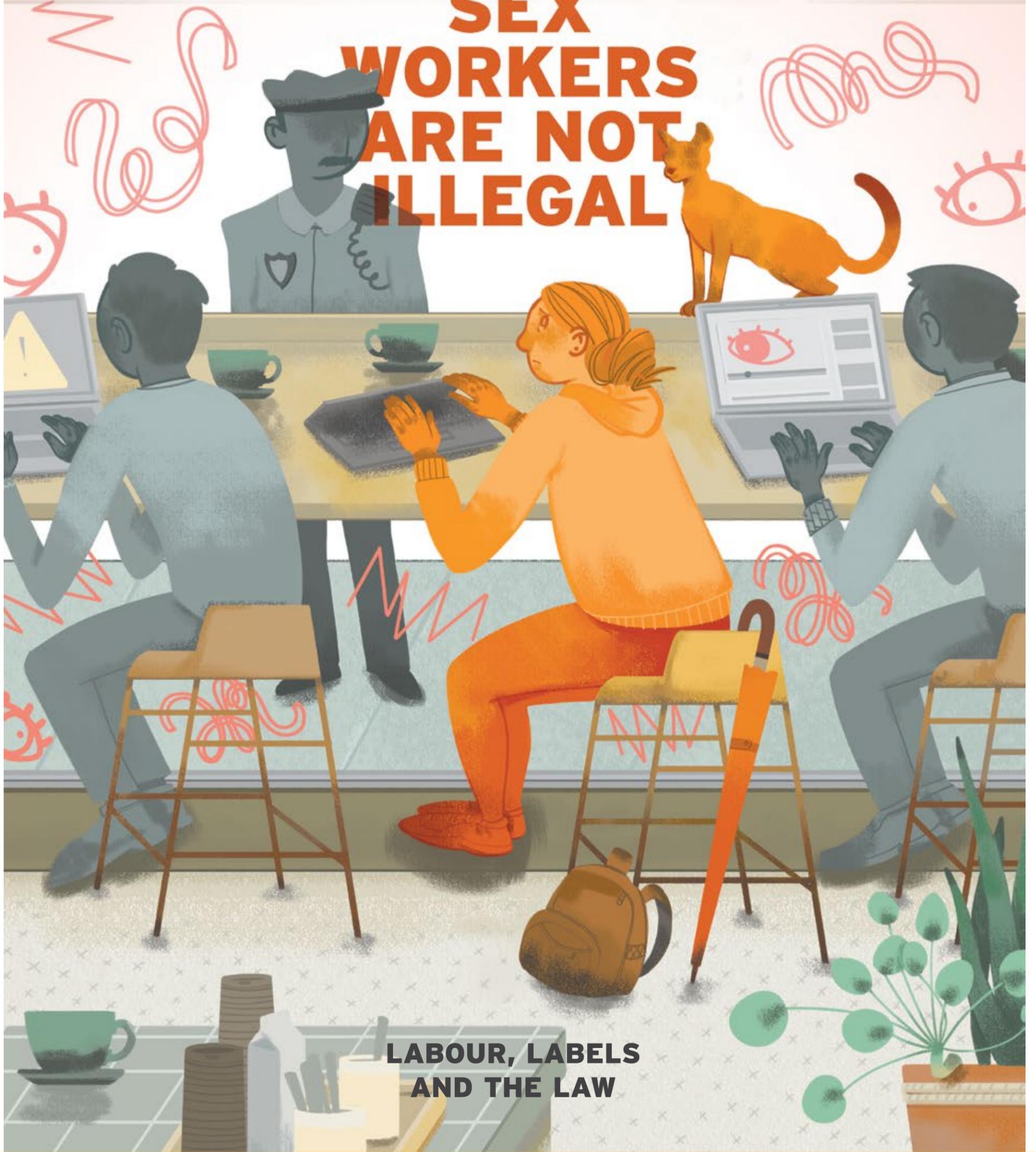


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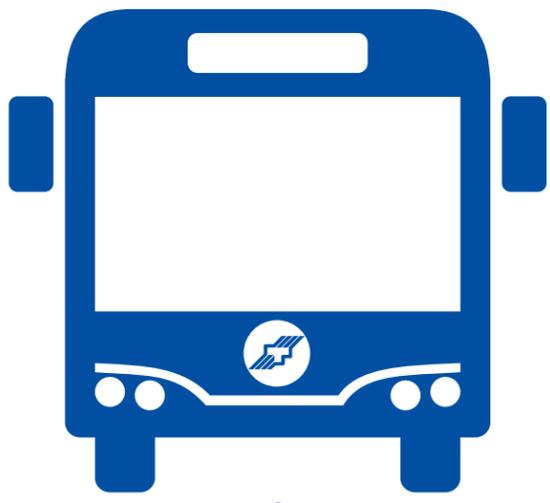


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* ON THE COVER

Bram Keast illustrates some of the realities of sex work. Read more on page 9.

GOING ON 30

This week's paper is our last regular issue of the year, but we're already hard at work on a special treat for you next week. As our last issue before we take a little break in December, we put together a special reader-directed collection titled the Uniter 30.

Flash back to a few weeks ago: we were talking about this 30 thing and asking you to vote for your favourite people, places and things. Many of you voted. Some people launched small-scale social media campaigns to get themselves nominated, with hopes of winning, but I won't say how successful these may have been ... yet.

I heard from a few readers that the format of this voting process was a bit daunting. To make it fair, and to keep some determined individuals from stuffing the virtual ballot box, we required that voters enter something in each of the 30 fields.

Some readers said that was a lot of work. They were right - whoa. That's a lot to ask. So we're extra grateful for those who took the time to vote, and we'll look at how to make this better for next year.

I'll save the sneak peeks of your original and witty submissions for next week, but I wanted to use this space to say thank you. Thank you for reading, and thank you for voting. Thank you for caring about this city and the people who make it awesome, as well as the people who are challenging us to make it better. I can't wait to share the highlights with you next week. Stay tuned, and, in the meantime, I hope you enjoy this jam-packed issue.

- Anastasia Chipelski

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Patrons at Across the Board Game Café

PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

UNITER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR
Anastasia Chipelski » editor@uniter.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Charmagne de Veer » businessmgr@uniter.ca

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Bryce Creasy » creative@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Jaz Papadopoulos » culture@uniter.ca

CITY EDITOR
Danelle Granger » city@uniter.ca

COMMENTS EDITOR
Sam Swanson » comments@uniter.ca

COPY & STYLE EDITOR
Danielle Doiron » style@uniter.ca

PHOTO EDITOR
Daniel Crump » photoeditor@uniter.ca

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Callie Morris » callie@uniter.ca

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Keeley Braunstein-Black » keeley@uniter.ca

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR
Gabrielle Funk » gabrielle@uniter.ca

FEATURES REPORTER
Thomas Pashko » features@uniter.ca

ARTS REPORTER
Charlotte Morin » artsreporter@uniter.ca

CITY REPORTER
Dylon Martin » cityreporter@uniter.ca

CAMPUS REPORTER
Vacant

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR
Danielle Doiron » volunteer@uniter.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS
Kayla Abrahams
Joseph Bernacki
Frances Koncan
Megan Linton

ILLUSTRATORS
Sari Habiluk
Bram Keast
Justin Ladia
Luis Mamani Rojas

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MOUSELAND PRESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Kristin Annable (chair), Anifat Olawoyin, Jack Walker, Dylan Chyz-Lund, Victoria King and Nikki Riffel » For inquiries email: board@uniter.ca

CONTACT US

GENERAL INQUIRIES
204.988.7579
editor@uniter.ca
www.uniter.ca

ADVERTISING
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University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2E9
Treaty One Territory
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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. Volunteer workshops take place Wednesdays from 12:30-1:20 in room ORM14. Please email volunteer@uniter.ca for more details. Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.



Sonya (left) and Kerri Ballantyne in their home

PHOTOS BY CALLIE MORRIS

THOMAS PASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

@THOMASPASHKO

Sonya Ballantyne is at the forefront of Winnipeg's new wave of Indigenous cinema. Through short films like *Crash Site* and *Nosisim*, Ballantyne has crafted deeply personal stories by interweaving on- and off-reserve Indigenous perspectives with science fiction, superhero narratives and other nerdy preoccupations.

Along with her sister Kerri, who doubles as Ballantyne's roommate and occasional actor (Kerri played the sisters' grandmother in *Nosisim*), Sonya grew up in the Mispawistik Cree Nation in Grand Rapids, Man. with dreams of moving to the city and making movies.

"I was originally planning a move to New York when I was 15 and heavily into The Ramones," Sonya says. "But then I moved (to Winnipeg for university), because I wanted to be close to my family. My grandparents were sick, and I couldn't live without seeing them often."

Obviously, since Sonya has shared her downtown apartment with her sister for the past nine years, keeping close to family is still important.

"When we were little girls, I always told Kerri we were going to live together when we got older," Sonya says. "Then when we got into fights as teenagers, we were like, 'We're never going to live together!'"

Family remains an important theme in Sonya's work, including an upcoming documentary on Colten Pratt, a young man from Long Plain First Nation who went missing in 2014.

"I'm co-directing it with my creative partner Sage Forrester, who's Colten's cousin," Ballantyne says. "The documentary focuses on Colten's mother, who started the Necktie Campaign (to include men and boys in the inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous people), and missing Indigenous men in general."



1

1) DAD'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATE

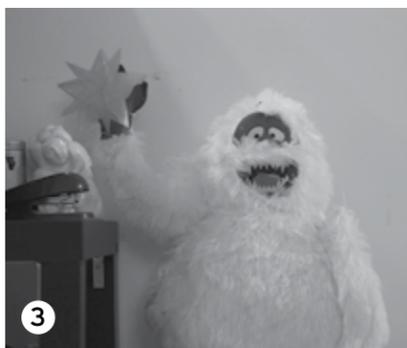
"Our dad brings us stuff like this. He's like, 'I know you guys want to honour me.' We're like, 'Dad, we don't need that, we know.'"



2

1) FRIDGE MEMORIES

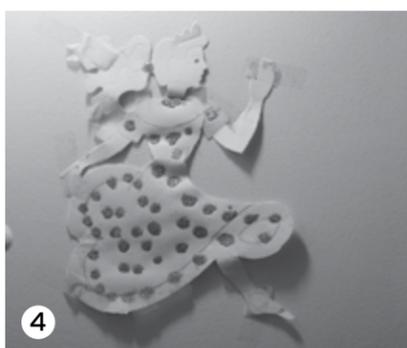
"We have us as babies, my dad with the Batmobile, our friends getting married, us at the escape room when we lost, our nephew, Kerri when she graduated."



3

2) JAPANESE AMÉLIE POSTER

"I really love Japanese movie posters. I'm trying to collect more, but it's always hard. There's one from *The Cell* I want, but can never find. I had a *Seven Samurai* poster, but it was damaged in a move."



4

3) BUMBLE

"We don't decorate for Christmas until after Remembrance Day, but we keep him out all year."



5

4) PAPER DOLL

"This was made by our grandma, and we kept it forever. That's why it's covered in so much tape."



6

5) STARRY NIGHT WITH BAT-SIGNAL

"I remember when Kerri got this and it was beautiful, so I was like, 'We need to put something else on there.'"



7

6) DRAWINGS OF DAD

"He brings us pictures he's had drawn of him. Anything that doesn't look like it's ours is our dad's. He gave us a boys' children's Bible a few weeks ago. It was like, 'Why are you giving this to us?!'"

7) CLAW MACHINE TOYS

"Our dad runs and repairs a bunch of claw machines in the North, so he always gives us toys. We had to get rid of a bunch of them, but he kept bringing them over. We're like, 'Dad, we don't have room for all these!'"

TRIVIA NIGHTS CELEBRATE KNOWLEDGE

Bragging rights are often the most valued prize

CHARLOTTE MORIN

ARTS REPORTER  @CHRLSMORIN

Trivia nights are an opportunity for fans to gather and show their knowledge of their favourite show, movie or book.

"It's a way for all these fans to come together and really celebrate something that they cherish and love," Sarah Petty, host of *Harry Potter* trivia nights, says.

Petty has co-hosted two *Harry Potter* trivia nights at The Handsome Daughter as fundraisers for the Manitoba Psychology Students Global Mental Health Initiative (MaPs4mentalhealth).

Chris Cox has joined The Handsome Daughter's regular trivia host Grant Danyluk for a few events. Cox has co-hosted a few of the nights, including ones dedicated to *The Simpsons*, *Arrested Development* and *Friends*.

Cox says the hosts usually choose shows that have a strong cult following.

Prior to an event, teams of two to four submit their team name via email. The

night of the event, the hosts will screen an episode of the show or a part of the movie as participants arrive.

"We have a round of questions, and then we'll watch another episode, and then we do another round of questions, watch another episode, and then it's like the lightning round at the end for the top three teams," Cox says.

Teams fill out their responses to the questions on a sheet, and hosts collect the papers to tally scores at the end of each round. The Lightning Round takes place on stage, with one member of each highest-scoring team replying to verbal questions with buzzers. The winners often receive a bar tab or a thematic prize.

When deciding on the questions, Petty explains that it helps for hosts to be familiar with the show.

"We try to choose questions ... that are more at an intermediate level, so that



ILLUSTRATION BY LUIS MAMANI ROJAS

people can kind of feel invested, and they tend to get harder as the questions go along," she says.

"We go through episodes and find little things that people might have missed and that you can only see if you're really paying attention," Cox says. "It might be easy to miss, but like, somebody who really loves the show might actually know."

Petty explains that, for *Harry Potter* trivia, the hosts choose questions that relate to the book rather than the movie, since knowledge of the book series determines who are the real fans.

People who attend "like trying to challenge themselves, but also everyone likes to say 'Hey, I won, and know more about this than everybody else,'" Cox says. He observes people quoting along with the episodes and repeating popular lines.

The aspect of a community oriented around a common interest appeals to the psychology students, especially in their mental health initiative, Petty says. "Bringing people out of their ... routines, having a little bit of fun, seeing friends, feeling that community atmosphere - all of that contributes to positive mental health."

Cox notes that a little over half the participants at any given night have attended trivia in the past. The participants are varied in age, since shows with a large following usually have a broad fan base.

"When you cherish a book, or a movie, or a TV show that much, you do take pride in how well you know it," Petty says. "Getting the chance to prove that ... represents that love in the really concrete way that people can feel proud of."

ARTS AND CULTURE BRIEFS

JAZ PAPAPOPOULOS // ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR  @CULTURE_UNITER

Half Moon Market

On Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., local artisans will take over the second floor of the Kings Head Pub (120 King St.) for the Half Moon Market. There is no cost to enter, and over 25 artists and craftspeople will be attending with their wares (in addition to the King's Head's standard drinks and eats)!

Holiday movies at the Park

Bring the family (or whoever you want) to a free holiday movie day at the The Park Theatre (698 Osborne St.) on Dec. 9. The event runs from 12-2:30 p.m. and is hosted by the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy. So far, the movies to be played remain a mystery. Call the Park at 204-478-7275 for details.

Cold Specks

This Toronto-based musician is playing The Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave.) on Nov. 25. According to her Bandcamp, Cold Specks' latest album "intimately explores her identity as a Somali-Canadian woman." Tickets are \$20 in advance, available at The Good Will and Music Trader. Listen to the new album, *Fool's Paradise*, on Bandcamp.

Terra Botanica

The cre8ery gallery (125 Adelaide St.) is showing *Terra Botanica* until Nov. 28, and on Nov. 25 the exhibition will be accompanied by the "Terra Botanica Market." Featuring four Manitoban artists, the show brings together clay, plant and human elements to experience a more holistic environment. Read more at cre8ery.com/portfolio/terra-botanica.

Pitaloosie Saila at the WAG

Pitaloosie Saila: A Personal Journey is up at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (300 Memorial Blvd.) Nov. 21 to May 13. According to the WAG website, Saila's body of work includes "roughly 1,450 drawings and over 165 prints ... This exhibition features 32 prints, centred around themes of women and family, shamans, birds, and life experiences."

New Constellations at WECC

On Nov. 27, *New Constellations* - a music and arts tour featuring Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists - is coming to the West End Cultural Centre (586 Ellice Ave). Artists include July Talk, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, John K Samson and more. The show is at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$25 in advance from the Winnipeg Folk Festival Office or Ticketmaster.



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TW	LW	C	ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL
1	3	!	Propagandhi	Victory Lap	Epitaph
2	2	*	The O Voids	Data	Sounds Escaping
3	1	!	Mmmeats	Mac N' Me	Transistor 66
4	10	*	The Pack A.D.	Dollhouse	Cadence
5	12	!	Animal Teeth	A List Of Things To Say	Slow Shine
6	8	*	Little Miss Higgins	My Home, My Heart	Morning Noise
7	11		Beck	Colors	Capitol
8	6	!	The Vangoras	The Vangoras	Self-Released
9	16	!	Slow Spirit	Unnaturaed	Self-Released
10	26	!	Slow Dancers	Philadelphus	Freeer
11	4	*	Godspeed You! Black Emperor	Luciferian Towers	Constellation
12	22		Julie & The Wrong Guys	Julie & The Wrong Guys	Dine Alone
13	5	*	Whitney Rose	Rule 62	Six Shooter
14	RE		Shimmer	Shimmer	Drop Medium
15	23		Liima	Nineteen Eighty Two - 1982	City Slang
16	21	*	Terra Lightfoot	New Mistakes	Sonic Unyon
17	18	!	Slow Leaves	Enough About Me	Self-Released
18	15	*	Eliana Cuevas	Golpes Y Flores	Alma
19	17	*	The Deep Dark Woods	Yarrow	Six Shooter
20	NE		Mr. Lif & Brass Menažeri	Resilient	Waximilie



The Famous Sandhogs

Study of the Tasman Episodes

Independent

The album cover for this CD was, and still is, a drawing of a red guy done in marker with the name of the band and album taped onto it. This is because The Famous Sandhogs are a Wacky Band.

You know this because this album is simultaneously described as being experimental folk, folk-pop, folk-punk, folk-rock, folktronica AND a symphony on their Bandcamp.

You may be wondering what a symphony as realized by an experimental folk group would sound like. The answer to that question is that it sounds like a 23-part, more-or-less-atonal accordion, more-or-less solo (a panoply of exciting instruments come in after part iii).

Things take a change for the not-atonal-accordion-solo after part 16 - or iii-vii, which is a bombastic MIDI organ march. The remaining tracks are equally bombastic, equally wordless and equally short. (Most of the tracks on *Study of the Tasman Episodes* are under two minutes).

Ultimately this album is a masterpiece of atonal accordion solos, and you can download it for free on their Bandcamp.

This is an anomaly in their catalogue. *Theia's Mammon: Pulul's Battle of the Brunas*, which is their newest album (which, in turn, was released three months after *Study of the Tasman Episodes*), is not a symphony for accordion, but is instead an extremely self-consciously quirky concept album. It's fun, though.

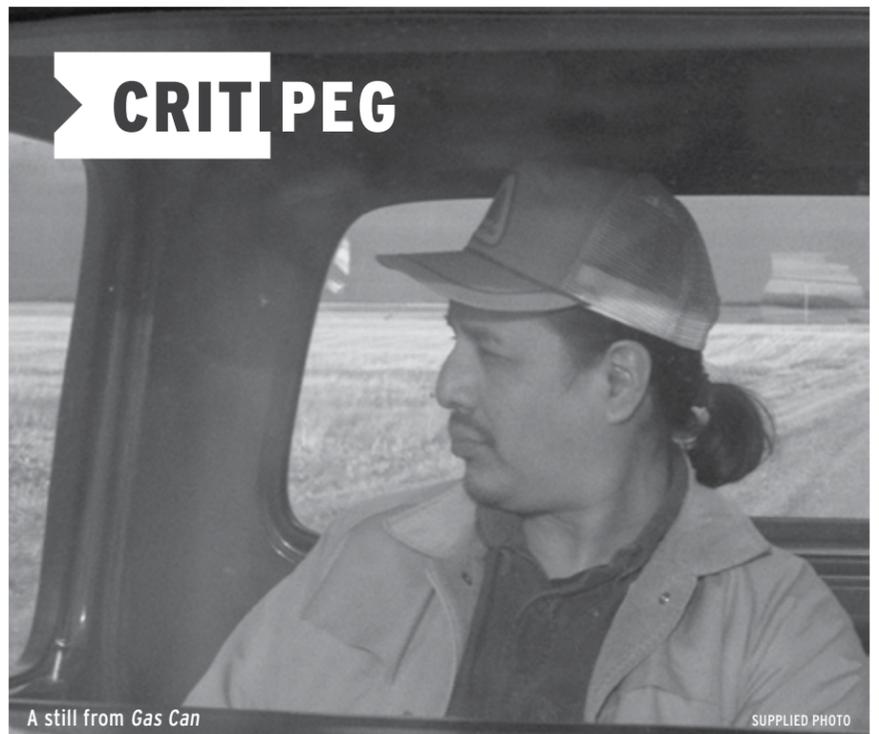
- Topher Duguay

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A still from *Gas Can*

SUPPLIED PHOTO

GAS CAN

THOMAS PASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

[@THOMASPASHKO](#)

Plays Nov. 24
at Dramatic Arts Theatre as part of the
Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival

★★★★☆

Mattias Graham's *Gas Can* is a seemingly simple short film. In 1977 Saskatchewan, a Cree family is making the move from the country to Prince Albert. On the drive there, they run out of gas. What follows is a work filled with layers of nuance and tonal complexity, delivered with a subtlety only attainable by a skilled directorial hand.

Graham manages to achieve an authentic period setting with very little. Some old cars and tactful wardrobe choices root *Gas Can* in a specific time and place. But what really helps is how

truthfully the film captures the Saskatchewan plains, which are their own kind of mysterious landscape that somehow remain trapped in the past while simultaneously existing across time.

That hazy temporal ambiguity infects the film's tone. The events always feel true, but they're at once the kind of truth one finds in a detailed diary entry, and the kind of truth of a half-recalled childhood memory from an endless road trip spent napping in the backseat.

Key to establishing that narrative doubt are the performances of the film's leads. Simon Moccasin as Anthem, the moving family's dad, and Lyndon Bray as the farmer whom he asks for gas, convey an unspoken history. Their pre-existing relationship is presented in concrete terms (Anthem has done work for Bray in the past), but the emotional dynamics fuelling the film are never verbalized.

They are, in some sense, friends. But that tense relationship, infused with paternalism and condescension, gives *Gas Can* the nervous energy that defines it.

THE ROAD FORWARD

THOMAS PASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

[@THOMASPASHKO](#)

Plays Nov. 24
at Dramatic Arts Theatre as part of the
Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival

★★★☆☆

Marie Clements' *The Road Forward* bills itself as a "musical documentary" exploring the history of Indigenous activism in Canada. The film's experimental approach to its subject matter is presented episodically: we get a song set in a particular time and place in Canadian history, followed by interviews with the people involved, repeat. Topics include the founding of *The Native Voice* newspaper and the Constitution Express campaign.

The film's novel approach should be its biggest draw, but it ends up being its primary weakness. The film isn't so

much a "musical" as a series of music videos. The songs written for the film don't tell a story. They're standalone pop songs that connect thematically with each segment, but so little consideration is given to character or narrative that it feels more like a clumsy jukebox musical than a constructed whole.

There's also a "biting off more than you can chew" feeling here. Every subject covered could easily support its own feature length musical and a documentary. A well-crafted musical about a groundbreaking newspaper with all-Indigenous staff in the 1940s sounds awesome. Instead, we get the CliffsNotes version.

It's a shame, because when *The Road Forward* succeeds, it really works. The interviews with contemporary subjects are informative and moving. The film's meta aspects, with actors speaking out of character about their experiences, add a nuanced third formal layer to the documentary-musical sandwich, but like the other two, it's underserved.

Clements is a strong filmmaker with an inventive eye, but she's pulled in too many directions. Here's hoping for more focused work from her in the future.



Gas Can and *The Road Forward* are both playing as part of the Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, which runs Nov. 23-26 at the Dramatic Arts Theatre (585 Ellice Ave).



PHOTO BY TERI HOFFORD

Photographer Teri Hofford also creates body-positive spaces through Facebook.

EMBODYING TRUTH IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Winnipeg entrepreneurs support body positivity

KAYLA ABRAHAMS

VOLUNTEER

Winnipeg boudoir photographer Teri Hofford and local business owner JT believe that a greater variance of images in media would lead to a positive shift in perceptions of what women actually look like. They promote this concept through their work.

Hofford collaborated with JT to photograph the models for Polka Dot Bra, a company that “supports the body positive movement” via their advertising of European Lingerie. She initially edited the pictures in her usual style. However, JT wanted the models to be Photoshop-free.

By allowing stretch marks, cellulite, wrinkles, uneven skin tone, things that can be airbrushed away, JT believes it will help women with their own body image issues.

“I wanted to be realistic ... I don't want to sell dreams,” JT says. “There are no filters whatsoever.”

“I personally do not see anything wrong with getting rid of a pimple here and there, but when a person's body is completely altered, I don't see how it's doing any good for anyone,” Solange Reis, a Winnipeg fashion blogger, says.

Reis believes there have been positive changes in advertising.

“In the body-positive messaging, I feel like the industry has started to listen to

their customers, who are more than likely not the size of the model in the picture,” she says. Yet, Reis and Hofford both express that even the plus-sized models in mainstream media have specific shapes that are hourglass and thus leave out women that gain weight in their tummies.

Reis points to Ebonee Davis, who explains in her Ted Talk that she was told to chemically straighten her curly hair to fit a narrow definition of beauty. Davis chose to keep her hair natural despite criticisms and speaks on this issue, hoping to reach out and positively influence other People of Colour to be proud of their natural beauty and not feel that they need to change in order to have self-worth.

Dr. Michelle Owen, professor of sociology and equity studies and the co-ordinator of disability studies at the University of Winnipeg, expresses another major gap in representations.

“What about disabled bodies, which are not ever considered traditionally beautiful?” she says.

Owen gives the example of the former Dove Campaign for Real Beauty. According to Owen, a number of disabled women have written to Dove asking for the company to include representation of disabled bodies.

To create more body-positive spaces, Hofford has built a community of strong women with her Facebook group Babes Against Bullsh*t (formerly VIP Boudy Babes).

“I wanted it to be a safe, non-judgmental space on the internet,” Hofford says. “That way, people could know they are not alone in certain things, that there's other women that have their back.”

Hofford, as admin, approves each person that is added to the group and monitors that the space is kept respectful. Women post asking for advice with various issues regarding body image or life situations, and group members provide support and encourage each other.

“It was about community,” Hofford says. “Women lifting up women.”

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Contact the volunteer co-ordinator:
Danielle Doiron >> volunteer@uniter.ca

You can stop by the Uniter office (Room ORM14 in the Bulman Centre at the U of W) every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. for a volunteer orientation. We'll cover the basics and give you more of an idea of what writing for *The Uniter* is all about, and after that, you can get started anytime.

OVERDOSE TRAINING SESSIONS ASSIST IN HARM REDUCTION

Manitoba Harm Reduction Network addresses stigma surrounding substance abuse

CHARLOTTE MORIN

ARTS REPORTER  @CHRISMORIN

“We all know and love people that use drugs,” Veda Koncan, project coordinator at the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network (MHRN), says. Nov. 12-18 was Substance Use Awareness Week in Manitoba, and this year, the campaign focused on the stigma surrounding substance use.

“Drugs that are used by people who are marginalized or societally disadvantaged tend to have more stigma stigma,” Koncan says.

These drugs usually include opiates. Drugs used more often by people with privilege, such as pot and ecstasy, have less of a reputation.

Koncan explains that the MHRN changed the name of the week from “Addictions Awareness Week,” to centre the ways in which substance use is normal and not inherently harmful.

The MHRN offers harm reduction training at their 60 locations around the province, many of which dispense naloxone. Street Connections, one of the sites, hands out about 15 kits every month.

Naloxone, sold under the name Narcan, is a drug capable of temporarily reversing the effects of opioids, which makes it possible to stop an overdose.

“Anyone who is at risk of opioid overdose is eligible for a free take-home naloxone kit,” Shelley Marshall, clinical nurse specialist at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), says.

Manitoba has a problem with carfentanyl, an opioid 10,000 times stronger than morphine. Non-opioid drugs are being cut with fentanyl/carfentanyl, which puts users at risk of an overdose even if they do not believe they are taking opioids.

Marshall explains that anyone who uses substances is at risk, due to the prevalence of fentanyl/carfentanyl. Because of this, training can be helpful to anyone who will be taking, or be around, people taking drugs.

The MHRN hosted their first public training session on Nov. 22. Participants learned how to recognize an overdose and respond accordingly, Koncan says. They also learned how to tell the difference between an opioid overdose and one provoked by other drugs. Naloxone kits were available.

“When (Street Connections, previously only a needle-exchange program) opened up to distributing naloxone, we saw a much broader population of people who use drugs, including suburban folks,” Marshall says.

The WRHA has a nurse provide naloxone training at addiction program meetings, where people are at risk of overdose after leaving the program, because their tolerance will be low. Marshall believes such targeted training is beneficial, but this information typically doesn’t reach the general public.

While naloxone training can save lives, there are some barriers. Marshall explains that a lack of funding and human resources means that not all dispensing sites offer the training to the public.

As well, people using drugs regularly do not always have the patience required to listen to 20 minutes of instructions before receiving a kit.

“You really cannot give away an injectable medication without training



Contents of a standard overdose kit

somebody on how to appropriately use it,” Marshall says.

The naloxone distribution program launched in January, but publicity is an issue. Marshall believes some communities do not know of the availability of naloxone.

According to Koncan, a few harm-reduction tips that may be helpful include taking a smaller dose of a new substance, knowing CPR, using a less direct route, not using alone and knowing the signs of an overdose.

“If you’re planning on using, get naloxone,” Marshall says, adding that none of the distribution sites are very busy, and that’s what they’re there for.

 For more information on harm reduction, visit gov.mb.ca/fentanyl. Locations of naloxone distributors can be found at streetconnections.ca.

THE COLUMN

OUTDIGENOUS

WITH FRANCES KONCAN

 @FRANCESKONCAN

PLAYING THE CANLIT GAME

Before I get down to business, I just want to confess something: I am in no way affiliated with CanLit. I have not written a book. I’m not sure I ever will, because while my ’90s-inspired erotic fanfiction is a huge crowd-pleaser, I can’t make a novel about it.

As an outsider to CanLit, my favourite hobby is tormenting Margaret Atwood on Twitter. For those who don’t know, Atwood is one of the many famous CanLit superstars who signed a letter supporting an alleged sexual abuser.

Called “An Open Letter To UBC: Steven Galloway’s Right to Due Process,” the letter requested due process and fair treatment for Galloway, as being accused of sexual assault was negatively impacting his well-being and reputation.

I’m of the camp that believes victims and also of the mindset that when you sexually assault someone, your personal comfort is no longer relevant. And so with one little signature, Margaret Atwood went from a mildly problematic hero of mine to fully problematic nemesis.

She isn’t the only one who signed this letter.

For many young writers, this letter was the straw that broke the camel’s back. (Note: I’ve never used that idiom before, but I finally found the perfect time to do it!) I am by no means a CanLit celebrity. I’m not even on the D-list. Margaret Atwood has never heard of me, unless she actually reads my tweets after all. If she does, I hope she’ll reply sometime, because I have a lot I’d like to talk to her about.

No, I am not on the CanLit radar in any capacity. But my friends are. My enemies are. My frenemies are. And CanLit – not theatre – was the community in which I was first propositioned in the style of Harvey Weinstein.

To be clear, it was an abuse of power that never went farther than being a gross proposition. I was protected from the worst of it, thanks to a circle of people watching out for me. I never ended up accepting his offer or playing his game. But I still haven’t written a book, either.

My friendship with that person is limited to public appearance where the unspoken rule is that everyone must get along. When I see him again, I often wonder what I will say. Will I confront him? Will I challenge him? Will I use my knowledge and experience to protect other emerging artists from him?

The reality is, I probably won’t, because I actually can’t. My hand of cards is too small. Either I stay in the game and play it as best I can in the hopes of someday being in a position to effect real change



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

in these messed up structures and institutions, or I fold and do... I don’t even know what.

As a racialized person, and a woman, my entire life has been about learning how to play the game. All of my education, my training and lived experience has been, in one way or another, a focused attempt to stack my own deck and make myself a contender within colonizer systems.

I have a seat at the table now, and after standing for what feels like an eternity, I am so ready to sit down. I feel guilty for that, and ashamed, but, like, I’ve got blisters. We all need and deserve a break. And I’m still bothering Margaret Atwood on Twitter, even if it’s from a seated position. I’ll never give up on that. I promise.



WORDS BY Jaz Papadopoulos

 @CULTURE_UNITER

Since a law change in 2013, sex work in Canada is not illegal. Currently, sex work falls under the category of asymmetrical criminalization, meaning the purchase - not the sale - of sex is illegal.

The idea is “that by criminalizing clients, we will end demand and thus end sex work,” Claudyne Chevrier says, emphasizing that she does not agree with this stance. Chevrier is a member of Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition (SWWAC), a sex work advocacy group.

“The laws as they are still make it really hard for sex workers to be safe and to practice something that is not illegal safely,” Chevrier says.

Many sex workers and advocacy groups support the decriminalization of sex work, saying that asymmetrical criminalization inflicts the same harms as the former laws. These old laws criminalized certain aspects of sex work and were unanimously overturned in the Supreme Court.

“Sometimes laws specifically regulating sex work are designed to regulate sex work out of existence,” Jamie* says.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY Bram Keast

 @BRAMKEAST

Chevrier uses a metaphor to explain the difference between legalization and decriminalization.

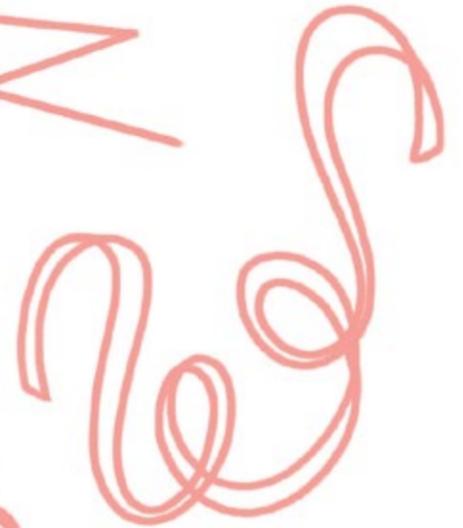
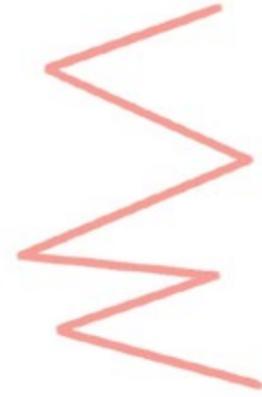
“In the olden days, cats existed. They were decriminalized ... But now, you have to register your cat, you have to get it tattooed or get some sort of metal or chip thing ... the reason for that is there’s a bylaw that kind of regulates their existence. So cats, and the cat industry, is legalized, as opposed to before when they were decriminalized and just doing their cat thing.”

According to Chevrier, the Trudeau government has said they would reconsider the new laws. So far, no changes have been made.

Sgt. Darryl Ramkissoon, who runs the Counter Exploitation Unit and the Missing Persons Unit in the Winnipeg Police Service, says he’s unsure whether his units have a stance on the asymmetrical criminalization of sex work.

COVER FEATURE CONTINUES // NEXT PAGE

“This misconception that sex work is illegal unlawfully inflicts penalties upon people who aren’t actually breaking the law.”



SEX WORK AS LABOUR

Jamie believes that sex work should be more greatly accepted as part of labour rights.

“While some labour unions have welcomed sex workers, others continue to ignore sex worker voices, denying our agency as workers and insisting that all sex work is exploitation and coercive. Under capitalism, all work is coercive, but sex work is treated as exceptional and uniquely harmful,” they say.

“You know what’s exploitative? Paying workers minimum wage, which hasn’t kept pace with inflation and is impossible to live on.”

Alex* says they feel safer and in better control in the sex industry compared to their former job as a health care aide.

“The unfamiliar situations that you have to throw yourself into are similar,” they say. “You don’t know who this person is on the other side of the door. You don’t know their history. There’s definitely a certain vulnerability that I got very used to while working in home care, and I’ve been able to transfer that over to (sex work).”

who else might be in the space or not. There’s more control that way,” they say.

“I think sex work is actually ... quite ordinary in terms of ways of getting money,” Chevrier says.

Alex says that the main way in which sex work differs from mainstream employment is that it is heavily stigmatized and policed. Because of this, they do not often talk about their job, meaning they cannot organize with other workers.

According to Jamie, under decriminalization, sex work would be treated like all other work in terms of having protections and benefits provided through Employment Standards.

“This includes things like workplace health and safety, limits on hours ... discrimination and harassment, and so on,” they say.

“New Zealand has decriminalized sex work and treats it as work, and in 2014, a sex worker won a settlement against her brothel manager for sexual harassment.”

Chevrier says that criminalization acts as an institutionalization of stigma, barricading sex work from being viewed and treated as legitimate labour.

“I think sex work is actually ... quite ordinary in terms of ways of getting money.” (Claudyne Chevrier)

Having their own incall space that clients come to also adds to their sense of comfort and control, since they don’t have to enter strangers’ homes.

“You know what’s in the space, you know where the exits are, and you know

“Sex workers are not illegal. There’s this really intense conception that sex workers are either victims or criminals, or both. That comes from the government,” she says. “It’s stigma being enacted in an institution.”

“There are ample existing labour laws that can cover sex work the way they cover all businesses and workers. We no more need specific sex work laws than we need specific laws about who can be a writer, computer programmer or janitor,” Jamie adds.

don’t see these girls for a couple weeks ... so we can track when we last saw them, and we can start making some inquiries on where they are.”

Alex has concerns about this.

“That is absolutely an invasion of privacy,” they say. “It’s none of their business.”

**“I think there’s a really strong punitive attitude (towards sex workers).”
(Kailey Bradco)**

OPTICS AND EFFECTS

According to Chevrier, the current laws allow police to surveil and harass those involved in the sex industry.

She gives the example of Operation Northern Spotlight, where, according to the RCMP website, “police pre-arrange to meet with individuals suspected of working in the sex trade against their will, or who are believed to be at high risk of being trafficked.” These meet-ups are referring to as “sting operations.”

To do this, the police use a technique called online carding, Chevrier says, “which means that they go and gather information on an individual based on their ads online.” She adds that police “are not supposed to be gathering information on private citizens doing things that are not illegal.”

According to Ramkissoon, “When our counter exploitation team comes in contact with someone working in the sex industry, on the street or even online, we generate (an) incident number for that individual, so we know when last we had contact with them, so sometimes we

It’s irrelevant ... (sex workers) are not breaking the law.”

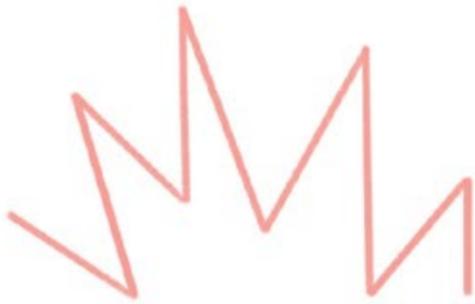
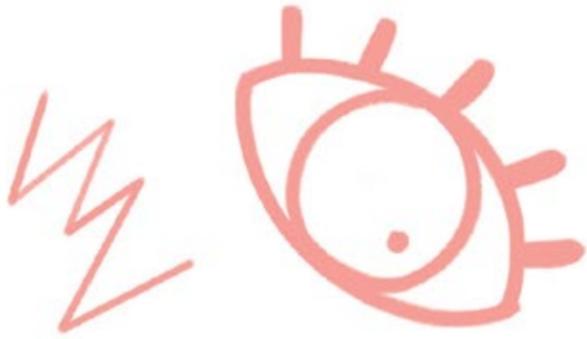
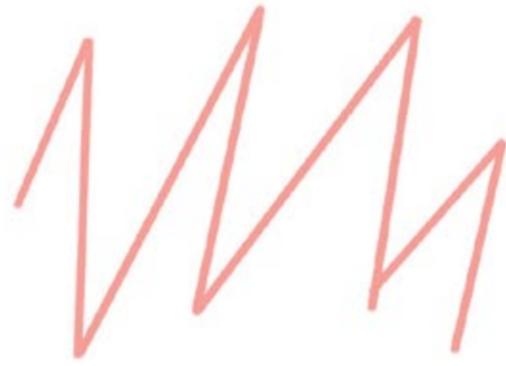
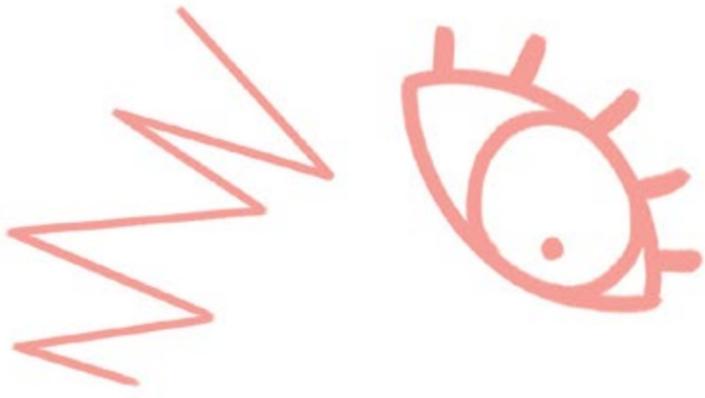
According to an article on vocm.com (a news site based in Newfoundland), “Operation Northern Spotlight is leaving sex workers feeling deceived and traumatized.”

After speaking with Heather Jarvis from the Safe Harbour Outreach Project, vocm.com writes that “the way police are carrying out the operation is damaging, putting sex workers at further risk of violence, and leaving them feeling as though they cannot trust the police and have to avoid them.”

Chevrier agrees that being targeted by a sting operation puts individuals at greater legal risk.

“There’s also been cases of people being deported, because the workers (targeted by the sting operation) were undocumented migrants or had papers that were not in order, and they deported them under the guise of helping them,” she says.

Kailey Bradco, the community connector at Spence Neighbourhood Association and facilitator of the drop-in



Our Place Safe Space, explains that in her own experience interacting with police, there is an assumption that all sex workers are exploited.

“I think there’s a really strong punitive attitude (toward sex workers),” she says.

“Laws and policies around sex work are always presented as wanting to make life better for sex workers,” Chevrier says, “but actually the way they’re done, because of the secrecy and because of the stigma, (they) actually create the harm that they are trying to avoid.”

SURVEILLANCE AND VIGILANTISM

Chevrier expresses concern about police reaching out to other areas of society in ways that infringe on the rights of sex workers. She cites examples of anti-exploitation campaigns that target the hospitality industry.

She worries that such campaigns “encourage hotel staff to spy on people and decide whether or not people have agency or what situations they’re in.”

Bradco has similar concerns about the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, which, according to a spokesperson from Manitoba Justice, is “complaint-driven.” Because of the heavy stigma around sex work, many individuals don’t understand that sex work is not actually a crime, and make complaints to Manitoba Justice about non-criminal acts.

After a community member makes a complaint, the public safety investigations unit gets involved. The public safety investigations unit is composed of retired police officers “and others who have the appropriate skill set,” a spokesperson from Manitoba Justice says.

“It sounds like vigilante cops,” Bradco says.

“I went to a community meeting ... and so many people there were just talking about ‘criminals and prostitutes’ and just lumping it all into this really big thing,” Bradco says. “I was like ‘Hello? (Does) anyone know that (selling sex is) not illegal?’”

This stigma can be weaponized against sex workers by other civilians. Chevrier gives an example of a sex worker whose children were removed by Child and Family Services (CFS) after a breakup.

“There’s this case of a worker who reached out to (SWWAC) a few years ago,” Chevrier says. “She had kids ... (who) were in no way connected to the work that she did. And she was in a relationship with a man, and then they broke up, and as revenge, he called CFS on her.”

“She was investigated. She was really understandably distressed, it was awful, and the kids ended up being apprehended. From what she said, there were no other issues that could have made this happen other than (her job).”

CONFLATING SEX WORK WITH ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

This misconception that sex work is illegal unlawfully inflicts penalties upon people who aren’t actually breaking the law. Chevrier gives an example of a sex worker who reached out to SWWAC.

“(Recently) someone received an eviction notice from their landlord, citing illegal activities, naming prostitution as the illegal activity. Even though it’s actually not illegal,” she says.

A similar conflation occurs between human trafficking and sex trafficking, Chevrier says.

“I think it serves a purpose for them to do that,” Chevrier says. “Putting it all together in a messy, moral, panicky call to action can serve the purpose of gaining attention

to their cause (end everything that they see as sexual exploitation). Whether they realize it or not, this contributes to passing more restrictive immigration laws and policies, which can put people in more difficult situations, and it also ignores labour trafficking victims.”

Winnipeg’s Deter Identify Sex Trade Consumers (DISC) Program also conflates sex workers with criminals.

According to the public notes from the Winnipeg Police Board 2017 1st Quarter Update, this program is “a database to track and identify persons involved in the sex trade to better understand trends, behaviors and movements of these individuals.”

“One of the main components of the DISC program is it removes the anonymity of the consumers by identifying them as such. These spot checks assist with identifying male consumers, vehicle license plates and their regular sex trade workers,” the notes state.

The people targeted by DISC fall into the following categories: “Consumers or exploiters; Persons of special interest (persons picking up or found in company of/watching/stopping and talking to sex trade workers, continually driving in areas frequented by sex trade workers, watching children at play); Procurers/Human Traffickers; Sex Trade Workers; Youth/Exploited persons.”

According to Ramkissoon, of the Counter Exploitation Unit, DISC no longer tracks information on sex workers. He says that these 2017 minutes are outdated.

“That’s pretty common of them to just lump all that together,” Alex says. “Take exploitation out of the equation for a second, because that’s not what we’re talking about.”



LANGUAGE AROUND SEX WORK

SEX WORK

SWWAC defines sex work as “the exchange of sex or sexualized intimacy for compensation.” Sex work is different from, and commonly conflated with, sexual exploitation, which is when “one person is coercing another person into getting money or things for sex, and that first person ... is benefitting from it.”

DECRIMINALIZATION

According to the SWWAC website, decriminalization means “‘take it out of the criminal justice system.’ It means that we don’t want any laws specific to sex work, including both the selling AND buying of sex. Sex work would fall under existing regulations, which govern ALL industries.”

SEX WORKERS

According to Stella, a community organization supporting and run by sex workers in Montreal, some phrases sex workers use for themselves are also considered disrespectful when used by others. For example, “(s)imilar to other words that communities have reclaimed in empowering ways, sex workers may refer to the girls as shorthand for working girls. However, used by people outside of our community this term can have negative connotations,” they state in an infosheet.

*** The Uniter is not revealing the names of these workers in order to protect their identities.**

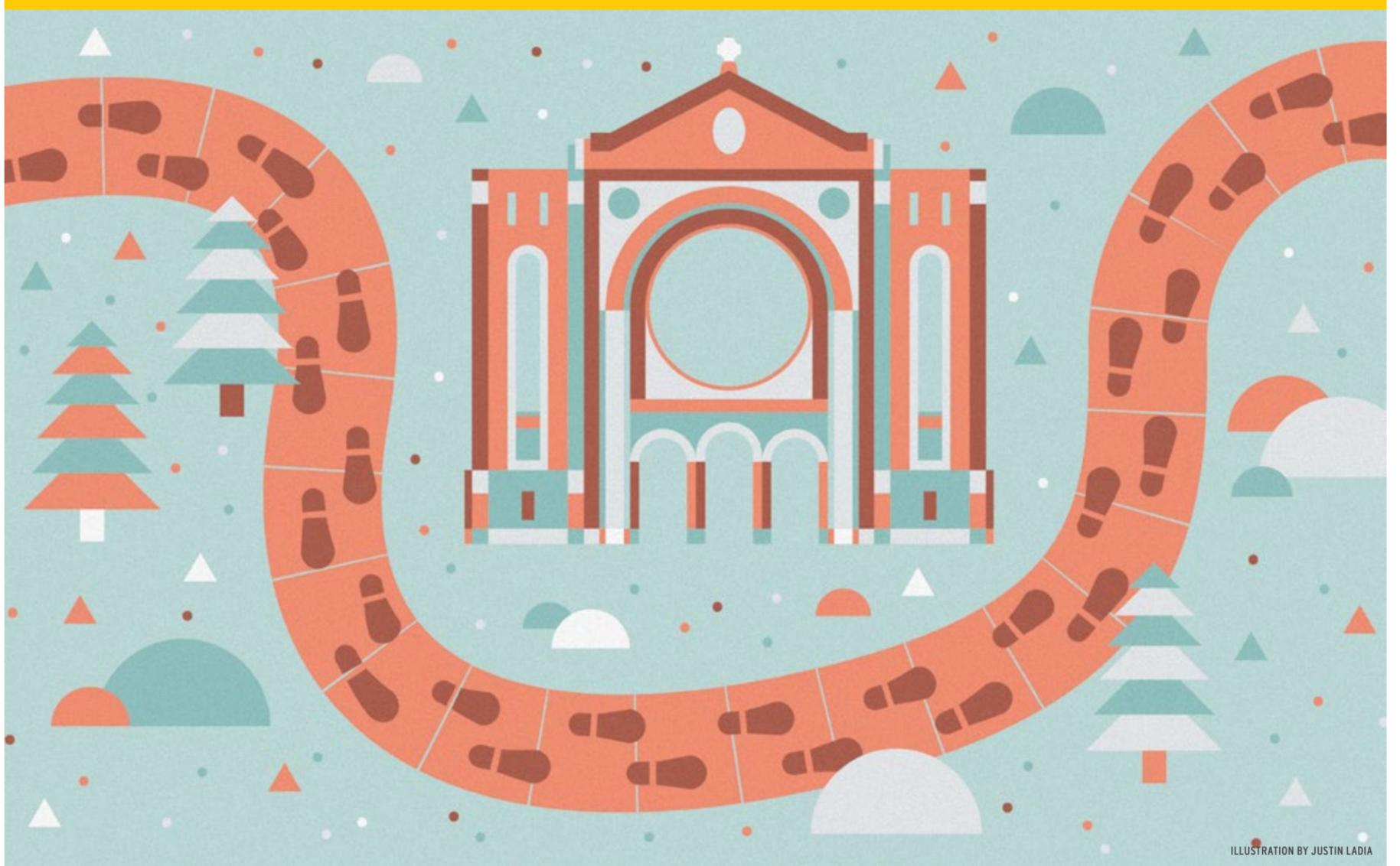


ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN LADIA

THE PURPOSE OF WALKWAYS

Riverside walkways and trails can enhance pedestrian, cyclist experience

DYLON MARTIN

CITY REPORTER

@DYLON_R_MARTIN

On Sept. 27, Winnipeg City Council approved the \$10-million St. Boniface Tache Promenade project. The City says this will improve connections to St. Boniface destinations and increase pedestrian and cycling opportunities.

“There’s a walkway there, but it’s pretty tired. I described it as dilapidated. The sidewalk is too narrow. The riverbank is

in need of stabilization,” Matt Allard, city councillor for St. Boniface, says of existing pedestrian infrastructure along a section of Tache Avenue.

The project will construct a 2.5-km walkway closer to the Red River along Tache Avenue, between Provencher Boulevard and Despins Street. It will include a 100-metre-long elevated lookout in the forest canopy overlooking the river.

Allard notes that much of project will involve riverbank stabilization, sidewalk reconstruction and street repairs. He says the Winnipeg Foundation, a charitable organization, contributed \$1 million for the lookout.

Riverside walkways have benefits, Dr. Richard Milgrom, head of the Department of City Planning at the University of Manitoba, says.

“It’s an amenity for people who live in the neighbourhood, but it also becomes a more regional amenity, because people might come and visit it,” Milgrom says.

He notes that this can lead to individuals visiting the St. Boniface Cathedral

or The Forks to take a detour along the riverside, which brings more people into different parts of the neighbourhood.

Milgrom suggests this can be helpful for smaller businesses, and he adds that more onlookers in an area can contribute to safety.

The concept of the Tache Promenade is part of the Go to the Waterfront vision, produced for The Forks North Portage Partnership and the City of Winnipeg. The vision focuses on a network of sidewalks, trails and walkways along the riverfront connecting to The Forks. The document also suggests eventually expanding this system into the St. Vital, Assiniboine and Kildonan Parks.

“What The Forks and many other groups have been pushing for is to get these trails contiguous, meaning that they’re integrated into the urban fabric and integrated so you can go a long distance,” Ted McLachlan, a senior scholar with the University of Manitoba’s Department of Landscape Architecture, says.

McLachlan says the Disraeli Active Transportation Bridge is an example of

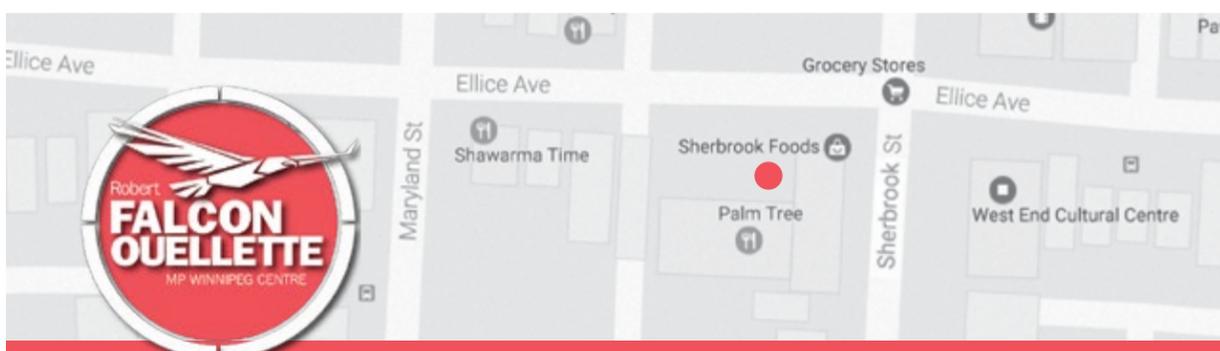
the City taking seriously the need to connect its riverside network of paths. The Disraeli Active Transportation Bridge was opened in 2013 and connects Point Douglas to Elmwood.

McLachlan believes riverside walkways like the Tache Promenade have great importance for encouraging a beautiful experience for walkers.

“We’ve spent most of our time in this city building roads for the movement of traffic, in detriment many times to creating quality spaces for pedestrians. Pedestrians are always that piece of concrete stuck on the side of the road,” he says.

McLachlan adds that walkers have different needs than drivers, and that they need spaces to stop, talk with others and have a great view.

“You have a phenomenal view, both the suspension bridge, the (Canadian) Museum for Human Rights, The Forks, the Fort Garry Hotel – it’s really one of the most beautiful views in Winnipeg,” he says.



Robert-Falcon Ouellette

Otapapistamâkew / Member of Parliament / Député
Winnipeg Centre - Heart of Canada

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE 594 Ellice Avenue | PHONE 204-984-1675

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Daniel Crump >> photoeditor@uniter.ca

If you're looking for variety, our volunteer photographers cover events, as well as shooting fashion streeters, headshots and local landscapes. We'll send you the assignment list and help you connect with the subjects. Get ready to share your photos with the city!

Illustrators, contact the Creative Director:

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Volunteer illustrators are visual artists who provide some of the eye candy that goes along with many of our articles. We'll send you an outline of technical requirements and a weekly list of possible assignments to choose from. Comic artists are also welcome to contact the creative director.

NEWS BRIEFS

DANELLE GRANGER // CITY EDITOR [@DANELLEGRANGER](https://twitter.com/danellegranger)

Gendering Racial Violence

Justice For Errol in collaboration with the University of Winnipeg Institute for Women's and Gender Studies presents a free public talk on Gendering Racial Violence by Dr. Shirene Razack. The talk takes place on Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. at Eckhardt Grammaticé Hall at the University of Winnipeg. It's a free event, and donations will be collected for the Justice For Errol campaign.

Classics Department's research series

Jitse Dijkstra, a visiting professor from Ottawa, will be talking about an event in late antiquity as part of the Classics Department research series. The talk will explore the destruction of the Serapeum in 391/392 CE. The talk takes place on Friday, Nov. 24 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Room 3D01 (Duckworth Centre). For more information, contact Dr. Peter Miller, pj.miller@uwinnipeg.ca.

Information session

The public is invited to an information session on updates to Kilcona Park and Transcona Stadium. Many improvements and amenity upgrades have been completed or are planned for Kilcona Park and the Transcona Stadium. The information session is on Dec. 2 from 1-3 p.m. at Kildonan Place (Centre Court). It's a drop-in style session.

First aid training

The University of Winnipeg's Safety Office is holding a first aid course in cooperation with On-Scene First Aid and Safety on Friday, Dec. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room 2C13. There is no cost to departments or individuals. For more information or to register for your attendance, contact Angelina Turney at a.turney@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-786-9400.

Canada 150 medal reception

Senator Marilou McPhedran and the University of Winnipeg Global College will co-host the Canada 150 Medal Reception: Honouring Manitoban Change-Makers. Eleven distinguished Manitoban change-makers will receive Canada 150 medals for their dedication to human rights, social justice and building sustainable peace. The reception takes place on Dec. 10 from 3-5 p.m. in Wesley Hall.

Transcona library reuse options

The University of Winnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies has begun researching possible reuse options for the existing Transcona Library through a new partnership funded by a Transcona Ward allocation. The East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee approved a grant for \$1,000. Students will explore the potential use of the building for post-secondary education and examine various scenarios related to the process of redeveloping the building.



LET THE BOARD GAMES BEGIN

The growing demand for Winnipeg board game cafés and shops

JOSEPH BERNACKI

VOLUNTEER

A pair of board game cafés have popped up to meet a growing demand for these kinds of venues in Winnipeg.

The Exchange District and Osborne Village have become home for places such as Across the Board Game Café and After Dark. These locales have their own twist on board games while offering food and drink services. They're both well-attended, especially on Fridays and Saturdays.

Across The Board set up shop downtown three years ago, while After Dark has just passed its two-year anniversary in Osborne Village.

Across the Board has attracted a regular clientele, and a group of friends from Brandon make their way to the café every month.

One of those friends, Rainer Schira, calls Across the Board the group's "favourite board game café in North America," because their selection of strategy and party games combined with the staff and atmosphere make it a "place worth coming back to."

Nick Mann, the manager of Across the Board, says the owner has a passion for board games, which he used to create the café.

"One of our owners has been super big into board games his whole life, and after collecting many, he thought of turning the idea into a business venture," Mann says.

Across the Board has recently eclipsed 1,300 board games in-store and continues to expand its catalogue of games based on customer interest.

"Games such as Cards Against Humanity have been one of our popular social gathering choices," Mann says.

In Osborne Village, After Dark owner Mike Alfred says his concept for the game bar was influenced by Across the Board.

"I wanted to run a casual bar and lounge that offered board games as an extra feature, as a way to represent two mediums into one," he says.

"The change in the way games are designed and developed is more detailed than they used to be, and that is really appealing to the public compared to fifteen years ago," Alfred says.

"The simple enjoyment of face-to-face interaction is something that people miss, and as such, they want to get back into those types of communication ... Being



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Across the Board has been a spot to play games downtown for the last three years.

stuck behind a phone or computer has been taking away from that interaction," Alfred says.

After Dark has also been able to provide "a more casual setting for beginner gamers and couples," he says. They're open from 5 p.m. to 4 a.m.

After Dark features up to 500-plus games available on location, and Alfred adds new titles each week to keep things feeling fresh.

Both establishments recommend making reservations either online or by telephone for larger groups of people.

These are just two of the board game hubs that have set up in the city, and they are setting forth a trend of bringing back a classic hobby in different ways. The Neighbourhood Bookstore and Cafe at 898 Westminster Ave. and The Good Will Social Club at 625 Portage Ave. also offer the option for customers to play board games in each venue.

i Across the Board is located at 211 Bannatyne Ave. and After Dark is located at 121 Osborne St.

DANIEL MCINTYRE AND ST. MATTHEWS CHANGING

Community Association hopes to address new and ongoing issues in plan

DYLON MARTIN

CITY REPORTER

[@DYLON_R_MARTIN](#)

The Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association (DMSMCA) has selected Jesse Gair as their new executive director. The association has a nine-year history working in the neighbourhoods, which Gair hopes to continue.

Daniel McIntyre is a West End neighbourhood north of Ellice Ave. St. Matthews is just south of Daniel McIntyre, on the other side of Ellice Ave.

"I come in here open to learn and to see and be guided by the community, based on what their needs and desires are," Gair says.

He notes that the DMSMCA recently finished a five-year community plan, as it is mandated to do as a Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (NRC). NRCs are groups representing local interests in designated communities of the Neighbourhoods Alive program, a provincial initiative to encourage revitalization.

Community consultations identify affordable housing, youth and senior programs and safety as key priorities, Gair says. He adds that these have been consistent priorities over the years.

Gair succeeds Kemlin Nembhard as executive director. Nembhard served in that role since the establishment of the association in March 2008.

David Foltz, who has been a Daniel McIntyre resident for 15 years, says he's had positive experiences with the past executive director and the DMSMCA.

"They did a lot for the community," he says. Foltz says he has found workshops on home repair and help from DMSMCA staff connecting to government programs for homeowners especially helpful. An example he notes was a program that offset some of the cost of installing sump pumps. This program was eliminated by the provincial Conservative government in 2016.

Foltz notices a change in the Daniel McIntyre neighbourhood. He says when he first bought his home, house prices were very low. There was a house a few lots away from his that was in disrepair, partly due to hard partying in the residence.

"I've seen lots and lots of families moved in since we bought our house, and prices have gone up," Foltz says.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

The Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association and Resource Centre (823 Ellice Avenue)

Christian Cassidy, a local history blogger who also serves as the community housing and grants co-ordinator for DMSMCA, agrees that the area is changing.

"When I started doing this job as a housing co-ordinator five years ago, there were a lot of empty lots and a lot of boarded up houses," he says.

Cassidy says, based on walking through the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews neighbourhoods and viewing data compiled for the DMSMCA's 2013-17 Housing Plan, that most of the vacant lots are now developed and past boarded-up homes have been repaired or replaced.

The Housing Plan notes that average sale prices for houses in MLS area 5A and

area 5C, which roughly correspondent with Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews, rose 290 per cent and 225 per cent, respectively. This is well above the overall Winnipeg rise of 156 per cent.

Cassidy notes that rising property values can lead to rent increases, which challenge low income residents.

The 2013-17 Housing Plan states, as a goal, to ensure the neighbourhoods remain financially accessible to all households. As the plan expires this year, Cassidy says the DMSMCA will be devising a new five-year Housing Plan.



STICKERS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN ON CAMPUS

“Blatant white fragility” behind racist postering campaign, activist says

CALLIE MORRIS

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

@LUGOSI_CALLIE

Students have spotted stickers featuring the phrase “It’s okay to be white” on the outskirts of the University of Winnipeg (U of W).

Mitchell van Ineveld, a student at U of W, found several stickers near campus.

“It’s certainly upsetting and disgusting that people are engaging in what is (an) explicitly white supremacist dog whistle campaign, but it’s also not surprising,” they say.

“It’s blatant white fragility,” Alexa Potashnik of Black Space Winnipeg, says. “The more that marginalized people challenge systems of white supremacy, the more white supremacists reflect on their position in the world and how privilege and whiteness impact their lives positively. They feel threatened.”

On Halloween, a thread on 4chan outlined a call to action to publicly post signs reading “It’s okay to be white.” The

thread asked that participants conceal their identity while postering by wearing Halloween costumes.

The campaign is an effort to incite racial and political tension, and indicative of the efforts white nationalist groups have made to recruit in and around university campuses and other public spaces.

The original thread states that the intention behind the posters is to bait those who are politically left-leaning into challenging people that agree with the phrase “It’s okay to be white.” In doing so, it pushes people who agree with the phrase further right on the political spectrum.

This is an attempt at affecting the Overton window, a theory used to explain the barriers at which discourse goes from being considered mainstream to extreme.

“Another reason why white supremacists employ this seemingly innocuous language is because if they were to come

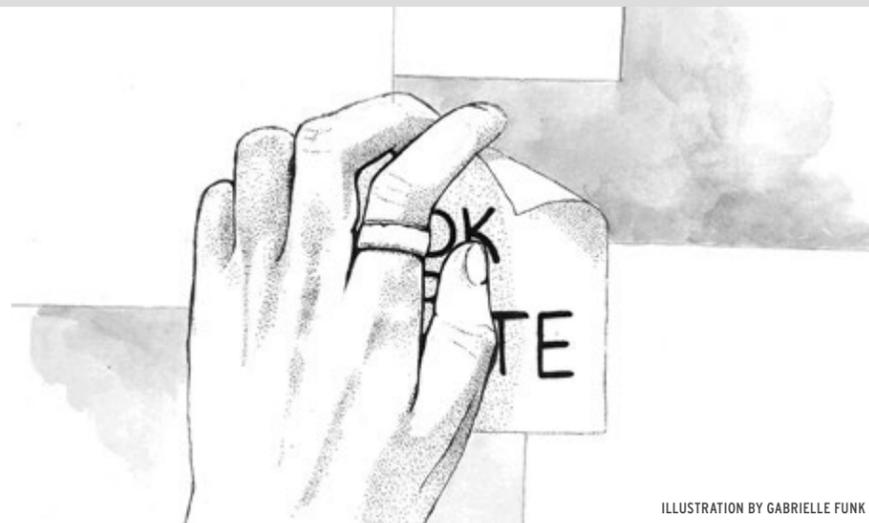


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

out with an overtly racist message, the campaign wouldn’t be as successful,” Scott Price, a member of activist group Winnipeg Against Fascism, says. “This is a more insidious thing. It’s a dog whistle, a calling card. Those in the know will recognize it and identify with it.”

“It’s important that the U of W recognize this for what it is. It’s harassment,” Potashnik says. “Faculty and staff should be just as concerned as students. People of Colour should not have to be subjected to this nonsense.”

The University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) currently has a postering policy in effect, which is meant to ensure that nothing with hateful language is posted on bulletin boards or anywhere on campus.

“I’m afraid that white students will see these stickers and posters and will feel emboldened to join this cult of victim-

hood,” Laura Garinger, UWSA president, says. “Racialized students are going to feel that they are being marginalized further.”

The UWSA also has the final say on student group posters.

“If things like this ever came from a student group on campus, we would step in and evaluate what they’re getting up to,” Garinger says. “We have staff that keep an eye out and do take down posters that don’t abide (by) our guidelines. It’s just a matter of knowing what to look for. We’re keeping our eyes open.”

The UWSA advises students who spot racist posters on campus to cover them with something else, or to take them down using their keys. Reports of razor blades being stuck to the back of some posters have come out of the University of Toronto.

SPOKEN WORD BETWEEN THE STACKS

Loud in the Library highlights changing role of campus libraries

THOMAS PASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

@THOMASPASHKO

Anyone who’s ever been shushed in a library probably doesn’t associate that space with the phrase “spoken word.”

But Loud in the Library is taking a novel approach to on-campus events by hosting the Nov. 30 open-mic event in the University of Winnipeg Library. The event, presented by the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) and the library, is a spoken word showcase open to anyone and everyone.

This is the second spoken word event to be held in the library. Potential performers unnerved by the vagueness of the term “spoken word” need not worry, Morgan Brightnose, the vice president internal affairs for the UWSA, says.

“Anyone can go up. We’ve had poets, student writers, writers from *Juice Journal*, comedians and even people reading from their notes off their phones on the spot,” Brightnose says.

“The event is meant to give a space for people to ‘speak words.’ Whether that be a form of poetry or a grocery list, it’s all a form of expression that will be nice to share

in the coziness of the library.”

Brightnose says it was ideal to hold the event “where people could share their words surrounded by walls of printed ones.”

“Libraries have a certain mysticism to them. Especially on campus – being quiet, finding the same daily study spot, knowing everyone’s minds are buzzing with information,” Brightnose says. “It seems fitting to open up a space to talk and express some of these thoughts in a place where they are potentially learned.”

Assessment and communications librarian Joshua Herter says the University of Winnipeg Library has made an effort to host more events in recent years with hopes of increasing their capacity to do so.

“(Loud in the Library) is probably the biggest, loudest ... most high-profile thing we do,” Herter says. “Our science librarian does a lot of work with the UW Let’s Talk Science group.”

Herter says they’ve done experimental demonstrations for Science Literacy Week and do a regular Science Storytime for the UWSA Day Care.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

There are logistical challenges to hosting an event in the library, Herter says, which point to larger trends about the changing role of campus libraries.

“More people are coming into the library for a wider variety of reasons, which requires our staff have new and expanded expertise,” Herter says. “The traditional caretaking of physical items is still a vital part of our mandate and that will never go away completely.”

He says they’re trying to predict what the library will need in 10 years, which means re-organizing to support high-quality academic programming.

The expanding utility of library spaces points to some of the challenges in updating the university’s library, Herter says.

“We have no dedicated lecture or performance space, and while the spiral staircases and lofty mezzanines bring a lot of character, they’re inaccessible, isolated and hard to keep clean.”

Herter says the library was built at a time when libraries were seen as storage for information rather than changing institutions, and thus was built to support a student body the quarter of the current size.

Loud in the Library will be held Thursday, Nov. 30 from 6-8 p.m. in the University of Winnipeg Library. Free food and drinks will be available. The show is open-mic format, and all voices are welcome.



ARE YOU TEXTBROKE?

Campaign highlights how much students pay for textbooks

JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

WITH FILES FROM ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

VOLUNTEER STAFF



University of Winnipeg (U of W) students spent anywhere between \$100 and \$1,900 on textbooks this fall, according to Megan Linton, vice-president external affairs for the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA).

The UWSA helped launch the Textbroke campaign this September to raise awareness of students' textbook costs. For some students, the cost of textbooks – which increase more than most goods with inflation – are prohibitive and impact their studies, Linton says.

Brianne Selman, the scholarly communications and copyright librarian at the U of W, has been asking students about how much they pay for textbooks.

She says that, to avoid fees, some students don't even bother purchasing the required materials until a class is almost over.

"The strategies were interesting to me. Some students wouldn't purchase the textbook until later on in the term," Selman says. "One student proudly told me that they specifically search for the oldest edition of a specific textbook ... Another student used a textbook at the library, which she had limited access to ... But there are a lot of ways students have tried to cut costs."

Linton says that some students simply go without.

"We know that once the cost of textbooks reaches a certain height, that students are unable to access it, and so they don't purchase their textbooks, and then their grades decline," she says.

Selman says the reason textbooks are so expensive is that the textbook publishing industry has a monopoly on course materials. Linton adds that most bookstores (including the U of W bookstore) are owned by the same companies that produce the textbooks.

But some professors understand how pricey textbooks can be and are helping lower the financial burden on students.

Dr. Janice Thiessen, an associate professor in the U of W history department, says she does everything she can to reduce the cost of her course.

"I don't assign textbooks in my business history class, never. The textbooks are extremely expensive," Thiessen says. "And I'd have to supplement them with



SUPPLIED PHOTO

additional monographs, as the texts are deficient when it comes to addressing gender and diversity. Instead, I assign journal readings that are freely available through the UW Library."

According to Selman and Thiessen, there are plenty of ways that professors can reduce the cost of textbooks, such as placing copies of the required materials on reserve. Teachers need to also consider if they even need the full book. Instead, they could create a smaller course pack.

"There's a lot of things that profs can do, I think that's where most of the power is," Linton says. "Profs can access open textbooks, and so they can give students textbooks that are provided by the government of Manitoba, through open access, and then just give their students those textbooks which are free and really great."

Selman says that in order for anything to change, students need to make their professors aware of the cheaper alternatives to full textbooks.

"I'm not necessarily saying you have to assign a free textbook if it's not important. But really start thinking about if the students will need this entire textbook worth three, four hundred dollars. Is there a cheaper alternative? Could you use a course pack?" Selman says.

"Students realize that these materials are important. They simply cannot afford them on top of everything else they're trying to pay for," Selman says.

The second phase of the #Textbroke campaign will be launching soon, Linton says, and will focus on helping students provide useful feedback to their profs around textbook pricing.

PROFILE

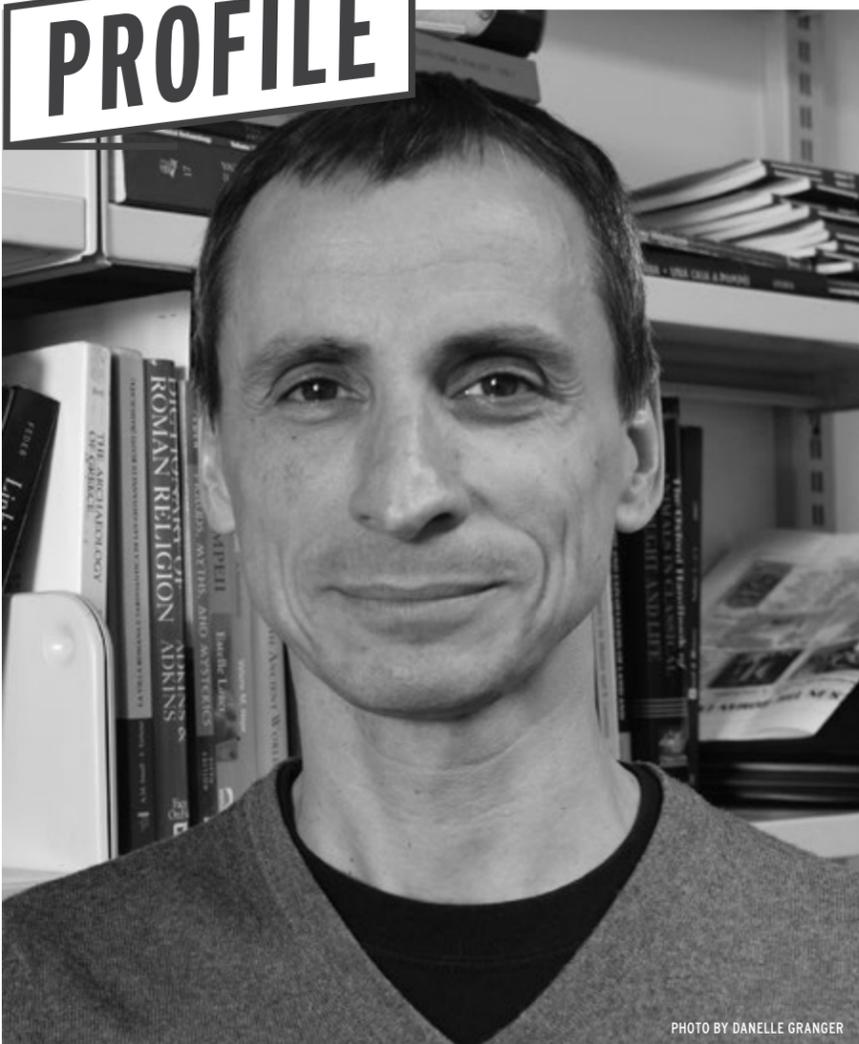


PHOTO BY DANELLE GRANGER

MICHAEL MACKINNON

PROFESSOR IN THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

DANELLE GRANGER

CITY EDITOR



Professor Michael MacKinnon first started his career at the University of Winnipeg in 2002. He started off in the Department of Anthropology and now teaches in the Department of Classics.

He studies and does research on how animals contribute to the world in Greek and Roman antiquity.

"Some of that certainly encompasses aspects that are related in archaeology, in general, that we can apply to any culture, wherever it may be," MacKinnon says. "So that sort of fits neatly into the world of anthropology - reconstructing people's lives, no matter where they are – past, present, globally."

Over the course of his career, MacKinnon has visited 60 different archaeological sites, including Rome and Pompeii, in Italy, Portugal, Spain, Albania, Turkey and more.

One story MacKinnon likes to tell is a "poignant tale of the care of an animal 2,000 years ago."

"There's one dog that we found in a burial ground in Carthage, in North Africa. That burial ground dates to the third, fourth century ... And this dog was put in its own grave in a human cemetery, and it's common they'll put dogs with humans," he says.

"But this dog was in its own grave and had more precious grave goods than the humans did," MacKinnon says. "And the dog itself turned out to be a small little Maltese-type dog with great pathologies."

He adds the dog lived to an old age, and it must have been fed special food, because it had no teeth left.

"It's a helpful reminder to humanity that there's a long trajectory for people, and that maybe understanding more of the aspects of how people operated in different places allows us to pull out the things that bind us to those people," MacKinnon says.

"Hopefully we'll appeal to a broader message of tolerance and all those wonderful things that we want to cultivate in societies today."

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR STUDENTS? Professors and students, it's a mutual environment of learning from them. I'm a bit of a Luddite (someone who opposes new technology) when it comes to technology, so the students are certainly pushing me forward in terms of one who doesn't have a cellphone to understand that world of social media to a bigger perspective.

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST GRADE IN UNIVERSITY? My worst grade was a D in my first year. I got it in one course, but I won't say which one because it may be the career path I'm doing right now. And I received it because I didn't go to class as many times as I should have, I didn't keep proper notes, and I didn't keep up with the readings prior and subsequent. So I guess three bits of advice.

WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF? I think I have a good sense of wit and humour, and those two aspects have been instrumental in my upbringing. My family's always been one who like to joke around and tell good puns ... (and) use humour in a very creative, witty type of way. I've always been a big advocate of humour.

POT PLANS SHOULD BENEFIT MORE THAN A CHOSEN FEW

The province's plans will be exclusive to only a few retailers

SAM SWANSON

COMMENTS EDITOR

 @SAMUELELVAN

Information on how marijuana retailing will work in Manitoba has been billowing in since the announcement that pot sales will be a “hybrid privatization” with Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries distributing to private retailers.

On Nov. 7, *ChrisD.ca* published “Manitoba hands off sale of legal marijuana to budding retailers,” which would have been a great headline, except that pot sellers won’t be budding retailers, but rather those already in full bloom.

The province made its Request for Proposals (RFP) available to aspiring dealers of legal pot on Nov. 7. The RFP states the province is only interested in doing business with up to four retailers.

“Manitoba intends to select up to four proposals, and intends to enter into at least one retailer agreement for each of the four proposals it selects,” the RFP reads.

Owner of Growers and Smokers in Brandon, Rick Macl told the CBC he thinks “the hybrid privatization is more like a hybrid monopolization.”

Macl believes such few retailers means those chosen will have to be able to push a lot of product, and therefore be big business.

“They’re favouring the larger companies. They’re not putting any weight in experience, any weight in knowledge. Most of the weight in their decision, in their evaluation is weighted on financials, money and scalability,” Macl said in the interview with CBC.

It takes money to make money, and it will take deep pockets to sell pot.

Manitoba will move into a post-prohibition era of cannabis with a plan that will result in less profit sharing across retailers, and those profits will go largely



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

to high-wealth individuals with significant holdings in large-scale retailers.

In a Tom Brodbeck editorial for the *Winnipeg Sun*, he disingenuously frames the province as “letting private retailers come up with the start-up capital to open brick-and-mortar stores” – as if new stores will open up under the province’s four-retailer model.

Brodbeck also accuses the Manitoba Government and General Employees’ Union (MGEU) of providing “some of the dumbest arguments possible” to support their position urging the province to consider a public distribution model similar to that of alcohol sales.

In stark contrast to Brodbeck’s characterization of the MGEU, the organization’s executive liaison, Jodee Mason, provided a sound response to Brodbeck’s piece in

a letter published by *The Winnipeg Sun*, pointing out that the Manitoba model would keep profits in Manitoba, which the Pallister plan so far does not promise.

“We (MGEU) also believe that the revenue from marijuana sales should stay here in Manitoba, funding public infrastructure and important services like health care and education,” Mason writes. “Manitobans need that revenue to protect our services, like health care, which are being hit hard by government cuts and privatization.”

Although cases can be made for both public and private Manitoba marijuana sales, the Conservative government’s four-point plan to keep big businesses raking in the big bucks looks like a deal where Manitoba will see some taxes, but Manitobans shouldn’t expect to see any profits.

ACCESSIBILITY IS MORE THAN A BUZZWORD

The music industry could do more to make venues accessible

MEGAN LINTON

VOLUNTEER

The current buzzword vibrating across the music scene is the term accessible. It’s mentioned in Facebook events for shows, on venue pages and used haphazardly across the industry.

However, promoters and artists in Winnipeg, regardless of their willingness to label a space accessible, often fail to accurately describe how people will interact with the space in terms of disability.

Accessibility extends beyond the access level of a particular venue. For example, The Handsome Daughter has a ramp to access the bar, as opposed to stairs. However, beyond the ramp, they fail to have any accommodations in the washrooms for folks who use mobility aids. A more accessible washroom would have a push button to open the door, a larger stall with a rail, braille on the washroom sign, and several other components.

Although this venue may be more accessible than Forth, which has seven steps to enter, it is irresponsible to claim total accessibility of a space.

Accessibility for many folks is more than just the social credibility of playing in a space that has some accommodations. When promoters, artists and venues claim that spaces are accessible, and then folks arrive to find out that they cannot use the washroom, or stay for the show if there are no chairs, then the term is misappropriated.

Failing to truthfully explain the accommodations of a space is an act of violence against the community, as it prevents meaningful involvement. Artists, venues and promoters need to take serious responsibility and ownership for assessing whether or not a space will be accessible for a diverse audience of folks.

In terms of larger venues for shows, Crystal Rondeau points out that “wheelchair seat tickets are priced as the most expensive ticket available, which is ridiculous, because people with disabilities make up a lot of the population that’s poor.”

Pricing tickets higher for folks with disabilities creates more barriers for those who already have increased costs of liv-

ing in terms of transit, health care, pharmaceuticals – not to mention that the community is chronically underpaid and underemployed.

It’s important to consider who is making claims of “accessibility.” All too often, the accessibility disclaimers at the bottom of events are made by able-bodied folks, with no prior experience doing accessibility audits. Accessibility audits are done by several organizations in Manitoba, primarily the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities and the Independent Living Resource Centre.

It’s also imperative to look at representation within the music industry. Rondeau says that she does not know “anyone who is disabled and prominent in the music scene.” In the music scene, and across major labels, there is a lack of representation of persons with mobility and visible disabilities. When there are few people in the community who have disabilities, this can feed into the acceptance of claiming spaces are accessible when in reality they are not.

One of the major barriers for persons with disabilities to access the music scene is the stage layouts at many venues. The Good Will Social Club, The Pyramid, The Garrick, The Handsome Daughter, Forth, Times Change(d), and many other venues across the city have steps or other barriers to accessing the stage.

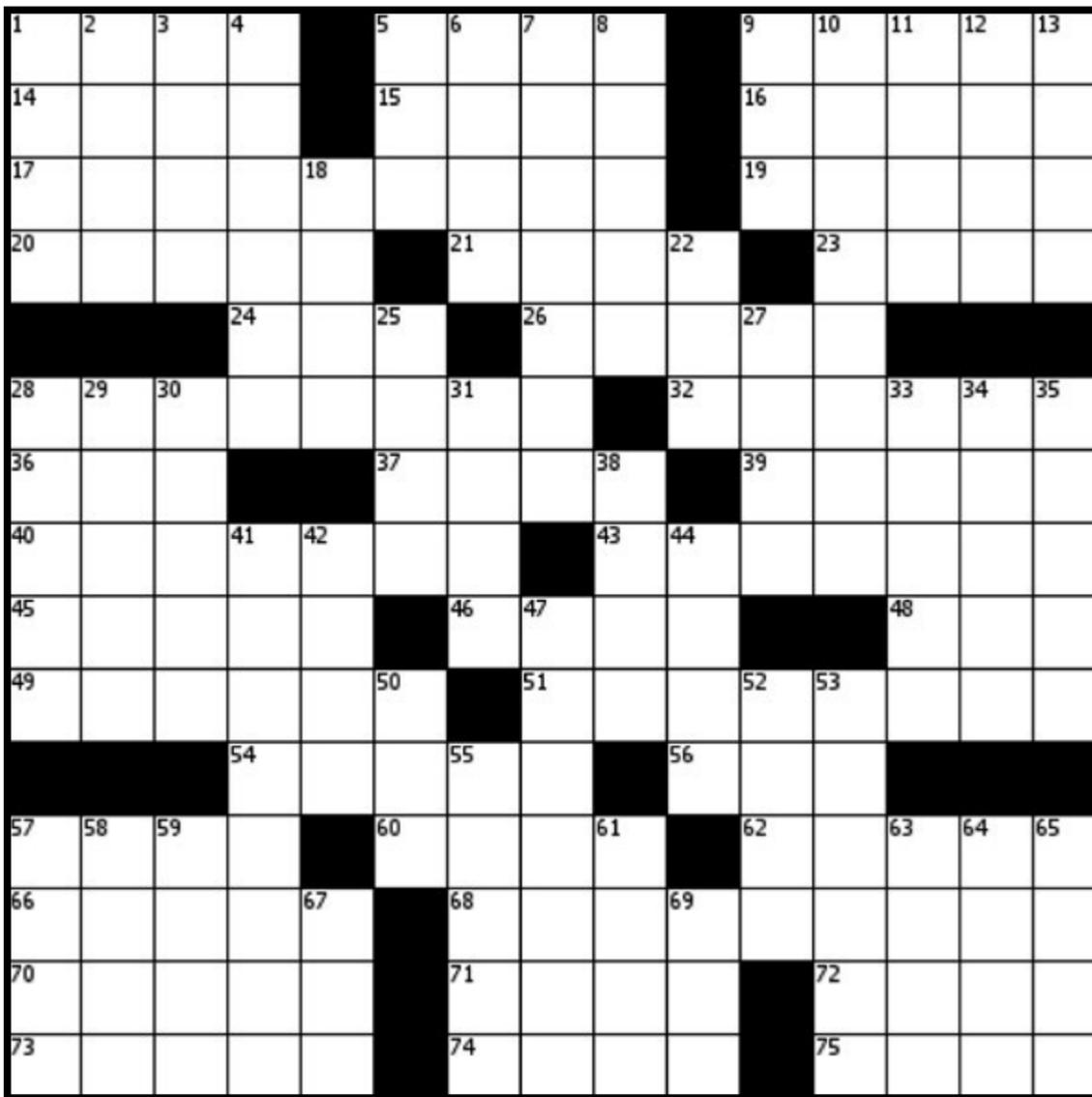
The music industry needs to hold itself accountable for the usage of the term “accessible” and begin making space for audiences and artists with disabilities. The industry can begin by paying to get accessibility audits, by implementing the changes requested in the audit and by prioritizing musicians and technicians with disabilities. If businesses can restructure budget to prioritize access, that will allow for more meaningful participation in the music industry.

Megan Linton is the vice president external affairs for the UWSA. She cares deeply about equitable access, doughnuts and soft punk.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

DIVERSIONS



ACROSS

1. High cards
5. Charity
9. Maturing
14. Mall event
15. Vegetarian's taboo
16. Count ____ of jazz
17. Ease
19. Put up
20. Shallow dish
21. Food regimen
23. Poor grades
24. Pelvic joint
26. ____ shuttle
28. Tardiness
32. Actress ____ Richards
36. Fire residue
37. Abound
39. Fine fabric
40. Summer drink (2 wds.)
43. Hawaiian ____
45. Juliet's love
46. Diner list
48. ____ de toilette
49. Rock band ____ Dan

51. Aloft

54. Earnest requests
56. Supporting
57. Thorny bloom
60. Little children
62. Desert haven
66. Fight site
68. Apologetic
70. Designated
71. Waiter's aid
72. Previously
73. Move smoothly
74. Green Gables girl
75. Paper quantity

DOWN

1. PDQ 's kin
2. Phone
3. Singer ____ Fitzgerald
4. Boil
5. Pierre's pal
6. Guide
7. Artist Henri ____
8. Make tea
9. Pres. Lincoln
10. White flower
11. Words of understanding (2 wds.)
12. Agreeable
13. Understands
18. Ore beds
22. Small bit
25. ____ Sampras of tennis
27. Jail room
28. Animals' homes
29. Formal necktie
30. Essay topic
31. Fabric joint
33. Not outer
34. Auto type
35. Follow
38. Short skirt
41. Intensified
42. Turnpike fee
44. Ride the waves
47. Oriental
50. So far
52. Benefit
53. Speaker
55. Main artery
57. Used the doorbell
58. Uttered
59. Half (prefix)
61. Extend over
63. Reasonable
64. Machu Picchu dweller
65. Mushroom part
67. Fruit drink
69. Sight organ



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Student Services

STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services staff of The University of Winnipeg provides the student body with information on upcoming events and opportunities:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Tutoring

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

English Language Courses

Did you know that the English Language Program at UWinnipeg offers part-time evening and online English language courses? If you would like to build your general or academic English skills, please contact t.caryk@uwinnipeg.ca for more information.

Wanted: Volunteer Language Partners

Volunteer language partners are English speakers who give EAL (English as an Additional Language) students an opportunity to practice English outside of the classroom. EAL students come from countries such as Korea, Japan, China, Brazil, Ukraine, and Mexico.

As a volunteer language partner, you will have the opportunity to:

- learn about another culture
- share your own culture
- help an EAL student
- build your resume
- obtain a letter of reference

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Winter Term. Please contact 204.982.1151 or email elplstudentlife@uwinnipeg.ca. For more information, visit uwinnipeg.ca/elp and click on "Student Life."

STUDENT CENTRAL

Changes to Student Central's Hours

Tues., Nov. 28, 2017 - closed from 11:00 am - 1:15 pm

SC's regular hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Dropping Courses

Dec. 4, 2017 - FINAL DAY to withdraw from a U2017FW class for 50% refund of the base tuition, UWSA and UWSA Building Fund fees (No refund is applicable from Dec. 5, 2017-Feb. 14, 2018.)

Courses are dropped through WebAdvisor using the "Student Planning/Registration" link.

Exams

The Examination Period is Dec. 7 - 20, 2017. Please check your courses on the exam schedule now: Go to uwinnipeg.ca/registration and click on "Exam Schedules."

If you have any time conflicts, follow the instructions on the webpage to deal with them immediately.

Exam locations can change, so remember to also check the "Daily Exam Schedule," which will now be posted on the website the day before each exam day. (Paper schedules will no longer be posted around campus.)

Locker Rental

Do you need a space to store your stuff? Rent a locker for Winter Term! Fill out the form online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/lockers or drop by Student Central.

Locker Locations & Types available:

- Riddell Hall Tunnel - full-size
- Lower level Manitoba Hall - full-size
- Third floor Richardson College for the Environment and Science - half-size

Locker Time Frame:

- Winter Term (January 4, 2018 - April 20, 2018) - \$20.00/person

Tuition Fees for Winter Term

Pay tuition the easy way -- through your bank or credit union -- and you'll be automatically entered to win prizes!

Every student who pays for Winter Term 2018 courses by January 4, 2018 using one of the following options will be entered into the draw:

- as a bill payment through their financial institution (online, telephone, in-person at a branch),
- via Flywire, or
- through WebAdvisor with a credit card

Prize packages include gift cards, and UWinnipeg travel mugs, water bottles, notebooks and more!

For more information, please visit: uwinnipeg.ca/student-central

Waitlists for Winter Term

Check your UW webmail account every Monday and Thursday for important waitlist notifications for Winter Term courses.

If a seat becomes available in a waitlisted class, an email notification will be sent to your UW webmail account. Your reserved seat will expire after 72 hours. Be sure to claim your reserved seat within that time period. For more information, please see uwinnipeg.ca/registration and go to "Wait Lists."

NOTE: All registration emails, waitlist email notifications, new sections, new lab sections, course changes (changes to days and times), and cancelled course email notifications will be sent to your university webmail account: "...@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca"

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Future Student Night

Wed., Nov. 29, 2017
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Duckworth Centre, 400 Spence St.

Prospective students and parents are invited to attend The University of Winnipeg's Future Student Night. Join us for an evening of interactive displays, campus tours and an opportunity to talk with deans, professors, current students and staff about your future at UWinnipeg. Enter to win a \$5,000 tuition credit or one of many other prizes. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

UWINNIPEG DOWNTOWN HOSTEL

Did you know that UWinnipeg offers an affordable and convenient hostel on campus? Our VIP Suites within McFeetors Hall are available year-round and offer a private bedroom, living room/study, kitchenette, and private bathroom at just \$99/night plus tax! Book now by visiting uwinnipeg.com or contact us at 204-789-1486 or hostel@uwinnipeg.ca.

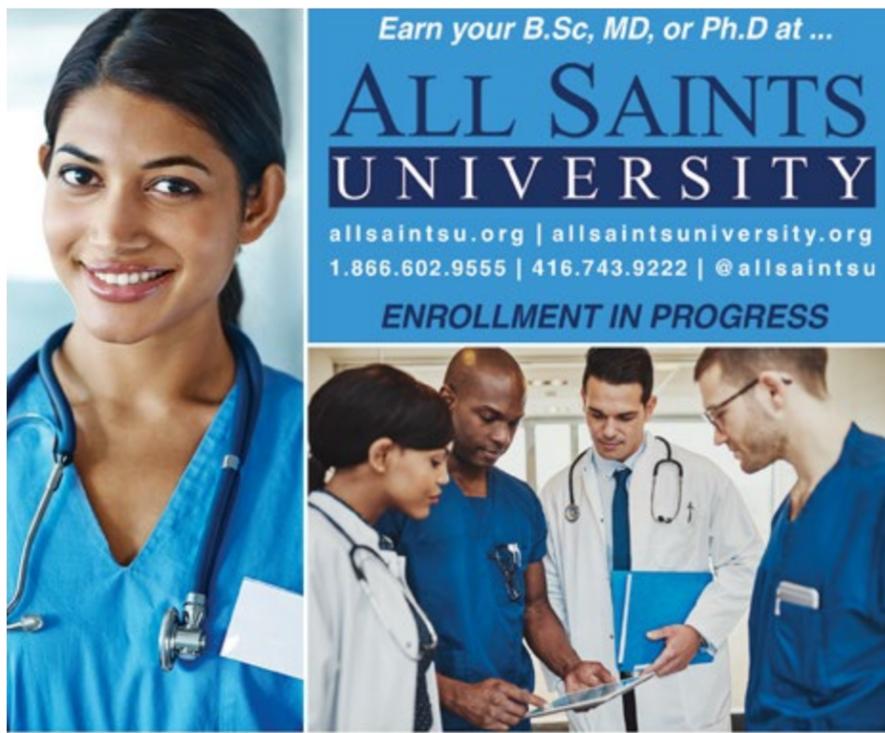
Un-Supermarket

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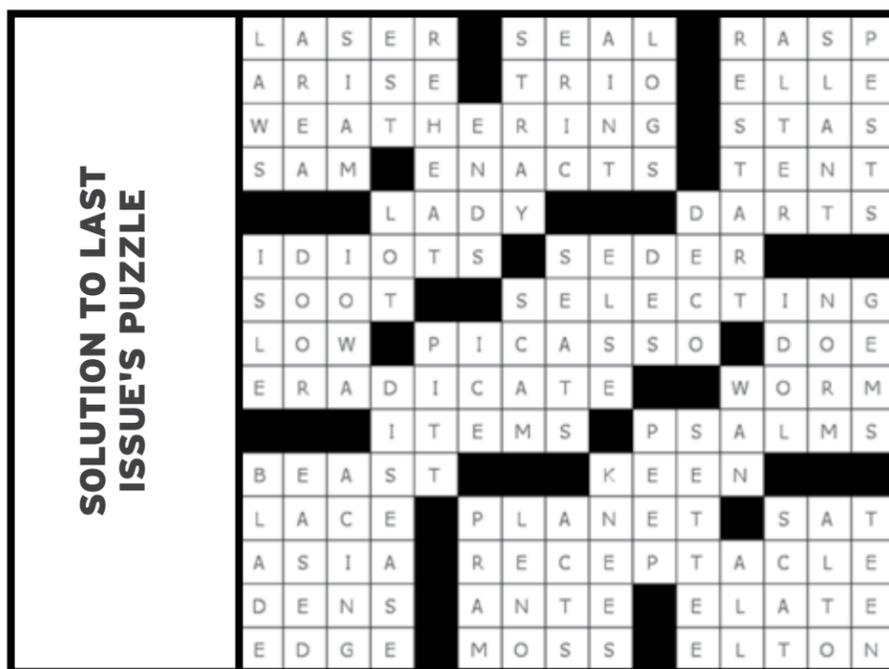
ENROLLMENT IN PROGRESS

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OCT 21, 2017 : OTTAWA, ON
NOV 18, 2017 : CALGARY, AB
DEC 09, 2017 : BRAMPTON, ON
To attend please register online or by phone.

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ISSUE'S PUZZLE



WE'RE HIRING!

The Uniter is seeking a Campus Reporter.

The Uniter is seeking a hardworking student and experienced writer who is passionate about campus politics, news and events to fill the position of Campus Reporter. The successful candidate will possess strong research and interviewing skills and will also demonstrate a critical eye for news content.

The position begins in January and pays \$105/week.
See uniter.ca/jobs for more details

Interested parties should submit a resume including references, cover letter and two (2) writing samples by Nov. 30 at noon. Application packages should be sent to Managing Editor Anastasia Chipelski at info@uniter.ca or delivered in person to The Uniter office: ORM14 Bulman Centre, 515 Portage Ave., Winnipeg.

*Mouseland Press strives to be an equitable employer and will prioritize qualified applicants who belong to marginalized groups.

*Qualified applicants who study at or are alumni of The University of Winnipeg will also be given priority.

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We publish every Thursday during the school year, distributing 4,000 copies around campus and to over 70 locations in Winnipeg's urban centre.

To book an ad, contact Charmagne de Veer at **204-786-9790** or businessmgr@uniter.ca.



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Effective immediately, you will notice an increase in patrols as we have increased our guard complement by one third throughout the daytime and evening hours. Experienced guards will be stationed at the Lockhart Hall entrance (at the Ellice Avenue doors) and other high-traffic areas.

UWinnipeg is proud to be a long-standing downtown anchor and contributor to strengthening our inner-city community. We are working hard to deliver a positive experience for you within a safe and diverse campus environment.

Remember:

- › Please do not chase or try to apprehend a suspect.
- › SafeRide and SafeWalk programs are available to everyone on campus, including evening hours.
- › Please keep valuables — especially your electronics and cell phone — out of sight whenever possible.

In case of an emergency

Call Campus Security at **204-786-6666** or Police at **911**

Stay informed

Download the new UW Safe app for alerts, emergency contacts, and “friend walk” feature.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

UWINNIPEG.CA/SECURITY