopscanada.ca) or from the Awards & Financial Aid office on the first floor of Graham Hall.

**Deadline:** March 31, 2010

### DESMOND CONACHER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is offered in memory of Desmond Conacher, formerly Professor of Classics at Trinity College, Toronto, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Honorary President of the Classical Association of Canada. Its purpose is to assist and encourage a young scholar entering graduate studies in classics. The scholarship is administered by the Classical Association of Canada through its Awards Committee. One award of \$2,500 is offered each year. Applicants must be Canadian students (citizens or permanent residents) intending to enter the first year of graduate studies in a classics or similar program at a Canadian university. Specializations within the general area of classics, such as ancient history, ancient philosophy and classical archaeology, are eligible. Applicants must be less than 28 years of age on Jan. 1 of the year of application. The main criteria are academic achievement, professional promise and an appropriate undergraduate preparation. For more information or application procedures and form, please visit their website: <http://cac-scecc.ca>, or the Awards & Financial Aid office on the first floor of Graham Hall.

**Deadline:** March 31, 2010

### CANADIAN JAPANESE-MENNONITE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship was created as a tangible symbol of co-operation between Canadian

Japanese and Canadian Mennonites, subsequent to a formal apology that was offered to Canadian Japanese by MCC Canada on behalf of Canadian Mennonites. It is intended to assist the protection of minority and human rights in Canada and to reduce the potential for abuse of cultural minorities, such as that suffered by Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a student who is enrolled in a graduate degree program, a Canadian citizen studying at a university in Canada and is engaged in research that will assist the protection of minority or human rights in Canada. To obtain an application package or for more information visit their website: <http://canada.mcc.org/scholarships>, or the Awards & Financial Aid office on the first floor of Graham Hall.

**Deadline:** April 1, 2010

### RETAIL AS A CAREER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Retail Council of Canada, in partnership with industry sponsors, will award more than \$75,000 in scholarships and benefits to students entering or currently enrolled in a business, marketing or retail-related program at a Canadian post-secondary institution. Students who receive the scholarships will not only benefit from financial assistance for their post-secondary education, but will also attend STORE 2010 in Toronto where they will have the opportunity to engage with the brightest professionals in the Canadian retail industry. A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded by Interac Association to the top Retail as a Career Scholarship applicant, whose name will not be disclosed until STORE 2010. This year, 26 scholarships are available and one \$5,000 Interac Scholarship in addition to 25 \$1,000 Industry-Sponsored Scholarships. To be considered for one of the scholarships applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled full-time or part-time at a Canadian college or university in Fall 2010.
- Pursuing a retail, business or marketing-related program.
- Currently working part-time or full-time within the retail industry.

For application forms and instructions, please visit their website: [www.retaileducation.ca](http://www.retaileducation.ca), or the Awards & Financial Aid office on the first floor of Graham Hall.

**Deadline:** April 1, 2010

### MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM (MSAP)

Manitoba Student Aid is now accepting applications for the 2010 Winter session. Students can apply online at [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca).

New to the Student Aid program this year are a series of grants and bursaries:

- Canada Student Grant for Students from Low-income Families
- Canada Student Grant for Students from Middle-income Families
- Canada Student Grant for Students with Dependents
- Rural/Northern Bursary

These grants are the first money students will receive in their financial aid packages, before any loans are awarded. Many students may, in fact, receive the majority of their financial assistance in the form of grants.

Be sure to apply early and to submit all requested documentation as soon as possible to ensure that you receive all the grant funds for which you are eligible.

#### PROCEDURES:

#### Confirmation of Enrolment & Release of Government Student Aid Documents

Approximately three weeks before classes begin, the Manitoba Student Aid Program (MSAP) will begin printing official assistance documents for students whose MSAP documentation and university course registration are in order. MSAP will mail the documents to students at the addresses they have provided on their MSAP applications. The document you receive already will have been electronically approved by the Awards & Financial Aid Office. It will indicate the fees you owe to the University of Winnipeg. These fees will be deducted from your student aid.

If the document is a Canada Student Financial Assistance document, you should take it to an approved Canada Post outlet for forwarding to the National Student Loan Centre.

If the document is a Manitoba Student Aid document, you should forward it to the MSAP Loan Administration Department.

The National Student Loan Centre of the MSAP Loan Administration Department will process the document, transferring the fee payment portion directly to the university and depositing any additional balance to your account. Instructions on these processes will be included in your student aid document package.

#### Course Load

The minimum course load for which you must register to be eligible for any form of government student assistance is 60 per cent of the maximum course load required for your study period:

- Fall/Winter academic year - 18 credit hours
- Fall Term or Winter Term only - 9 credit hours which begin and end within that term

You must maintain the appropriate minimum course load for your study period in order to retain your student assistance eligibility.

#### Registration at Another Post-Secondary Institution

If, in addition to University of Winnipeg courses, you are registered and taking courses elsewhere during the academic year for credit towards your University of Winnipeg degree, you must present proof of registration to the Awards & Financial Aid Office before your student assistance document can be authorized and released to you.

#### Fee Payment

Your fees will be deducted from the student assistance document when it is electronically approved by the university. Government student aid is used first to meet educational costs. All overdue fees and emergency loans as well as fees for the current study period will be deducted from the student aid document. If your student assistance does not cover your required fee payment, you will have to make payment on your own by the fee payment deadline. Credits for scholarships you may be receiving will reduce the amount of fees deducted from the student aid document.

#### Missing Information

If any documentation requested by the MSAP, such as summer income or study-period income verification, has not yet been submitted, electronic confirmation of your loan document will not occur and your loan funds will not be in place at the beginning of the Winter Term.

#### Revision to your Needs Assessment

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

#### Fee Deferral

The Awards & Financial Aid Office can defer your fees if you have applied for government student aid but have not received your confirmed assistance document by the fee payment deadline. Fee deferral means that your registration will not be cancelled because of your failure to pay by the deadline. However, you will be charged the late payment fee unless you have submitted your Student Aid application in sufficient time for it to be processed by the payment deadline.

The Awards office will begin taking names for the fee deferral list for students registered for only the 2010 Winter term starting **Jan. 4, 2010**. If your name is on the Awards & Financial Office fee deferral list but you withdraw from university courses, you will be responsible for the fees you owe until your actual date of withdrawal.

If you are out of funds before your next disbursement of Government Student Aid occurs, you can arrange for bridge financing from the University in the form of an emergency loan. Please call 786-9458 for an appointment.

**DID YOU KNOW...** That Manitoba Student Aid staff can be on campus on Fridays from 1 - 4 p.m. To meet with them, you need to set up an appointment time. Come to Student Services and book an appointment, or phone 786-9458 or 786-9984.

**DID YOU KNOW...** You can check the status of your student aid application, find out what documentation is still outstanding, update your address information and much more online? Go to [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca) and then to MySAO to log into your existing account.

**DID YOU KNOW...** If you are a student who has had past Government Student Loans and are currently a full-time student but do not have a student loan this year, you can fill out a Schedule 2 document to remain in non-payment status. Please come to Student Services in Graham Hall, where front-counter staff can help you with this form.

#### OTHER AWARD WEBSITES:

Canada Student Loan program & other important information on finances and budgeting: [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

Manitoba Student Aid Program: [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca)

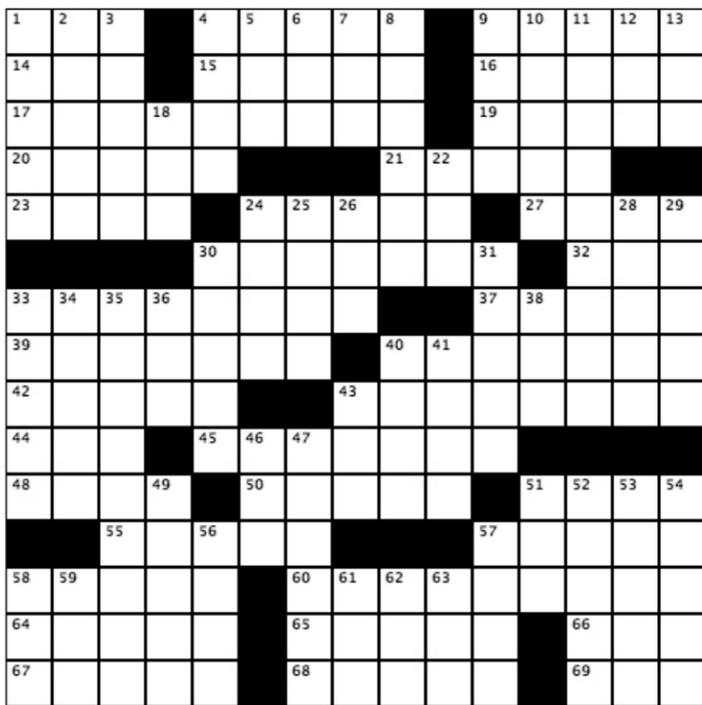
Surfing for dollars? Try these two websites:

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

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

# Crossword Puzzle 20

Solutions to crossword and sudoku will appear in next week's issue.



BESTCROSSWORDS.COM

**Across**

- 1- Large body of water
- 4- Fur scarf
- 9- Have \_\_\_ to pick
- 14- Actor Vigoda
- 15- Domingo, for one
- 16- Arm bones
- 17- Pertaining to torture
- 19- Palm fruits
- 20- Pungent bulb
- 21- Imitative
- 23- Russian no
- 24- Actress Berger
- 27- Dry run
- 30- Whirlpool bath

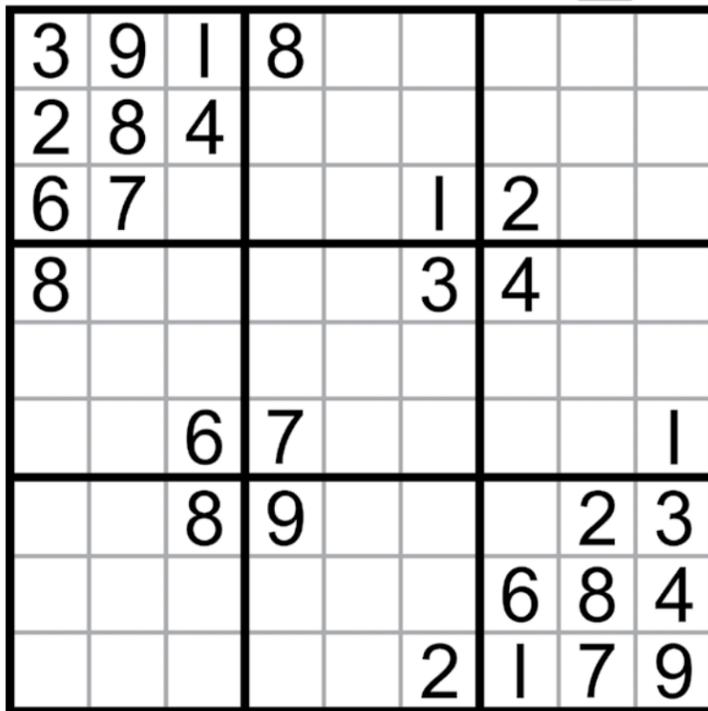
- 32- Date
- 33- Football field
- 37- Fatted fowl
- 39- Situated at the limen
- 40- Covered with thorns
- 42- Of Thee \_\_\_
- 43- Disturb
- 44- After taxes
- 45- Uncovered
- 48- Boris Godunov, for one
- 50- Falls
- 51- Diamond cover
- 55- Golden Horde member

- 57- Cowboy display "Three Sisters"
- 60- Consciousness
- 64- Condescend
- 65- Link
- 66- Court call
- 67- Contour feather
- 68- Molars, e.g.
- 69- Aliens, for short

**Down**

- 1- Squelched
- 2- Black-wooded tree
- 3- Lofty nest
- 4- Astound
- 5- Thrice, in prescrip-

# Sudoku Octagon



will.octagon.gibson@gmail.com



## Cougars make the personal political

I've been doing a lot of thinking lately and I've come to two very earth-shattering conclusions.

The first is that I'm finally old enough to avoid the interest of cougars at bars and nightclubs; the second is that I'm really going to miss it.

I still remember my first interaction with a cougar. I was 18 years old and my band was playing at the Norwood Hotel in St. Boniface. A middle-aged and over-tanned lady in a leopard-skin-print unitard came up to me between sets and grabbed my ass. When I looked up, surprised at how forward she had been, I was greeted with a deep, sultry and raspy smoking-voice that said: "Hey handsome, wanna play me instead of that guitar for the rest of the night?"

I was shocked and repulsed, but as much as I wanted to tell her where she could put her leathery claw that was still gripping my ass cheek, all I could do was giggle, get flustered and then run away.

I thought about it for a long time afterward. Why didn't I tell her off if it bugged me so much? Why is it OK for a middle-aged woman to grab a young guy's ass like that? Who would ever buy a leopard-skin-print unitard and actually plan to wear it in public in a completely non-facetious way?

The answer I came up with to all of these questions is simple: She's a cougar.

Cougars are a very unique group of people in our society. They have special status and are afforded a special set of rights and privileges. They can do whatever they want to whomever they want and wear whatever they want, as long as they fulfill their role in our society.

The role of the cougar, though it may not seem so at first, is a very important and politically driven one. Many people may disagree with me, but I believe that cougars are the purest form of feminists in our culture.

Sure, on the surface they seem to demean themselves and appear sort of sad and pathetic, but if you look a little closer, you'll see that what they are really doing is something noble and selfless for all of womankind.

They are using their lives as a testament to the question that if it's OK for middle-aged men to go to the bar and be creepy pieces of shit by sexually harassing young women, why can't women do the same thing to young men?

What cougars are really doing, simply by virtue of their existence, is proving to the world that women can do anything men can do, including being pathetic sexual predators who hang out in seedy bars, lamenting their lost or wasted youth, drowning their sorrow in pools of gin and clouds of cigarette smoke.

Christ, I'm gonna miss those cougars.

*Though he may be too old, J. Willamez invites all cougars to attend his shows on Mondays at Shannon's Irish Pub. Plenty of young meat guaranteed.*

## Making sure you get your chlorophyll



### LIVING WELL

**SAGAN MORROW**  
STAFF WRITER

We all know that we *should* include more greens in our meals, but sometimes it is hard to figure out exactly how to go about fitting in those extra, essential servings of green vegetables. If you don't like the taste or if you're just having difficulty trying to increase your servings, these ideas will motivate you to experiment in the kitchen once again.

Beginning your day with vegetables is a nice way to get a head start on fitting in all of the recommended servings of greens. One of the easiest ways

to incorporate greens is in a breakfast shake. Spinach is the perfect choice; it breaks down easily in a blender and you can add as much as several cups of fresh spinach to your shake without tasting any bitter spinach flavour.

A basic recipe for a green breakfast shake is one to two cups liquid, one to two frozen bananas (broken into chunks), a couple cups of fresh greens and some kind of nut butter for protein. Experiment with using water or milk and try different kinds of nut butters for enhanced flavour.

Blend until the drink is smooth and frothy; it will be a green colour, but the spinach should be completely dissolved in the liquid. The first few times, use just one cup of spinach. Add more as you get used to it. Start out using one or two bananas for the creamy texture; decrease it to half a banana as you adjust to the green shake.

You can also add fresh or frozen berries for something a little fruitier.

If you prefer to munch on your food rather than drink it, consider a breakfast salad: use greens as a base and pile it high with a variety of fresh vegetables and fruits. Add more fruit to begin with – the sweetness will help you get used to having salad for breakfast. Drizzle

balsamic vinegar over top for a light dressing, or top the salad with yogurt or hummus. You can also add some nuts or granola for extra crunch.

Another quick way to ease more vegetables into your daily meals (without really noticing it) is to steam several cups of spinach and add it to a mixture of beans and rice at lunch. Fresh spinach compacts to a very small amount when it is steamed, so you can easily eat the equivalent of two or three cups once it's on your plate. Mix hot sauce, soy sauce, a sprinkle of cheese and a few grinds of black pepper into your rice/beans/spinach dish and you'll have a fast meal bursting with flavour.

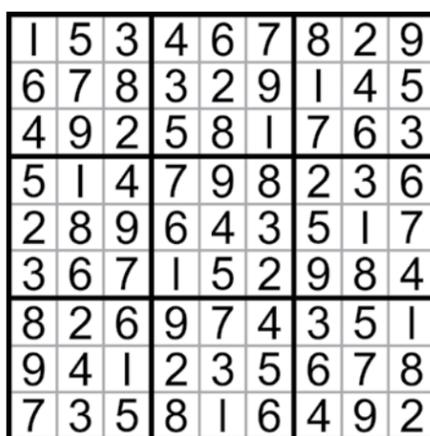
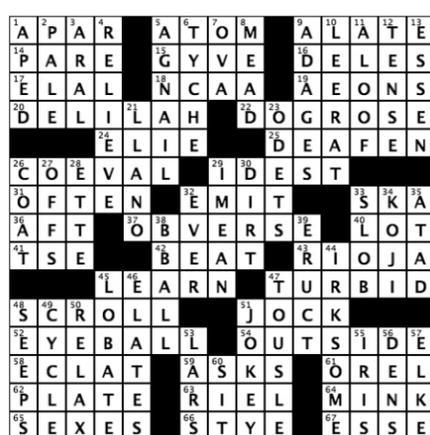
Piling fresh steamed, baked or grilled vegetables in your stir fries, sandwiches, soups, stews, curries and sauces will provide you with an abundance of nutrients.

Challenge yourself to include a vegetable with every meal and snack.

The combination possibilities are endless once you let your creativity take over.

*University of Winnipeg student Sagan Morrow writes a health and wellness blog. Check it out at [www.livingintherealworld.net/healthy](http://www.livingintherealworld.net/healthy).*

Solutions to puzzles from Feb 11.



WWW.UNITER.CA

# Awareness is in fashion

Rock The Ribbon hopes to model inspiration

KATHLEEN CERRER  
STAFF WRITER

Rock the Ribbon is a local fashion show benefitting the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation—Prairies/NWT Region. Founders and event organizers Meryl De Leon and Shayna Wiwierski created the event to raise awareness about breast cancer while featuring local fashion name Nygard.

“What we’re really trying to do is not just give a fashion show, but to inspire the guests who come that breast cancer really does affect people,” De Leon stated in a recent interview.

The event will feature a fashion show by Nygard, as the brand caters to both young and older generations through the Bianca Nygard collection. It will also feature breast cancer survivors as models who share their stories through a short video.

“When you add the element of breast cancer survivors telling their stories, you put a real face to this disease,” said Monique Levesque-Pharoah of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

De Leon and Wiwierski chose this organization because it touches the lives of many and is relatable to almost everyone.



The Rock the Ribbon fashion show will benefit the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

“We wanted to make this show not just about fashion, but really about the foundation,” said Levesque-Pharoah. “The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation is the leading national volunteer-based organization dedicated to creating a future without breast cancer. The Foundation—Prairies/NWT Region fulfills its mission by funding breast cancer research, community health projects and other initiatives across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories.”

Breast cancer affects people of all ages, both women and men, and it is important to take the proper precautions for your breast health.

“Being ‘breast aware’ is a fundamental step in surviving breast cancer,” Levesque-Pharoah said. “We know that early detection saves lives and being breast aware means you know how your breasts look and feel. This makes noting changes much easier. If you notice any changes, talk to your doctor right away. While most changes do not mean cancer, they do need to be checked.

“I personally feel this is an im-

portant fact for a younger audience to hear.”

The event will provide an entertaining and inspiring show and should have a different impact on each guest in attendance.

“They can expect a fun night out with eclectic music, where young people can ask their parents to go also. We find that a lot of people that are going are actually bringing their moms,” said De Leon. “It’s going to be a wake-up call for the younger crowd because you’re going to an event where it’s not just 20-somethings in attendance.”

Industry people will also be present with a diverse crowd, making this show an exciting way to benefit a great cause.

The event is being held on Friday, March 5 at the Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art at 286 McDermot Ave. in the Exchange District.

For event and ticket information, visit [www.rocktheribbon.ca](http://www.rocktheribbon.ca). Check out the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation at [www.cbfc.org/prairiesnwt](http://www.cbfc.org/prairiesnwt).

## FASHION STREETER

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



John  
"My style is haphazard extravagant."

SARA ATIMOV

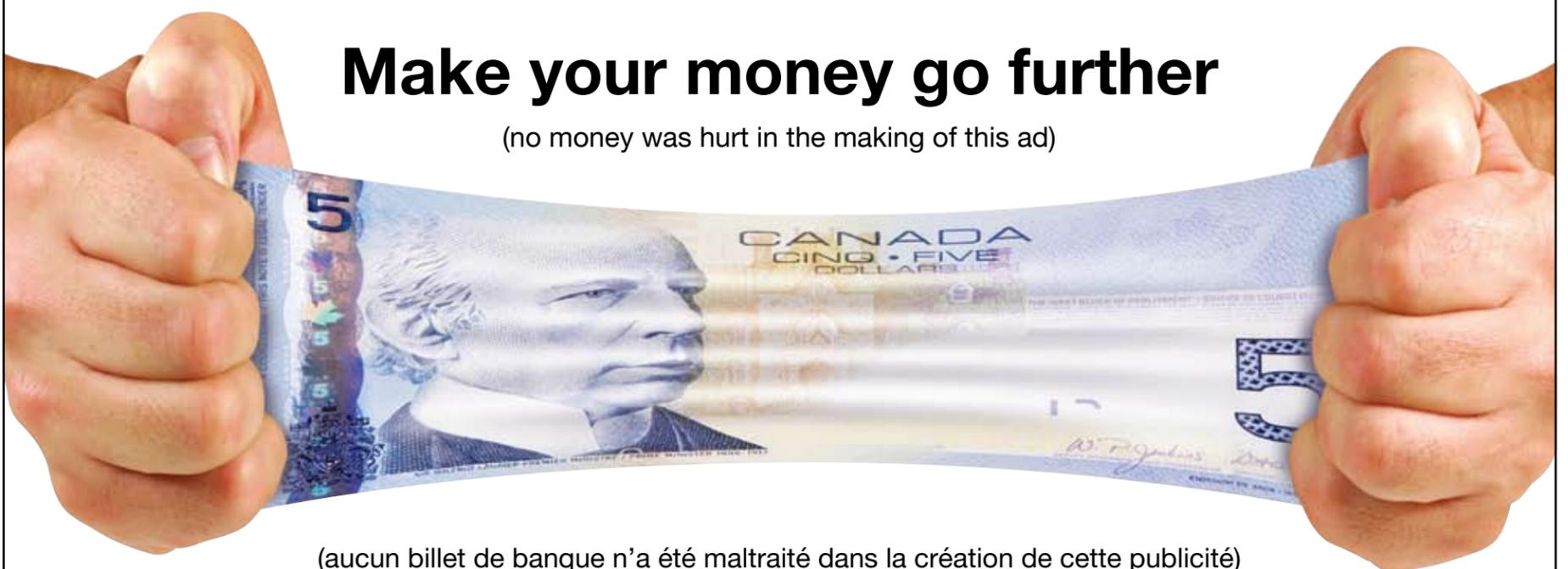


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