



TRIO BRINGS LIT TO LIFE

• The women behind Paper Darts, a literary arts magazine, mix style, substance and fun into a fresh and sassy stew.

By KRISTIN TILLOTSON • ktillotson@startribune.com

Paper Darts has taken the concept of the literary magazine and knocked the stuffiness out of it.

Launched by three recent University of Minnesota graduates, the ambitious new print and online triannual publishes fiction, poetry, artwork, reviews and interviews with artists and writers. But Paper Darts is also a thing of fun and funky beauty — not how you would describe most lit mags.

Woven between all the belles-lettres are video and music links, wild and colorful graphics, comics, even — horrors! — *fashion*. Whatever would they say at the New York Review of Books?

Named in part after a collection of Virginia Woolf's letters, Paper Darts also aims a tiny metaphorical missile at tradition.

"We're trying to take the stick out of the butt of the literary world," said Regan Smith, one of the young women behind the venture. "We value irreverence and humor and beautiful design. We're anti black-and-white text blocks."

Paper Darts represents the next generation of lit/art mags in a few other ways, too. It's a mash-up of art forms, pairing poems and prose with artwork by different contributors in a way that makes them seem fused as a larger whole, leaving interpretation up to the reader. They're using social media to great effect to expand both readership and contributions. And their love of print is balanced by an equal devotion to new media.

Magazine continues on E5 ►



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« THE THREE EDITORS ARE LIKE THESE MYTHICAL WEIRD SISTERS WHO PLUCK EXCITING AND DIVERGENT WORK FROM THEIR SURROUNDINGS, TOSS THEM INTO A BUBBLING CALDRON, AND END UP WITH THIS COMPLEX, AROMATIC OINTMENT EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN ITS PARTS. »

Contributor Maggie Sanford about Paper Darts editors Jamie Millard, left, Regan Smith and Meghan Suszynski.

Dentists get a piece of the Botox pie

• Patients can get closer to the fountain of youth at their family dentist.

By AIMÉE TJADER • aimee.tjader@startribune.com

They say regular brushing, flossing and professional tooth cleaning can take years off your true age. So can Botox.

Now, the two go hand-in-hand at some Twin Cities dental offices, where at least a few general dentists are tapping into the two fastest-growing cosmetic treatments of the past decade by offering Botox and dermal filler treatments.

"As a dentist, I'm very well-trained in the musculature and anatomy of the face and I feel no other doctor can give an injection better than a qualified and experienced dentist," said Dr. Michael Skadron, who began offering Botox and Juvederm treatments in January at his West River Dental Care in south Minneapolis. "It's a marvelous fit."

The economy has played a role, as well, he said, by bringing in customers who want to gain an edge. "I've had patients who are looking for a new career, so they want their teeth cleaned and their wrinkles removed."

Dentists have been using Botox to treat dental problems like temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved its use for treatment of chronic migraines. Some dentists want to take it a step further and use it for aesthetic purposes, too.

Botox continues on E3 ►



ELIZABETH FLORES • eflores@startribune.com
Dr. Michael Skadron is one of a growing number of dentists to offer Botox at his dental clinic.

Movie website has everything but popcorn

By BILL WARD • bill.ward@startribune.com

Jesse Vig is a different kind of control freak: He wants the rest of us to have more power to make our own choices — starting with movies.

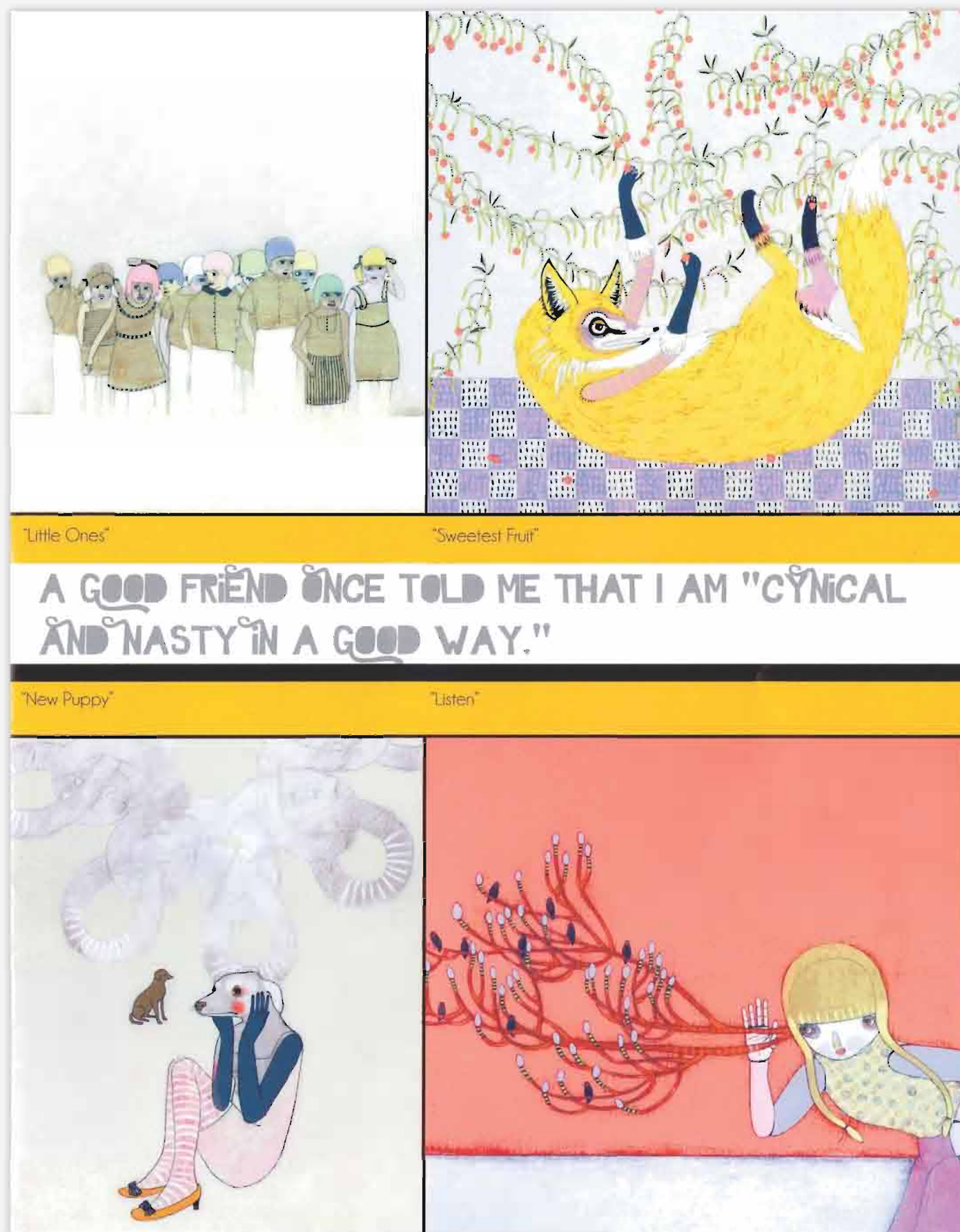
So the University of Minnesota computer-science grad student devised Movie Tuner, a cool feature at the movie-recommendation website MovieLens, a research project of the University of Minnesota. It allows users to go beyond "if you like that, you'll like this."

"Recommender systems have been around since the '90s," said Vig, 38, of Roseville. "That technology has been perfected; it's all based on artificial intelligence or machine learning. This is a way of combining that sort of machine intelligence with user control."

Once users register at the free site (www.movieLens.org), they can look up a film and use Movie Tuner — which Vig designed for his doctoral program with professors Shilad Sen at Macalester College and John Riedl at the U — to customize tags that characterize the film. The picks for similar movies change depending on if you want more or less of a given quality.

The tags are a work in progress. For example, one of the tags for "The Social Network" was "serial killer." But the effect can be minimized with a few clicks.

Vig tested the system to great effect. He started with "Mission: Impossible" and added tags for a movie recommendation that was "more realistic, grittier and more intelligent," he said. "You could also say 'less Tom Cruise.'" He discovered what is now one of his favorite films, "The Bourne Identity" — and no Tom Cruise. □



Paper Darts contributor Jennifer Davis was the talent behind this artwork and quote for the magazine's second issue.

