

# Word on the Street

**A Free Journal for Youth and Urban Saskatoon**  
Volume 3 Issue 3, March 2007

## *The Ups and Downs of Life: Dealing with the Falls*

The word on the street is... life's tough and it's true. I am 15 years old and I have gone through a lot but so have a lot of teens my age. I have been in and out of fosters home since I was just a little baby. At the age of five, I was living back at home for the first time. I stayed there for a few months. My parents were always fighting and then decided to divorce so I went back into foster care. Two years later I got to go back home. I lived there for a year, then went back to foster care and came back again. My sister was always running away, partying and smoking weed. Mom was so stressed out about my sister always going missing, she finally decided to put her into foster care. My sister was declared a long term ward of the government.

After that it was different. My brother always came home drunk and violent so my Mom had to kick him out. He was not the same person when he was drunk. He really scared us. He always came to visit us though and never came drunk so we let him move back in. Two months later he was acting weird and we found out that he was doing crystal meth so we kicked him out for good. Our family was slowly falling apart. It was just me and my Mother.

At the age of ten an event happened that would forever change my life. I went for a walk with a friend. When I returned my Mother was lying on the floor. She had overdosed herself on prescription drugs. She couldn't take care of me any more because she had multiple sclerosis. She could hardly take of herself. My Mom didn't want to take

care of herself. My Mom didn't want to put me into foster care because she thought I would hate her. That is why she overdosed. I still feel like it's partially my fault.

I went back into foster care and was declared a long term ward too. I stayed in a foster home for four years but they didn't want me after that. I thought I could never have a family again because nobody would keep me forever. I got angry and didn't stay in one place. I would keep running so they would kick me out. I always came home drunk, high and beat up because of the weed and alcohol. It was quite a predicament. I did drugs and drank just like my sister and brother. I realized why they did it. When you are high or drunk you have the feeling like nothing matters and you don't have to deal with your problems.

After some time though, my problems came back. I realized that alcohol and drugs weren't the answer. I was put into a group home called My Home. I kept running but they never kicked me out. Over time I learned to trust them and I no longer run. To me it is my home and I am loved there. After finding that feeling of trust, I stopped drinking because I knew that they would be there to help me through the tough times. I no longer had to face them on my own. This, I realized, is what a real family was like.

~ Anonymous

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### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Street Speak	2
A Straight Shot	2
Voices of the North	3
Farm Life	3
Gears of War	4
Panorama	5
Young Mothers	6
Family	7
Countdown to Summer	7
Freestyle	7
Community Events	8

### **About Word on the Street**

Word on the Street is written by young people in and out of school. It provides a forum for Saskatoon youth to express issues and ideas.

### **Writers for this Issue**

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**Do you like to Write?  
Do you like Money?**

**WOTS is looking for youth writers.**

**We'll even pay you!  
665-3889**

## What do you want to do with your life?



"I would go to school."

~ female teenager

"Find another job."

~ male teenager

"Be a money maker."

~male teenager

### A Straight Shot A Lesson for Pool Players

**P**ool is a very competitive game as it challenges your mind and eyes. You must first make a line in between the balls and the pocket, and then guess how hard to shoot. If you over do it you can miss, or if you shoot a little to the left or right you may miss too. The best thing you can do is to relax and look at where you want the ball to go. The ball might hit dead on. You might also find if there



is someone in your view it might make you a little nervous. It normally helps me to look at a different place or take a different shot.

If I miss, sometimes I might say to myself crap or even swear, but then I say "Well maybe next time I'll make it." I normally get better after a few games of pool. I also don't sit on the table beside me as you may mess up a table's center



of gravity. There is a very small distance between level and non-level. A level table is important to a good game but also to a fair game. Pool is really important to some people but to me it's about having a good time.

~ Shawn

**Saskatchewan...**  
*The Best Place  
for Young People to  
Live, Work and Raise a Family!*

*"Ours is a province with abundant  
career opportunities; a province that is  
down to earth, but where the sky is the  
limit for jobs in every corner."*

-- Throne Speech 2006

**Lorne Calvert** M.L.A.  
Saskatoon Riversdale 651-1211

## Voices of the North An Awesome Time

I recently went to Prince Albert, on Saturday, February 17th. I was in Prince Albert to see Voices of the North. It's a talent show that happens every year with aboriginal contestants. It's been around for about 15 years, and it was so cool. My Mom's boyfriend is one of the founders and he sang at it. It was so fun to see all of the aboriginal talent in Saskatchewan. The singers sounded so awesome! It seems like there is so much talent in today's youth and no one seems to recognize it. Most of the time the youth themselves don't even recognize what kind of talent they have and how far it could take them.

The talent show goes on for 3 days and on the last day there is a big cabaret. A bunch of aboriginal artists come together and sing. There's a big dance and lots of people from all over come to this cabaret. I couldn't go though because all of the tickets were sold out. Voices of the North could be so much bigger than it is right now. The place where it is held is small so only a small number of tickets can be sold. I'm sure that if it was in a

bigger place they could have more people come and make a better profit off of it too.

It felt good to be around all of the other Native people, to see that we have a lot of talent that I never knew about. It made me feel proud to be Native. There needs to be more youth reaching for their dreams and pursuing them. All of the drugs and gangs seem to stop that from happening. It really gets me mad when I see so many youth out on the streets because it doesn't have to be that way.

Next year I'm going to make sure I get a ticket to the cabaret. The show was aired live for a couple of hours on 104.1 FM on Saturday. One of the contestants tried out for Canadian Idol, but I don't know yet if she made it. I hope she did. That would be so cool.

~ Andrea

## Farm Life Dedication to Working

Farm life is so much different than living in the city. I used to live on a farm but now I live in the city. It's different to change from that lifestyle but I am getting the hang of it. On the farm, you don't really get to sleep in because you are outside working. The city has some good things about it like the mall, the big schools, and all your friends are close by.

If you live on a farm you are probably in grain production or the livestock business. The farm I lived on ran both which is hard work. You have to feed the cows every second day depending on how many cows or other animals you have. In grain farming there is a lot of work to be done too. In the fall you

have to harvest the field which usually takes a few months. It involves combining, which has to be the dustiest thing you can do. Usually you are out there at 6 in the morning and you don't come in till 11 at night.

The farm is probably the best place to live because there is so much freedom to do whatever you want. If you live on a farm you have to be dedicated to what you are doing or nothing will get done.

~ Steven

# Gears of War Game Review

**G**ears of War is a third-person action adventure game. It takes place in the future on a planet known as Sera. The C.O.G (Coalition of Ordered Governments) was formed during the pendulum wars of Sera. The wars were started because some people found a liquid power source known as emulsion. Its abundant supply of clean energy made it highly wanted. Unfortunately there was more on different continents and everyone wanted some so that started the wars. One day a large horde of humanoid under-grounders known as the Locust, emerged from the underground and that was known as Emergence Day. The locust horde killed a whole bunch of people within a few hours because they caught the humans off guard. Marcus Fenix, the main character, got a call from his Father when he was fighting off locust members. Marcus went and tried to save his Father but it was too late. Marcus was then court marshaled from the Gears. His friend Dominic Santiago testified at his trial and kept him from being executed. Ten years later Dom rescues Marcus from the Jacinto Plateau prison and the game begins.

**Graphics:** The graphics on this game are so deadly. I have never seen any better. They run so smooth. It's even possible to see tiny little bugs on the ground. I can't even put into words how great the graphics really are but I will say that if all game designers start using a graphic engine like this, all games would be so much better.



**Controlling:** Before I played it, I heard some bad news about the controlling system. Some people said that it was too hard to get used to and whatnot. I personally have no problem with the controls. I picked up the controller and I was good. Aiming is easy: using the left trigger gives you a slight zoom while melee is the B button. There's even an active reload button that helps with the sniper rifle.

**Difficulty:** When I start playing a game, I usually choose the middle difficulty and whatnot. I thought that Gears was going to be a fairly easy game. I was wrong. Medium is labeled hardcore, hard is insane and easy is casual. Hardcore is exactly what the name reads. Hardcore. I died at the end of the prison so I decided to switch to casual to see what it's like. It's a few steps down from hardcore.

**Arsenal:** The weapons on Gears are wicked. The signature weapon, the Lancer Assault Rifle, is an assault rifle with a chainsaw bayonet. That weapon can rip a locust into two very messy pieces. The shotgun is one of my favorites. When you blind fire at an enemy rushing your position, you can completely shred the locust if he's within 6 feet. The Sniper Rifle is a single shot, high caliber rifle that can take off an

enemy locust drones' head clean with one shot. The revolver is a powerful magnum handgun. But you have to be really accurate with your shots to use it right. Not one of my favorites. The snub pistol is a pretty decent little handgun. It takes 8 shots to down a drone on casual. And don't believe them if people say it's a bad gun because it's not; they just don't know how to use it well. The Hammerburst is the locust's standard weapon. It fires in 4 shot bursts and is more powerful than the Lancer. The Boom Shot is a rocket launcher and grenade launcher mixed together. It's a slow shooting weapon and reloading takes time. It's the standard issue weapon for the locust Boomers. It takes practice to get used to but in time it can be a very dangerous piece. The torque bow is a nice weapon if used right. It fires an arrow that explodes after seconds of contact with a wall or an enemy. Most people call getting shot with an arrow getting tagged because of the bright orange light that shows your hit. It also glows when it's being charged so watch out if you see an orange dot anywhere on the battlefield. Grenades are fun to play with. You can throw them into locust emergence holes to collapse them so no more bad guys get out. You can also tag someone with a grenade by just running up to them and hitting them with the grenade. It sticks to them so just remember to run really fast. The Hammer of Dawn is mainly used to kill berserkers and seeders. It's a big orbital laser beam that kind of flash-fries stuff. There are two fixed weapons that you can operate in the game. One is the troika machine gun. It is a belt fed machine gun with two barrels. I never got a perfect look at it but I think it's like a variation of a mini-gun. It has the ability to shred drones and yourself if you get caught in the line of fire. The other is a U.V. cannon and it's on the top of an A.P.C. that you get to drive around in. The point of it is that you have to cross the city fast when it is night and the Kryll are out. The only thing that will kill them is light. But the problem with the cannon is when you use it, the weapon stops the vehicle because the engine doesn't have enough power to run both at the same time.

**Enemies:** The enemies are actually a challenge on this game compared to a lot of other games. The A.I. is brilliant. They actually throw grenades with accuracy to flush Gears out of their position. Their snipers are wicked shots too. The Drone is the standard enemy in the game and is armed with the Hammerburst assault rifle and occasionally the Lancer. The grenadiers are armed with grenades and are dangerous but they can be picked out due to the lack of shirts and their bright white skin. The sniper... well the name speaks for itself. They are usually found on ledges of buildings but can be spotted because of the long shots signature dust trail behind the bullet.



~continued on page 5 ~

# Gears of War ...continued...

The Boomer gets to play with the boomshot and is extremely large and slow. They are such easy targets; just make sure you're behind cover that won't explode if shot. They also yell out "Boom!" as they attack. The wretches are about the size of a Gear but they crawl and climb on walls and what not. They are more annoying than anything but the chainsaw works well to down them or you can use the shotgun. To save ammo, just hit them with a melee weapon.



There is a variation of the wretch later in the game called the dark wretch. They glow due to a lot of emulsion exposure. And when killed or wounded too much, they explode kind of like a small grenade. These are the ones that you don't want to cut in half. They all have a signature scream when they are around so you can always tell. Theron guards are armed with torque bows and they are much faster and stronger than the drones. They are also more capable of more advanced tactics.

**Bosses and mini-Bosses:** The Berserker is a female locust but you wouldn't guess from its looks because it's around 9 or 10 feet tall and looks like a really buff man with messed up skin and a very ugly face and they are blind. They can hear the slightest movement and smell a Gears fear. The Hammer of Dawn kills them in two direct hits. There are three in total in the game. The seeder, I don't know if you really want to call it a boss of any sort but still they are really annoying with their little nemecests. The



seeder sits with its head in the ground and shoots them little buggers up into the air and they are capable of downing choppers so watch out. Kill it with the Hammer of Dawn in around 3 hits. The Corpser is a big spider like thing that digs holes for locust drones. Killing it is fairly easy seeing as you just have to shoot it in the gut and then in the face till it backs up to the platform behind it. The main problem is the dark wretches that come up behind you all the time. General Raam is the locust leader and the main boss in the game. He is armed with an unfixed variant of the troika and surrounded by a Kryll shield that blocks most of your bullets. When you shoot at him, wait till the Kryll disperse then shoot him till he drops and the game is done.

**Characters:** Marcus Fenix is the main character. Dominic "Dom" Santiago is the second player that you can play on multiplayer and is Marcus' best friend.

Augustus "Cole-train" Cole is the large guy from the alpha squad that you find halfway through the first chapter. He often gets remarks about how the Boomers are as big as him or almost as big as him. Damon Baird is Cole's brother-in-arms and he's part of the alpha squad too but joins delta when they find him in a building. He's a bit of a prick during the course of the game but is pretty useful when he's shooting.

That's the basics of Gears of War. I know people might not like the game due to the use of extreme violence and gore.

Graphics: 10

Game play: 10

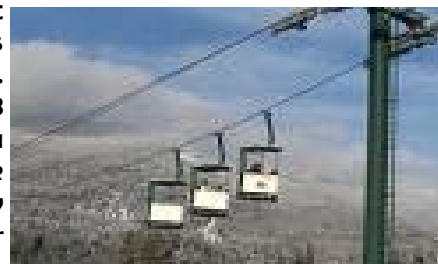
Controls: 10

Overall performance: 10

~ James

## Panorama Holiday

My favourite trip was when my family and I went to Panorama, which is in B.C. Most people go in winter to go snowboarding, but we went in the summer. I'd say it's about twenty times better in summer. It was the most beautiful place I have ever seen, but I have barely gone anywhere. There are about ten different hot tubs and pools around the resort. There are about 8 different places you can stay. I think ours was Lucky Horseshoe or something. Beside



every hotel thing, there is a hot tub or two. The pool was so amazing; it looked like a mountain with a bunch of water. It's kind of hard to explain. I went bungee jumping, walked up a mountain and took about 200 pictures. I went golfing, horse back riding and walked along other trails. You can even go rock climbing. I remember the gondola. It was a ride that gets people up the mountain. Anyways, I think everyone should check out Panorama because you would have a good time.

~ Krista

## “Young Mothers” One Girl’s Story

There are so many things that I feel about being a mother. It may be hard but I get through it. Like during the first month, I had the baby blues. That was the hardest thing that I went through because I couldn’t hear my baby cry or else I would start crying.

When my boyfriend was at work I would get so frustrated. I just felt like I wanted to run away but I knew that I couldn’t. It was too hard to turn my back around on my baby and the hardest part was getting up at night. Sometimes I would fall asleep sitting up but now that I think of that, I laugh. But it was hard.

I’m only 17. I should’ve been in school instead of trying to be a mother. If you young girls out there don’t think it’s hard, believe me it is. I know that I can’t control you young girls just by telling you how it is though.

Now that my baby’s Daddy is not around, my mother has to help me. My sister helps me when she should be in school. I’m trying to go to school and get a job. You want to go out with your friends but you can’t because you have to find a babysitter.



The first time my baby smiled, I smiled. That tells me how good I’m doing being a mother. If you’re a young mother you’ll understand what I’m saying. This is no game to play. This is life and you better realize it. It’s not all about you. It’s about your baby now.

Now my baby is three months old. When my baby got really sick, I stayed up for two days watching him gasp for air. Then I took him to the hospital. He was in there for a week and a half. I was crying

a lot because when he was in the hospital his Dad was no where to be seen. Maybe he was scared to see his baby suffering and in pain. But my baby got stronger and now he is okay, happy and strong. I don’t know what I would do without him. He is the reason why I get up in the morning to live another day. It brings you a lot of joy when your sky is grey. It brings sunshine to your life. Now I gotta do what I gotta do to succeed in life for my baby and me.

**“ This is no game to play. This is life and you better realize it. ”**

Just to tell you guys out there this is not my first baby. I lost my first baby and that was really hard on me, my Mom and family. You don’t know how precious your kids are until you lose them. Trust me, I

know. I just wanted to tell you about my life and open up with you young mothers that are just like me.

Thanks for listening to what I have to say. So make a decision but take your time. Thank yourself and remember that you are not the only one.

“A mother’s arms are made of tenderness and children sleep soundly in them.”  
~Victor Hugo

~ Anonymous



**Hon. Carol Skelton, PC, MP**  
Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar

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## The Importance of Family

**F**amily is the most important thing in everyone's life. They are there for you and you should be there for them too. In my case, I am so close to my family. If someone is hurt, I am there for them. I helped my auntie once when she went to the hospital. One time I was with her for about 3 hours.

In my family I am everybody's FAV. I also help my auntie Mary with her kids and help her cook and clean up. Sometimes I get paid but most of the time I just help her because I like to help. Her kids love me to death. Last night they would not let me leave.

So be there for your family because when you are in a jam they will be there for you. Like if I got jail time they would be there but that is not going to happen. I am so close and nice to everyone. Even my friends know that I am there for them all, even my old friends since Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9. What I am saying is that my family and friends are first in my life. Like if my family was not there, where would I be today?

- Chantelle W

## Top of the Head Free style

This is the Word on the Street  
Where Clinton is coming to work at CNYC  
Is a place to help you get you off your knees  
Back on to your feet. Give you a little bit of dough.  
And after work you got to go to the bank.  
Chris Longman is about to pull a prank.  
Bram has to take a stance.  
Clinton Takakenew is rapping at his own freelance.  
Step to me hommie you better be ready to dance.  
Cause I'm a true Native Cree.  
Stepping on the streets  
Pretty soon I'll be making my own beats.  
Making my own CDs...  
6 Figures Records... whatsup.

- Clinton

## Countdown to Summer

**I** cannot wait until summer because this cold weather is not only making me mad but others as well. When summer arrives the first thing I'm going to do is hop right on my skateboard. That's what I have planned for every summer and it's been a hobby of mine since Grade 5. It's what I'm talented at as well. So when that snow is gone I'm bussing right to the Victoria Skatepark. I know a lot of people love that park; it's a good part of Saskatoon.

Skateboarding is a really great sport. It helps me relax when I'm stressed about people who make me so angry. Then on the other hand, there are young biker kids who always bike around and get in most of the skateboarders way. They are so annoying but some bikers are really good and fun to watch. But for those bikers that do try to make me mad I don't really let it get to me.



For those people who enjoy skateboarding, it should be an everyday thing. There is no going wrong when you skateboard because it's good exercise, it's fun and a lot of people enjoy it. If you really want to be good you just have to practice hard. Like they say, practice makes perfect. See for me, all my friends skateboarded and it rubbed off on me. So when I stepped on a skateboard for the first time I had the best feeling. I was hooked. For me it's better than any addiction you could ever get. It keeps my mind off smoking. So for all those skateboarders out there, I'll see you at the Victoria Park this summer.

- Kerry

# Upcoming Events in Our Community

## Free Drop-in Art Centre

Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM,  
Saturdays 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
For All Ages

Call SCYAP at 652-7760 for more information.

## Women's Healing Circle

Date: Every Wednesday  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Tamara's House — 1605 Victoria Ave

Childcare can be provided if requested at least one day in advance. A light lunch will be provided from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please show respect for the ceremonies and the Elder and honour your womanhood by wearing a long skirt.

Call Patti or Sonja for more information at 683-8667.

## Job Search Support

Date: Every Wednesday  
Time: 2:30—4:00 PM  
Place: YWCA Employment & Learning Center  
Computer Lab  
Free computer use for searching, editing and printing cover letters and resumes; apply for job online; email cover letters and resumes.

### *Quote of the Month*

"The future depends on what we do in the present."

~ Gandhi

## CNYC Youth AGM

Date: Wednesday March 28, 2007  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Place: Core Neighbourhood  
Youth Co-op  
905 20th St W

## Aboriginal Soapstone Carving Class for Youth aged 15-21

Date: November 15th -mid April  
Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 - 7:00  
Place: Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op  
905 20th St W

Call Taya at 665-3889 for more information.

## 4th Annual Kevin Moccasin Memorial Basketball Tournament

Date: April 27- 29, 2007

- White Buffalo Youth Lodge
- Boy's Division: 16 & under, 19 & under
- Women's Division
- Men's Division

Prizes for division winners.

Call Mike Tanton for more information at 653-7676

## Out of School & Out of Work?

### **Want to learn skills & make some money?**

CNYC is looking for young people ages of 15-21 to take part in our job training program.

Call 665-3889 or stop by 905 20th St West

## Planning an exciting community event? Wondering how to let people know about it?

Contact Word on the Street and we'll advertise it in our upcoming events page for free!  
Call 665-3889

Please have all relevant information ready when you call. Information should be submitted by the 20th of the preceding month.