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Spokane Arts and Culture

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SPOKE(s)N(s)

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We do our best to make sure all items are accurate and complete, if you notice a mistake, let us know at spokesspokane@gmail.com. We will do our best to rectify the error.

Contributions, story ideas, letters to the editor, love, hate, baked beans and cookies to spokesspokane@gmail.com

E

August was an interesting month for me. I had some crises to work through: there was work and a vacation, and there was a lot of confusion over this here publication.

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The source of my confusion was the fact that I still hadn't made it my own since taking over as editor a few months before. Did I want to continue to create the magazine as it had been? Or did I want to wade into uncharted waters and see what me, myself, and TJ could come up with for a magazine? Starting new things is difficult for me. I have a lot of ideas, even ones that other people like, but getting them off the ground takes a lot of motivation. I'm not always the most motivated person.

I

Several thoughts crossed my mind in the weeks of August as I contemplated the magazine. Did I want to give it up? Did I want to take a less active role and find someone else to be the editor? Should I be concerned about the readers' opinions of the direction I'm taking? Can I be honest with myself and other people in the words that I write? Those were big issues for me. The concern about what the readers think, and the honesty issues, still are at the forefront of my mind. I have, apparently, decided to keep going with the magazine. However, I can only do it the way I know how, which is to say I don't know how to throw one of these things together. This is a learning process and I will have to be okay with that.

T

To put this in the perspective of the greater art community, and to give you something to take away from it besides listening to my internal process, here is what I believe is the root of art. The heart of the creative process is to continually throw yourself into projects when they are only concepts—shadows of ideas draped in fog—and bringing the heavens down to earth by making tangible the intangible.

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I have said in the past that I will do my best to keep the spirit of what the magazine has been alive. I still intend to do that, but the form it takes on the outside will have to adapt. In the end, I will also have to adapt because good art should transform the artist as well as the viewer.

So, I apologize for missing the mark with last month. Now we start something new—a new project, a new look, and something new to be spoken.

R

P.S. Due to scheduling conflicts, both First Friday and The Music List will not be included in this month's issue.



I visited the first annual Hippie Happening in downtown Hillyard. A street fair, consisting of lots of tie-dye and music from the 1960's (which, truth be told, is my favorite era of music).

They had booths set up for local handmade goods. Most of them didn't really strike me as anything special until I ran across Cour d'Alene based Smuch Works. They use stencils, vintage papers clippings, and cereal boxes to make a wonderful assortment of things that you really should not lack in you life. Every day at the office would be a little better with one of their playing card monsters on your desk. You can find more info about them from their Facebook page.

After checking out the fair, I wandered around Hillyard a bit. I don't make it to that part of town often, but I do intend to change that. I love the feel of it, with it's antique shops and diners. I had a great burger and honest to goodness homemade potato chips at the Outlaw Cafe. I bought a classic camera for a great deal at one of the antique shops. It's a part of town that has had a bad reputation in the past. But they have worked hard to revitalize the area and I think that it's time to give them another look. I expect to see some good things come from Hillyard. I can't wait to see what those crazy hippies do next year! Ya dig?



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Photo by: Melanie Brown

I knew of Karli Fairbanks long before I heard any of her music. I like that. When people are talking about an artist, that means they are connecting. After finally hearing her music, I see what everyone was talking about. There is a rich quality to her songs. Everything from the arrangement of the instruments to the lyrics and quality of her voice are filled to the brim with substance. Her songs are the human experience, the good and the bad.

Make sure to visit her website at www.karlifairbanks.com.

Spoken: Basic background stuff.

Karli: I grew up playing classical piano and some basic acoustic guitar. Started singing and writing songs in high school here and there. Played in a louder ambient rock band with my brother for a while after college in early 2006. After that band broke up (just one year later) I decided I was tired of not being able to hear myself at shows because the drums and guitars were too loud, so I took my acoustic guitar and started playing more solo/acoustic sets. Things have kind of moved and changed since then but that was when I really started the whole singer-songwriter thing.

Spoken: What inspires you artistically?

Karli: Relationships have always been an integral part of my music. Peoples reactions to each other, their love, their hate, their trust. It's intriguing to live in, to watch and even to fantasize about. Music is a great outlet to express things that are happening in real relationships or things that you wish were happening. Nature is something that constantly inspires me as well. The beauty of seasons, sunsets, flowers, mountains...gosh it sounds cheesy, but it's true! When I see beautiful things in nature something inside me just wants to cry out! Art and music have definitely been an outlet for those outcries.

Spoken: What themes do you like to explore with your music?

Karli: [The previous question] explains a lot of that. I also like to parallel the themes of nature and relationships in some songs. I guess I have some typical sad break up songs and songs of wanderlust in there too. What singer-songwriter doesn't? Some of my songs I sometimes think are prophetic. I will write them and not be quite sure what they are about. It all ends up coming to light later on.

Spoken: I see you're also a visual artist (graphic design, typography and photography). Did that come before or after the music?

Karli: Visual art and music have always been a part of my life. when I was little I wanted to either be a painter or a music teacher. I drew and painted all the time as a kid. I studied graphic design in college as a way to fuse a lot of different loves of art and need to make some money. It has worked out nice although I still would love to just be a painter and not have to do commercial art.

Spoken: Are there themes or ideas you find are better represented visually rather than musically, and vice versa?

Karli: That is a really tough question. In both art forms my first goal is to create beauty somehow. I like pretty songs and pretty pictures. Proving a point or displaying a specific story line is usually on the back burner. Songs usually form out of some musical mood or style I'm feeling, themes then flow out of it. With art I guess I am more prone to start with a concept and put it into action, letting the style follow.

Spoken: Anything you would like to say to the Spokane art community?

Karli: Keep supporting each other and stop comparing yourself to bigger cities. Be reasonable and happy about where you are but still be hopeful about the future!

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SPOKE(s)(N)(e) Magazine represents a unique form of publishing. Something current and relevant to your potential clients. While print struggles to survive, SPOKE(s)(N)(e) avoids the pitfalls of print while maintaining it's comfort. It acts as a magazine with unlimited distribution and potential viewers. It connects with an audience on their level, with authenticity and authority.

People don't buy products from salesmen, they buy product from friends who can give them good advice. SPOKE(s)(N)(e) has established itself as a friend of the Spokane creative community.

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