

THE **UNITER**

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**ORGANIZERS ADAPT TO BRING BACK LIVE EVENTS IN MANITOBA**



SYNONYM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MARTHA STREET STUDIO

THE UNITER SPEAKER SERIES &  
WALL-TO-WALL FESTIVAL PRESENT:

# A Conversation with: Lido Pimienta

Discussing care, empowerment and resistance through  
creative practice

HOSTED BY MARIANA MUÑOZ  
GOMEZ

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 / 7 P.M.

ON FACEBOOK LIVE ON  
THE UNITER PAGE





SUPPLIED PHOTO

Chenxin Liu is one of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's many dancers who is excited to return to the stage. Read more on page 4.

# THE WRONG ELECTION

THOMAS PASHKO  
MANAGING EDITOR



On Sept. 20, Manitobans will, like the rest of Canada, head out to the polls to vote in the upcoming federal election. The election was called by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau two years early, a decision that left many Canadians scratching our heads. Conventional wisdom is that Trudeau, whose popularity rose due to his COVID-19 pandemic response, hoped to seize the moment and snag a majority government. The unpopular decision to call the election in the middle of said pandemic, however, has that popularity rapidly declining.

I always enjoy the opportunity to vote, and now that I have both of my vaccine doses, I'd be perfectly happy masking up and waiting in a socially distanced line to cast my ballot. However, this isn't the election I wish I was voting in.

What's more frustrating to me, as a Manitoban, is which election we *aren't* having right now: the one for Manitoba's premier.

We were particularly hard on former premier Brian Pallister in the pages of *The Uniter* during his tenure, and rightly so. We make it a point to scrutinize those in power, no matter who they are. But Pallister's relentless, years-long dismantling of Manitoba's healthcare system smashed headfirst into the pandemic, his response to which was incompetent and mismanaged. Combined with his many instances of racism, classism, anti-democratic policy proposals and many other brands of run-of-the-mill unpleasantness, I was glad to see him go.

But his interim replacement, Kelvin Goertzen, who just last June was palling around with Ted Cruz, Betsy DeVos and literal neo-Nazis, is hardly an improvement. Neither are the Tory leadership candidates, who will be voted on not by the general population but by card-carrying Progressive Conservative party members.

The next provincial election isn't mandated to take place until Oct. 3, 2023. The fact that our provincial leader for the next two years and change won't be democratically elected, but will instead be appointed by the people who presumably voted for the last clown, should be a concern to everyone.

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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](mailto: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.



# WINNIPEG TWITTER HATES ITSELF

## A smol exploration of Winnipeg comedy and community on Twitter

SARAH LONDON | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER |  SRA\_5000

What are the rules of creating humour from Winnipeg? A tweet from the account @MasonDRM sums it up nicely: “You are only allowed to make fun of Winnipeg if you are from Winnipeg, anybody else & we’ll fight you & steal your bike.”

“What’s funny about (Winnipeg) is it’s the only city that has no problem making fun of itself. Residents very much know what it is and are, in a way, proud of it,” Spencer Adamus, a local comedian, says. His current pinned tweet, with over 600 favourites, features four ugly, grey cityscapes of the Pripjat, Ukraine (an abandoned city inside the radioactive Chernobyl Exclusion Zone) with the caption “When you’re watching the jets game and they cut to the skyline of Winnipeg.”

Tweets about Winnipeg and Winnipeg politics get high engagement for Adamus, who has a lot of followers from Winnipeg.

“When (my followers) see a tweet that’s a joke about Winnipeg, they all can relate, because we’re all from this weird city,” he says.

An article from the BBC examining why Canadians are funny calls us “masters of homegrown self-deprecation.” The article goes on to say it’s common knowledge that our sense of humour comes from the inherent

isolation of the country and the weather.

The moderator for the @InfectMB Twitter account (who wished to remain anonymous), who tweets thoughts, jokes and Manitoba-specific political satire, created their account partly due to the brutal weather here.

“All you can really do is make stuff and post stuff, especially with COVID, and then, this summer, (I couldn’t) go outside, because it just (smelled) like smoke,” they say. “There’s something really funny that you just can’t seem to catch a break in this town.”

Like its handle suggests, the @InfectMB account was started because of COVID-19 and was inspired by the moderator’s frustration about the provincial government’s response to the pandemic.

“It’s kind of just a way of taking the power back ... at first, it was a lot more preachy and heavy-handed, (but), over time, it devolved into just writing whatever weird thing pops into my head,” they say.

The moderator, who is also an artist, has found collaborators through Winnipeg Twitter.

“I (look) to see who’s out there that might be good to work with, and I’ve already got a few things going on with a



@InfectMB is one of several local social media accounts poking fun at Winnipeg culture and politics.

few people,” the moderator says.

Adamus also finds opportunities thanks to the Winnipeg Twitter space.

“I’ve (booked comedy) shows because ... companies have seen my tweets and my jokes about Winnipeg,” he says.

The Winnipeg Twitter space – where locals connect, share their random thoughts and endearingly roast the city – offers a sense of community.

“When I started this account, I started digging around to see who was posting and who I thought was funny, and there’s

just really an incredible sense of humour that people in this town seem to have,” the @InfectMB moderator says.

Adamus says because Winnipeg Twitter serves a niche market, there are always friends to be made. Or enemies, he adds.

Winnipeg “is not as bad as people say it is, but the joke is that it is ... It’s the most beautiful, ugly little city there is,” he says.

Follow @SpencerAdamus and @InfectMB on Twitter.

# CURTAIN CALL FOR THE RWB COMEBACK

## Dancers are ready to ‘reignite the stage’

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER |  BELLASOARES0601  BELLA\_SOARES16

A year after the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) last set foot on the Centennial Concert Hall stage, dancers will return to the mainstage for the 2021-22 season.

In an effort to invite audiences to enjoy in-person entertainment and celebrate the return of traditional performances, the RWB has decided to name the incoming season Reignite the Stage.

“Expect much excitement from artists who will be performing on stage. The dancers were dancing during the COVID period, but they were being filmed and weren’t performing in front of a live audience, and dancers feed off of the audience,” Tara Birtwhistle, the RWB’s associate artistic director, says.

The first set of performances, entitled *Perpetual Motion*, will happen from Oct. 14 to 17, showcasing Toer van Schayk’s choreography-led *Seventh Symphony* and Agnes de Milles’ *Rodeo*.

“These are two beloved RWB ballets. *Seventh Symphony* is a beautiful piece. It is about coming out of something together, and that will really reignite the stage, because it is pure dance, and the whole company will be on stage at once,” Birtwhistle says.

“The second piece is *Rodeo*, which really speaks to the good, old-fashioned fun. It hearkens back to old Broadway and old films. It is just a wholesome story that will provide comfort.”

The excitement for the long-awaited

return to the Centennial Concert Hall has left principal dancers Chenxin Liu and Yue Shi with high spirits. During the lockdowns, they were unable to dance with most of their classmates, having been separated into cohorts. Now that they are preparing for the live shows, the dancers have gone back to in-person classes with the rest of their ensemble.

Liu explained how the current environment at the RWB looks in comparison to the lockdown period.

“Right now, we are doing in-person classes but with a mask. In the past two weeks, we started taking classes with everyone, but last season, we were divided into three cohorts. There were about eight dancers per cohort,” Liu says.

When asked about what it was like to practice together with his peers for the upcoming performances, Shi says “It feels so good, actually, to bring everybody into the same studio, because we can challenge each other, and it’s just really fun.”

Three other ballet performances will take place during the rest of the season. The annual tradition of presenting *The Nutcracker* from Dec. 18 to 28 is already confirmed for the end of this year. From Feb. 23 to 27, audiences will have the chance to see the RWB heading back to the stage with *The Sleeping Beauty*. Lastly, Val Caniparoli’s *A Cinderella Story* will finalize the Reignite the Stage season in a ballet-meets-Broadway version of the beloved fairytale.



Yue Shi, a principal dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, is excited to return to the stage in *Seventh Symphony*.

Despite having so many performances scheduled soon, Shi and Liu have an idea of which ones they are most excited to dance.

“I am really looking forward to *Seventh Symphony*. It is a really challenging ballet, and I have never done this before, so I think it is a great chance to do it right now,” Shi says.

“I am looking forward to performing *Seventh Symphony* and *Rodeo*, because we

have rehearsed for (them) so many times and didn’t have the chance to perform. I am also really excited for *Cinderella*. I love the music in this ballet,” Liu says.

The tickets for *Perpetual Motion* are already available for purchase through the Centennial Concert Hall website. For more information, visit [rwb.org](http://rwb.org).





## VIRTUAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES MULTICULTURALISM

### Ethno Fest 2021 brings cultural visibility to the community

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [BELLASOARES0601](#) [BELLA\\_SOARES16](#)

Many in-person festivals and local shows were postponed throughout the summer due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Cultural events that often take place during this time of the year transitioned to digital platforms.

Although these virtual experiences might feel different, one festival in particular still gives “attendees” the chance to listen to music in multiple languages and learn about cultural traditions in Manitoba.

Ethno Fest 2021 is a U Multicultural initiative to further elevate underrepresented voices and give them a digital platform to share their own stories. U Multicultural’s mission statement is to broadcast programs and events that preserve languages, promote culture and allow people to speak freely about their backgrounds. The festival was one of the ways that the media platform was able to integrate with local ethnic groups during the pandemic.

“When we faced COVID, we understood that communities really need this project ... Ethno Fest is a way to promote languages, culture, traditions and to teach a wider community about diverse backgrounds and worldviews,” Taya Rtichsheva, the executive director of U Multicultural, says. “For Eth-

no Fest, we produce a series of short films, interviews and stories that focus on various aspects (of culture), including history, food, dance and music.”

The online celebration started last month and will continue until Sept. 30. Programming is available through the U Multicultural channel on Shaw Multicultural, U Radio and on the organization’s website.

Ethno Fest 2021 is divided into categories ranging from music performances to short stories presented by people within the local Latin American, African, European, Indigenous and Asian communities.

Sharan Tappia, founding member of the Asian Women of Winnipeg organization, discussed some of the content that members of her community made to emphasize Asian cultural traditions through Ethno Fest 2021.

“This year, because of COVID, we couldn’t bring many other performers or volunteers, but our board members participated in the cooking segment and Ethno Dances, a section for dance videos in the festival. They also showed how to make some crafts, henna tattoos, and they put on a fashion show. We were definitely happy to participate,” Tappia says.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Ethno Fest 2021 is an ongoing digital festival presented by U Multicultural with the aim of preserving languages and promoting culture.

She also spoke about how the festival acknowledges the importance of sharing multicultural customs to the masses, especially during a digitally driven era.

“On the main media, it is really hard to accommodate everybody,” she says. “In our different cultures, we find so much more exposure with this (festival), and people feel honoured to showcase their values and what is important to them.

“Ethno Fest is playing a great role in this,

because people feel so motivated to be in the media, and they prepare themselves, because they know that they will be valued.”

**Submissions for Ethno Fest 2021 are open until the end of September for any members of ethnic groups who would like to contribute to the festival. To participate, access [u-channel.ca](#) or contact [info@u-channel.ca](#).**

## TRUE CRIME, BUT MAKE IT MORAL

### Digital project presents true crime and Black history through decolonial lens

SARAH LONDON | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [SRA\\_5000](#)

According to NPR, in 2021, “half of the top 10 podcasts are focused on true crime.” That’s a lot of tragic murders being told between jokes and Squarespace ads.

*Girl, You Haven’t Heard??* is a multifaceted true-crime and Black-history project from creator Jayda Hope. It includes a podcast, YouTube videos and a Patreon.

The content discusses “true-crime cases without the ridiculous copaganda others love to include, but most importantly (discusses) Black history in the context of these colonial borders from a decolonial and critical lens,” Hope tweeted.

During the summer of 2020, Hope was engaged in activism on the ground, and part of her work was researching Black Canadian history.

“I was typing out all the Black historical events, and I was like, it’s kind of crazy that I don’t even really know what these are, and I’ve lived here my whole life,” she says.

Hope’s interest in true crime and her experience feeling like activism was not the most efficient way to share her knowledge led to the creation of *Girl, You Haven’t Heard??*, a collection of Black history and true-crime content that disrupts the popular genre.

“I didn’t like the way that the cases were discussed, and I didn’t like the fact that (the victims) weren’t talked about like they were people, (and) it was just something for entertainment purposes,” she says.

According to Hope, thorough research and consideration of the victims’ fami-

lies, particularly for unsolved cases, are central to the project.

“The first case that I did, I reached out to talk to (the victim)’s mom ... It felt more honourable than doing a story on her daughter and then never hearing from her.”

An article in *Time Magazine* chronicles the perspective of families of people featured in true-crime productions. They report that although true-crime productions can reinvigorate cases, people and businesses profiting and creating entertainment from families’ pain can be unhelpful and re-traumatizing.

The project is more than a new take on the true-crime genre. It’s also a resource for teaching and learning about Black history. Hope offers notes, workbooks and definition sheets on her Patreon, so teachers can use them in their classrooms.

In April 2021, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported on the status of Black history in Manitoba classrooms, stating the province last updated its anti-racism and Black-history material in December 2020, “but teaching the material is not mandatory.”

Hope says the project offers everything “that would be needed to teach the topic, but without any necessary work for the teachers, because I know ... they’re spread really thin, especially with COVID.”

Hope emphasizes that *Girl, You Haven’t Heard??* “is definitely one way of taking in this knowledge, but that people should always do their own research outside of what I say.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Local activist Jayda Hope’s new podcast *Girl, You Haven’t Heard??* explores true crime and Black history through a decolonial, anti-racist perspective.

She hopes listeners and viewers will see “the importance and the value of learning about Black history from a Black source, not just hearing it from a colonial perspective, which is often told incorrectly.”

**Find *Girl, You Haven’t Heard??* on Youtube Anchor and Patreon.**





# THE RAINBOW BOYS

Plays Sept. 22 to 26 at Cinematheque

★★★★★

KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | @KEESHAHAREWOOD

The 1973 film *The Rainbow Boys* follows a bickering, ragtag trio as they embark on a humorous quest to find a lost gold mine that belonged to the father of one of three.

*Rainbow Boys* is an easy watch in the best way possible. It does a unique spin on a quest narrative, where the obstacles aren't adversarial beings or evil forces but rather comedic instances of human error.

Impressively, the movie has its fair share of hijinks, yet it maintains a down-to-

earth mood. Nothing that befalls the trio seems too absurd or over-the-top. There's some ridiculousness, yes, but nothing that feels outside the bounds of reality. This clean, grounded aspect of the film adds to its abundant charm.

By far, the best part is watching the main cast. Donald Pleasence plays the eccentric and elderly Ralph Logan, who bumbles through his quest to find his father's mine. Accompanying him is his

grouchy, wonderfully snide friend Gladys (Kate Reid) and a brash, clever, but also recent acquaintance, Mazella (Don Calfa).

Each of these characters have huge personalities with built-in layers of emotionality that, if tackled by a lesser cast, would've come across as hokey and cartoonish. But Pleasence, Reid and Calfa are not only able to portray the multifaceted nature of their roles. They also successfully gel into a well-balanced band.

Pleasence is the comedic heartbeat of the film. He nails the absent-minded, butterfing-ered qualities of Ralph Logan. It's impossible not to be endeared to the character.

Playing off Pleasence exceedingly well, Calfa embodies a youthful, somewhat exploitative spirit that generates a blunt and distinct foil to Ralph Logan. Without Calfa, Pleasence wouldn't be nearly as funny.

But it's Reid who's by no uncertain terms the backbone of the trio. Despite

her harsh, sardonic exterior that is often Gladys's default behaviour, Reid is able to draw out her character's softer, emotional vulnerabilities. This is especially prevalent during the brief but heart-wrenching moments that explore her dispiriting romantic past. The way Reid balances the dualities of Gladys is brilliant.

Watching the triad play off each other is nothing short of an unadulterated delight.

One of the film's highlights is its ending. Without giving too much away, the ending is the cherry on top of a good quest narrative – a clean, complete conclusion that befits the journey embarked. The ending is satisfying, with no loose strings or extraneous details.

Overall, *The Rainbow Boys* is an enjoyable watch for an easygoing afternoon. For anyone looking for a movie that's simple but chock-full of bountiful charm, *The Rainbow Boys* is a must-watch.

## ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | @FICTIONALCIERRA @CIERRABETTENS

### Tailings Pools at Plug-In ICA

At an offsite location on 87 Higgins Ave., Plug-In Institute of Contemporary Art will host a temporary exhibition called *Tailings Pools*. The exhibition is free to view and runs from Sept. 17 to Oct. 3.

### Sanctuaries virtual exhibition at Gallery 1C03

Starting on Sept. 20, Gallery 1C03 will host a virtual art exhibition, *Sanctuaries*, featuring work by artists Anique Jordan, Akum Maduka and Rajni Pereira. The gallery can be viewed at [thesanctuaries.ca](https://thesanctuaries.ca) until Dec. 19.

### Wong Kar Wai films at Cinematheque

The Winnipeg Film Group's Cinematheque (304-100 Arthur St.) will screen a series of films by director Wong Kar Wai from Sept. 10 to Oct. 3. Tickets can be purchased through [winnipegfilmgroup.com](https://winnipegfilmgroup.com).

### Life's Little Pleasures and Life's Little Pressures at cre8ery

Artist and orthodontist Kris Row's exhibit will be featured at cre8ery (125 Adelaide St.) from Sept. 16 to 28. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 12 to 6 p.m. Visit [cre8ery.com](https://cre8ery.com) for more details.

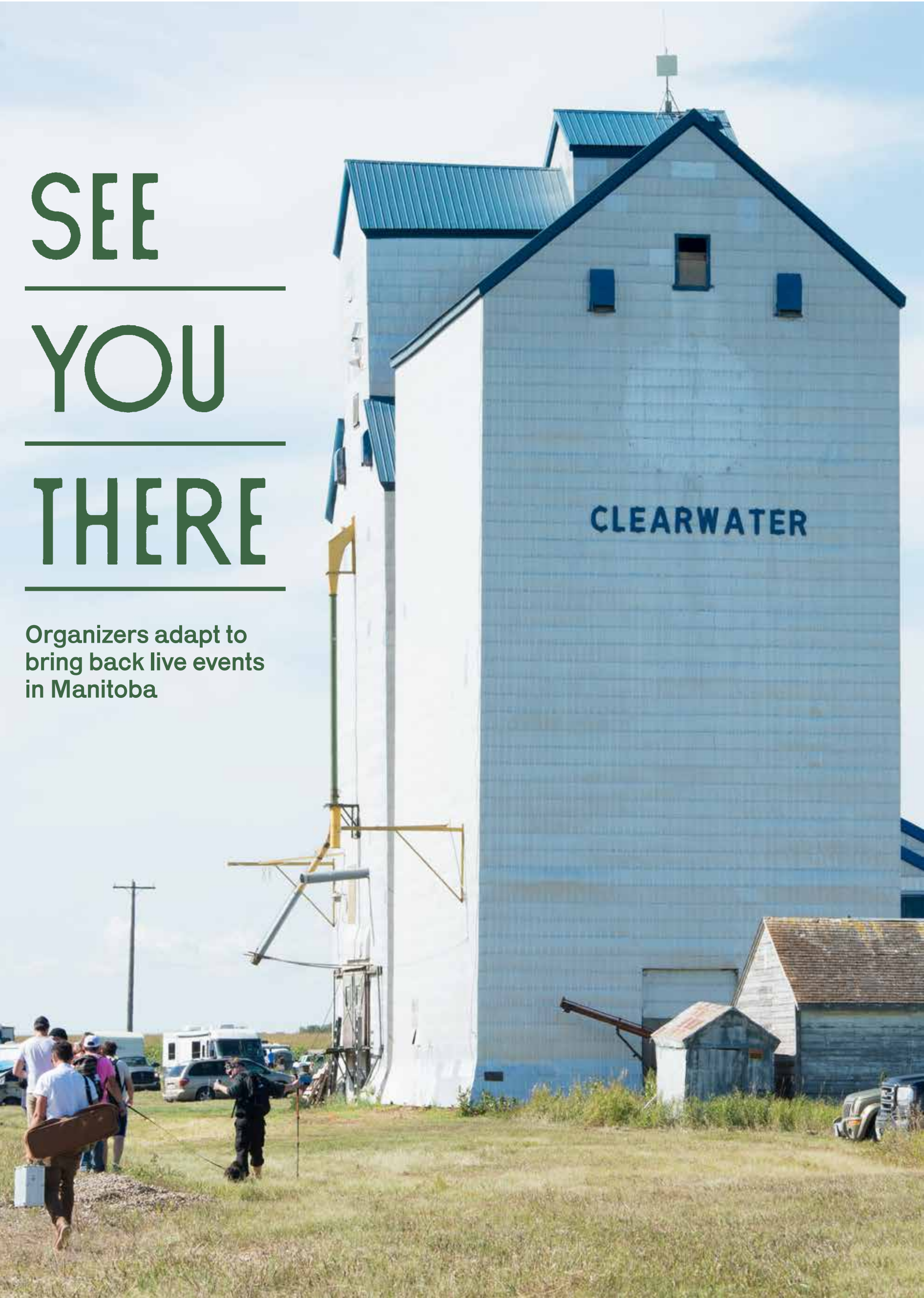
### Theatre by the River opens Meet Me at Dawn

From Sept. 9 to 19, Theatre by the River will host Zinnie Harris' *Meet Me at Dawn* play. The event is located at Whit-tier Park (836 St. Joseph St.). For more info on dates, times and to purchase tickets, visit [theatrebytheriver.com](https://theatrebytheriver.com).

### People Change dance and music performance

On Sept. 26 at 8 p.m., performance artist Ian Mozden and musician Matthew Sawatsky will present a program of dance and music composed in the moment at the Rachel Browne Theatre (211 Bannatyne Ave. on the second floor). Tickets are \$8 and can be reserved by emailing [iansmoz@outlook.com](mailto:iansmoz@outlook.com).





# SEE YOU THERE

Organizers adapt to  
bring back live events  
in Manitoba

With the return of live events and music picking up steam, organizers and artists are thinking outside the box and putting in extra effort to bring in-person events to fruition.



# MANITOBA NIGHT MARKET & FESTIVAL



Vendors and shoppers alike returned to the Manitoba Night Market & Festival at Assiniboia Downs on Sept. 5. The Night Market will return on Sept. 19.

Cory O’Grodnik, event manager for Assiniboia Downs, has been organizing the Manitoba Night Market & Festival for four years.

“Every year, I try to keep it going. (It’s important), especially for the vendors. What they have all gone through has been really hard on a lot of them,” he says.

Over the past four years, O’Grodnik has developed a strong rapport with the vendors and stresses the impor-

tance of supporting local shops and makers.

“They are always asking, ‘when is the next show?’” he says.

The Manitoba Night Market & Festival that took place on Sept. 5 was on the smaller side, compared to previous years. O’Grodnik cited both the close proximity to the Fall Fair at the Red River Ex grounds across the street from Assiniboia Downs and his hesitancy to sell spots to vendors, due to the changing public-health orders.

“We could have been a bit bigger, but we didn’t know what the rules were going to be, so we had to be careful about selling,” O’Grodnik says.

Since public-health orders sometimes change the day before an event, O’Grodnik says he checks every day and makes adjustments accordingly.

“We are so happy to be back,” O’Grodnik says. He adds that the market on Sept. 19 will be larger.

# HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL



Harvest Moon Festival attendees test the waters of Clearwater, Man. in this archival photo from 2019. The festival returns from Sept. 17 to 19.

The volunteer-run Harvest Moon Festival (HMF) takes place in Clearwater, Man. The festival’s primary goal is supporting the Harvest Moon Society and Harvest Moon Learning Centre while celebrating the harvest season, highlighting local food production and linking rural and urban communities.

According to Cory Bellhouse, the volunteer co-ordinator, organizing this year’s festival has been about more than just following provincial guidelines.

It’s about “what feels safe for our community. We are inviting a lot of people to a town of 74 people. Getting input and buy-in from the community is pretty essential,” Bellhouse says.

The pandemic made HMF organizers “reconsider how we interact with the community.” The team has faced both

opportunities and challenges. Organizers considered creative ideas that would make the festival more accessible.

“It made us desire to have more inclusivity, especially in regards to offering streaming capabilities,” Bellhouse says.

Unfortunately, due to the rural location of the festival, the HMF organizers have not been able to find an internet provider.

“We had (them) out last week. There is no internet provider in western Manitoba that can offer internet fast enough to do a livestream. It is actually impossible right now. We want to explore it further in the future. It is just disappointing, because this is the festival we wanted to have it at,” Bellhouse says.

The first batch of tickets (one-third of their usual amount) to HMF sold out in about 10 minutes.

“It has been challenging listening to people say ‘I’ve come for 15 years, and I can’t get a ticket,’” Bellhouse says.

The second batch went on sale Monday, Sept. 13.

“When I consider the unique challenges of both last year and this year, I am really grateful I get to work with a bunch of people who care enough about bringing people together enough in a way that is safe and looks out for each other,” Bellhouse says.

Despite being disappointed that not as many people will be able to attend, Bellhouse says he is looking forward to this year’s festival.

“I am heartened by the commitment and organization that has gone into it and the enthusiasm that I have gotten from people who are volunteering and attending. Once it starts, it is going to be really great.”



# THE CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY (CPAWS)



Avery Kash is an environmental educator with CPAWS Manitoba.



Cellist Rob Knaggs performs at a CPAWS event.



The CPAWS Nature Club hosts guest speakers and facilitates outdoor fun and learning.

Avery Kash is an environmental educator for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS). Her job enables her to combine her love of education and nature in developing CPAWS Manitoba Outdoor Learning Program by reducing the barriers to outdoor learning and exploration.

Organizing CPAWS events is a large project with many moving parts, often involving bringing in experts to share their knowledge.

“We’ve been establishing partnerships with some groups such as the Manitoba Paddling Association for different events. During the event itself, we prioritize safety and accessibility for all bodies. We want our participants to feel welcome, safe and engaged. We follow up with our community and take any feedback to improve,” Kash says.

CPAWS launched the Nature Club, which hosts guest speakers and facilitates outdoor fun and learning, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kash saw this as an opportunity to acknowledge the need for community and togetherness, while recognizing that nature has been a refuge for

many people.

“As public-health recommendations and guidelines shift, we’ve learned to be very adaptable and flexible as we plan our events. (The) safety of our participants is of utmost priority, so we’ve decided to have our events outdoors for the time being, as well as have implemented safety protocols. We’ve capped numbers at our events to be sure that adequate distancing is possible,” Kash says.

Unique opportunities have presented themselves in making connections with diverse groups of people and growing a community.

Kash enjoys facilitating activities as people connect with experts and watching people stepping out of their comfort zones as they try new things.

“It’s been really beautiful to experience,” she says. “Flexibility and adaptation has been both a challenge and an opportunity for growth. We’ve been pushed to think outside the box, take risks, and try new things. We’re piloting many of these types of events, and the feedback has been phenomenal.”

From the perspective of performers, the current environment has led to opportunities for some interesting collaborations. For Rob Knaggs, a cellist and composer, a partnership with CPAWS was a natural fit.

“The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society endeavours to promote conservation and preservation of nature’s beauty, and the Manitoba chapter has an initiative to protect the western Hudson Bay’s sea ice and estuaries – which resonates a lot with my story and music, having spent a lot of time in Churchill playing for whales and viewing polar bears,” Knaggs says.

After the downtime during the pandemic, Knaggs is excited to reconnect with a live audience.

“Now things are opening up, and shows are able to push ahead. It’s exciting to reach out to friends and other creatives to collaborate and celebrate this magic of live performance with an in-person audience. It really puts it in perspective to just never take any show for granted, and the mutual respect between artist and audience,” he says.

“I think time was a major factor for me,

having the time and space to analyze my art and what I’m doing currently and what I’d want to see that grow into. I doubled down on music theory and started writing rearrangements of my pieces, so when shows would eventually return, I’d have the possibility of handing music over and performing my works in an ensemble.

“This came to some fruition in a collaboration with a fellow Australian/Manitoba transplant, Stephan Azulay. We were offered some nights to perform at The Beer Can, so we brainstormed on a marriage of new classical music and contemporary dance by way of ballet,” Knaggs says.

According to Knaggs, practicing and performing are their own entities, and he felt a little rusty getting back on stage. However, Knaggs is excited to be back in Winnipeg, “an (extremely) creative and forward-thinking city with so much talent and willingness to witness and create art that pushes boundaries and still resonates. I just moved into a rehearsal space where I can create and hone my craft, which is a big first for me.”





A musician performs at the Manitoba Night Market & Festival on Sept. 5.



"Every year, I try to keep it going. (It's important), especially for the vendors. What they have all gone through has been really hard on a lot of them," - Cory O'Grodnik, Manitoba Night Market event manager



"It's exciting to reach out to friends and other creatives to collaborate and celebrate this magic of live performance with an in-person audience." - musician Rob Knaggs



"We are inviting a lot of people to a town of 74 people. Getting input and buy-in from the community is pretty essential," Cory Bellhouse, volunteer co-ordinator, Harvest Moon Festival

The Manitoba Night Market & Festival will take place on Sunday, Sept. 19 from 1 to 11 p.m. at Assiniboia Downs. Admission is \$7, and parking is \$5.

Harvest Moon Festival runs from Sept. 17 to 19 in Clearwater, Man.

CPAWs is running two in-person events this month: the Forest Bathing and Mindfulness Workshop on Thursday, Sept. 23 and an Intro to Tree Identification Workshop on Thursday, Sept. 30. CPAWS is still running webinars, too. Manitoba's Seabirds: The Feathered Link is on Friday, Sept. 24, and Nature Journaling: Tips and Techniques for Observing the Outdoors is on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Find Knaggs performing at the Manitoba Night Market on Sunday, Sept. 19 with Apollo Suns and at Little Brown Jug on Saturday, Sept. 25 for Nuit Blanche. Knaggs is also available for session work "if anyone's in need of a cellist/guitarist/arranger/token Aussie."

## CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

### Last late-summer late-night market

The last event in the late-summer Manitoba Night Market event series is at Assiniboia Downs on Sept. 19 from 1 to 11 p.m. The event will feature local artisans, food trucks and live music. Tickets, which are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children, are available at the door.

### Defining research data

On Friday, Sept. 17, Jaime Orr, research data management librarian at the University of Winnipeg, will present the latest event in the Indigenous Data Management: Indigenous Sovereignty in Action webinar series, titled: "What is Research Data?" Those interested in participating should pre-register at [uwinnipeg.ca](http://uwinnipeg.ca).

### Walk in a United way

The Winnipeg United Way "Walk This Way" Event, which encourages participants to "walk, roll, bike or run" in support of the United Way Winnipeg Campaign, will take place on Sept. 17. While the event happens across the city, the University of Winnipeg United Way committee will meet for a short downtown walk with those interested at 12:30 p.m.

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Government of Canada has declared Sept. 30 the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: a new federal holiday intended to encourage people to honour the victims of the residential school system. The University of Winnipeg, City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba will observe the holiday and close their non-essential facilities for the day.

### Shoal Lake 40 water update

The boil-water advisory that was in place in Shoal Lake 40 First Nation for 24 years has been lifted as of Sept. 15. Winnipeg's water supply comes from Shoal Lake, and its aqueduct cut off the community from access by land, which was restored with the construction of Freedom Road in 2019. Road access also made construction of a water-treatment plant possible, which will now supply the community with clean water.

### Vaccine mandate updates

The University of Winnipeg has announced that its vaccination mandates are being enforced by campus security, and that temporary cards or stickers will not be provided to those who forget to bring their vaccine accreditation to campus. The vaccination verification centre has been moved to Room 1C16A in Centennial Hall and will remain there until Oct. 18. After Sept. 17, hours of operation at the centre will be reduced.





# BILL 64 IS NO MORE

## Unpopular education bill withdrawn, uncertainty remains

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

After a summer of seeing “Stop Bill 64” lawn signs across Manitoba and much organized opposition, Bill 64 is dead. Earlier this month, Manitoba’s interim Premier Kelvin Goertzen announced the cancellation of the unpopular education reform legislation spearheaded by his predecessor.

In his first press conference as premier, Goertzen said this move is “really ... about setting that clean slate for a leader.”

The controversial Bill 64 would have eliminated democratically elected school boards, replacing them with government appointees, giving the ruling provincial government control over education. The bill was heavily criticized, with detractors pointing to former premier Brian Pallister’s minimization of the harm caused by residential schools as an example of why politicians shouldn’t set the educational standard.

Matt Henderson, assistant superintendent of the Seven Oaks School Division, is pleased with this move, saying the timing of Bill 64 during a pandemic was not ideal.

“Now that it has been scuttled by the interim premier, we are now able to focus on the safety of everyone within our schools and begin to make significant plans for the next five and 10 years that are focused on getting better at what we do,” he says.

Going forward, Henderson hopes that Manitoba’s education policy will focus

on ensuring a “fair and equitable funding model, so that all learners have the means to flourish.” Furthermore, he says “it is imperative that we remove barriers for learners to engage in deep learning experiences.”

“This means a focus on the (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) calls to action, ensuring that we are pursuing significant pathways to eliminating racism and equipping educators with the skills and knowledge necessary to design experiences where learners can ask significant questions about the universe,” Henderson says.

“There also needs to be a focus on ensuring that all learners have access to high-quality instruction predicated on formative feedback and which leads to critical pathways to post-secondary and the world of work.”

Given the vocal and organized opposition to Bill 64, which proved to be successful, Manitobans might be more engaged in the public-education system going forward.

“As our society faces many challenges, the resistance to Bill 64 is an example of a diverse group of people that cares deeply about education and the nurturing of a just and sustainable society,” Henderson says.

“The critical mass demonstrated in the past two years is a lesson in democracy – and a lesson that I hope we infuse in our teaching.”

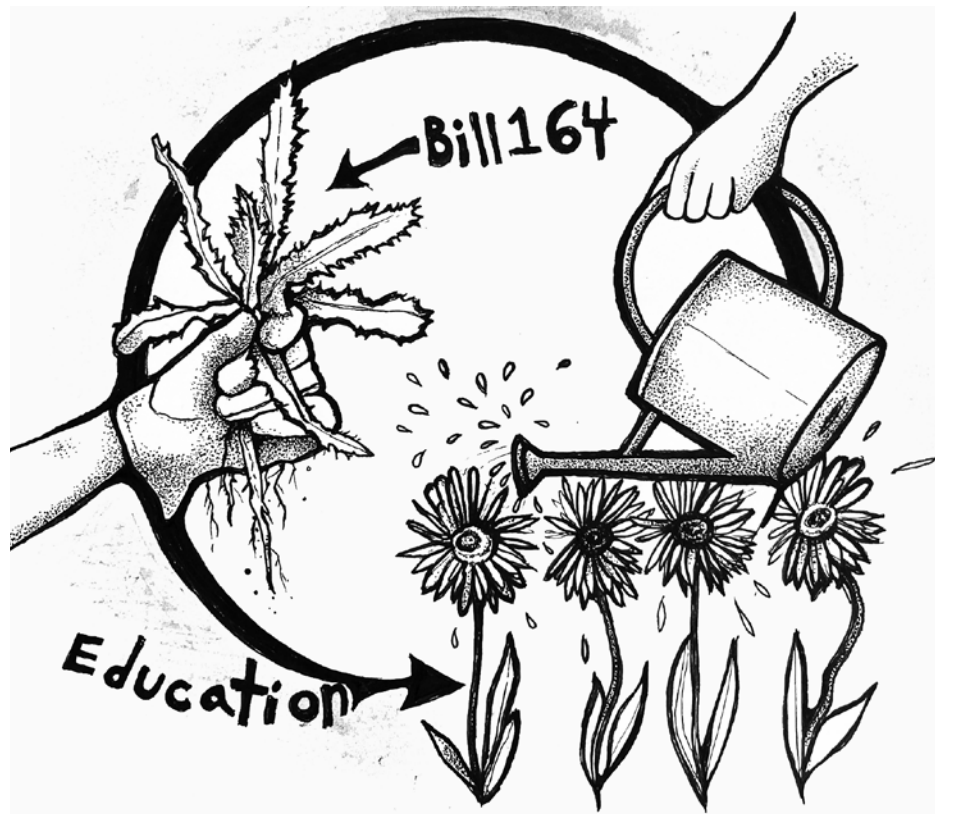


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Goertzen, as an interim premier, will not put forth any major policies in the next two months. Minister of Education Cliff Cullen confirms this is an email to *The Uniter*.

“The process of putting a pause on governance provides myself, as the Minister of Education, and the Department of Education the opportunity to continue to work in partnership with educators, parents, students and stakeholders to create an education system that works for Man-

itoba,” he says.

“Educators, parents, students and Manitobans agree that we need to improve educational outcomes,” Cullen says, adding that the “work isn’t over.”

Heather Stefanson, Shelly Glover and Shannon Martin, the three candidates vying to be leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and Premier of Manitoba, have yet to announce their proposed education policies.

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE FEDERAL ELECTION

## Parties promise to build units, fight homelessness, restrict foreign owners

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

With less than a week left in the federal election campaign, affordable housing is at the forefront of policy discussions, and all parties have released their plans to address it. House prices have been rapidly increasing in most areas of Canada, and, according to a recent poll, affordable housing is one of the most important issues for voters.

Leah Gazan is the MP and NDP candidate for Winnipeg Centre, where, she says, the housing crisis is fully felt.

“When I speak with constituents, I hear about how rents are skyrocketing, and wages are staying the same,” Gazan says. According to the 2016 Canadian census, her riding has the sixth-lowest median household income in Canada.

“The housing crisis was magnified further by the pandemic, where the loss of employment resulted in many people experiencing being unsheltered for the first time,” Gazan says.

“No one should have to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table.”

While house prices in Winnipeg Centre are much lower than the Canadian aver-

age, Gazan says other issues are at play.

“Systemic underfunding has resulted in Winnipeg Centre having one of the highest portions of individuals in core housing need in the country,” she says.

The NDP housing platform includes a wide range of policies, such as “waiving the federal portion of the GST/HST on the construction of new affordable rental units” and implementing a 20 per cent foreign home buyers’ tax. Furthermore, they have committed to 500,000 new affordable housing units over the next 10 years.

The Conservative, Liberal, Libertarian, People’s Party and Green campaigns in Winnipeg Centre have not responded to *The Uniter’s* request for comment.

The Liberal platform on housing includes a promise to build, preserve or revitalize 1.4 million homes by 2026, as well as the creation of a tax-free First Home Savings’ Account. A re-elected Liberal government would, according to their campaign platform, appoint a Federal Housing Advocate with the mandate of eliminating chronic homelessness. Though there is limited data available, an



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Leah Gazan, the incumbent MP for Winnipeg Centre, says her riding is hit especially hard by the housing crisis.

analysis by Statistics Canada shows that homelessness has likely increased over the last few years.

Similarly, the Conservatives promise to build 1 million houses within the next three years and ban “foreign investors not living in or moving to Canada from buying homes here for a two-year period.” They hope to fight homelessness by dealing with the underlying problems of addiction and mental-health challenges (according to the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Canada’s largest national research centre on the topic, the leading causes of homelessness are structural factors like income inequality and discrimination, poverty and lack of access to affordable housing, not addiction or mental illness).

A Green government would declare “housing affordability and homelessness a

national emergency,” “establish a national moratorium on evictions” and build at least 300,000 units of affordable housing over the next decade.

As Dr. Aaron Moore, associate professor of political science at the University of Winnipeg, notes, there are not radical differences between the parties’ platforms.

“A lot of it is money for more to be built, so housing would be below market cost, which isn’t necessarily affordable for everybody,” he says.

Moore notes that the parties have focused on homeowners rather than renters, since “people who own homes tend to vote more.”

“Focus on rental doesn’t have as wide of an appeal,” he says, adding that the focus on driving down house prices is attractive to Millennials and Gen Zers looking to enter the housing market.





With the U-Pass cancelled for the second year in a row, University of Winnipeg students have to juggle layers of bureaucracy to access affordable transit.

# IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT CONVENIENCE

## The long-lasting impacts of the U-Pass suspension

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER | @REESESESTWICK

On Aug. 27, the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) announced on their website that the transit U-Pass will, once again, not be available to students for the 2021-22 school year.

The UWSA “recognizes that some students need to access transit,” and post-secondary transit passes are still available for \$283 per semester.

The university acknowledged that not all students can afford this steep fee and created a bursary program to help. However,

James Wilt, author of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Cars? Public Transit in the Age of Google, Uber, and Elon Musk*, says, “a lot of people aren’t going to go through those steps ... it adds an additional layer of bureaucracy, which may deter some people.”

For students like Yasmin Yanovski, the U-Pass suspension has brought about academic concerns.

“I still rely on the U-Pass for transportation to the campus, as parking is extremely expensive and limited,” Yanovski says.

“Having to pay even more for (transit) out of pocket will negatively affect many, as picking up more hours at work can negatively affect one’s education.”

When asked about the bursary program, Yanovski says she “did not know it was available.”

Many students have been left questioning the position of the UWSA on the U-Pass issue, as, just over one year ago, the UWSA released a statement fighting against the City of Winnipeg’s attempt to eliminate the U-Pass program.

At the time, then-UWSA vice-president Noelle Sagher said “eliminating the U-Pass is an attack on all students, especially the most marginalized. Students need the U-Pass to access an institution that is already inaccessible.”

Many students are left wondering what’s changed. Why is the U-Pass not accessible to students now, with more than 40 per cent of classes being delivered on campus in the fall 2021 term?

“The fact that the decision (about the U-Pass suspension) has been made for several years without real opportunity for democratic participation is really frustrat-

ing,” Wilt says.

The suspension of the U-Pass program has consequences that extend far beyond students strictly getting to and from campus. Kyle Owens, the president of Functional Transit Winnipeg, says “the whole city will see the effects of (the U-Pass suspension),” as more students will be travelling downtown by car.

“By getting people into buses, we see one of the fastest and most effective ways of reducing carbon emissions,” Owens says. The reduction of carbon emissions is crucial to the well-being of Earth.

In March of 2019, the Yale Environmental Review, written by Vivian Sorab, stated that, by 2035, the global climate crisis will reach “The Point of No Return.” In agreement with this, Owens says “everyone should be thinking about ways that we can quickly mitigate the effects of climate change – transit being one of them.”

The continued suspension of the U-Pass program has added yet another barrier for students amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and concerns are buzzing through the city for all, as this negatively impacts the economy, convenience and public safety.

# ‘MORE THAN STUDENTS’

## Tuition increase and fee deadlines leave U of W community struggling

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER | @REESESESTWICK

Post-secondary students across Canada have been overwhelmed with challenges, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate poverty, mental-health issues, the housing crisis and overall quality of education. Many students have found themselves without work, without community and without support from their homes away from home – their universities.

University of Winnipeg (U of W) students are familiar with tuition increases, but many people enrolled for the 2021-22 academic year are significantly impacted by the 3.75 per cent tuition increase that was announced last spring.

In a statement released on May 10, University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) president Kiratveer Singh Hayer, said that “this tuition increase comes at a time when many students are already struggling financially due to the pandemic, and (it) will adversely affect the most vulnerable students, like low-income and international students.”

“We are all more than students,” Breanna Laggo, a fourth-year education student, says. “I think, for most of us, especially with this new emotional layer of worry on campus, the level of our capacity has changed, which also affects the level at which we can perform academically, socially and in the other ... areas in our life.”

Hayer explained to *The Uniter* that the UWSA runs programs to support students, such as giving 100 free desktop computers to students in partnership with Computers for Schools Manitoba (a program that will be available again this year), mental-health resources and the UWSA Food Hamper Program.

However, some students believe the U of W could do more to help.

“I am not sure what the university did to support students financially,” Laggo says. “I’m sure the university was/is facing an unprecedented financial situation, but so are their students, and we’re the ones that support them.”



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Laggo says she is trying to “not be too harsh” on the university, because, “just like the rest of us, they were doing the best they could given the circumstances.” But for many students, the lack of support has left their academic career in jeopardy.

Post-secondary education in Manitoba appears to be becoming more exclusive, as the institutions continue to make decisions for students behind conference-room doors.

“These decisions create barriers for students to access education and place immense pressure on student unions, who are

left to pick up the pieces and fill significant service gaps like food banks and child-care,” Alexandra Koslock, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students – Manitoba, says.

“Community organizations, student and faculty associations and student unions were left to support students throughout the pandemic due to insufficient federal and provincial support. The reality is some students have stepped away from pursuing their education simply to make ends meet for themselves and their families.”



# DRAWN TO THE PAST AND ALL ITS WEIRDNESS

**Dr. Carla Manfredi, assistant professor, English department, U of W**

KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER |  KEESHAHAREWOOD

From a young age, Dr. Carla Manfredi – assistant professor for the University of Winnipeg’s (U of W) English department – found herself pulled to the past.

“I’ve always been drawn to the past and to history, in part because I find it so weird,” Manfredi says. “It amazes me that we can access the distant past, that so much of that still exists for us today. So little has changed, but also so much has changed.”

Due to her interest in classical antiquity and Ancient Greece and Rome, Manfredi wanted to pursue a career in archaeology.

But, during university, Manfredi discovered that the study of archaeology would require her to learn Latin and Ancient Greek. Faced with the daunting prospect of having to learn two notoriously difficult languages, she decided to divert her academic trajectory.

Instead, she majored in English and thoroughly enjoyed her time as a student.

“I loved being in the classroom, and I guess once I graduated, I really wasn’t ready to leave the university and decided to pursue graduate work and then eventually get

my doctorate,” Manfredi says.

Now, Manfredi teaches a variety of classes: everything from intro courses to honours’ level. Despite her love of literature and of the U of W community as a whole, her love for history is alive and healthy.

Most recently, Manfredi’s attention has fallen into the societies and cultures of Neanderthals. She finds it to be mind-boggling, but in the best way.

“I would like somehow to find a way to bring Neanderthals into my English literary courses. Don’t know if that’s possible, but I’m gonna figure it out somehow,” she says.

**What was your worst grade in university?**

“My worst grade in university was in Introduction to Geology, and it was C-.”

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

“I have a 20-month-old little girl, so, at the moment, spare time is very precious.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

“I would time travel. Then I could go see the Neanderthals.”

**What’s the coolest thing you’ve learned about Neanderthals recently?**

“Who knew that there was so much information in teeth? The kind of information that scientists – that paleontologists – can gather from tooth remains is (shocking) to me.”



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Student Services

**Undergraduate Add/Drop Period Make your changes!**

Course changes (adds and drops) can be made Sept. 7-20.

The final day to drop a regularly-scheduled U2021F or U2021FW course for full refund is **Sept. 20**.

See more information at: [uwinnipeg.ca/registration/course-drop-information.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/registration/course-drop-information.html).

**Study Skills Workshops: Advice & Tips for Academic Success**

Study Skills Workshops are designed to improve your learning skills and help you achieve your academic goals.

Organized by Academic & Career Advising, these workshops continue Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:20 pm, via Zoom, until Sept. 29.

**Registration in advance is required.** For details, see: [uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html).

**Wanted: Volunteer Notetakers**

Are you interested in doing some volunteer work while you are attending classes this fall?

There may be students in your classes who need access to quality notes for reasons related to a disability or medical condition. Accessibility Services is seeking volunteer notetakers to fill this need.

If your instructor makes a request for a volunteer notetaker in one of your classes, please consider signing up! It’s a great way to sharpen your own note-taking skills and help out another student at the same time. Contact [vnt@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:vnt@uwinnipeg.ca) for more information.

**On a Waitlist? Check Your Webmail Every Day**

After classes have started, if you are still on a waitlist for your preferred course section, you should continue to check your webmail account daily for permission to register off of the waitlist.

If a space becomes available for you during the Course Add/Drop Period, you will receive an email letting you know that you can register through WebAdvisor. Register immediately!

For Fall Term, the waitlist will run for the last time on **Sept. 20** which is the last day to register for a Fall or Fall/Winter Term course.

For more information, please see: [uwinnipeg.ca/registration/wait-lists.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/registration/wait-lists.html).

**UWSA’s Health Plan and U-Pass Updates**

The deadline to opt out of the Green-shield health plan is **Sept. 21**.

The UWSA suspended the U-Pass program for Fall Term. Post-secondary Peggo cards, however, are available for pickup/purchase at the Info Booth on **Sept. 17** from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Go to the Quad entrance of Graham Hall.

For details, please see: [theuwsa.ca/healthplan](http://theuwsa.ca/healthplan) [theuwsa.ca/u-pass](http://theuwsa.ca/u-pass)

**Pay Tuition the Easy Way**

Fall (U2020F) and Fall/Winter Term (U2020FW) fees are due **Sept. 23**. Note that this is NOT the same date as the last day to be eligible for refund (see above).

Pay tuition the easy way... pay through your bank! Students pay for Fall and Fall/Winter Term undergraduate courses by **Sept. 23** either:

- as a bill payment through their financial institution (online, tele-

phone, in-person at a branch) using your seven-digit student number as the account number, or

- via Flywire.com (international payments)

More information is here: [uwinnipeg.ca/fees/index.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/fees/index.html).

**Apply Now for Fall/Winter Awards**

The online application for Fall/Winter 2021-22 Awards, Bursaries, and Scholarships is now open.

Deadline: **Oct. 1, 2021**

Apply now! Go to: [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards).

**Use the myVisit App**

Need some help from someone in Student Central and/or Academic & Career Services? Download the myVisit app today. The myVisit app enables students to add themselves to a virtual line for drop-in Zoom sessions at Student Central. The app can also be used to book appointments for a Zoom or in-person meeting with a student central staff member or an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can also be booked through the website: [www.myvisit.com](http://www.myvisit.com).





# MOTHER OF GOO

## Sex after heartbreak

MADELINE RAE | COLUMNIST | MOTHEROFGOO

After we share our life with another person for a significant period of time and choose to part ways, we must grieve this loss. The initial fear may be loneliness: to be apart from your bedtime companion and the lips you want to kiss after a long, lousy day. But to transition out of this love and familiar touch is a reminder to come home again to ourselves, for we have not left. We were always here, and will always be here.

*What a wicked thing to say, ‘you’ve never felt this way’*

*What a wicked thing to do, to make me dream of you*

*I don’t want to fall in love.*

(Chris Isaak, *Wicked Game*)

The usual things were said to me after my last heartbreak: “spend time with yourself, date yourself, learn to be alone.” This advice is crucial, but it doesn’t help an insatiable, disappointed libido. I enjoy the warm solitude of fucking myself, but I also want to believe in love again. I need little cues, little hopes and small moments of disorganized passion to whisper a reminder that it’s possible.

*Muscle size increases when a person continually challenges the muscles to deal with higher levels of resistance or weight. This process is known as muscle hypertrophy.*

(*Medical News Today*)

What we call a “broken heart” is actually an aching, swollen muscle. That’s why separation from a loved one whose pheromones we are used to smelling can be physically painful. We are mammals and designed to be in groups and partnerships. Attachment is real in the most unbelievably brilliant but despicable way.

Sometimes, I imagine my heart wiping sweat off its furrowed brow after a long session of tearing and rebuilding. It flexes gently and lights up a cigarette. My heart sits down on the curb and stares at the night sky, wondering if anyone will be able to see how soft it is under its veiny strength. “Pain is gain,” my heart whispers to itself, taking a long, sullen drag on its dart.

When the heartbreak is a real doozy, it’s not that we kid ourselves that the next few people we let into our bodies will fill the entire void of that love we had to leave behind. Having sex with new people can be more of a plea to the universe: “please let me be capable of touching another.”

*“My best advice for moving on in a relationship is you gotta go all the way through it, you know? ...*

*... When you get tired enough, you’ll evolve, I promise.”*

(Erykah Badu)

There is no formula for processing heartbreak. It’s messy and awful for everyone, despite how others may look online or what you hear from friends of friends. In my experience (which sometimes I wish I had less

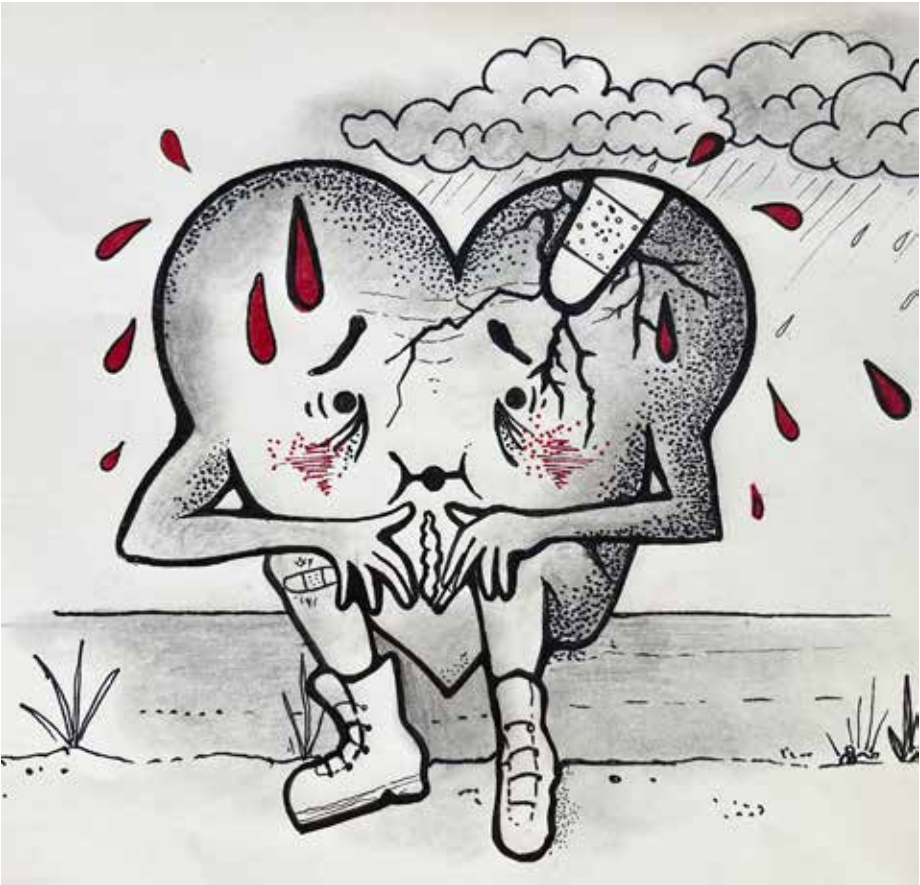


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

of), it’s okay to let go and trust the process, even when it’s unclear and uncomfortable.

The most important thing is to not forget yourself during it. Distraction and pleasurable dissociation is fun and fine, but not if it becomes one’s only source of affirmation. We need to be able to find our own affirmation in ourselves. Nothing is sexier than already knowing how delicious and worthy you are, all on your own.

**Madeline Rae is a sex educator and writer living on Treaty 1 territory. She holds a BFA in performative sculpture and a BA in psychology, and she is pursuing schooling to specialize in sex therapy. Rae is trained in client-centred sex education, reproductive and sexual health counselling and harm reduction. She works locally in both feminist healthcare and community support work.**



THE UNITER IS SEEKING  
COMIC CONTRIBUTORS

The Uniter is looking for local emerging artists to create comics on a volunteer basis.

See your work in newsprint, online and distributed around the city while you enhance skills.

Contact [creative@uniter.ca](mailto:creative@uniter.ca) for more information!





# HOROSCOPES

The sun harmonizes with Pluto on Thursday, September 16, at 9:52 p.m.

This can provide a sobering perspective of wealth inequities, as well as an ability to process and distribute large sums of money. This is happening in an earth sign, so hidden resources, materials, and physical objects are indicated.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

## ♈ ARIES

There's been so much change in the landscape of your life lately, Aries. Thursday's skies encourage you to embrace just a bit more as a multitude of stories culminates. Bond-building Venus squares off with limitation-setting Saturn, asking you to pause and re-examine your close commitments in a more realistic light. Elsewhere, the sun's sweet connection with healing Pluto highlights what needs swift transformation on your career path.

## ♉ TAURUS

Thursday's skies have you slowing to a crawl, Taurus. Your ruling planet, magnetic Venus, clashes with overly serious Saturn, creating a strong need for a realistic re-evaluation of your current approach to partnership dynamics. This aspect is notorious for lowering energy levels, dampening fun, and increasing melancholic moods. Rather than give into sulking, aim to approach any intimacy issues in a serious, head-on fashion.

## ♊ GEMINI

As a Gemini, you run on excitable energy that always keeps you in motion. Thursday's skies highlight the more troubling effects of always being on the go. The forecast calls for a slowdown and deep re-evaluation of your health and work/life balance as good-time Venus squares off with limit-setting Saturn. The illuminating sun's smooth link with transformative Pluto allows for soul-healing relationship conversations.

## ♋ CANCER

Thursday's cosmic landscape beckons you into a vulnerable and sensitive headspace, Cancer. Let yourself seek out the privacy you crave. Heart-centered Venus locks into a difficult square with reality-check Saturn, highlighting deeper intimacy issues that need open acknowledgment. The self-focused sun forms a supportive connection with deep-diving Pluto, offering profound and healing conversations in your one on ones. Take the plunge and tell your story.

## ♌ LEO

A variety of stories are culminating beneath Thursday's skies, Leo. Your ruling planet, the ever-shining sun, clicks into a connection with healer Pluto. This aspect encourages ease of transformation on the work/life balance front and encourages you to take action when it comes to striking an equilibrium. Elsewhere, magnetic Venus' square with walled-off Saturn highlights the need for a realistic re-evaluation of bonds on the home front.

## ♍ VIRGO

As a Virgo, you're always looking for ways to keep things productive and efficient in their motion. Thursday's skies ask you to surrender that need and slow your pace somewhat, as bond-building Venus squares off with limit-seeing Saturn. This pairing imposes a reality check on your current work/life balance and the state of your mental health. Elsewhere, the sun's sweet connection with healer Pluto adds potency to your self-expression.

## ♎ LIBRA

You may encounter your fair share of roadblocks today, Libra. Your ruling planet, bond-building Venus, locks into a square with reality-check Saturn. This aspect highlights the need for re-evaluations around partnerships and your creative abilities. This pairing is likely to lower your energy levels and impose heavy moods. Still, if used wisely, it can help you constructively approach your creative limitations and help you better understand what's stopping you.

## ♏ SCORPIO

Thursday's cosmic landscape calls for illumination and re-evaluation, Scorpio. Magnetic Venus locks into a hard square with limitation-setting Saturn, imbuing the day with a heaviness and deepened awareness of blockages between your sense of independence and family duties. Try to examine your walls head-on rather than succumbing to a feeling of defeat. Elsewhere, the sun's supportive connection with transformative Pluto facilitates healing through powerful conversations.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS

Change is an inevitable fact of life, Sagittarius. The universe is nudging you along to embrace that concept today as the illuminating sun links up with transformative Pluto. This pairing facilitates renewal on the career and self-confidence front—you need only implement it! Elsewhere, bond-building Venus' square with heavy Saturn may highlight reality-check relationship conversations to have. However daunting they seem, it's best to face them head-on.

## ♑ CAPRICORN

As a Capricorn, you're guided by the steady and structure-seeking movements of your ruling planet, Saturn. Thursday's skies find Saturn receiving a displeased visit from lover Venus, which is likely to highlight relationship issues around the clashing of mutual goals. Aim to bring a reality check to this arena. Elsewhere, the sun's supportive connection with healing Pluto facilitates a potent sense of renewal to your self-expression and independent needs.

## ♒ AQUARIUS

Aquarius people look to the self-disciplined, reality-checking planet, Saturn, for cosmic guidance. Thursday's cosmic landscape finds Saturn receiving an agitated visit from value-defining Venus. This pairing is likely to stress the divide between the demands of your career and your need for personal downtime among your relationships. Elsewhere, the illuminating sun's link with transformative Pluto creates an easy atmosphere for healing through therapeutic means.

## ♓ PISCES

Thursday's skies see a variety of stories reaching their culmination, Pisces. Magnetic Venus locks into an uncomfortable square with wall-building Saturn, highlighting any outmoded relationship beliefs you've been clinging to. This energy brings a powerful reality check into play around self-sabotaging patterns in close partnerships to clear up. Fortunately, the sun's sweet link with transformative Pluto facilitates deep healing through raw conversations.

## IT'S VIRGO SEASON



In the western tropical zodiac, Virgo season begins on August 23, commencing the final phase of Summer in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the time of year when the sun's heat and light are beginning to mellow, with the days beginning to shorten toward the Fall Equinox. Virgo season is when nature's abundance and fertility become ready for gathering and harvesting, lending to the earthy, tending, and organizational qualities of the Virgo archetype.

Virgo Dates—  
Aug 23 – Sept 22  
  
Symbol—  
The Virgin  
  
Mode + Element—  
Mutable Earth

Ruling Planet—  
Mercury  
  
House—  
Sixth  
  
Mantra—  
"I Analyze."

Tarot Card—  
The Hermit  
  
Colors—  
Warm yellow  
  
Body Part—  
The digestive system





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