

THE **U**NITER

PANDEMIC-SAFE LOCAL
GROCERIES—P4

THE BAY DOWNTOWN'S PAST & FUTURE—P10

SEXUAL VIOLENCE ISN'T
ENTERTAINMENT—P14

PUNCHING UP



PROTOTYPICAL STANDUP HUMOUR IS LAUGHABLY OUTDATED

NEW YEAR, SAME BS

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR

THOMPASHKO

Like most people, I bid 2020 a much deserved “see you in hell” on New Year’s Eve. A year so awful that it essentially became a meme, it was certainly the most tumultuous year of my lifetime from a political, social and health perspective.

No one needs me to rehash the many low points of last year. But I also remained hopeful that better things were on the horizon. Vaccine rollouts and new leadership south of the border were optimistic signs of things to come.

But the reminders came fast that New Year’s is an arbitrary distinction. As I type this, the US Capitol building was finally cleared, moments ago, of defeated US president Donald Trump’s fascist thugs. Brownshirts in all but their clothing, the red-hatted neo-Nazis violently stormed the building as congress met to certify Joe Biden’s presidential win.

For those of us who held faint hope that a new year could represent some form of respite from the far-right havoc that the world has suffered under for the better half of the last decade, this day was an infuriating disappointment. The images of angry conservatives enacting violence to obstruct democracy and uphold white supremacy is sickening, sobering and a warning to all decent people who live north of the border.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Nearly a century ago, Modern Electric Lunch was Winnipeg’s first restaurant with electric refrigeration. A new restaurant with the same name has opened in the same space. Read more on page 3.

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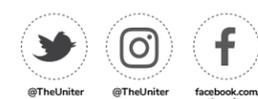
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Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however, all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication’s basic guidelines.

In-person volunteer orientations are currently suspended due to COVID-19, but over-the-phone and remote orientations can be arranged. 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, transphobic, ableist, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.



HISTORICALLY MODERN

New restaurant opens with same name and location as restaurant from the 1920s

HANNAH FOULGER | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | FOULGERSCOVFEFE | SPEAKSTORY

On Nov. 16, Modern Electric Lunch, a new coffee bar and restaurant, opened its doors to the public in the historical Fortune Block at 230 Main St. The restaurant takes its name from a restaurant that operated out of the same space in the 1920s and '30s, which boasted the first electric refrigerator in a Winnipeg restaurant.

In 2014, the previous owner intended to demolish the 138-year-old building, which is also the home to the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club, and build a condo block, but the city reinstated its heritage status. When the Pollard family bought the building, they lovingly restored its distinctive High Victorian Italianate style and unique architectural features.

“What the Pollards achieved by preserving Winnipeg’s heritage is noteworthy and admirable, in turn allowing for Modern Electric Lunch to be reborn once again,” Manitoba Historical Society CEO Tracey Turner says. “As a community, we cannot take for granted that our history or heritage will be preserved or honoured by default by our elected officials or policy.”

The renovations uncovered a lot of interesting details in the building. “One cool discovery they made while renovating was a bunch of receipts from the 1920s with things written in pencil, like “coffee 30 cents, a slice of pie, 25 cents,” restaurant spokesperson Benjamin Gillies says.

A selection of these receipts have been

framed and mounted on the wall, including several for “boiled onion,” which, unfortunately, is not on the current Modern Electric Lunch menu. Currently, they are open with a full-service coffee bar and lunch items for takeout. You can order through their website to pick up in the restaurant or order delivery through Skip The Dishes.

Until the restrictions are lifted, no dine-in service is available for breakfast, lunch or after-work dinner and drinks. When customers are able to dine inside, they can think “a person was sitting in this exact same space (100 years ago), ordering a coffee and a slice of pie, just like I’m ordering a coffee and a slice of cake,” Gillies says.

Maximizing the use of space like Modern Electric Lunch has, is not only a good business decision, but it also has positive ramifications for our city’s culture and the environment.

“Adaptive reuse for historic buildings like the Fortune Block should be our city’s default option. This is important, as historic building reuse represents a commitment to a sustainable and inherently green practice, which encourages economic growth and helps to stimulate and build dynamic downtown communities,” Turner says.

“One only has to look at the recent and tragic (demolition) of the gorgeous estate at 514 Wellington to understand the tenuous nature of what happens to a historic resource or building, should it be removed



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Century-old receipts from the original Modern Electric Lunch restaurant in the Fortune Block at 230 Main St. A new restaurant with the same name has opened in the same space.

from the municipally designated historic resources list.”

Even with the restrictions in place, Winnipeggers have stepped up to support the new downtown restaurant.

“We were pretty uncertain of what it would be like to open during the pandemic under Code Red restrictions, but the response from the community was amazing. People were coming out. People were excited to check out the space. People were

really responding,” Gillies says.

“It exceeded our expectations in terms of feeling the love and support of the people who came to check us out.”

Modern Electric Lunch can be found in the Fortune Block at 232 Main St. You can order coffee or food to go inside the restaurant, in-store pickup from melunch.ca and delivery from Skip the Dishes.

DEAF AUTHOR BOYCOTTS HIS OWN BOOK

‘I don’t want other people to feel (alienated)’

HANNAH FOULGER | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | FOULGERSCOVFEFE | SPEAKSTORY

Deaf author and University of Winnipeg instructor Adam Pottle has called for a boycott of his own children’s book, *The Most Awesome Character in the World*, after he was surprised to find an illustration depicting an Asian stereotype.

When Pottle was approached by Reycraft Books in 2017, he wanted to write a story with positive Deaf and disabled characters. Reycraft, a children’s publisher with a large catalogue of diverse children’s picture books from a variety of perspectives, hired him to write the story. Pottle says the publisher paid him upfront for his work, so that he would not receive any royalties from the sale of the book.

Pottle had initially insisted on working with a Deaf illustrator, but he says they shut him out of the illustration process entirely. Other children’s authors have told Pottle that industry standards dictate authors of illustrated children’s books are involved every step of the way in the illustration process, approving early character sketches, page proofs and the entire book before it goes to the printer.

However, after submitting the book in 2017, he did not see it until a few weeks before the launch in September.

“Two or three weeks before the book was supposed to be released in September 2020, they sent me an advance review copy of the book, and that’s when I saw the illustration in question that was depicting an Asian ste-

reotype,” Pottle says. “At that point, I had read a couple of early reviews. Reviewers and librarians had seen the book before I ever did.”

This flew in the face of Pottle’s initial vision for the book to feature a positive array of diverse characters. The character in question was also a wheelchair user. While other wheelchair-user characters were dressed as superheroes, the Asian character was dressed in a kimono, sparking the question of why this character was singled out.

An illustration like this not only distracts from the larger story, but also has larger ramifications for the Asian and the Deaf Asian communities.

“Oppressive stereotypes and depictions perpetuate harm, as well as ... systemic racism,” Deaf Asian actor Jordan Sangalang says. “Often, it would magnify racist behaviours toward Asians, when the media frames it that way.”

“As a Deaf person, I understand what it means to be stereotyped, and I don’t want other people to feel (alienated),” Pottle says. “That’s not what the book is about. That’s not what my work is about.”

Pottle called for a boycott of the book. Booksellers like McNally Robinson, with stores in Saskatoon and Winnipeg, agreed not to sell it.

“I contacted the publisher to ask if there is any way we can change this before the book is released. They said ‘we can’t,’ and



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

I said, ‘well, I can’t support the book, and I can’t encourage people to buy this.’ They said ‘we understand, and we wish you well,’” Pottle says. “There was no willingness on their part to engage. It was an incredibly frustrating process, because I felt like I had been robbed of my own story, and

they are completely apathetic to that.”

Pottle is writing a new children’s book with a publisher who he says will include him in every stage of the process, so he can sign off on character sketches, page proofs and help pick a Deaf illustrator. “I’m trying to look to the future,” Pottle says.

FROM SEED TO FLOWER

Origin Stories

HANNAH FOULGER | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FOULGERSCOVFEFE](#) [SPEAKSTORY](#)

Begonia Singer/Songwriter

Alexa Dirks, better known as indie-pop singer Begonia, has been a force on the Winnipeg music scene for almost 20 years – but she’s been obsessed with music since childhood.

“When I was a kid, I was always actively thinking about music,” Dirks says, even though no one in her family was very musical.

She sang in front of an audience for the first time in Grade 2, when she had a solo in the Christmas concert. “I was like, ‘this is my calling,’” she says.

Dirks grew up in a religious context, in a Mennonite family. As a teen, she sang as part of her high-school worship team.

“I have an interesting relationship with my past and my involvement in the church, and my relationship to that is not cut-and-dry. I have many fond memories, but I have a lot of hurt attached to some of those times,” Dirks says. “It has definitely shaped who I am, but I’m working through some of that stuff.”

She met guitarist Joey Landreth through playing worship music. “I met him at 15, 16, and he was already a superstar. I thought, ‘I’m too old. This is not my lane. He’s already so far. I’m a singer, not a guitar player,’” Dirks says.

“If a teenager came up to me saying the same thing, I would say ‘that’s ridiculous. You can do whatever you want.’”

Her first paid music gig involved singing with worship leader Jon Buller at the Burton Cummings Theatre, with Landreth, as well as Meg Dolovich and Ryan Voth. Together, they transitioned into the secular music scene, forming Little Boy Boom in the late ’90s. They had a weekly gig at Hooligans Neighbourhood Pub (now The Handsome Daughter). They would play covers of blues and R&B songs. Covering other artists allowed Dirks to experiment and find her voice in a low-pressure environment.

Dirks would eventually leave Little Boy Boom to form Chic Gamine with Andrina Turenne, Annick Bremault, Alexandre Sacha Daoud, Benoit Morier and Ariane Jean in 2008. Leaving behind Little Boy Boom was a hard decision to make, but Dirks says “that prepared me for the career I have now in every way.”

Following Chic Gamine’s last album in 2015, Dirks conceptualized Begonia. Over the years, she had created a vault of music for herself to perform. Dirks put together an EP of her best material and sent it out into the world.

She knew her music was really connecting



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Alexa Dirks, better known by the moniker Begonia, has a long history in Winnipeg’s music scene.

with people when she was at Rainbow Trout Music Festival and heard people singing the music at another campsite.

“I was like, ‘this is real,’” Dirks says. “I’m living the career I’ve been dreaming of.”

Since then, Begonia released her album *Fear* in 2019, which became a Winnipeg fa-

vourite. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her tour was cancelled, but she was able to play two shows at the West End Cultural Centre in February.

“It felt huge for me then, but now, upon reflection, it is even more meaningful, because I don’t know when I’ll be on the stage again,” Dirks says.

SAFE SHOPPING, LOCALLY

Local businesses offering pickup and delivery for all your pantry needs

HANNAH FOULGER | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FOULGERSCOVFEFE](#) [SPEAKSTORY](#)

Buying local groceries may seem difficult when trying to follow public health orders and staying safe, but many local food producers are offering pickup and/or delivery. Here are some great local businesses to fill up any home pantry.

Feast Café and Bistro

Curbside pickup and delivery
587 Ellice Ave.
[feastcafebistro.com](#)

Prepared dinner fare and pantry goods

Feast Café and Bistro is one of Winnipeg’s few authentic Indigenous dining spots. Due to the large share of profits delivery services like Skip the Dishes and DoorDash take from each delivery made with their apps, owner Christa Bruneau-Guenther is running an in-house delivery service for both the restaurant food and the take-home meals they have been offering since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Orders are made through their website, and delivery is available. You can also donate to their campaign to pay hard-hit Indigenous chefs to prepare Feast boxes for Indigenous families across Canada who are struggling due to the pandemic.

Eadha Bread

Pickup and delivery
577 Ellice Ave.
[eadhabread.com](#)

Sourdough breads and pastries

This queer-positive community favourite has a wide selection of breads, treats and warm bevvy available in their shop every Tuesday through Saturday. Delivery and pickup orders can be made by phoning the shop at 204-783-3064. Deliveries go out between 2 and 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

King’s Head

Takeout and delivery
120 King St.
[kingshead.ca](#)

Dinner fare and groceries

Since the pandemic started, the King’s Head has been offering grocery bundles for sale. Their selection now includes alcohol and King’s Head merch. Orders are available through their website.

Diversity Food Services

Delivery
[diversityfoodsolutions.com](#)

Groceries

The sustainable food service that runs Pangea’s Kitchen at the University of Winnipeg also offers same-day grocery delivery for a wide range of products, including meats, baking supplies, pantry items, fresh veggies, toilet paper and a range of their popular soups.

Hudson Bagels

Pickup
79 Sherbrook St.
[hudsonbagels.ca](#)

Bagels

This new bagel shop opened on Nov. 16. Their Sherbrook storefront in the old Boon Burger building is open for walkup orders for multiple or single bagels. Their spreads include vegan options, and they have Thom Borgen coffee for sale.

The Cheesemongers Fromagerie

Pickup and delivery
839 Corydon Ave.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

King’s Head, the long-running Exchange District pub, is one of many local businesses offering pandemic-safe grocery options.

thecheesemongers.ca

Cheese, provisions and dried goods

This Corydon fromagerie sells fancy and delicious cheeses. Currently, these are available online in “grab bags” of two to six kinds of cheese, gift boxes or full charcuterie selections. Order through their website for delivery, or front-door pickup is available at their storefront.

Good Food Box

Pickup
104-222 Furby St.
[westbroadway.mb.ca/wbco-programs/good-food-club](#)

Vegetables

Their affordable veggie boxes are available for preorder through the West Broadway Community Organization website. Pick up is at Crossways at 222 Furby St. every Wednesday.

Zinn Farms

Pickup and delivery
Springstein, MB
[zinnfarms.com](#)

Meat, eggs and organic vegetables

This farm practices regenerative agriculture, and

all their animals are free-range. Order through their website for pickup at Unicity, Polo Park, Kenaston Corner or for delivery every Thursday.

One Great City Brewing Co.

\$5 Delivery
1596 Ness Ave.
[ogcbrewingco.com](#)

Beer and restaurant fare

You can order their pizza and other restaurant items through Skip the Dishes and DoorDash. Their beer is also available through Skip the Dishes.

Organic Planet Worker Co-op

Pickup and delivery
877 Westminister Ave.
[worker@organicplanet.coop](#)
[@organicplanet.coop](#)

This organic grocery co-op offers pickup and delivery options for their deli, produce, pantry, hygiene and cleaning items. Orders are best made through email.

All shopping guidelines are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on shopping protocols, please visit each business’ website or social media pages.



PLEASE LIKE ME.



PLEASE LIKE ME

“Rhubarb and Custard,” streaming on Netflix



KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | KEESHAHAREWOOD

Created by and starring Australian comedian Josh Thomas, Please Like Me is a charming comedy-drama that follows the quirky, outrageous and (at times) bleak life of the show's 20-year-old protagonist, Josh. Specifically, the show features Josh navigating the trials and tribulations of gay love and mental illness.

Please Like Me is one of those shows that is perfect to watch when feelings of stress or turmoil are all-consuming – when a good laugh

is sorely needed, but something overly light-hearted is not palatable. The show achieves this by the way in which it manages its comedic and dramatic elements.

One of the most phenomenal aspects of this show is how it balances its off-beat, lewd humour with raw, unfiltered tragedy.

In the first episode alone, Josh is thrust headfirst into an ongoing figurative parade of life-altering, personality-defining, world-shattering occurrences. In the span of 24 hours,

Josh is dumped by his long-term girlfriend, has his first sexual encounter with a man, begins to rethink his sexuality and becomes the designated caregiver for a family member living with mental illness.

Despite the complexity of each of these events, the show deftly laces them together with clever, well-timed exposition and masterful pacing. At no time does the episode feel confusing or overwhelming, yet after 30 short minutes, the viewer is privy to many of the intricate and intimate details of the protagonist's life.

Best of all, the episode integrates humour into the whirlwind that is Josh's life in a skillful way.

First off, the comedy is exceedingly intelligent. It demonstrates consideration and understanding toward the nature of mental disorders. The subject of mental illness is respected and treated with an appropriate amount of seriousness, while the humour is geared toward poking fun at other characters or happenings.

Second, the banter between characters is quick, sharp, cutthroat and painfully hilarious.

This is not surprising, given Thomas' background in standup comedy, but he isn't the only one cracking jokes. Each character in the show has their share of comedic moments, in addition to the more serious ones.

The range and ability the cast members possess to pull off these scenes is incredible. The performances of David Roberts as “Dad” and Debra Lawrance as “Mum” stand out in particular.

That said, the performances of Thomas and his co-star, co-writer and real-life friend Thomas Ward don't quite match the calibre of the supporting cast at times. Despite this, Ward, who plays Josh's best friend Tom in the show, and Thomas are enjoyable to watch on screen.

What they might lack in acting ability, they make up with charisma and comedic talent. Thomas and Ward's friendship on screen is always a delight to watch and an overall highlight of the show.

All things considered, Please Like Me is an incredibly fun, moving and extremely bingeable show. It is absolutely worth a watch.

CKUW TOP 30

November 30, 2020



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

TW	LW	C	Artist	Album	Label
1	NE		Osees	Protean Threat	Castle Face
2	RE	*	Pharis & Jason Romero	Bet On Love	Lula
3	RE	!	Silver Clouds	Silver Clouds	Disintegration
4	RE		Alister Spence And Satoko Fujii	Imagine Meeting You Here	Self Released
5	RE		The Dream Syndicate	The Universe Inside	Anti-
6	RE	!	Sean Burns	It Takes Luck To Get The Best Of Me	Self-Released
7	RE	*	Tami Neilson	Chicka Boom	Outside
8	RE	*	Tommy And The Commies	Hurtin' 4 Certain	Slovenly
9	RE		Matmos	The Consuming Flame: Open Exercises In Group Form	Thill Jockey
10	RE	*	Wares	Survival	Mint
11	NE		Uniform	Shame	Sacred Bones
12	NE		Silver Synthetic	Out Of The Darkness	Third Man
13	RE	*	Zoon	Bleached Waves	Paper Bag
14	RE	*	Japandroids	Massey Fucking Hall	Anti-
15	NE		Bob Mould	Blue Hearts	Merge
16	NE	*	Heaps	What Is Heaps?	Birthday Cake
17	NE		Peter Dinklage	Marge	Spinning Top
18	RE	*	Tough Age	Which Way Am I?	Mint
19	NE		El Ten Eleven	Tautology	Joyful Noise
20	RE	*	Nestor Wynrush	Roxbury And Wooden Legs	Peanuts And Corn
21	NE		Optic Sink	Optic Sink	Goner
22	RE	!	Pip Skid/Rob Crooks	Its Ok	Marathon Of Dope
23	RE		Black Marble	I Must Be Living Twice	Sacred Bones
24	NE		Various Artists	The Harry Smith B-Sides	Dust-To-Digital
25	NE	!	The Famous Sandhogs	Telma Muskwa 2	Self-Released
26	NE	*	Black Thunder	La Fine Creaata	Transistor 66
27	RE		Vinyl Williams	Azure	Requiem Pour Un Twister
28	NE		Quintron And Miss Pussycat	Goblin Alert	Goner
29	RE	*	New Fries	The Idea Of Us	Telephone Explosion
30	NE		A Certain Ratio	Acr Loco	Mute

ARTS BRIEFS

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | THOMPASHKO

Gimli Film Fest announces new festival manager

The Gimli Film Festival announced on Wednesday, Jan. 6 that Alan Wong is the fest's new manager for 2021. Wong will work alongside festival director Aaron Zeghers. Wong's background of experience includes work in the film industry and arts administration, including serving as secretary of the Asian Heritage Society of Manitoba and the vice-president of ACTRA Manitoba.

Papa Mambo Trio live-streamed concert

For fans of the Cuban-born genre of dance music, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra will host a live-streamed concert by Winnipeg's Papa Mambo Trio. The veteran group has been making mambo music since 1989 under the leadership of Chilean-born classical guitarist Rodrigo Muñoz. Muñoz, vocalist Amber Epp and guitarist Victor Hugo will perform the live-streamed concert on Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at my.wso.ca/2117/2133.

Virtual artist talk with Jill Ho-You

Martha Street Studio will host a virtual artist talk with Jill Ho-You about her exhibition *Inversion*. *Inversion* “engages with the anxiety, fear and speculation about the future of the planet by imaging the world if the Anthropocene reaches its predicted negative climax of uninhabitable climate change.” The free virtual artist talk will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. ASL interpretation is available upon request. For more information, visit printmakers.mb.ca.

WCD presents *Begin Again*

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers will host online presentations of *Begin Again*, a new work by choreographer Jera Wolfe, from Jan. 22 to 31. The show features a cast of local dancers including Carol-Ann Bohrn, Allison Brooks, Mark Dela Cruz and Kira Hofmann, as well as lighting design by Hugh Conacher. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at winnipegcontemporarydancers.ca/tickets.

Arts workshops from Sick + Twisted

Local theatre company Sick + Twisted, which creates “work exploring the experience of living with a disability,” is hosting a Winter Workshop Series with some seriously impressive instructors. The workshops include songwriting with John K Sam-

son, rap with Nestor Wynrush, playwriting with Trish Cooper and standup comedy with Lara Rae. For more information on these free workshops, visit sickandtwisted.ca/copy-of-shows.

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PUNCHING UP



Prototypical standup humour is laughably outdated

"I ... find myself not willing to bend my own perspectives and voice to please an audience if it goes against ... who I am." - comedian Danielle Kayahara

Winnipeg's comedy scene was divided in 2019 over the issue of Louis C.K. performing at Rumor's Restaurant and Comedy Club.

In November 2017, C.K. admitted that allegations he committed sexual misconduct and abuse were true. After a brief hiatus, C.K. returned to standup with material that

mocked school-shooting survivors, gun-control movements, and the Holocaust.

For some, the jokes C.K. makes are accepted as standard comedy material. Many others in Winnipeg's comedy community, however, recognize that not only is the standard in comedy tired and worn, but it also has a tendency to punch

down. Jokes are made at the expense of marginalized identities, including but not limited to: women, queer folks, fat people, people with disabilities, People of Colour, migrants, drug users, sex workers and members of certain religions, among many other others.

Feature continues on next page.

Shannon Bloodworth has performed their standup at Fame Nightclub, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival and Club 200 and been part of shows, including Queer and Present Danger and the Winnipeg Comedy Showcase.

Bloodworth explains that oftentimes in traditional comedy, these marginalized identities are the punchline to the joke. This “punching down” typically occurs in comedy performed by straight cis white men — the prototypical comedian.

“Then, you started getting more diverse comedians talking about their own experiences,” Bloodworth says, bringing about the counteractive notion of punching up.

“I think it’s more complicated than just sort of a role reversal,” Bloodworth says. “When I talk about being queer, I’m making sure that queer people are never the butt of the joke, but I’m also not making fun of straight people. I’m really making fun of homophobia and transphobia, and these wider systemic issues that kind of keep us at odds with each other.”

Bloodworth has a sort of dry sense of humour that pairs well with physical comedy. Part of their set includes a bit about their top surgery, the punchline of which is either a gibe on country music or the surprise appearance of googly eyes.

For Bloodworth, talking about their surgery on stage is a way to reduce the tension around the topic of gender-affirming surgeries.

Abby Falvo, who came out as trans on stage, also uses her stage presence to alleviate tension and discuss difficult topics.

“The audience really recognizes when you’re genuine about stuff and when you’re vulnerable, and that sort of material tends to hit harder,” she says.

Falvo hosts a monthly show at Wee Johnny’s called Party Mix!, where she does her best to book women, People of Colour and queer comedians.

For Falvo, the audience plays a large role in what jokes will be told or how the jokes will be told. “There’s a phrase that some friends and I came up with, which is to describe cis dudes in the crowd. We call them ball caps,” she says.

If the crowd is dense with ball caps, Falvo will adapt her material, which is usually geared toward a queer crowd.

Despite her flexibility, Falvo typically prefers an audience to which she can relate.

“My audience is sort of the people who are comedy fans but just don’t want to go to a comedy show, because they know they’re probably going to be the butt of someone’s jokes,” Falvo says.

Despite the existence of comedians who are women, queer, fat or People of Colour, the notion that there’s a universal standard in comedy is still prevalent. Bloodworth mentions seeing a comment on their social media, “saying how, like, at the end of the day, people just want to laugh and there’s a reason there’s a status quo for things in comedy.”

“Personally, the status quo has never made me laugh,” Bloodworth says.

While the perspective of a straight cis white male is considered widely applicable, marginalized voices tend to be perceived as niche, Bloodworth says.

“Everybody is supposed to understand and sympathize with, like, straight white men, but they don’t have that same responsibility to try to understand women or People of Colour,” Bloodworth says.

Danielle Kayahara has performed at the Winnipeg Comedy Showcase, Winnipeg Fringe Festival and Winnipeg Comedy Festival — although recently she has mostly been making jokes on her Twitter, @shetellsjokes.

Kayahara says her set stays much the same, regardless of the audience.

“As much as there’s a bit of flexibility there, I also find myself not willing to bend my own perspectives and voice to please an audience if it goes against ... who I am or how I feel about a particular thing,” she says.

In their comedy, Bloodworth discusses personal experiences related to their identity. For instance, Bloodworth jokes about how they turn the tables when people assume they’re pregnant.

“Oh yeah, I’m eating for two, give me your extra slice of cake,” Bloodworth laughs.

“I’m not making fun of fat people. I’m not making fun of thin people for reacting the way they do. The problem is the awkwardness around and that fear of becoming fat, the fear of ‘I don’t know what to say,’” Bloodworth says.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

“My audience is sort of the people who are comedy fans but just don’t want to go to a comedy show, because they know they’re probably going to be the butt of someone’s jokes.” — comedian Abby Falvo



Comedian Sarah London says she doesn’t make jokes that are mean-spirited, and she thinks about her friends and parents in the audience.



"It's complicated, right, what feels like a safe space to which people. But I think we're moving in a good direction." -Sarah London

Falvo maintains that comedy intrinsically is about punching up.

"It's very inherent of that kind of spirit of comedy, and what could be more punching up than punching at the patriarchy and punching at, you know, capitalism and all these other things?" Falvo asks.

Kayahara says her comedy comes from her experiences, and she is reaching out to connect to her audience through jokes.

"Often times, the stuff I'm focusing on is just stuff that I struggle with in the world, and I mostly just want anyone else who struggles with those things to not feel as alone," Kayahara says. "The last thing that I think comedy should do, personally, is separate people in that way or call out anyone who might already feel sort of marginalized or set aside from the world."

Sarah London has performed at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, but she's perhaps better known recently for the open mics she hosted on her Instagram in the spring of 2020.

London says she doesn't make jokes that are mean-spirited, and she thinks about her friends and parents in the audience.

"I want to feel good about the jokes I do," she says.

Thiané Diop performs standup with the WOKE Comedy Hour.

"The thing that I love about comedy as an art form or as a medium is that it's a way that you can connect with people ... especially when you're performing it, and you can hear the feedback from whoever your audience is," Diop says.

Diop says she "is a big fan of punching up in comedy."

"Part of the thing that I really appreciate about comedy is being able to punch up and talk about experiences that are very near and dear to me, and particularly if they're experiences that have ... come from being more on the margins of this society, to have an audience who laughs in way where you can hear that they're laughing from a place of understanding is such a beautiful thing," Diop says.

According to Diop, the WOKE Comedy Hour provides "a safer space for people who usually end up very intentionally being the butt of the joke in what mainstream comedy is like in general."

"It's so hard when you ... have such an intersecting identity, to find a space where all of that is like, respected and honoured, and where you can feel seen in all of that, and WOKE very intentionally offers that," Diop says.

Bloodworth notes they made it to the semifinals in 2019 in the Rumor's Winnipeg's Funniest Person with a Day Job contest.

"I didn't think my material would really fly in front of that crowd," they say. "I'm not really afraid to talk about (queerness with) different audiences, but I will say it's definitely more fun in front of a queer crowd, because they get it."

Bloodworth's apprehensions about the crowd at Rumor's are certainly warranted. Past lineups are overwhelmingly male-dominated. In 2019, the decision to proceed with a Louis C.K. show was a divisive catalyst for many comedians in Winnipeg.

It "split the community in half. I mean, that's the part that sucks. Because then you have all these comedians having to explain and educate, and that's frustrating," Falvo says.

In late 2019, the WOKE Comedy Hour, which showcases queer BIPOC comedians, stopped producing shows at Wee Johnny's. WOKE stated in a Facebook post that they "experienced discrimination while in the space," among other contributing factors including allegations of sexual assault. For Bloodworth, it was a reminder of who holds privilege in comedy culture.

"Consider whose access and whose comfort you're prioritizing here," they say.

"I may be queer, but I'm still white, and I have considerably more privilege in that scene than any Comedians of Colour do," Bloodworth says. "I knew it was a problem, but that was, like, okay this is really real. This is a consequence that now this person doesn't feel comfortable doing comedy anymore, understandably so. And that's a big shame."

The WOKE Comedy Hour now hosts their monthly show at the Good Will Social Club – although the show is temporarily on hold due to the Code Red restrictions.

As long as comedians are booked to do shows, they will bring their material with them – sharing experiences relating to being a woman, Person of Colour, queer or fat. This is important, especially if the crowd is full of ball caps.

Bloodworth says this visibility helps break down stereotypes of who belongs on stage at a comedy set, even if comedians don't necessarily directly address their marginalized identities.

Falvo has a joke about Dave Wheeler that she has presented in the Winnipeg Comedy Festival and at the Winnipeg Comedy Showcase, both times garnering mixed reactions (the radio host was hired by Energy 106 in

2020, despite being fired from 92.1 Citi in 2018 after making transphobic comments on air). She believes the joke has the potential to help people start conversations.

"People are a little more disarmed and will listen to you, and if they find that they laugh at it, maybe they're a little more agreeable to actually being like, oh yeah, that Dave Wheeler guy should be taken off the air," Falvo says.

London says she is grateful she started doing standup in Winnipeg, because the comedy community has been welcoming and supportive. She notes that her experience isn't universal.

"It's complicated, right, what feels like a safe space to which people. But I think we're moving in a good direction. All you can do is try to move forward and create more space for people," London says.

Both the WOKE Comedy Hour and Party Mix! intentionally try to create safer spaces.

According to Diop, WOKE Comedy Hour also offers a space for comedians to explore what they want their set to be.

"You know, we don't have to follow like the normative formula of what a standup comedian is, but that we even just get to play with that," Diop says.

There are no hard-and-fast rules in comedy, but there is a common theme in punching up: sharing experiences, in the hopes that the audience will relate.

"I think comedy has a great ability to bring people together, and that's kind of where I like to try and put my focus," Kayahara says.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Abby Falvo performs at Fame nightclub.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

"I think comedy has a great ability to bring people together, and that's kind of where I like to try and put my focus." -comedian Danielle Kayahara

Danielle Kayahara is currently mostly active on Twitter, tweeting jokes @shetellsjokes. Follow @sarcasticshannon and @Sra_5000 to keep up to date on what Shannon Bloodworth and Sarah London are up to. Watch Wee Johnny's on social media for announcements on when Party Mix! will resume.

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

6AM	MORNING BREATH	!EARSHOT 20	Cafecito Latinoamericano	Fly Travel Radio ★	FANTASTIC FRIDAY World - Island music	THE MAN IN THE GREY FLANNEL SUIT SHOW	CKUW-SPEAKS	
7AM				CANQUEER				
8AM	CKUW MORNING NEWS / FRONT BURNER (CBC)						WOODEN SPOONS	SHADES OF CLASSICS Classical and New Age
9AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!			DEMOCRACY NOW!			MUD PUDDLE RADIO For Kids (Adults too)	
10AM	DEPARTMENT 13 POP/ROCK	This Way Out WINGS	VOYAGE Jazz	PLANETARY RADIO Cheeze Please	SUNNY ROAD Roots Music		INDIGENOUS In Music	
11AM		BOOTS & SADDLE COUNTRY		ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS	NO FIXED ADDRESS LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS	THE ELECTRIC CHAIR	TEMPLE OF JAZZ	
NOON	The Sean Show			YEARSHOT DAILY	HOW TO SURVIVE A TORNADO		NEON BEIGE SOUND EXCHANGE	
1PM	TALKING RADICAL RADIO Truth Before Reconciliation	THE GREEN MAJORITY	ALTERNATIVE RADIO	RADIO ECOSHOCK	GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR	THE IVORY TOWER Eclectic Mix	YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD Gospel	
2PM	GROUNDSWELL New Classical	Your Show Here	Classical Kaleidoscope	BARKING DOG Past 'n Present Folk 'n Roots	What's Up Winnipeg?		Classical Delights ★	
3PM	PSYCLE RADIO	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire	SPACE CADET MUSIC, OUT OF THIS WORLD	WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?	Chart Noises CKUW's Top 30	THE TRIP PSYCHEDELIC ROCK	The Shortwave Report Bikini Drive-In	
4PM			AMATEUR HOUR So Bad, It's Good	PAGES	PEG CITY PLAYLIST		Jokes On You Local Comedy	
5PM	INNER CITY VOICES	THE GREEN BLUES SHOW	SYSTEM KIDZ Youth in Care	EAT YOUR ARTS & VEGETABLES		WE BUILD HITS Hip-Hop	THE C.A.R.P. The Completely Asinine Radio Program	
6PM	THE WORLD World	Lost Chunes	TWANG TRUST Country/ Roots/ Big, Dumb Rock 'n' Roll	TAWNY, THE BRAVE Pop/Rock	THE HOW DO YOU DO REVUE	CHECK CA Funky	Rank and File Radio: Prairie Edition	
7PM	THE TONIC Garage, Punk, Surf, and R&R	BLUESDAY PLAYING THE BLUES	S.A.N.E. * RADIO Local Experimental Music	Adult Kindergarten		RED BOX Hip-Hop	THE GASHLYCRUMB TINIES	
8PM	DESTINATION MOON Sock-Hop-A-Go-Go		Your Show Here	Dub City Steppers	QUADRAFUNK Electric Dance Party		ISLAND VIBES Caribbean	
9PM		YEARSHOT DAILY	YEARSHOT DAILY	PHASE ONE Electronic	Brain Drainer Radio	DANCE HALL FEVER Dancehall and Reggae		
10PM		YEARSHOT DAILY	MONKEY SPARROW					
11PM	BREAK NORTH RADIO ★	LISTENING PLEASURES	Two Princes					
MIDNIGHT								
1AM	METAL MONDAY	NIGHT DANGER RADIO	HURLEMENTS SUR LA TOUDRA	THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN	MANITOBA MOON	CRYSTAL PALACE	Rainbow Country	
2AM								
3AM	MODERN JAZZ TODAY	The Motherland Influence	THE SENTINEL'S MARVELOUS KALEIDOSCOPE				Your Show Here	
4AM			DEEP THREES					
5AM	AMPLIFIED RADIO	Old Parlour Radio	CELT IN A TWIST					
6AM								



- MUSIC
- LOCAL SPOKEN WORD
- SPOKEN WORD
- ALTER-NATING
- WEEK
- Temporary Programming

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Some programs are on hiatus and/or airing different content due to university closure for COVID-19.



THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY BUILDING

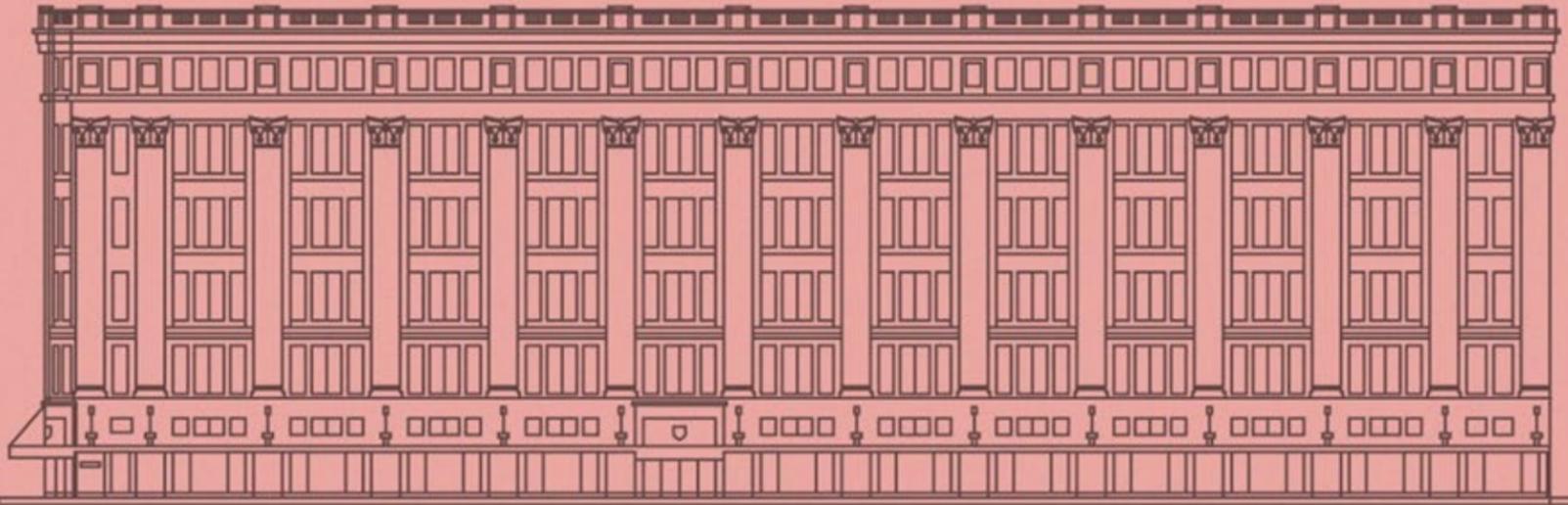


ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN LADIA

HISTORICAL FUTURES OF THE DOWNTOWN HUDSON'S BAY

Envisioning new life into an almost-century-old building

CIERRA BETTENS | CITY REPORTER | [TWITTER](#) FICTIONALCIERRA [INSTAGRAM](#) CIERRABETTENS

A hallmark of holiday shopping. A gateway to the skywalks. Whatever Winnipeg's downtown Hudson's Bay location brings to mind, its near century-long history at the heart of downtown Winnipeg has made a profound mark in the public memory.

Nestled between Portage Avenue and the Manitoba Legislative Building, the former department store, now closed as of Nov. 30, opened its doors in Winnipeg in 1926. Now, a new chapter begins, as the search for ideas to bring new life into the building commences.

"There's a lot of plans that have been talked around in years past. Now is the time that we need to start acting on those plans and figure out what makes sense for our downtown," Dayna Spiring, the CEO of Economic Development Winnipeg, says.

As the chair of the mayoral advisory committee struck to determine the future of the downtown Hudson's Bay building, Spiring says the advisory committee is looking into options that are economically viable and serve the community.

Gordon Goldsborough, the president of the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS), says he would like to see the building repurposed in a way that honours its historical significance.

"If there wasn't a Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), there wouldn't be a Winnipeg," he says. He explains that European fur traders brought in by HBC founded the Red River Colony, which eventually became to be known as the City of Winnipeg.

HBC was established 350 years ago as a fur trading post. As the demand for retail and the demise of trading took place in the early 1900s, HBC adapted by establishing six department stores across Canada, one of which was the former downtown Winnipeg location.

While the HBC is deeply embedded in Winnipeg's history, for many, the role the company played was detrimental. The HBC was a major force in settler colonialism and the forced dependence of Indigenous peoples on the fur trade for survival.

In contrast to the substantial vacancies that the downtown HBC store had leading up to its closure in November 2020, the building was originally filled with variety. In the early stages, it housed a hair salon, a post office, a library and, at one point, an auditorium complete with an orchestra.

At a time when department stores thrived, it was a hallmark of holiday shopping, drawing seasonal visitors from every corner of the city.

"It was one of the early department stores," Goldsborough says. "I have memories, as a child in the 1960s, of going downtown with my mother to the Eaton's store or the Bay store. It was literally the retail centre of the city at the time."

As decades passed, the building continued to evolve and adapt to the times. Throughout the years, it has been the home of a basement grocery store, a cafeteria and numerous restaurants, including the Paddlewheel, which was in operation from 1954 to 2013.

The downfall of the downtown HBC store has followed in the pattern of other department stores, such as Sears, which have seen a decrease in demand due to the rise of online retailers. At its closure, only two out of the six floors were in use and open to the public.

Still, the building and what it once housed carry a significant role in the history and memory of Manitoba.

Goldsborough has a unique vision for the building that he coins the Manitoba Memories Centre. As an homage to the deep historical roots that the building represents, Goldsborough envisions the building being transformed into a "repository for memory" that would showcase the history of Manitoba.

With its abundance of floor space, Goldsborough says the building would arguably be most successful as a multi-use facility. He says that while parts of the building could be transformed into offices and smaller-scale retail space, other areas could be used for archival storage.

"The provincial archives are right next door to the Bay building. They don't have as much space to store their archives as they would need. The result is that a lot of the stuff is not physically located in the archives building," Goldsborough says.

He says that the Archives of Manitoba building is also home to the Hudson's Bay Company archives, which have received

designation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

"There's all kinds of heritage organizations in the province. Why not have them all under one roof?" he says. "That to me would be a great way to then emphasize that this building, this old Bay store, is a centre for the retention of memory in Manitoba."

Some proposals for the future of the building have called to acknowledge the colonial roots of the Hudson's Bay Company, and repurpose the former downtown Bay store into a space that both acknowledges the past and serves Indigenous communities and organizations.

In a column for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Dr. Niigaan Sinclair imagines the future of the former Bay building as a place for Indigenous community-building and excellence.

"Let's make Winnipeg's most non-Indigenous space Indigenous space. Let's make it a place where our community can renew, change and enter the next 350 years of our lives together," Sinclair writes in the article.

Whatever plan is implemented, Spiring says the advisory committee will have to decide on something that is economically feasible.

"Ultimately, commerce is going to prevail, and we need something that makes financial sense, as well as a good thing for our community," Spiring says. "Winnipeg has a great opportunity here, and I think this building and what we can reimagine it to be is a pretty exciting thing."

While the future of the former Bay building is uncertain, it remains a landmark in Winnipeg's history and a place of nostalgia for many who have walked through its doors.

To learn more about the proposed MHS Manitoba Memories Centre, visit mhs.mb.ca/manitobamemories.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

ACTIVISTS FIGHT CONCORDIA CANCER-CARE CLOSURE

Patients and activists alike say healthcare cuts are damaging

SUNNY ENKIN LEWIS | VOLUNTEER

In September, CancerCare Manitoba announced plans to close both the Seven Oaks General Hospital and Concordia Hospital outpatient cancer units and move patients to other hospitals. The closures began in December 2020. Activists hope to bring awareness to the closures and pressure the government to end future healthcare cuts.

When the closure of the outpatient Concordia CancerCare unit was announced, Andy Regier, founder of Protect Health Care in Northeast Winnipeg, and cancer survivor Claudette Wills started working with a team of activists to bring awareness

to and push back against the closures.

“We’ve taken on this issue for patients who are battling cancer and who depend on the services at Concordia,” Regier says. Both Regier and Wills have spoken to many cancer patients who are upset about the closures.

“A number of elderly chemo patients at Concordia were talking to me ... and they were highly, highly anxious and stressed about the closure,” Wills says.

According to Regier, the patients “feel comfortable there, (because) there’s familiar faces there,” and many live close to the hospital.

Wills explained that “the nursing staff and the patients that have been treated there said it is a family, homey kind of atmosphere. And that’s in direct contrast to what it is in CancerCare on McDermot,” at the Health Sciences Centre.

In addition to the loss of the comfortable environment of Concordia CancerCare, switching to the other units presents further challenges for patients.

Wills describes the unit at the Health Sciences Centre, where she received treatment, as hard to navigate and says “it’s a business-like atmosphere in comparison (to Concordia) ... To not have that familiar surrounding, you know, I think that would be really disastrous for many of the ladies I’ve talked to.”

Transportation presents an additional hardship. “Cancer patients are ‘asking me very bewilderedly, how do they get to the Health Sciences Centre for CancerCare for the chemo?’ Wills says. “They have no idea. They’re elderly, they no longer drive, they don’t have access to their own car. Friends would have to drive them, or family, and if that person stays with them, there’s parking fees.”

Protect Health Care in Northeast Winnipeg formed when the Concordia emergency room was closing and reassembled this past fall. “It’s a group of people who

know how to fight back and take action,” Regier says.

Their main tool was a petition. Wills collected hundreds of signatures before COVID-19 restrictions forced them to switch to organizing exclusively online.

In addition to the grassroots team, they’re working with MLAs Matt Wiebe and Nello Altomare, who have been raising the issue in the legislature.

“A lot of people aren’t aware that this closure is happening, and so we’re using this (petition) as a way to engage people, to let them know what’s going on and give them at least some voice to fight back,” Regier says.

“Healthcare services in the community close to home are very important to people across Manitoba,” Regier says. “It’s not just the access to services, it’s the identity that comes with living in the area ... it creates a sense of belonging.”

Regier suggests Manitobans email and call their MLA, Premier Brian Pallister and the health minister to register opposition to the closure and healthcare cuts in general.

He also encourages talking to family members about the cuts. “Sharing your story about what the impacts of these cuts are is so important.”

CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

Snowed In 2021

The UWSA is hosting Snowed In events from Jan. 6 to 8 to celebrate the beginning of the winter term, with events for students using a variety of streaming and social media platforms, including Instagram, YouTube, Netflix and Zoom. To find out more about the events, visit the UWSA’s website or social media pages.

New local delivery portal

Let’s Order Delivery - WPG, a website that catalogues and sorts Winnipeg-based restaurants that offer direct delivery by neighbourhood, launched in early December. The website helps consumers find and contact local restaurants directly without using services like Skip the Dishes or DoorDash.

From Winnipeg to Hague

The Global College Student Advisory Council will host a Zoom event with Kimberly Prost a judge with the International Criminal court, on Jan. 13. Prost, is an alum from the University of Manitoba and will be reflecting on her career and work with the Court. Registration is available on the U of W website.

Siloam’s shadow

A new social media campaign, Not My Siloam, is aiming to expose anti-Indigenous racism within Siloam Mission’s leadership, specifically its board and CEO. The campaign’s material on Instagram and Twitter aims to establish a pattern of distancing from reconciliation philosophy and actions, cultural-competency training and services and programming designed to specifically support and accommodate the needs of Indigenous people who use Siloam’s services.

Ojibwe radio drama joins the airwaves

Aakoziwigamig: An Ojibwe Radio Drama will begin airing on Jan. 13 on NCI, with new installments every second Wednesday. The show was made in collaboration with the University of Winnipeg’s Office of Indigenous Engagement, Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre and Oral History Centre, along with NCI, Indigenous Languages of Manitoba Inc. and Mazinaate Publishing Partnership.

Senate passes alternate grade options

The UWSA’s motion on alternate grading options was passed by the University of Winnipeg Senate on Dec. 22, 2020. Students can now request to have a grade excluded from the calculation of their GPA and may request that passing grades be changed to an “S” (Standing), which will not be counted towards GPA. Students must consult with an academic advisor or program advisor before making a request, and requests must be submitted by Feb. 12, 2021.



MANITOBA COLLEGE'S 150TH

A 'significant milestone' in the U of W's history

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CAMPUS REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

One of the University of Winnipeg's (U of W) founding colleges, Manitoba College, is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2021. Founded in 1871 by Dr. John Black, it has played an important role throughout this institution's and the province's history.

Dr. James Currie, interim president and vice-chancellor of the U of W, says "throughout its history, Manitoba College showed resilience, adaptability and a willingness to collaborate for the betterment of its students."

"The University of Winnipeg embodies these ideals and recognizes the legacy of Manitoba College," he says.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, no celebratory events have yet been announced.

Dr. Ryan Eyford, associate professor in the U of W's history department, says Manitoba College's 150th anniversary is a "significant milestone."

"Manitoba College is an important part of the history of post-secondary education in Manitoba," he says.

In addition to being one of the U of W's founding colleges, it also was one of the University of Manitoba's (U of M) founding colleges, along with the Catholic Collège de Saint-Boniface and the Anglican St. John's

College. Though Manitoba College was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and the U of M in its early days, it later had links to the United Church. Manitoba College merged with Wesley College in 1938, forming United College, which would later become the U of W.

"Marking the anniversary requires a recognition that the histories of the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg are very much intertwined," Eyford says.

Though the original Manitoba College building has been demolished, the U of W's Manitoba Hall pays homage to it. Wesley College's building, however, remains a prominent part of the U of W campus.

"Many people who made significant contributions to the province attended (Manitoba) College, including, for instance, Dr. Frederick Todd Cadham, who the provincial microbiology laboratory is named after," he says, adding that "it has the distinction of being the first college in the province to admit women."

However, Eyford notes that the legacy of Manitoba College, initially a Presbyterian institution, is complicated by the church's involvement in the residential school system.

As former U of M president and vice-chancellor Dr. David Barnard noted

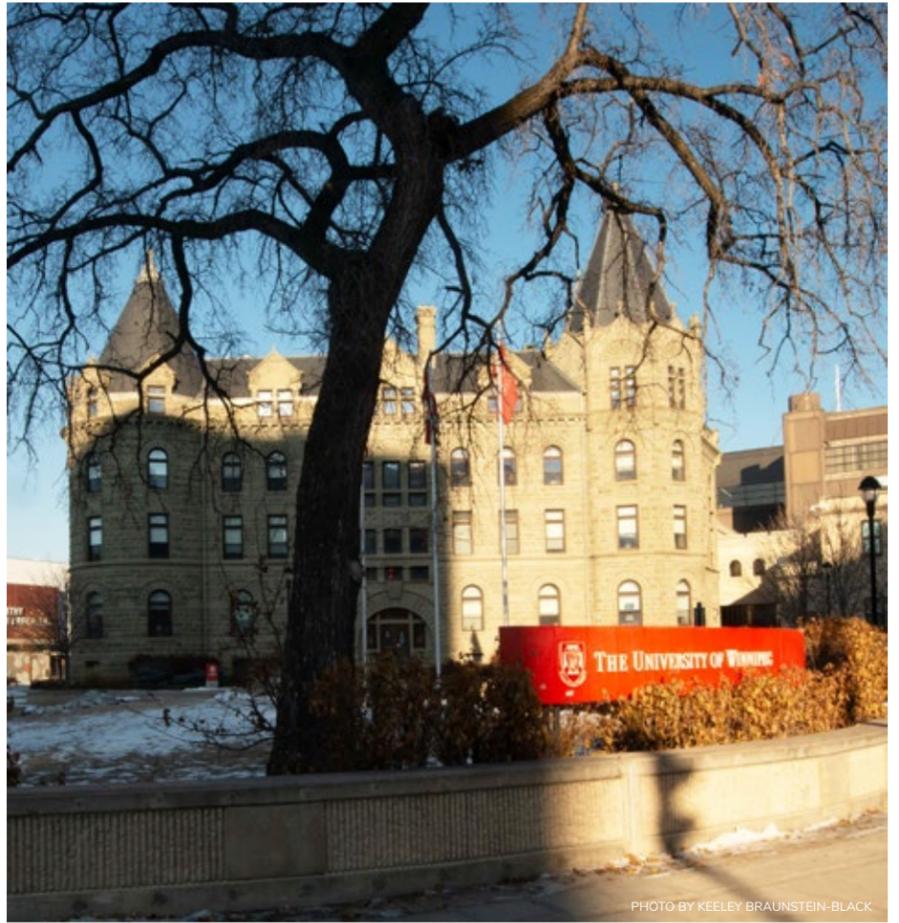


PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Manitoba College, one of the founding colleges of the University of Winnipeg, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2021.

in a statement of apology, Manitoban universities educated individuals who became "clergy, teachers, social workers, civil servants and politicians" who "carried out assimilation policies aimed at the Aboriginal

peoples of Manitoba."

"Any effort to commemorate Manitoba College's 150th anniversary cannot fail to acknowledge that aspect of its legacy," Eyford says.



PROFile

HOP, SKIP, JUMP!

Dr. Sharanpal Ruprai, associate professor, women's and gender studies department, U of W

KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | KEESHAHAREWOOD

During her time as a postsecondary student and an associate professor for the University of Winnipeg's (U of W) women's and gender studies department, Dr. Sharanpal Ruprai's educational journey is something of a traversal triangular tour between Winnipeg, Calgary and Toronto.

Dr. Ruprai began studying at the U of W and from there went to Calgary, to Toronto, back to Calgary, back to Winnipeg and is currently back in Calgary.

"It was kind of like this little hop, skip and jump all across the Prairies," she says.

While travelling all over the Prairies as a student, Dr. Ruprai achieved bachelor degrees in education and English, a master's in English and a doctorate in philosophy.

Upon completing her schooling, Dr. Ruprai had a moment of pause where a jarring question came to mind: now what?

"I was jobless," she says. "I went 'oh wow, who's going to hire me now? Holy doodle!'"

After a year, Dr. Ruprai earned her po-

sition at the U of W and has since created a class for the Indigenous Course Requirement (ICR) with BIPOC students in mind.

"The course is called Critical Race and Indigenous Feminisms," she says.

Dr. Ruprai acknowledges that the course should actually be split in two. Unfortunately, this is a difficult feat to accomplish with a small, six-person department where funding is scarce. Despite these setbacks, the women's and gender studies department is aware of the issue and hopes to diversify the department.

As of now, Dr. Ruprai continues to teach remotely from Calgary and is looking forward to teaching more courses that relate to BIPOC literature and topics. She is especially looking forward to teaching a South Asian diasporic film course next year.

"I hope to support a lot more Students of Colour moving forward."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

What's the best thing about your work?

"I get to read and write and think and engage with students and peers, talk about books and ideas. That's my dream job."

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

"Right now, it would be flying."

What was the movie that had the biggest impact on you?

"*Fire* by Deepa Mehta," she says. "It's an amazing film."

CBC MANITOBA RELEASES FUTURE 40 LIST

U of W students and alumni among those recognized

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CAMPUS REPORTER | [CGOULETKILGOUR](#)

Every year, CBC Manitoba releases their Future 40 list, which recognizes an “outstanding group of 40 individuals under 40 years of age” who are making “Manitoba’s future a little bit brighter.” In 2020, many of the individuals selected were University of Winnipeg (U of W) students and alumni. Among them are Sasha Amaya, Michael Barkman, Tammy Wolfe, Amanda Hallett and Dorota Blumczynska.

Sasha Amaya, who obtained a bachelor of arts in philosophy, literature and the history of ideas from the U of W, works in the areas of “dance, choreography, sound and spatial design,” according to the biography on her personal website. She also holds a master of philosophy in architecture and urban studies from the University of Cambridge.

“I think it’s so important that this recognition is progressive in the sense that you can nominate yourself. You don’t have to have a certain discipline. If you don’t have a community or have the right connections, you can still be considered,” Amaya says.

“Being part of that kind of recognition, I feel so much more positive, and it means so much more to me,” she says.

In terms of her career, Amaya says her experience at the U of W helped prepare

her to do things where there was not already a preset method.

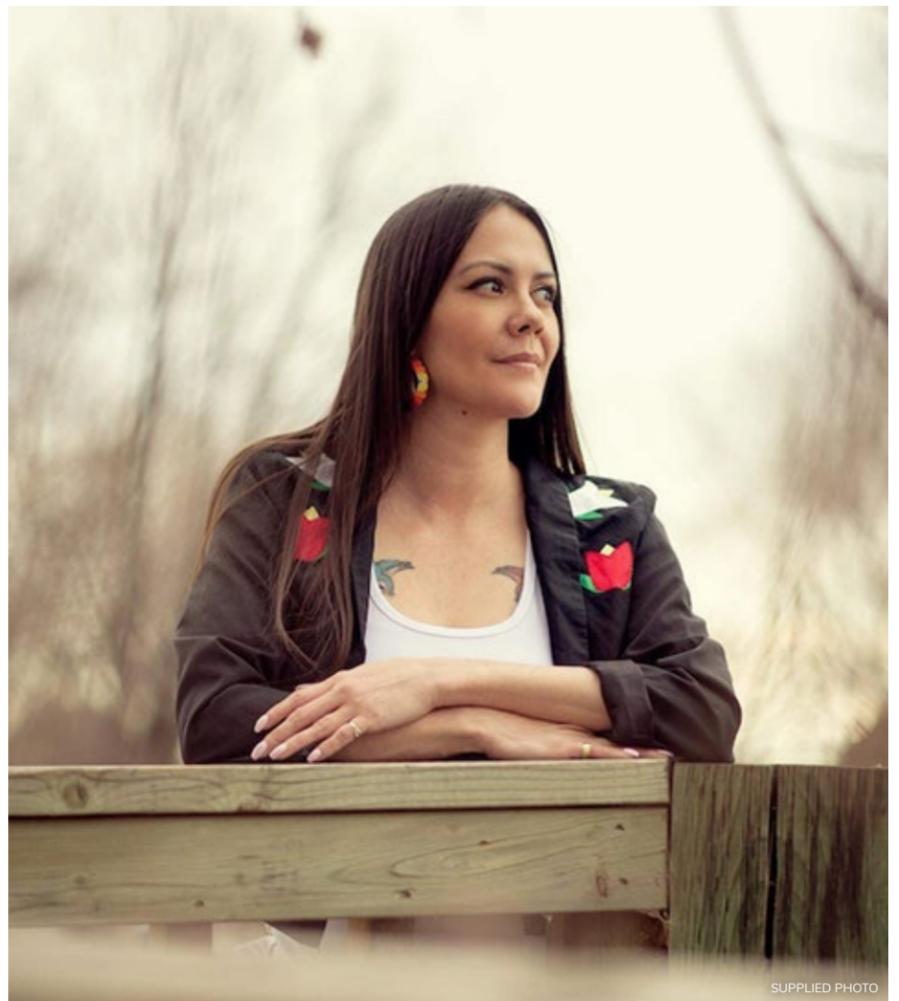
“That influenced the way I work and the kind of projects I feel are possible to take on,” she says. Amaya’s work, ranging from opera to writing to choreography to film, has been shown or published across North America and Europe. She also volunteered with organizations like Cluster Festival and the Jane Goodall Institute.

Another recognized individual was Tammy Wolfe, who is taking her master of arts in Indigenous governance at the U of W. She focuses on issues surrounding missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG2S). Wolfe also holds bachelor of arts and bachelor of education degrees from the U of W.

“That (MMIWG2S) work to me is very important, because I lost my mother almost 20 years ago,” Wolfe says.

“This is something that’s been inside of me: to want to impact change, to try to do something because of the circumstances surrounding my mother’s death,” she says. Wolfe adds that because of her lived experience, her work is more than just a project.

In addition to being a graduate student, she is a teacher and owns a consulting firm offering services such as cultural education, curriculum and policy development



Tammy Wolfe, who is taking her master of arts in Indigenous governance at the U of W, is one of CBC Manitoba’s Future 40.

and business consultation.

When asked about the importance of young people being leaders, Wolfe draws from her cultural background.

“Being an Indigenous person, we look at the seven generations ahead and we look at the seven generations behind,” she says.

“I’m glad to see that people are looking more to the youth, because they’re really the future.”

The complete CBC Manitoba Future 40 list can be found at bit.ly/3n9VZHI.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Student Services

ADD/DROP PERIOD

The Winter Term (U2020W) Add/Drop Period is Jan. 6-19. The last day to drop a U2020W course and not be charged the fees is Tues., Jan. 19. Students who drop a U2020W course Jan. 20-22 and onwards are still responsible for paying all of the course fees.

STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Study Skills Workshops are designed to improve your learning skills and help you achieve your academic goals. Organized by Academic and Career Services, these workshops are FREE to all students.

The workshops for Winter Term 2021 will be delivered via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays, from Jan. 18 to Feb. 3. Pre-registration is required.

Please see: uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advicing/study-skills-workshops.html.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for exciting, international experience? Participate in a UWinnipeg Exchange Opportunity!

Information Session: Wed., Jan. 20 – 12:30-1:30 pm

Complete this form if you would like to attend: uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad/information-sessions.html

This year, we are looking for students who are interested in becoming UWinnipeg

Intercultural Mentors! In this role, students will document their exchange journey via a series of vlogs, culminating in a professional video. The position comes with a \$4,000 stipend, to be used towards your exchange! Applications are via video entry – please see the Exchange website for full details: uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad/index.html.

Application deadline for Fall and Winter 2021-2022: Feb. 15.

TUITION FEES FOR WINTER TERM

How do I pay my fees if Student Central is not open for in-person payments?

Tuition payments can be made using the bill payment feature on your financial institution’s website.

1. Log on to your bank’s website
2. Add The University of Winnipeg – Tuition as a bill payee
3. Use your seven-digit student number as the account number

(International payments can be made via flywire.com.)

U2020W fees are due Jan. 22.

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

In weekly sessions, Student Services staff will continue to share valuable strategies and tips to help you succeed at UWinnipeg. Details on the Winter 2021 sessions will be available soon on this page: uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html.

STUDENT AID

The Canada Student Aid program is offering more loans and non-repayable forms of aid (grants) this year. If you have ever thought about applying, this would be the year to do so. You can still receive student aid for the September 2020 to April 2021 study period even as long as you apply before or in February. Go to uwinnipeg.ca/awards/government-student-aid/index.html.

BURSARIES

Winter 2021 Bursaries will open mid-December 2020. Application deadline will be Feb. 1.

Need help getting connected to the financial supports you need and deserve to pay for your education? Visit the Awards website uwinnipeg.ca/awards to check out our various info pages, or Contact Us to find out the many ways you can connect with Awards and Financial Aid staff.

TRANSIT SUBSIDY

A \$78 UWSA Transit Subsidy will be available to students who purchase a semester bus pass for the 2021 Winter term. Applications are available through our online award application system and will remain open until Feb. 1.

BURSARIES FOR GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES EXPENSES

Graduate and Professional Studies Expenses Bursary is available for students

in their final year of an undergraduate degree program in the 2020-21 academic year that are applying for Graduate or Professional Studies which begin in 2021-22. The application is open until funds have been exhausted.

MYVISIT APP

Need to see a Student Central representative or an Academic or Career Advisor? You can now queue for Zoom drop-in sessions with Student Central, and/or Academic & Career Services using myVisit!

Student Central has drop-in Zoom sessions where students can ask questions “in person” with a SC staff member.

The Zoom waiting room is enabled. One student will be admitted at a time. Students wait for their turn and need to present their UWinnipeg student card (or other photo ID) to talk about their account, the same as actual in-person interactions at SC.

To add yourself to the queue, please use the myVisit app (by Q-nomy) available for Apple or Android phones. Turn off the location permission in the app. The SMS notification when it is your turn shortly will provide the Zoom info. Student can add themselves to the queue 10:00 am - 4:30 pm from Monday-Friday.

Thirty-minute Zoom appointments with Academic and Career Advisors can be booked through the myVisit app or via myvisit.com as well.



LIFE ON THE BORDERLINE

Fifty shades of uncertain

HANNAH MAGNUSSON | COLUMNIST | HANNAHCANWRITE

The first question I asked when I started therapy was “how do I make it stop hurting?” My therapist’s frank response was “you can’t, and that’s not the point of this, anyway.”

I went home that day, stripped raw by the painful memories we dug up and feeling defeated by the realization that this pain was here to stay. I wondered if it was even worth it to keep trying to heal. I was exhausted and felt lost in the face of my newly diagnosed personality disorder.

This hopelessness and confusion in the face of mental healthcare was not unfamiliar to me. I had seen four different therapists and was hospitalized twice before I was diagnosed (improperly at first) and finally referred to a clinical psychologist. On top of that, I spent hours desperately trying to treat myself at home to save money while falling into the victim-blaming traps of “love and light” spirituality gurus.

I don’t want to undermine the value of seeing a professional therapist. It saved my life. I do, however, want to talk about the hidden costs of navigating the world of therapy. There were too many points during treatment when I was so utterly overwhelmed by the uncertainty of it all that I nearly gave up.

The biggest cost of therapy is the obvious one: the financial expense. Seeing a clinical psychologist for a year cost me about \$10,000. That number doesn’t include the amount paid to previous therapists or the amount lost to time off work while I was acutely ill. Despite the help I was given (and I am immensely privileged to have had the support I did), my partner and I are still paying off our debt from that year.

Not so obvious is the cost of effort. The amount of willpower and mental stamina it takes to undergo rigorous therapy isn’t talked about enough.

Something else that is rarely discussed is the task of trying on therapists, laying one’s pain bare to see how they handle it, all in an effort to find a balance between effective treatment and minimal debt. Sifting through painful moments again and again takes a huge mental toll.

Finally, there was the cost of stigma. While being diagnosed did save my life, it cost me the ability to be taken seriously by doctors.

As I visited the emergency room every couple months with worsening abdominal pain, I watched doctors look at my file and tell me that I just needed to take a sedative



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

and calm down, that the pain was all in my head. I did eventually get surgery to effectively treat the disease, but the damage of being repeatedly dismissed and treated like a hysterical female was already done.

All things considered, I can now see that the point of therapy was indeed not to get rid of the pain. That being said, we need to make damn sure that the process of managing the pain doesn’t leave people in a worse condition than when they started.

Hannah Magnusson is a master’s student in the arts department at Athabasca University. Her research focuses on the intersection of storytelling and advocacy, studying how fostering empathy between different perspectives can build a bridge to understanding and action. She lives on Treaty 1 territory on the shore of Lake Winnipeg.



BEYOND THE TIRED NARRATIVE

What HBO forgets about survivors of sexual violence

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | DANIELLEMDOIRON

I can tell you the entire plot of HBO’s *Game of Thrones*, from the Red Wedding to the series finale, even though I never made it past the first season. That can happen when a show dominates conversations, Emmy nominations and *BuzzFeed* articles for eight years.

Like Wesley Morris at *The New York Times*, I experienced the show “as a bystander.” And since I started watching years after the series premiere, I also “knew the meaning of ‘Hodor’ before I’d ever seen the character himself.” But I also knew how violent, sexist and harmful the show could be.

Michael Lombardo, HBO’s former president of programming, called the subscription-based network “an adult service” and defended graphic scenes in *Game of Thrones*, including one where Jaime Lannister rapes his twin sister in a violent deviation from the original *A Song of Ice and Fire* text. After all, “it’s not TV. It’s HBO.”

That attitude has permeated seemingly every major HBO project since. *Westworld* opens with a “lifelike female robot being dragged off to be raped.” And that’s only the first scene.

Executive producer JJ Abrams has claimed the show’s graphic sexual violence exists for a reason, namely, “you can’t tell a story about oppression without depicting the oppressed.” In his words, “No one was going into this thinking ‘let’s do a show that somehow dehumanizes women.’ This is a show, I would argue, very much about the opposite.”

I haven’t seen *Westworld*, mostly because I can’t afford HBO’s subscription package, but also because I’m tired. As *Guardian* critic Danielle Henderson wrote when she decided to stop watching *Game of Thrones* in 2014, “I’m exhausted by the triumph of men at the expense of women as a narrative device,” something she describes as “not only boring but also a little too tied to my real-world experience as a woman and Person of Colour.”

When discussing *Westworld* for *TIME*, Eliana Dockterman writes that “the assaults of the first half of the series inform the rebellion in the second.” Characters like *Game of Thrones*’ Sansa Stark and *Westworld*’s Dolores Abernathy harden and evolve after being violently assaulted.

Experiencing rape and domestic abuse can change people, including how they think, act and relate to others. What HBO series like *Game of Thrones* and *Westworld* fail to show, however, is just how strong, powerful and brave women can be before they’re attacked.

A third of women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime, but every survivor is more than those traumas. Assault is only part of our stories, even though rape narratives dominate the fantasy realms of Westeros and *Westworld*.

I started devouring *The Queen’s Gambit* on Netflix after I read an article from Elisabeth de Mariaffi in *Maclean’s*. One line says it all: “the best thing about *The Queen’s Gambit* is there’s no rape in it.” But



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Westworld is one of many HBOs series to come under fire for using sexual violence as a lazy plot device.

to make things even better, “it is a rape-free story about a woman succeeding.”

Abrams is right, in a way. Entertainment media should reflect what happens in the real world, including showing “the oppressed,” but it needs to stop fetishizing, demeaning and exploiting characters in the process – and there’s nothing wrong with including prominent stories of women who aren’t assaulted.

I’ve heard HBO’s *I May Destroy You* depicts sexual violence more responsibly than its predecessors. It’s a start.

Danielle Doiron is a writer, editor and marketer who splits her time between Winnipeg and Philadelphia. She’s spending the pandemic reading, practising yoga and cursing out the governments in both cities she calls home.



HOROSCOPES

It's Capricorn season!

This Friday, Mercury, the planet of communication, enters air sign Aquarius at 6:59 AM and mental processes, writing, and talking, are all functioning highly. Venus changes signs, entering earthy Capricorn at 10:41 AM. Then, also on Friday, the sun gently connects with dreamy Neptune at 11:52 AM. This is a magical aspect that helps you tap into something transcendental and otherworldly. Artistic collaboration and spiritual connections are made. This is helpful as there may some disagreements to smooth over as Mercury clashes with Mars at 9:44 PM.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

ARIES

One of the best ways to remind yourself that you're the commander in chief of your life is by rearranging your life. It's time for some housecleaning! But before you get annoyed at the prospect of organizing closets and scrubbing the refrigerator, stop and think about it. What better way is there to feel powerful than by improving your living situation in such a way that every day moving forward you can see the influence you have?

TAURUS

Do you know the fastest route to your happy place? If not, you'd better figure it out quick! There could be at least one difficult personality living up to their reputation today, making your life a little bit more difficult. Their demands or preferences are going to complicate something that you thought was quick and simple. You can't get mad, but you can get out of there. For solace, you'll need to go to your happy place and stay put until things are all ironed out.

GEMINI

The person in power right now might not be the person you'd like to see in power, but so what? You can and will still achieve a lot today. Their involvement in your daily life is waning, and you won't have to worry about them breathing down your neck. And when you get done doing your thing, they'll be quite impressed with how professional and focused you are. And then maybe you'll start seeing them differently. Today could be the start of a whole new phase of your relationship.

CANCER

You might think you're seeing double today when you come across someone who reminds you a lot of yourself at a younger age. This person has all the same attitudes and hopes you had, and they're stirring up some emotions about the goals you left unconquered in your life. Your heart is open to trying something new, so why not tackle one of those unfinished tasks? After all, there is no rule that this something new can't be something from your past.

LEO

The energy you direct at other people will always come back to you in some way, shape, or form. This is something to keep in mind the next time you feel like chatting on your phone while someone next to you is trying to read. It's important to be more mindful of how you interact with others. You don't have to put yourself second to strangers, but you'll find that the more considerate you are to others, the more considerate they will be to you.

VIRGO

Just because your friend or co-worker doesn't like to toot their own horn doesn't mean you have to keep from singing their praises when you hear about their latest triumph. Show them how proud you are of them and organize a little celebration. It doesn't have to be a big affair. Just order a bunch of pizzas or call a local florist for a bouquet. Doing something nice for them will make you feel better than you ever expected!

LIBRA

One of your current projects feels like it will never end. If you've been waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel to come into view, you might be able to get a glimpse of it today if you keep calm and remain confident about it. Worrying about how you're going to finish something or when you're going to finish isn't helping you get it done any faster, is it? Roll up your sleeves and dig in. That's the fastest way to the finish line.

SCORPIO

This is a very good day to get what you want, whether it's the attention of a certain someone you have your eye on or just a better parking space. You've got some killer positive energy inside of you right now, and it's creating a protective bubble of good vibes around you. Nothing anyone can say will get you down, and you'll have a kind word for everyone you see. This bright attitude will make a real difference in your day. People will even comment on it.

SAGITTARIUS

If you get paired up with someone at work or school, your first reaction might be that the two of you are mismatched. If that's the case, stick with it anyway. Make the best of it. Give this relationship time to bloom, and you could be nicely surprised by what it grows into. Sure, it might be uncomfortable for both of you in the beginning, but it's important to learn how to work with people you don't necessarily understand or even get along with.

CAPRICORN

A friend has been making some remarkable changes in their life, which could mean you're thinking about making some changes of your own. They have some excellent advice on how to get started in a new direction, so you should pick their brain on the ins and outs of their transformation. They'll be flattered by the attention, which will encourage them to keep on going with this lifestyle renovation. Don't be afraid to let someone know you're proud of them.

AQUARIUS

Take a second look at recent events and you'll finally be able to see them for what they are. A little distance plus time can give you clarity. It's not easy to be honest with yourself about the mistakes you've made in the past, but it's the best way to grow. If in retrospect you see that you said or did something you regret, make amends today and apologize if necessary. Pretending everything is fine will only build walls between you and people you care about.

PISCES

If you've been dreaming about making a change in your life, today you could get the chance to start making that dream come true. This is only the beginning, though. You can't expect any major transformations to happen overnight. If you have unrealistic expectations, you'll only get frustrated. If you're working on making a change to your physical being, this is doubly true. Understand that this will take time, but you'll be able to stick with it until you reach your goal.

THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

WHAT IS THE AGE OF AQUARIUS?

An astrological age is a time period in astrologic theology which astrologers claim parallels major changes in the development of Earth's inhabitants, particularly relating to culture, society, and politics.

This cycle, which lasts roughly 26,000 years, means the zodiac sign visible at dawn on

the first day of spring changes about every 2,000 years.

Out of all the signs, Aquarius is the most free-thinking. The Piscean Age was dominated by a Christian patriarchal system. The new age is all about making room for a more egalitarian world.

Aquarius is heavily associated with getting informed and technology. So, the Age of

Aquarius, then, is about acknowledging that the system is broken and not waiting for someone to fix it.

As the Age of Aquarius begins humanity is set to focus on the innovative and socialist ways that only the air element can generate for us.

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

— Knowledge is power. 2020

has shaken us all to our core and helped expose the cracks in society's foundation.

We've all experienced a shift in the way we relate to power and safety, so we should think of 2020 as the training wheels for a revolutionary couple years to come that could change the way we relate to our communities and what we value in society.



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The Uniter is seeking volunteer writers, illustrators and photographers.

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