

THE

UNITER

FREE WEEKLY.
VOLUME 74 // ISSUE 19 // FEB. 27

Circus Play!

**SPECIAL REPORT:
UWSA RESPONDS TO
ONLINE ALLEGATIONS
P14**



**THE PERFORMERS KEEPING CIRCUS ARTS
ALIVE IN WINNIPEG**

**ROYAL MTC'S NEW
SEASON P7**

**ONE YEAR OF LIBRARY
SECURITY P13**

**DISMANTLING
'CORONA-PHOBIA' P17**

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CANDIDATE SPEECHES

February 24 & 26
12:30PM
The Hive

VOTE

MARCH 2
MARCH 3
MARCH 4

9AM - 6PM
RIDDELL HALL
RICHARDSON CENTRE
MERCHANT'S CORNER

WITH A
MOBILE
STATION @

10AM - 3PM
WII CHIIWAAKANAK
(MARCH 2)

9AM - 6PM
BUHLER CENTRE
(MARCH 3)

9:30AM - 11:30AM
BUHLER CENTRE
(MARCH 4)

12PM - 4PM
3RD FLOOR
CENTENNIAL HALL
(MARCH 4)

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STUDENT ID
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Email the Chief
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Bios at theuwsa.ca/elections!

VOTE YES/NO ON THE U-PASS REFERENDUM QUESTION AT POLLING BOOTHS!

The City of Winnipeg has made a fee increase mandatory to continue offering the U-Pass. Are you in favour of a U-Pass fee increase of \$24.50 per term, amounting to a total U-Pass fee of \$160.75 per term (adjusted annually for inflation), to continue providing unlimited access to Winnipeg Transit services for students?





* ON THE COVER

Circus performer Atom Dzaman demonstrates his juggling prowess.

Read more on page 9.

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A NOTE ON THE EDITORIAL PROCESS

Around 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 25, *The Uniter* received a news tip regarding allegations against current and former members of the UWSA executive, which were published anonymously online. With the help of the entire staff of our city and campus section (city editor Lisa Mizan, city reporter Alex Neufeldt and campus reporter Callum Goulet-Kilgour), we managed to put together as comprehensive an article as we could on the shortest possible notice.

It can be frustrating to build a complex story in 24 hours, especially when talking about a subject that probably requires two weeks of work to do it justice. It's always true that there's never enough time, but it feels especially true today. The article appears on page 14 of this newspaper.

It's fair to ask, "Why report on anonymous allegations with no corroborating evidence?" The editorial decision to publish this piece was a complex one. But with the online attacks directed at the UWSA coming just days before the general election, it would have been irresponsible for *The Uniter* to leave these claims unexamined. Investigating the claims, who is making them and giving the UWSA and all other relevant parties a chance to respond is of paramount importance, especially in an age when anonymous claims floating in the social media ether can evolve from disinformation to opinion to assumed fact within a couple of retweets.

These allegations are not facts. Their veracity hasn't been verified. But the students going to the polls deserve to be as informed as possible before casting their vote. Building as complete a picture as possible for students means letting them know that these allegations exist. It also means ensuring that those allegations are scrutinized, rather than existing as idle gossip or unchecked statements.

Whether these allegations stem from genuine concern, misunderstandings or deliberate attempts at campaign smears remains a mystery. What we do know for certain is that this campaign season just got a whole lot uglier.

-Thomas Pashko

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People gather at the Millennium Library one year to the day that stronger security measures, including bag searches and metal detectors, were implemented. Read more on page 13.

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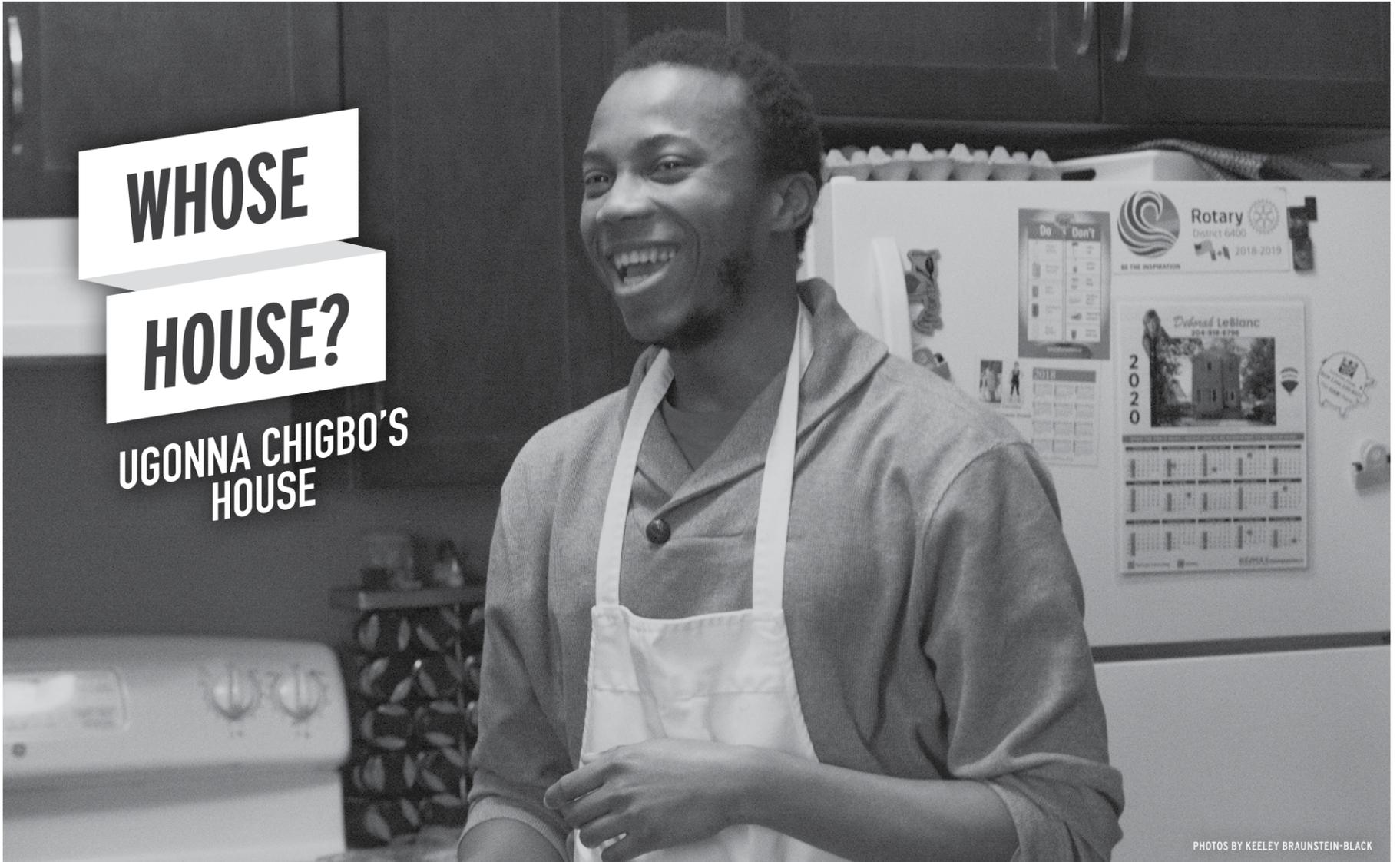
SUBMISSIONS

Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication's basic guidelines. Next volunteer workshop takes place **Wednesday, March 4 at 5 p.m.**, in room ORM14. Please email volunteer@uniter.ca for more details. Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 16 article "Reframing austerity," we stated that, according to a Manitoba Health report, seven Manitobans died due to inadequate air ambulance access, then later incorrectly stated the number of deaths as 30. There were 30 incidents recorded in the report, with seven resulting in deaths of patients. *The Uniter* regrets the error.

In the Feb. 3 article "The many confusing paths to Canada," we referred to Oumer Ahmed as an employee of "the Manitoba Network of Newcomer Serving Organizations." He is actually an employee of the Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations. *The Uniter* regrets the error.



PHOTOS BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

WHOSE HOUSE?

UGONNA CHIGBO'S HOUSE

Ugonna Chigbo in his home

A WARM FAMILY HOME

KEESHA HAREWOOD

FEATURES REPORTER

@KEESHAHAREWOOD

For Ugonna Chigbo, the volunteer co-ordinator at CKUW, the best part of the job is meeting volunteers and bringing their ideas to life.

"Many people, when they come to the radio station, are like 'oh, I want to make a radio show,' and I'm like 'yeah, you're in the right place!'"

Chigbo first started out at CKUW as a volunteer during his first year at the University of Winnipeg.

"It all started in my first year and just trying to find out what groups to be part of," he says. "This was something my dad did. He did college radio back in the day, mostly French, and it was just amazing. I like to kind of follow in his footsteps."

On top of producing various radio shows, Chigbo spends a great deal of time recruiting volunteers. At times, encouraging people to participate can be a challenging aspect of the job.

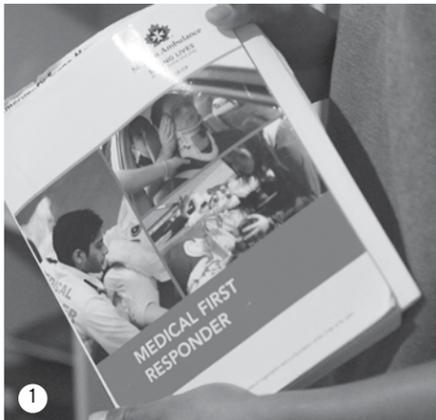
"Some people are thinking 'the radio's dead, the radio's dying, it's a dying medium,' and so we're keeping that alive."

"Not everyone wants to stay in that radio tradition."

This doesn't stop Chigbo from reaching out to both high school and university students all over Winnipeg to keep the radio tradition alive. "I find those ways really helpful to spread the knowledge and let people know the radio exists, and (they) should definitely be a part of it."

For anyone who might be apprehensive about volunteering, Chigbo encourages people to "just try it out (and) come have fun."

He says "people listen to the radio, but people don't always see themselves making the radio. People assume that there's this 'radio voice,' and you need to have this radio mentality. Honestly, there's no such thing as a 'radio voice.' Everyone is unique in their own sense, and so I always emphasize that message especially."



1



2



3



4



5



6

1) A DENSE TEXTBOOK

"I had to do the whole training for this course, and so it was like a whole weekend of practice and then exams as well."

2) NOW THAT'S CREATIVE

"My brother, he made this for our parents. It's duct tape."

3) THE IDEAL STUDY SPACE

"A friend of mine says a clean desk is a sign of a sick mind."

4) IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT FOR THE UNIFORM

"This is one of the cool things I wear with pride."

5) A BEAUTIFUL FAMILY

"As you can see, my eyes are closed. I think I was tired that day."

6) A MOMENTOUS SOUVENIR

"This was from my time in New Orleans, and believe it or not, it was once filled up to here with margarita, and man, it was a fun night. In New Orleans, they know how to party."

7) A COUPLE OF AWARDS

"These awards are from CKUW."



7

'UNIQUE AND IRREPLACEABLE'

Remembering Andris Taskans: rock of the Winnipeg literary community

HANNAH FOULGER

 @FOULGERSCOVFEFE

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Writer Carolyn Gray took the reins as editor of literary journal *Prairie Fire* at the end of 2019, taking over from the legendary Andris Taskans, who died on Sept. 27, 2019. Taskans, whose parents were post-war Latvian immigrants, was a born-and-raised Winnipegger who "became, at some point, Mr. Winnipeg," his wife, Katherine Bitney, says.

A champion of Winnipeg and Manitoba writers, Taskans founded *Writers News Manitoba* with Bitney and some friends in 1978. It was later reborn as *Prairie Fire* in 1983, the Winnipeg-based literary journal which has published the early works of Vern Thiessen, Catherine Hunter, Margaret Sweatman and Joshua Whitehead.

He also was a driving force behind the creation of the Manitoba Writers' Guild and the Manitoba Magazine Publishers' Association.

He wrote poetry and published a chapbook with Turnstone Press called *Jukebox Junkie*, but Taskans loved and prioritized editing. He started editing in high school with a small paper and during his days at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), he edited *Mandala*, the precursor to *Juice Journal*, in which his poetry was also published.

Margaret Sweatman, a U of W professor and author, says, "when he edited your work, it was with the intention of making it the best it could be, and this impersonal, scrupulous attention to detail brought us all to seek a professional attitude to our writing."

"He was also invested in making sure that writers got paid," Bitney says. Where the Manitoba Arts Council was concerned, *Prairie Fire* was "a labour of love" according to Bitney, but Taskans fought for funding to pay the writers a professional wage for their work.

But Taskans was more than a great editor. He was a force of nature who made change and knew where change was coming from.

"Editorially, he was really good at creating special issues and seeing what was coming and who needed to be supported and needed to be celebrated. It was his baby to support cultural groups," Bitney says. "There was a Jewish writing issue, two francophone issues, three Indigenous issues, and he was very supportive, particularly of Indigenous writers."

"Andris was unique and irreplaceable. He was crucial to the creation of a writing community and brought to the arduous and very often thankless work a lucid objectivity and his quiet generosity of spirit," Sweatman says. "He would attend readings by unknown writers (like Sweatman, in 1980) and suggest that we submit to *Prairie Fire*."

"What sticks in my mind is the humble way Andris treated brand-new and



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Prairie Fire founder Andris Taskans, who died on Sept. 27, was a major figure in Winnipeg's literary world.

experienced authors alike with respect and genuine interest in our work," poet Angeline Schellenberg says.

Taskans was tireless in his commitment to the craft of editing and the support of writers.

"His last issue that he sequenced, he sequenced in the hospital. And he looked at me, and he said 'I love doing this!' He was editing to the end," Bitney says.

CANADA IS GOOD ENOUGH

Young artists highlight just how supportive the flourishing Canadian music industry is

NAAMAN STURRUP

 @NAAMANSTURRUP

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Although Canada may have a smaller music industry than the United Kingdom or the United States, there are a variety of opportunities to grow here, and there are young artists taking advantage of them.

Matthew V, a young pop artist based in Vancouver, B.C., has an upcoming Canadian tour opening for the synth-pop singer Ralph. The tour starts in Victoria, B.C. on March 10 and, after travelling British Columbia and Alberta, stops in Winnipeg at the Good Will Social Club on March 16.

Matthew V has trained in classical music since childhood, and though he went to London, England to pursue a four-year musical program, his priorities quickly changed after coming back home.

"When I came home in the summer after my first year abroad, I ended up signing a record deal with 604 Records in Vancouver," he says.

"At that moment, I decided to stay here and pursue a musical career on home turf. Vancouver feels like home,

and I would love for this city to always be my home base."

Lindsay Thomson is a Winnipeg-based artist and the leader of the indie band LLUX. After the group's performance at the Good Will earlier this year, the band released the singles 'The Drive' and 'Molly.'

Thomson recently moved to Winnipeg and after taking a songwriting program in Ottawa, the artist is ready to spread her wings in Manitoba.

"Winnipeg is a perfect city to come in and learn some new music," she says.

"I feel so grateful to be in Winnipeg. Everyone is so supportive."

Matthew V says that the last two years have been eye-opening for him, as he discovered just how vast the music industry is in Canada. He reveals one of the main influences behind career growth and success:

"We live in the age of the internet, and people can really get the ball rolling from wherever they are," he says.

"Once you have a good product people can connect with, anyone can get started from wherever they choose to. There is no roadblock that can inhibit an artist's career in Canada, especially in 2020."



CARLY BOOMER (SUPPLIED)

Local musician Lindsay Thomson, singer and guitarist of LLUX

Though these artists are based in different provinces, create music in different genres and appeal to different audiences, one commonality that shines in both is humility.

Matthew V says, "as I have had more experience in this industry, I have found that I am now less focused on the amount of success that I have and more focused on making things that I am proud of."

"If a big record company offered me guaranteed stardom to make music I

did not like, I do not think I would take that opportunity. I am very lucky to have a team that lets me make things that I want to make."

Thomson concurs and says, "I would love for this to become a career, but you do not have to reach a crazy level of stardom to have a career."

"Having a nice, humble fanbase would be great."

CKUW TOP 30

January 27–February 2, 2020



TW = This Week // LW = Last Week // ! = Local content // * = Canadian Content

TW	LW	C	Artist	Album	Label
1	4	!	Cantor Dust	Too Many Stars	Self-Released
2	1	!	Mariachi Ghost	Puro Dolor	Sugar Gator
3	26	!	William Prince	Reliever	Six Shooter
4	NE	*	Andy Shauf	The Neon Skyline	Arts & Crafts
5	NE	*	The Quivers	Nice To Meet You	Transistor 66
6	NE		Rez Abbasi And Isabelle Olivier	Oasis	Enja/Yellowbird
7	15	*	Wolf Parade	Thin Mind	Royal Mountain
8	5		Los Straitjackets	Channel Surfing	Yep Rock
9	18		Various Artists	Desert Sessions Vols. 11 & 12	Matador
10	13		Various Artists	Back From The Canigo: Garage Punks Vs Freakbeat Mods Perpignan 1989-1999	Staubgold
11	12	*	Booster Fawn	Psychic Laundry From Smoke And Mirror World	Self-Released
12	RE	*	The Flamingos Pink	Kustom Kreme	Label Étiquette
13	2	!	Begonia	Fear	Rex Baby
14	8	*	Fly Pan Am	C'est Ca	Constellation
15	NE	*	Destroyer	Have We Met	Merge
16	21		Various Artists	Symphonic Plunderphonic	Silber
17	NE	*	Alex Cuba	Sublime	Caracol
18	30	!	Greg Rekus & The Inside Job	Death & Taxes	Self-Released
19	NE		Bleach Day	As If Always	Birdwatcher
20	29		Mr. Elevator	Goodbye, Blue Sky	Castle Face
21	RE	*	Geoff Berner	Grand Hotel Cosmopolis	Coax
22	NE	!	Hut Hut	Hut Hut Hut	Self-Released
23	27	!	Smoky Tiger	The Premium Oulaity: Royal Rumpus	Transistor 66
24	NE	*	L'electrique Brelant	Le Ciel D'hiver	Arachnidiscs
25	NE		CEL (Felix Kubin & Hubert Zemler)	CEL	Bureau B
26	NE	!	Hearing Trees	Bones	Self-Released
27	RE		Paint Fumes	What A World	Get Hip
28	RE		Little Fyodor	Pithy Romantic Ballads	Self-Released
29	NE		Jon Hassell/Farafina	Flash Of The Spirit	Tak:Til/Glitterbeat
30	NE		Oiseaux-Tempete	From Somewhere Invisible	Subrosa

ARTS BRIEFS

BETH SCHELLENBERG // ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR



Pop Up Drag Show

Don your finest threads and head down to Club 200 (190 Garry St.) on Friday, Feb. 28 for a pop-up drag show! The lineup will feature local sweethearts and secret, oh-so-special guests and is sure to be a fabulous time. The show starts at 11:30, and cover is \$5.

Sea Moya (Germany)

Catch kraut-beat-indie rockers Sea Moya at the Handsome Daughter (61 Sherbrook St.) on Tuesday, March 3. Special guests, including local electronic/house act French Class, are opening, and the show is an early one, with doors at 7 p.m. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. sharp, and cover is \$10.

Micah Erenberg/Slow Leaves

Local songwriting darlings Micah Erenberg and Slow Leaves will play tunes at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club (234 Main St.) on Saturday, Feb. 29. Erenberg will play with a full band, and Slow Leaves as a duo comprised of Grant Davidson and Rej Ricard. The show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Eventbrite.

Urban Ecology Walk: Energy and the Cosmic Whole

Barbara and Clarence Nepinak, Allen Sutherland, Dave Pancoe, John Wyndels and Cary Hamel will lead an evening walk-and-talk on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. The walk will focus on the connection between urban and ecological systems and will end around a fire at The Forks. For more information and to reserve a free spot, visit Eventbrite.

Keynote: Dr. Otto on "Gender, Sexuality, & the Bauhaus"

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) and the School of Art are co-presenting a keynote lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Otto on Friday, Feb. 28. Otto is an art historian and the author of numerous books, and her work focuses on gender, sexuality, queer identities, occult spirituality and architecture. Otto's lecture will take place at MAWA (611 Main St.) at 7 p.m.

Decolonizing Lens: Art and Activism

The Decolonizing Lens is hosting a screening of *Invasion* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (300 Memorial Blvd.) on Thursday, Feb. 27, followed by a discussion about the Wet'suwet'en Nation's efforts to protect traditional territory and the role art can play in political activism. The event is free, but 100 per cent of all donations will go toward the Wet'suwet'en Nation at the Gidimt'en Access Point. Doors open at 6 p.m., the film screens at 7, and the panel discussion starts at 7:30.



All the best in the
2019/2020 academic year!

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A promotional image for *Children of God*, the musical written by Corey Payette. Payette will direct Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's production of the play in 2021.

THEATRICAL SHIFT

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's new season reveals new priorities

HANNAH FOULGER

 @FOULGERSCOVFEFE

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (RMTC) launched its season programmed by new artistic director Kelly Thornton. There is a clear shift in direction from previous seasons, highlighting stories from and about women and BIPOC.

"When I was still going through the hiring process (to become) the artistic director at RMTC, I articulated three priorities," Thornton says. "One is 'cultivating our voices' ... I really believe in putting Canadian playwrights on our stage and as many local playwrights as possible." Seven of the shows this season are by Canadian playwrights, including

Calpurnia by artistic associate director Audrey Dwyer.

The second was "captivating our audience (by) creating a balanced playbill that has beloved classics," Thornton says, like *The Sound of Music*, which has salient and contemporary themes. "The von Trapp family were displaced. They were wartime refugees ... this is a story which sadly continues to resonate."

Another classic, *The Three Musketeers*, adapted by Catherine Bush, will conquer the mainstage. "My mandate with that one is to bring some of the most exciting swordplay onto our stages," Thornton says.

This season will also have a large opportunity for young women actors. Sarah Delappe's *The Wolves*, the Pulitzer Prize-nominated play about a girls' soccer team, will be produced at the Tom Hendry Warehouse.

"It is such a gift to have a play like *The Wolves*, because it is the ensemble of nine soccer players and one soccer mom," Thornton says. "I love the opportunity. We are going to (cast) nine young women, local Winnipeg actors, next-generation actors, and really show their stuff."

"The last goal is 'connecting with our community,'" Thornton says. This is most apparent with *The Bridge*, a new festival which will replace the Master Playwright Festival, which ran from 2000 to 2020. The festival featured one RMTC production and a non-juried selection of plays produced by independent theatre companies in the community. Each year focused on a particular "Master Playwright," including John Patrick Shanley, Caryl Churchill, Stephen Sondheim and ending with 2020's ShakespeareFest.

"The Bridge is a new initiative, (an) annual festival that unpacks some of the issues that are on our stage. In 2021, (the theme is) Art and Reconciliation," Thornton says. *Children of God*, a musical about an Oji-Cree family in a residential school, will play the mainstage, and two shows will play on alternate

nights at the Warehouse. The festival will also feature a series of panels and cabarets but won't feature the independent theatres that the Master Playwright Festival did.

"I'm seeing the gap now for independent theatre," Sami Desiree, the artistic director of Beau Theatre Co., says. "The Master Playwright Festival has always been a great opportunity for independent theatre or community productions to mount something and still get some of that audience base that goes and makes these houses full. (Often) it is really hard to reach those audience bases."

Thornton says *The Bridge* is not meant to be "a cookie-cutter replacement" for the Master Playwright Festival. She plans on doing some kind of town hall to engage with smaller theatre companies to find out what their needs are.

"I do have ideas in terms of what I see as the needs of the community. (RMTC has) a responsibility for people's livelihoods, which is why I'm trying to get as much local Winnipeg talent onstage (as possible), including local designers. I'm interested in helping build capacity for independent companies," she says.

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CIRCUS PLAY!

The performers keeping circus arts alive in Winnipeg



Charles Lauder, who performs as Sleepy the Clown, hard at work with a giant balloon

Charles Lauder **(Sleepy the Clown)**

Winnipeg Circus Club - president

Charles Lauder (Sleepy) is the current president of the Winnipeg Circus Club (WCC). This is the third time Lauder has been elected to the position.

One of the reasons Sleepy loves being a clown is “because you can dabble your giant tippy-toe in pretty much anything,” including juggling, balloons, comedy, stage shows and birthday parties.

Clowning is a “whole thing in itself. It encompasses a

whole gamut of disciplines depending on what you want to focus on.” Sleepy enjoyed acting as a child and as a teenager met “a clown minister.”

“He would travel across Canada doing clowning workshops and presentations and summer camps. Meeting him and learning from him in his workshops over the course of four to five months hooked me on the whole clowning thing,” Sleepy says.

“There is an essential truth to being a clown in front of people. That kind of negates it being a mask. There is truth of character between you and the audience that you need to let go of yourself and become one with what you are doing.

“People, as adults, we wear what we present to the world. It's not necessarily our own proper true selves. There is the version of ourselves that we show to the people at work, there is the version we show to our parents, there is the version we show to our friends, and, as a clown, what I like to say about clowning is it is an exaggeration of the human spirit.

“As a clown, it is all about the emotional connection with the audience, whether that audience is one person or 500. As a clown, you do the simple things that everybody does, just more exaggerated or more ridiculous.”

Sleepy says “being a clown is awesome!”

Ezra Lazar - treasurer of the Circus Club - juggler

Ezra Lazar is a juggler and member of the International Jugglers' Association (IJA) and is currently the treasurer of the Winnipeg Circus Club.

Lazar started juggling while in high school. The biology teacher, who was also a juggler, took it upon himself to teach everyone. While Lazar started performing with a prop called a Diabolo, he switched to juggling because his friends were doing it.

He recently started learning stilt-walking and bounce-juggling, where the balls are

bounced off the ground. Lazar's favourite thing to juggle is bouncy balls, because they "let you do more tricks."

He is a member of IJA Continue, a program where kids can learn to juggle and get a button when they learn a new trick. "We want to encourage kids to learn," he says.

Lazar will perform on March 8 as part of the annual showcase while juggling apples. "(I'll) hopefully not get too much apple juice everywhere!" Lazar says.

Karrie Blackburn - professional hula hooper

Karrie Blackburn is a professional hula hooper who has been performing for 10 years. She started out for fitness, and then it became about travel and learning around the globe. She then came home to "share my passion for the hula hoop with others."

Blackburn started hooping when she met a woman on a camping trip who had "four hoops, rocked out and did all of these amazing things." She vowed to learn to hula hoop and "lost 75 pounds in two years and traveled to 18 different countries with my hoops after that, because what's next when you are given a whole new lease on life?"

"It really does bridge the gap of play between all generations. When we think of hula hooping, we think of it spun around our waist. But that is very

narrow-minded and singular. There are so many things you can do with a hoop. By design, it's infinite.

"Even just having a young child, they can spin the hoop like a top, with older kids they can spin it on the arms. It gets rid of that playground shaming and invites everyone to play. The only wrong way to do it is if you are not smiling. It's a hula hoop. You can't do it wrong if you're smiling," Blackburn says.

Blackburn has been an instructor for six years. "If people give me a minute of their time, I can have them hula hooping around the waist."

Blackburn performs with some fire hoops, ambient animation with LED hoops, single, multi and double hoops. "There is so much variation within it," she says.

Gabriel Wendt - amateur - rope dart - first performance coming up!

Gabriel Wendt is a member of the Winnipeg Circus Club and practices rope dart, an adaption taken from martial arts.

Wendt joined the club because of an interest in juggling and says "I came with the understanding that I would learn juggling. I had no idea about the rope dart until I got here."

Wendt was looking for something that provided more exercise. "With juggling, I found it was a lot of upper-body work (not like lifting weights or anything), but with rope dart, you have to move your whole body.

"I think the circus arts are very valuable for children and for adults. It's good exercise. It's fun. It's something entirely new and different that you wouldn't be able to get from the internet."

While "just a learner," Wendt has volunteered to be in the annual showcase on March 8.

Atom Dzaman - professional juggler - has juggled a kitten



As a professional juggler, Atom Dzaman's favourite thing to juggle is balls, even though one time he juggled a kitten. Yes, it is still alive!

He works mostly with his mother's company, where "she makes juggling balls by hand."

Dzaman started juggling at the age of eight and was raised in a family circus of sorts. "I saw my dad

juggling and fell in love with it," he says.

Dzaman has travelled with juggling and more. Today, he is doing mostly online videos and is a "farming artist," Dzaman does juggling and art, and in the summer farms organic produce in Ethelbert, Man.

April - amateur - stilts, slackline, juggling, hoops, etc. - Here for fun!



April is just getting comfortable on stilts after attending a workshop about a year ago where participants made stilts. "I didn't practice very much until a few months ago."

April does slackline, juggling, poi and hoops. "I don't do any of them expertly. I am here for fun," April says.

"The first showcase I went to

was about five years ago. The kids on stage were so articulate, and everybody had something to offer, and everybody was having a good time and in a good mood. So I decided to check out the club.

"Part of it is where they have it. They let the neighbourhood kids in and let them use props," April says. "It's a whole lot of fun."

Tiauni Starr - performer and teacher



Tiauni Starr has a background in dance (jazz, ballet, tap) and "it just felt like a natural progression. I went to my first festival, which was Summer of Sound, and a couple of mutual friends had a hoop, and I was like 'WOW! That's so cool!' And I thought to myself, 'I could probably do that,' so six months later, I bought myself my first hoop."

Starr is a self-taught hooper who learned a lot of her skills by watching YouTube videos (by creators like Deanne Love) and on websites like hoop-trix.com.

Starr teaches three different technique levels and a flow class and says "coming from a dance background, I find that many different hoop and flow artists lack the fluidity of dance. They know all of the tricks really well. They just lack the dance.

"Everyone has a different flow, but with my classes, I really want to incorporate technique and flow."

The flow classes consist of 30 to 60 second dance routines that participants build. According to Starr, "one of the most common questions that I get is 'why can't I flow? I know all of these tricks, but I can't put them together.' The flow classes help you combine them."

Performing regularly, Starr does single, double and circus-style hooping (with four to six hoops). Eventually, Starr would like to incorporate aerial hooping into her performance.

Starr performs at weddings, corporate events, raves, birthday parties, fundraisers and festivals. "I love sharing what I can do with other people, and hopefully I can inspire others."

According to Starr, the community is welcoming, friendly, helpful and supportive, even worldwide. "You can go anywhere in the world, and there are tons of hoopers," she says.

Mateo Lopez - fire performer



Mateo Lopez uses a wide variety of props for fire spinning. “I myself have many, such as poi, whip, staff, sword and my favourite, rope dart.”

Lopez further demystifies fire performance by saying “we set fire to wicks made of a fiberglass/Kevlar blend material that is soaked in a flammable fuel, such as naphtha, kerosene or lamp. Depending on the performer or performance, fuels may be mixed to add duration to the burn time of the prop.”

Lopez started six years ago in Tofino, B.C. “I was telling a friend I made (who spun fire), how I wanted to learn, as I was inspired by seeing my friends spin fire in the park here in Winnipeg. She then told me she was going to pop my fire cherry, and the next night, I spun a fire staff for the first time. From there, I soon made my own staff and rope dart to practice with.”

While he loves fire spinning, “the sound the fire makes as it moves through space, there’s something almost therapeutic about it; the feeling of being connected and comfortable with something that instinctively we as humans fear”, Lopez cautions that fire spinning

requires knowledge of safety. “The danger in fire spinning is very real, and there is a high risk of injury when fire spinning. People should only learn if they are very serious about performing and should look to learn from someone experienced and knowledgeable in understanding the bylaws and the safety requirements involving any fire arts practice.”

“In the summertime I hold weekly meet-ups in the park to teach those seriously interested about the city bylaws regarding fire safety and performance, as well about the use of different fuels and the hazards regarding fire spinning and the gear required to spin fire safely. I can be reached either through the Winnipeg Circus Club Facebook page or the Winnipeg Fire & Flow Arts Facebook page or on Instagram @freespiritfire.”

He also comments on the community in Winnipeg. “I feel blessed to be a part of the fire community here in Winnipeg and to be able to collaborate with the many talented people in this city. It’s like a dream come true, and I continue to look forward to my career as a fire performer!”

Upcoming Events:

Eccentric Performing Workshop with Iman Lizarazu
Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
195 Collegiate St.

WCC Festival Weekend Circus Jam
Saturday, March 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Winnipeg Circus Club
185 Young St.

Winnipeg Circus Club 8th Annual Showcase
Sunday, March 8 from 2 to 5 p.m.
Jubilee Place, 180 Riverton Ave.

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WINNIPEG FOR ALL

Budget for All and Millennium for All one year after library security measures

ALEX NEUFELDT

CITY REPORTER

[@ALEXEJNEUFELDT](#)

Feb. 25 marked the one-year anniversary of the introduction of private security guards using metal detectors and performing bag checks at the Millennium Library.

Millennium for All, a group dedicated to “organizing against the forced bag searches and metal detector scans at the Millennium Library” and Budget for All, a “coalition of communities, organizations and folks against the proposed cuts to the 2020 Winnipeg budget,” are marking the occasion with a week of events to raise awareness of the militarization of downtown and the funding cuts many Winnipeg libraries face.

In two weeks, Budget for All will host transit-related events, and there will be a day of action on March 14.

Chantale Garand, who manages social media for Budget for All and helps plan events, says organizing around the municipal budget has brought many groups within the city together.

“Trying to organize around the budget might seem difficult to some folks, but it’s very grassroots-oriented and focused on individuals and how they relate to community,” they say. “With the City planning to cut all community services, it really does impact the core of

Winnipeg both at a ward level and at a community level.”

Sarah Broad, who lives downtown and has been a member of Millennium for All since its inception, says the group began as an email chain organized through Facebook after the Millennium Library introduced stringent security measures.

“The first thing that we seized on was the library management had not consulted with the community at all before implementing the security. They had consulted with the police, a private security company and the library workers’ union,” she says.

The group held a community consultation, which also engaged the library workers, and began attending city council meetings to discuss how “weird it had been to have no consultation with community members before doing something so drastic and so unprecedented, nationally. This is not done across Canada,” Broad says.

Over the summer, while the City prepared a report on the security measures, Millennium for All created their own report to be released the same day and broadened their base. The City’s Community Services branch voted to fund a decrease in library security and work on alternative solutions to the concerns of library staff.

“Then the budget talks started, and they were so drastic and frightening,”



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

People gather at the Millennium Library one year to the day that stronger security measures, including bag searches and metal detectors, were implemented.

Broad says. The cuts included the fund for an alternate response among many deep cuts to community services. “I think that really helped mobilize people who could see that this was going to really gouge everybody.”

Gerand says the first meeting of Budget for All drew 70 participants from dozens of organizations across the city. While this might seem like a lot of different interests, Gerand says they think “there comes a general understanding and respect for one another, and that we’re all there for the same reason.”

Cuts to community services are proposed for every ward except Waverly West. A full list of cuts is available at budgetforall.org.

“We’re taking away from our core, from our marginalized and vulnerable folks, and putting that into the most affluent neighbourhood in the city (Waverly West), which isn’t to say that that community doesn’t need resources, but is to say that we have a problem if we aren’t able to provide those services to the rest of the city,” Gerand says.

FAST PITCH HITS HOME RUN

Winnipeg Foundation provides charities with funding and training

ALEX NEUFELDT

CITY REPORTER

[@ALEXEJNEUFELDT](#)

The Winnipeg Foundation’s fifth annual Fast Pitch competition concluded this week, with winners announced the evening of Feb. 25. The event features “12 charitable organization finalists delivering powerful, high-energy cases for support – in three minutes or less – with \$26,000 in prizes at stake.”

Jennifer Partridge, the strategic projects associate with The Winnipeg Foundation, describes Fast Pitch as “a warm and fuzzy *Dragon’s Den* for the charitable sector.”

“We pair 12 executive leaders from charities in Winnipeg up with coaches from the business community, and together they work on a three-minute pitch to tell us what they do, why they do it and what \$10,000 would do and why it matters.”

The training takes place over six weeks, culminating in a showcase where winners can receive grants of up to \$10,000. But even if they don’t score the grand prize, taking part in six weeks of pitch training and networking is rewarding for participants.

Mandela Kuet is the acting executive director for African Communities of Manitoba Inc., a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, bringing together indi-

viduals and community organizations of African heritage. Susan Berthiaume is the director of child and youth care programming at Ndinawe, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth in Winnipeg. Both say the training has been incredibly valuable.

“I’ve been able to articulate our work in a concise way and clearly state what the needs are,” Kuet says. “It’s a long-term investment in terms of not only the awareness you bring to the organization, but also yourself as a leader and the skills you gain.”

“You could use that in other platforms, but also the individuals that you speak to may not come in contact with you without this platform. Having the opportunity to make those relations can help you to really connect with them down the road or strengthen relationships between organizations,” he says.

Berthiaume says that compared to the prizes, “the bigger draw was to be able to participate with and speak to an entirely different group of people than I’m normally able to speak to. We preach to our choirs often, and this is really unique, to speak to people who don’t have that context.”

“I’m not sure you could take a course that would teach you what I’ve learned in the past few weeks. To be able to distill our 13 years into a three-minute



SUPPLIED PHOTO

For charitable organizations that need to pitch themselves to potential donors, The Winnipeg Foundation’s Fast Pitch event provides valuable training.

tale has been challenging but in the best way,” she says.

This process includes networking with the business sector and between charities.

“Already, Mandela is coming to speak to our classroom,” Berthiaume says. “I’m not one to naturally want to (network), and the majority of us are pretty shy or introverted and focused on our work, so this is valuable in a lot of different ways.”

Partridge says many smaller charities

in Winnipeg lack the kind of marketing platform that Fast Pitch provides. “They also don’t always have the opportunity to meet people from other backgrounds like lawyers or marketing and communication professionals or accountants.”

She says the initiative was inspired by a Fast Pitch event she attended in Calgary several years ago. “What I saw was incredible, because all the charities came together and were really supporting one another, and I learned so much about the community.”



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Left to right: Mahlet Cuff (vice-president external affairs), Meagan Malcolm (president), Natasha Reimer Okemow (former vice-president internal affairs), Noelle Sagher (vice president student affairs)

ELECTION MUDSLINGING

Online attacks prompt response from UWSA

THOMAS PASHKO

MANAGING EDITOR



The University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) is denying anonymous allegations that its current executive covered up embezzlement by a former colleague who was removed from office. With the allegations coming just days before University of Winnipeg (U of W) students go to the polls for the 2020 campus election, it's indicative of a messy campaign season.

On Sept. 30, 2019, the UWSA announced that Natasha Reimer Okemow, the vice-president of internal affairs, had been removed from her position in a motion ratified on Sept. 24 by the UWSA board of directors.

"The removal was due to Conflict of Interest, that is through violation of UWSA Bylaw 7.6," the announcement read, adding, "As an elected Executive Director of the UWSA, the Vice President Internal Affairs role is a full time, salaried term position. For confidentiality and privacy reasons, the details of the conflict of interest are available only to the Board of Directors."

Okemow ran on a slate alongside current UWSA president Meagan Malcolm, vice-president external affairs Mahlet Cuff and vice-president student affairs Noelle Sagher. Cuff and Sagher are currently running for president and vice-president student affairs, respectively.

In recent days, anonymous allegations have appeared online alleging that the dismissal came as a result of embezzlement. A Twitter account created on Feb. 24 under the handle @KermanAnthony, which claims to belong to a University of Winnipeg education student, tweeted that the "UWSA caught their VP/IA embezzling student funds and donating them to a provincial political party. Instead of making this public, they fired the individual and forced everyone to sign an NDA (non-disclosure agreement). Not only did they misuse student money, they tried to cover their tracks completely."

A subsequent tweet read, "Two of the UWSA executives responsible for this are now running again. If they want our votes shouldn't they be transparent and tell us what really happened instead of wasting student money and then hiding it from everyone?" The account was removed from Twitter the afternoon of Feb. 26.

An Instagram account with the handle @stopuwsacorruption was created on Feb. 25 and repeated the claims made on Twitter. The account was deleted on Feb. 26.

In an emailed statement to *The Uniter*, the UWSA categorically denied the allegations.

"We can confirm that the accusations are completely false," wrote UWSA chief operating officer Karolya Vargscarr. "No funds were embezzled or donated to a political campaign. As publicly disclosed in social media and on our website in October 2019, the VP/IA was dismissed due to a conflict of interest, and personnel matters are subject to confidentiality obligations on both sides and cannot be disclosed publicly."

"The UWSA is taking legal action against those making these defamatory and false statements."

In a phone conversation with *The Uniter*, the person behind the Twitter and Instagram accounts, who admitted to using "Anthony Kerman" as an alias, expanded on his allegations, claiming that his source for the information is someone currently under a non-disclosure agreement.

"Kerman" claims that student funds were misused by Okemow independently to make a donation to the provincial New Democratic Party (NDP).

"She made (a political donation) without the consent of the rest of the union, and the only reason that the union found out was because it was a substantial enough donation that (provincial NDP leader) Wab Kinew sent a handwritten letter thanking the union, and he sent it to the union mailbox, because the NDP thought it was all above board, that it was a regular thing. So when the general

manager got the mail, she basically said, 'What the hell is going on?' And that's how things started to get out."

He claims that, at this point, rather than announce the mistake, the UWSA had people with knowledge of the incident sign non-disclosure agreements.

He says he has not received a response from the UWSA.

"Kerman" also claims that he confronted vice-president of student affairs Noelle Sagher about the allegations, and that Sagher expressed doubt that the student body would care if he were to take the information public.

"Kerman" says he is upset that "rather than coming clean and saying, 'A mistake was made. This is what happened,' they try to cover it up. They try and continue to maintain their oligarchy."

"Frankly, it disgusts me, as someone whose money is going towards this. I don't know how much of my money actually went into it because of the lack of transparency."

In an emailed statement to *The Uniter*, the UWSA stated that "No student/UWSA money was donated to (the) NDP. We have no affiliations to any political party. We didn't receive any handwritten note from Wab Kinew or donate any money to the NDP. The VP/IA's dismissal was not related to Wab Kinew and/or the NDP. None of the directors signed an NDA. They legally can't discuss anything said in Closed Sessions of the board meetings because of confidentiality agreements and Acknowledgment of Responsibility agreements that were signed when they started as Board of Directors. No meeting (with Noelle Sagher) took place ... No exchange (like the one described by "Kerman" with Sagher) took place."

At press time, *The Uniter* was unable to verify the identity of the person behind the Twitter account or whether it actually belongs to a U of W student. Their claims have not been verified, and our research yielded no evidence that a political donation was ever made to any political party by either Okemow or the UWSA.

There is evidence suggesting that Okemow may have volunteered for MLA Uzoma Asagwara's campaign for the NDP nomination for the riding of Union Station. While that volunteer work may have violated the UWSA's conflict of interest clause, it would not have cost stu-

dents any money.

When reached for comment, the Manitoba NDP said, "The Manitoba NDP cannot comment on unverified allegations. Political donations are publicly reported and accessible. We're proud that many Manitobans volunteer and work on our candidates' political campaigns."

The @stopuwsacorruption account only had 17 followers, one of whom was Kirt Hayer, a candidate for UWSA president who is running on a slate opposing Cuff and Sagher. Another account that (until recently) followed @stopuwsacorruption belongs to a campus group called the Cultural Celebration Club (CX3). Hayer is the founder and leader of CX3.

In a phone conversation with *The Uniter*, Hayer said that he does not know who is behind the online accounts.

"I feel like (the current UWSA executive) kind of lacked in a few ways, but I wouldn't go so far as to say that they were actually corrupt," Hayer says. "(The anonymous Instagram) followed me. Lots of people have been following me (during the election), so I've just been following everyone back. I didn't think it would be an issue, but I'll probably unfollow it now that that's the case. I didn't really think much about it. I just hit the 'follow' button."

In addition to the allegations, "Kerman" also retweeted statements from another user that were critical of the UWSA executive's support for local protests in solidarity with Wet'suwer'en land defenders. When asked if he was motivated to make allegations against the UWSA because of political disagreements, "Kerman" did not respond.

The Uniter stresses that we were unable to find any evidence substantiating any of the claims made by "Kerman." Okemow did not respond to *The Uniter's* request for comment by press time.

Voting for the UWSA general election runs from March 2 to 4. Polling stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Riddell Hall, the Richardson Centre and Merchant's Corner. Mobile voting stations will also be open on March 2 at Wii Chiiwaakanak from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on March 4 in the Buhler Centre from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and in Centennial Hall from 12 to 4 p.m.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

ANDREW FORBES

INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND FILM, U OF W

KEESHA HAREWOOD

FEATURES REPORTER @KEESHAHAREWOOD

Although Andrew Forbes has taught at the University of Winnipeg since 2006, it was only recently that he started teaching full-time for the Department of Theatre and Film.

Forbes says “it’s a change” and “the switch to full-time was a surprise.”

Despite his experience working for 12- to 16-hour stretches doing production, Forbes says teaching full-time presents its own unique challenges. He compares it to being in the prep stage of filmmaking without ever progressing to the actual shoot.

However, despite adjusting to a different pace, Forbes has found that being in the classroom changed his

perspective on filmmaking.

“I was able to look at a lot of things initially through the lens of the cinematographer,” he says. “But I found that since I started teaching, I have become ... a smarter storyteller.”

In particular, Forbes has grown to appreciate “being part of the storytelling team as opposed to highlighting the photography of one specific part of the process.”

In terms of creating a story, Forbes always reminds his students that “the best camera you have is the one you can shoot with, so make a movie with your phone.”

“It’s doable now,” he says. “The technology is there in service of story. It’s always about that. I’m just saying what every other artist is saying.”

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

“Time management would be a good superpower.”

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST GRADE IN UNIVERSITY?

“A solid C+ average.”

IF YOU COULD ONLY WATCH THREE MOVIES FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

After careful deliberation and significant anguish, Forbes concluded that his three movies would be: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *The Tree of Life* and *Last Night*.

‘RECONCILIATION & ITS DISCONTENTS’

U of W hosts timely panel discussion

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR

CAMPUS REPORTER @CGOULETKILGOUR

On Friday, Feb. 28, the University of Winnipeg (U of W) will host “Reconciliation & its Discontents,” a panel discussion on the state of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. This event, held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 3C01, is part of the Department of Political Science Speaker Series.

The panel will feature Dr. Jacqueline Romanow, Dr. Allen Mills and Dr. Adam Muller.

Muller, professor and director of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba, says in an email to *The Uniter* that “events like this one provide an opportunity for interested persons to gather together in a supportive environment, share their perspectives and work with others to become clearer about what reconciliation means and how to achieve it.”

“It’s so important that we get a better understanding of what we all need to do – and it is clearly much more than we are currently doing – in order to properly align the needs, interests, hopes and desires of Indigenous and non-Indige-

nous Canadians,” he says.

This discussion surrounding reconciliation is timely, especially amid the ongoing work of the Wet’suwet’en Nation land defenders in northern British Columbia and national solidarity protests.

“I do believe that our understanding of reconciliatory practice has been troubled recently in ways that have a lot to do with decades of unresolved abuse, mistrust and indifference suffered by Canada’s Indigenous peoples, particularly in relation to questions of land and natural resource ownership, use and stewardship,” Muller says.

“I’d like to suggest that, as a nation, we are really only now starting to understand how and why reconciling will remain so challenging,” he says.

One of the other panellists, Dr. Allen Mills, is a retired professor of political science and senior scholar at the U of W. He believes that, over the past few decades, there has been progress in terms of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

“There has been in the last 30 or 40 years a political awakening among Indigenous leaders and a greater awareness of the history of Indigenous issues in Canada,” he says, noting, however, that this progress is “not fast enough.”

“Like all change, the question is how



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dr. Adam Muller, professor and director of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba, will be one of three panellists taking part in the “Reconciliation & its Discontents” panel.

much has happened and how deep has it penetrated the wider society,” Mills says.

He believes that free and public events like this panel discussion are beneficial.

“Any decent society is better off if we have an honest and candid discussion about these important issues as much as possible,” Mills says, adding that even though events like these may appear small and insignificant, they are “part of the

larger process and discussion.”

The third panellist, Dr. Jacqueline Romanow, is chair of the Department of Indigenous Studies at the U of W and has experience working “directly with First Nations governments for almost 10 years, providing economic development and management advisory services as well as comprehensive program and project evaluations,” according to the university website.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

FEEDING DIASPORA

Fashioning second skins: food as storyteller

CHRISTINA HAJJAR

COLUMNIST  @GARBAGEBAGPRINCESS

Food is a powerful storyteller, so rich and multi-sensory that the mere image of it brings potent memories and associations. Many diasporic artists work with food iconography and names, because it is an accessible way to communicate cultural identity, lineage, home and double-meanings.

I was initially drawn to Rind, a Winnipeg collective founded in the fall of 2018, for its fruit-related name and strong branding. Rind (Shaneela Boodo, Brenden Gali, Ally Gonzalo, Nawal Sagher and Yoni Y. Mehari) describes itself as “a pop-up featuring talents from Winnipeg’s BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) community through booze, food and music.”

As the group’s designer, University of Manitoba School of Art student and second-generation Indo-Caribbean artist Shaneela Boodoo creates graphics and event decor for

Rind. Her distinct style involves bright imagery, colour-blocking and bold, repeating text in busy but clean layered compositions.

A designer, curator and member of BIPOC collectives Rind and Chroma, Boodoo’s interests in collaboration and community come through in her work.

Boodoo recently spoke with me in person about her work in progress – a line of merchandise she is designing for Rind, tentatively launching in the spring or summer of 2020. Each item will be dedicated to a member of the collective and will amount to a total of four T-shirts and one hat or apron, she says.

The design process begins with a one-on-one interview, in which Boodoo asks each member to share stories about objects from their childhood. Unsurprisingly, food has come up frequently, she says.

“In a lot of BIPOC families, that’s how people connect with each other,” Boodoo says. “For people who were born here in Canada, sometimes that’s the only way you

connect to where you’re from.”

Boodoo sees food as an important point of connection between families, friendships and Communities of Colour. While the shirts are highly personal, they also speak to a collective experience, she says.

Brenden Gali’s illustrated shirt is a black long-sleeve with a remixed sardines can on the front and roosters on the sleeves. The symbols are an homage to Brenden’s childhood food favourites (sardines and jasmine rice), attention to packaging and his Chinese zodiac sign, Boodoo says.

In an interview for *The Uniter* in 2018, Gali explains “the name Rind came out of an idea that, oftentimes in music and poetry, metaphors of People of Colour are related to fruit and how to get the good part of that fruit, you have to get through that built-up, tough exterior. Like fruit, our skin is thick and bitter. Our sweetness earned, not exposed.”

While a fruit’s rind acts as its package, the package of a body is both its skin and clothing.

Fashion is a second skin, communicating identity, lifestyle and values overtly or covertly. Because Boodoo’s merch is intimately customized with biographical cultural imagery and, in some cases, non-English text,

their context must be understood.

“When you’re putting these things out, it’s not like art on a wall, it’s clothes to wear – and people want to wear something that looks cool, but I put a lot of time and care into how I’m telling this through design, so I want people to know that,” Boodoo says.

To extend the merch’s significance, each item is accompanied by a brief anecdote, Boodoo explains. Although art speaks for itself, I see this added element as a way of generously encouraging more mindful engagement, as well as offering another avenue for BIPOC connection and community-building.

Rind’s new line by Boodoo represents diasporic kinship, relationality, storytelling and cultural pride. Boodoo feels honoured with Rind’s vulnerability and trust, she says.

“The process has been very back and forth. I want it to feel like an invitation.”

Christina Hajjar is a first-generation Lebanese-Canadian Pisces dyke ghanouj with a splash of tender-loving rose water and a spritz of existential lemon, served on ice, baby. Catch her art, writing and organizing at christinahajjar.com or @garbagebagprincess.

CITY BRIEFS

LISA MIZAN // CITY EDITOR  @LISA_MIZAN

Election season at the U of W

Election season is around the corner, and students will soon be able to vote for University of Winnipeg Students’ Association positions, alongside a referendum for the U-Pass. Voting will take place on March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wii Chiiwaakanak Centre, on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Buhler Centre and on March 4 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Buhler Centre and from 12 to 4 p.m. in the third floor of Centennial Hall.

Wet’suwet’en protests continue

A local protest held in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en land defenders blocked traffic on Feb. 24. It started in front of the RCMP headquarters on Portage and Dominion around 4:30 p.m. This falls in the same week as the Manitoba Metis Federation’s statement that they “will not endorse or support the protesters that are now on the verge of harming many innocent people who are not choosing sides on the pipeline issue.”

Graph Colourings

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Winnipeg will hold a presentation titled “Graph Colourings” with speaker Dr. Vida Dujmovic of the University of Ottawa on Friday, Feb. 28 from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. in Room 1L11 (Lockhart Hall). In this talk, Dr. Dujmovic will introduce “several graph colouring problems, starting with the famous four colour theorem for colouring maps.”

Creative writing seminar

A public presentation titled “Classrooms, Communities and the Creative Writing Process” with Dr. Lamees Al-Ethari of the University of Waterloo will be held on Friday, Feb. 28 from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. in Room 3M64 (Manitoba Hall) at the U of W. Al-Ethari is currently a candidate for an assistant professor position in creative writing in the Department of English at the U of W.

Neurobiological seminar

The next installment of the Department of Psychology’s Speaker Series, titled “Contextual Control of Fear Suppression: Behavioural and Neurobiological Approaches,” by U of W alum Dr. Travis Todd will happen on Friday, March 6 from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. in Room 2L17 (Lockhart Hall) at the U of W. Dr. Todd is currently a research assistant professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Dartmouth College.

Protection for people with criminal records

On Feb. 25, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission announced a decision that will protect people with criminal records from discrimination. This resolution was made after the results of *A.B. v. University of Manitoba* on Feb. 10, where Chief Adjudicator Micheal Werier found that having a criminal record in itself is not a protection, but rather that many people with criminal records suffer from addictions, mental disabilities and certain backgrounds that can be deemed to be stereotyping when looking for employment.

PROUDLY BIPOLAR

A diagnosis can be a gift

LYS BOTSULA

VOLUNTEER  @EGLAFLYS

You may have plenty of images in your head already after reading that headline. When you think about bipolar disorder, what first comes to mind? Let me guess: probably someone with two personalities, right?

Society can feed incorrect ideas of what different mental illnesses are like, which further marginalizes people living with those disorders. I internalized many of these ideas too, until I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The road toward a diagnosis began in my home country of France.

For about a decade, I struggled with depression. It sucked everything out of me. I also had no present support system in my life. When I started thinking about death at age 10, I was confused and overwhelmed, because I didn't know what was happening to me.

With time, I started naming my pain. I began to understand that I was depressed and suicidal. I found comfort in the thought that if there is a word to describe something, it means that others can experience it, too.

However, I could tell there was something

else. For instance, there were times I felt overly confident, as if I could walk through fire and be convinced that I wouldn't get burnt. But that was not a depressive symptom. Many questions arose in my head, and I couldn't come up with any answer ... yet.

A miraculous self-motivation pushed me to seek those answers actively. I managed to find a free centre with psychiatrists. First, I needed to meet with a nurse in order to be assigned to the right person. That appointment broke my spirit. The nurse claimed she wasn't seeing any depressive spectrum in me. I sarcastically thought: "Sure, my suicide attempts were just for fun." It was only after much insistence on my part that she gave me an appointment with a psychiatrist. I left filled with anger.

Although I never wanted to set foot in that centre again, my determination for answers brought me to attend my next appointment, apprehensive and nervous. After a few sessions, I finally received a diagnosis: bipolar disorder.

Hearing this terrified me. An array of stigmatized images of this mental illness came to my mind. Usually, when I encountered a reference to bipolar disorder in movies, it was portrayed pejoratively. To understand my diagnosis, I started educating myself through a variety of resources, such as NAMI.org or the Jed Foundation.

Something else that completed my newly acquired knowledge was writing. I kept track of my thoughts and mood swings in a journal. I learned more about myself in the year after receiving my diag-

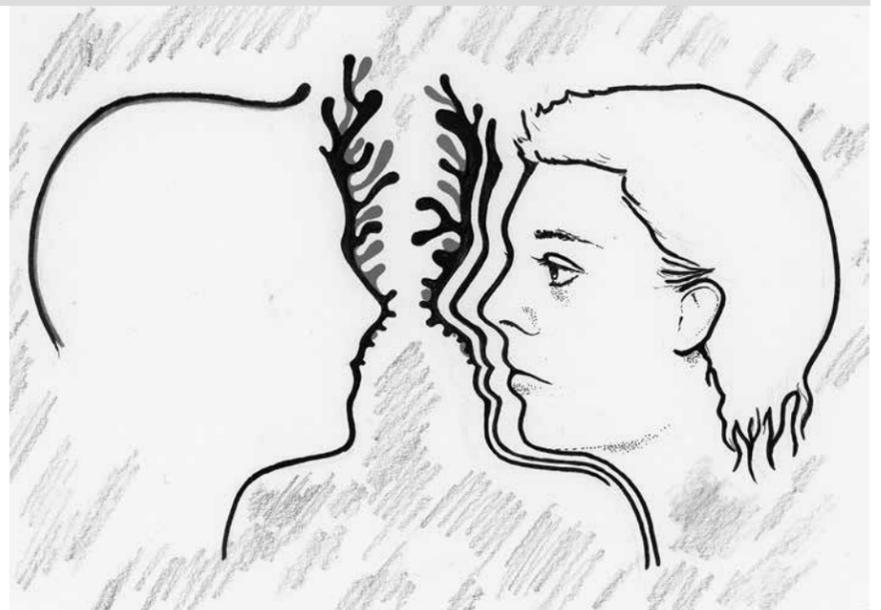


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

nosis than I had in my entire life.

Most importantly, I learned to not be ashamed of my bipolar disorder. Being vocal about it made my friendships better. I allowed people to get to know me better. My awareness and self-reflection became a great tool, improving my compassion and my ability to help others.

In society, people living with mental illness are often alienated and misunderstood. I experienced it in France. But if I had given up after my first meeting with the nurse, I would still be a mystery to myself. I thought of my diagnosis as an affliction, and, after reading a lot about bipolar disorder, I was strongly convinced it would become my lifelong weakness.

Those resources helped me understand my

mental illness overall, but I learned greater things through self-reflection. This introspection shaped my healing as well as my understanding, completely shifting my perspective on my bipolar disorder. Sharing my story about being diagnosed will hopefully encourage others to experience the same acceptance I did once I embraced my truth.

Lys Botsula was born in Rouen, France. At 19, she moved to Canada to get a bachelor of arts at the University of Winnipeg, leaving her friends and family in her home country. Fun fact, Lys speaks four languages: French, German, English and Lingala.

NEW VIRUS, OLD RACISM

'Corona-phobia' is a contagious by-product of coronavirus

MICHELLE KARLENZIG

VOLUNTEER

One year ago, I sat on the streets of Hunan, China, eating barbeque rabbit and drinking Tsingtao beer with friends. I had no idea that I was one hour away from the city of Wuhan: a place that would become the centre of the virus outbreak COVID-19 (coronavirus) in December 2019.

While most of the world is focused on the virus' death toll, there's an issue at hand that can't be detected by a fever scan but is just as contagious.

Sinophobia – fear or hatred toward Chinese people or the country of China – has become widespread and highly visible in many western countries since the recent coronavirus outbreak.

A French magazine called *Le Courrier picard* published a print headline about the outbreak that translates to "Yellow Alert."

In Italy, a Filipino man was beaten and told to "go home" by a group of Italian men who mistook him for Chinese. There were also various prominent racist occurrences online. Earlier this month, the hashtag #ChineseDontComeToJapan was trending on Twitter.

Canada has been no exception to this. Despite zero deaths from coronavirus and the Canadian health minister stating that there is a low risk of catching the virus, fear and hysteria are alive and well.

A Chinese restaurant in Markham, Ont. reportedly received prank calls that resulted in lost business after a social media video linked the restaurant to the virus.

Dr. Nadia Alam from Ontario took to Twitter to share her child's experience with

racism on the schoolyard, tweeting:

"Today my son was cornered at school by kids who wanted to 'test' him for #Coronavirus just because he is half-Chinese. They chased him. Scared him. And made him cry."

This is an all-too-familiar issue for Chinese-Canadians who went through the SARS outbreak in 2003. A spike in reports of racism and sinophobia was reported during the virus's six-month epidemic.

Kristyn Wong-Tam, the former leader of the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto, recently touched on the impact of that time.

"Chinatowns across the city saw revenues drop, as people allowed their fear of SARS and prejudices about its transmission to drive them away from Chinese-operated businesses. People of Chinese backgrounds were shunned at schools, harassed in the streets, taunted on public transits, and many more felt ostracized and isolated from the rest of the city," she said.

Sinophobia can be traced back to the idea of "Yellow Peril" that originated throughout North America in the 1800s. It perpetuated a view of Chinese or East Asian people as "unnamable foreigners" and depicted East Asian culture to be dirty and animal-like.

After living in China for two years, it became clear to me how real sinophobia is around the world and particularly in Canada.

Friends told me to watch out for what I ate, asked me how dirty it was there and commented on how bad it must have smelled.

My first trip to China made me question what I had internalized and assumed based on stigmas set in place in my surrounding

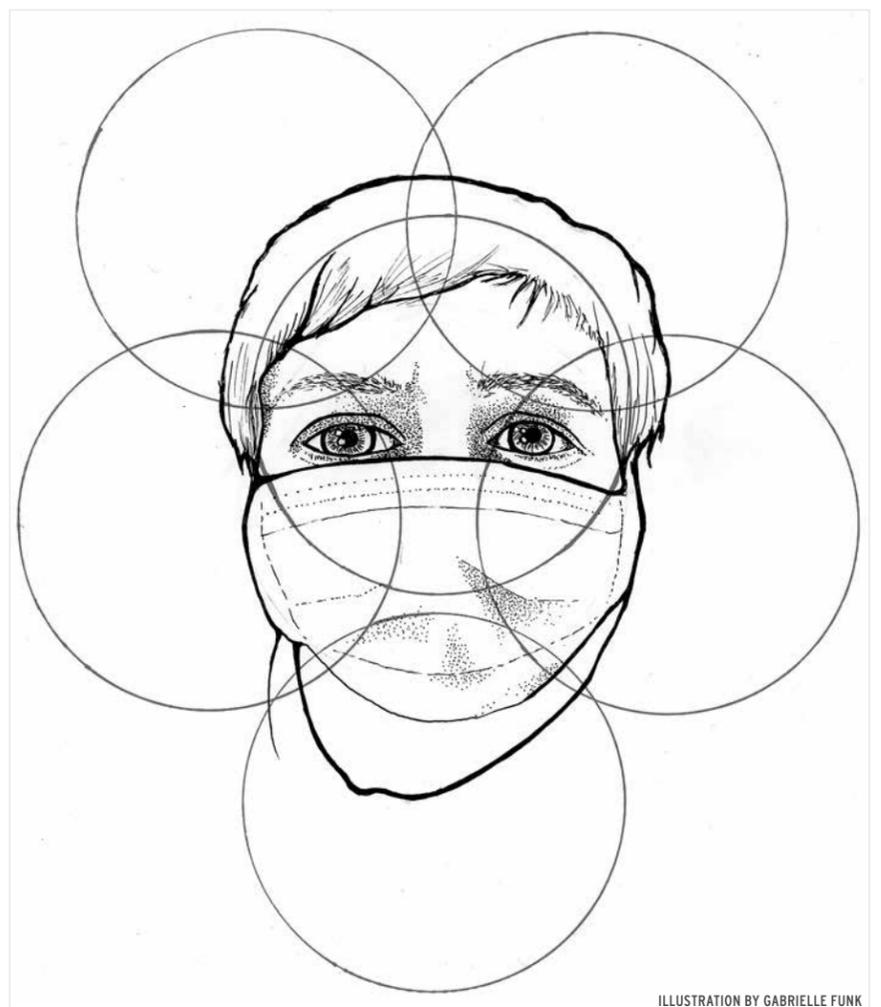


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

culture.

Society and the media can paint such a terrible picture of Chinese culture, and although "Yellow Peril" seems like a thing of the 18th century, it's really too bad we still see those effects today in 2020.

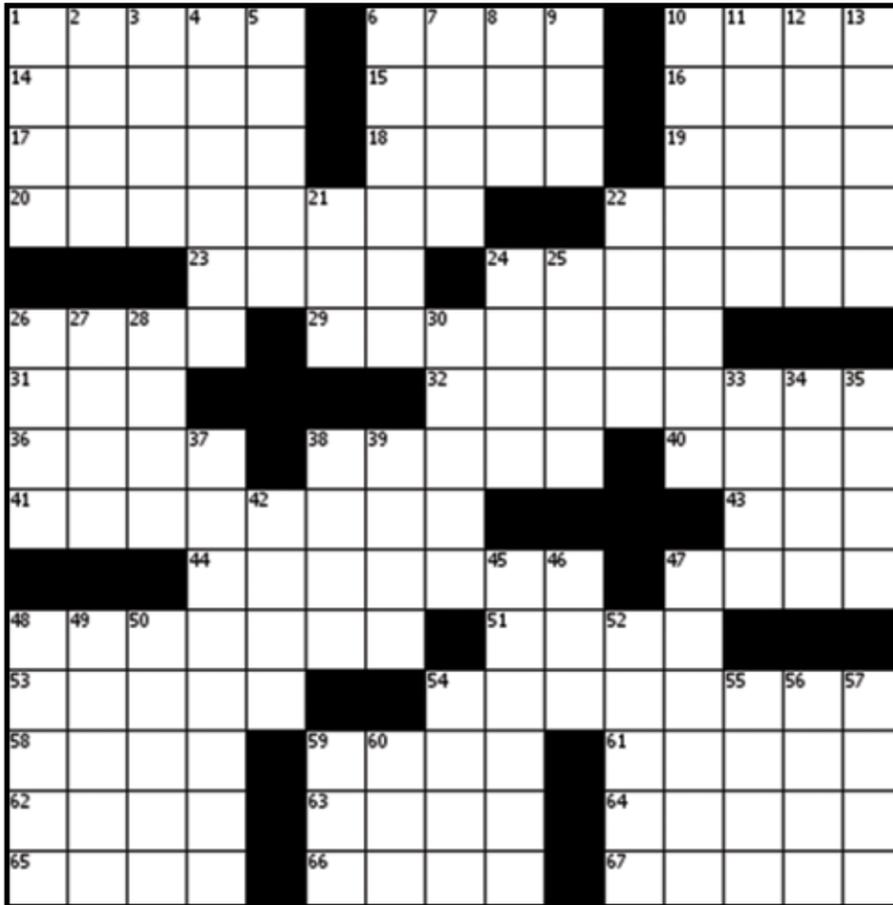
According to the latest census in 2016, 1.5 million Canadians identify as Chinese, and roughly 80,000 Manitobans' first language is Mandarin or Cantonese.

It's our job as Canadians to stand up to racism and stop the fear-mongering and stigma related to viruses that originate from Asian countries.

According to Canadian health experts, 3,500 people die from the common cold each year, and, so far, no nationalities have been to blame.

Michelle Karlenzig is a first-year Creative Communications student at Red River College. She is passionate about gender equality and Indigenous rights. By storytelling through journalism, she hopes to make a positive impact on marginalized groups and human rights.

DIVERSIONS



onlinecrosswords.net

ACROSS

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. VELOCITY | 22. MOTIONLESS | 41. GLUE, E.G. | 62. BUILDING EXTENSIONS |
| 6. SECRET LANGUAGE | 23. BUFFALO'S WATERFRONT | 43. NERVOUS TWITCH | 63. ON TOP OF |
| 10. AMTRAK STOPS (ABBR.) | 24. AFTERNOON MOVIE | 44. GEORGIA'S CAPITAL | 64. OCCURRENCE |
| 14. ARTIST ____ PICASSO | 26. TOSSES | 47. HEREDITY UNIT | 65. "____ OF OUR LIVES" |
| 15. SUMMER DRINKS | 29. MAKE WIDER | 48. COMPREHENSIVE | 66. ROBIN'S RESIDENCE |
| 16. GUITARIST ____ CLAPTON | 31. PIERCING TOOL | 51. DIFFERENT | 67. SPEAKS WILDLY |
| 17. OF THE CITY | 32. SPANISH DANCE STYLE | 53. HUGE | |
| 18. CAESAR'S CITY | 36. AVERAGE | 54. FAMOUS SEDUCER | |
| 19. SPACE AGENCY (ABBR.) | 38. ____ POLE | 58. FOLK KNOWLEDGE | |
| 20. RENOVATOR | 40. DIVING BIRD | 59. DETERGENT | |
| | | 61. NO WAY! | |

DOWN

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|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Goad | 12. Church walkway | 34. Dime, for one | 50. Ahead of time |
| 2. Trim | 13. Piano exercise | 35. Single time | 52. More sensible |
| 3. Subsidies | 21. Josh | 37. Closeness | 54. Broadway hit |
| 4. Makes happy | 22. Flower support | 38. Cash drawer | 55. Baking chamber |
| 5. Benefactor | 24. Fellow | 39. The ____ Office | 56. Air duct |
| 6. Profession | 25. Eve's mate | 42. Right away! | 57. Fine ____ |
| 7. Fragrance | 26. Dalai ____ | 45. Pekoe server | 59. Junior |
| 8. Rep.'s opponent | 27. Was in the red | 46. Roker and Pacino | 60. Single |
| 9. WNW's opposite | 28. Unexciting | 47. Swiss city | |
| 10. Guardian | 30. Many times | 48. Eyed flirtatiously | |
| 11. Locomotive | 33. Quick letter | 49. String instrument | |



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Student Services

ABORIGINAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE

Graduation Pow Wow
Sat., March 21
Grand Entry 12:30 p.m.
Duckworth Centre

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

Need funding for Winter Term?

It's not too late to apply for student aid funding for Fall-Winter 2019-20. You may apply until Feb. 29.

For more information and to apply, please visit Manitoba Student Aid at: edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/.

Awards Officers can also help during our drop-in hours:

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2nd floor, Rice Centre

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

One-on-One Tutoring

The English Language Program at UWinnipeg offers one-on-one tutoring in IELTS preparation, speaking, pronunciation, essay writing, reading, listening, grammar and vocabulary. Please contact s.poole@uwinnipeg.ca for more information.

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

Resource Area

If you are thinking about going on an exchange, visit our website at uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad or drop in to the Exchange Opportunities Resource Area:

2nd floor, Rice Centre, 2R155
Mon.- Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
The main deadline to apply is March 1.

INTERNATIONAL, IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE STUDENT SERVICES

Income Tax Workshops

Are you an international or an immigrant student who was in Canada in 2019 and would like to file your income taxes?

IIRSS will be hosting free annual Income Tax Workshops in March, with the assistance of trained volunteers.

Students can drop by our office during the dates/times below for assistance on a first-come first-served basis.

March 2-6, March 16-20
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
IIRSS Lounge (491 Portage Ave., 8th floor)

For details: email iirss@uwinnipeg.ca or call 204-786-9469

STUDENT CENTRAL

Tax Receipts

T2202a tuition tax receipts for 2019 will be posted on WebAdvisor on Feb. 28.

Winter Term (U2019W) Course Drops

The last day to drop a Winter Term 2020 course is **Fri., March 13**. Students cannot withdraw from a U2019W course after this date. No refund is applicable.

myVisit App

Need to see a Student Central representative? You can now add yourself to the line virtually - with the new myVisit app!

The myVisit app enables students to check the queues and add themselves to a line at Student Central, Campus Living, or Academic & Career Services.

You may also book an appointment with an Academic or Career Advisor.

Download the myVisit app today!

Note: Appointments with advisors can also be booked through www.myvisit.com.

Letter of Permission

Are you planning to take a course at another accredited institution this Spring Term? If you would like to receive credit, please complete a Letter of Permission Application Form by the deadline: **Sun., March 15**

For more information and a form, go to: uwinnipeg.ca/student-records and click on "Letter of Permission."

Spring Term 2020 (U2019S)

The Spring Term Timetable has been posted for undergraduate courses between May - August.

Tiered Registration Times will be emailed to Web-mail accounts in **early March**. Tiered registration begins **March 17**.

Moving?

Moved in recent months? Changed cell phone providers?

Please make sure you update your address, phone number, and other contact information with the University.

Update your address, phone number and other details in WebAdvisor through the "Address Change" link.

WEBADVISOR

Reset Your Password

All Students: As of 7:30 a.m. on **March 2**, you will be required to re-set your password when logging into WebAdvisor.

This password reset will reset your WebAdvisor-Self-Service, Nexus, Email and UW workstations logins.

PHONE: 204.779.8946

EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca



COMIC BY KEEGAN STEELE

SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUES CROSSWORD (74-18)

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SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUES CROSSWORD

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WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL UPCOMING EVENTS

TICKETS: WINNIPEGFOLKFESTIVAL.CA

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wilco



CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

Tickets are ONLY available through the Centennial Concert Hall online and in-person at their box office.

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Sarah Harmer



THE GARRICK

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Basia Bulat



WEST END CULTURAL CENTRE

JUL
21

The National



BURTON CUMMINGS THEATRE



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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environmental
innovators.

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#AquaHacking

Learn more at
aquahacking.com



Lake
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Sustainable Development

THE UNITER IS SEEKING VOLUNTEER ILLUSTRATORS

Are you an
emerging illustrator?

Do you want to see
your work published and
distributed across the city?

For more info contact Talia at
creative@uniter.ca