

THE

UNITER

FREE.WEEKLY.
VOLUME 74 // ISSUE 16 // JAN. 30

Winnipeg building out, a downward spiral

Winnipeg Ave

**PROPOSED CITY BUDGET SHUTS DOWN INNER-CITY
RESOURCES, EXPANDS SUBURBAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

**BUREAUCRACY THREATENS
CHEESEMAKING TRADITION P5**

**BELL PROFITS FROM
PRISONS P11**

**THE WOLSELEY ELM
TRAGEDY P14**

A WRONG TURN

I don't know when public attitudes in Winnipeg steered so far into hostile austerity, but it's a problem that seems to be getting worse rather than better.

This week's *Uniter* cover feature, by arts and culture editor Beth Schellenberg, examines how the city's proposed 2020 budget aims to slash funding to virtually every aspect of the cultural sector. Whether it's libraries, public pools, community centres or public art, everything seems to be on the chopping block.

They're cuts that will disproportionately affect people in lower-income or lower-resourced neighbourhoods. Community centres in wealthy, south-end suburbs, however, aren't faced with the same austerity. The city and province are also still more than willing to open their wallets and write cheques to local sports clubs, despite the fact that local sports teams are lucrative enough to operate on their own, or that high ticket prices often make sporting events accessible to only the city's wealthiest residents.

Whether it's the province backing out of 50/50 transit funding and fighting against the carbon tax, the city's reluctance to dedicate public money to anything other than construction and cops or both governments' commitment to spending to benefit only the most privileged Winnipeggers, there's a clear disconnect here. A vision for a more equitable Winnipeg of the future is at odds with those trying to perpetuate its hostile past.

I don't know when that hostility began. But it doesn't take a detective to deduce who's working to make Winnipeg better for everyone, and who's working to make things easier for themselves.

—Thomas Pashko

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@THEUNITER



@THEUNITER



FACEBOOK.COM/
THEUNITER



* ON THE COVER

The Happyland Outdoor Pool in St. Boniface is one of many public spaces on the chopping block in Winnipeg's proposed 2020 budget.

Read more on page 7.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Axe-wielding Wolseley women facing off against police in 1957, protecting the beloved Wolseley Elm. Read more on page 14.

UNITER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR
Thomas Pashko » editor@uniter.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
VACANT

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Talia Steele » creative@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Beth Schellenberg » culture@uniter.ca

FEATURES EDITOR
Katherine Cao » featureseditor@uniter.ca

CITY EDITOR
Lisa Mizan » city@uniter.ca

COMMENTS EDITOR
Haley Pauls » comments@uniter.ca

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

PHOTO EDITOR
Daniel Crump » photoeditor@uniter.ca

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
AND ONLINE CONTENT CO-ORDINATOR
Callie Lugosi » callie@uniter.ca

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

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR
Gabrielle Funk » gabrielle@uniter.ca

FEATURES REPORTER
Keesha Harewood » features@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
Naaman Sturup » naaman@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
Hannah Foulger » hannah@uniter.ca

CITY REPORTER
Alex Neufeldt » cityreporter@uniter.ca

CAMPUS REPORTER
Callum Goulet-Kilgour » campus@uniter.ca

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR
Tamika Reid » volunteer@uniter.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

COMIC
Hely Schumann

ILLUSTRATOR
Celia McLean

WRITERS
Kathryn Boschmann
Michelle Karlenzig
Mark Teague

MOUSELAND PRESS

MOUSELAND PRESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Kristina Annable (chair), Anifat Olawoyin,
Larissa Peck, Andrew Tod, and
Jack Walker
» For inquiries email: board@uniter.ca

CONTACT US

GENERAL INQUIRIES
204.988.7579
editor@uniter.ca
uniter.ca

ADVERTISING
204.988.7579
» For inquiries email:
editor@uniter.ca

Room ORM14
University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2E9
Treaty One Territory
Homeland of the Métis Nation

SUBMISSIONS

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



WHOSE

HOUSE?

MITCH KROHN'S HOUSE

PHOTOS BY CALLIE LUGOSI

Mitch with his spouse Megan in their home

A WHOVIAN HOME WITH A FULLY STOCKED PROP ROOM

KEESHA HAREWOOD

FEATURES REPORTER

 @KEESHAHAREWOOD

“How do I describe myself in the world of theatre? I guess (as) a professional amateur.”

Mitch Krohn is a sketch comedian and improviser whose passion for acting began in high school and continued as he studied theatre at the University of Winnipeg (U of W).

While at the U of W, Krohn's love for acting prompted him to seek any opportunity to get on stage and “go for it.”

It was by an unexpected turn of events that Krohn got involved with improv and comedy in the first place. In terms of how it happened, Krohn says “blame Tim.”

Tim Webster, one of the founding members of the Crosseyed Rascals improv comedy troupe, invited Krohn to join 17 years ago.

Krohn says one of the best parts of performing with the Rascals was the community that formed offstage.

“When we had hard times, we supported each other. When we had good times, we celebrated with each other.”

During a particularly difficult time in Krohn's life, when he was hospitalized after having a stroke, comedy became a form of catharsis.

While in the hospital, Krohn and Dianna Rasing, who also had a stroke two weeks before he did, decided to form a comedy troupe based on their experiences. Together, they founded Strokes of Genius sketch comedy.

Krohn says “instead of getting really frustrated and yelling at somebody, get really frustrated and write a comedy sketch about it.”

“There's dark times, obviously, but it's better to laugh about it than cry about it.”

Krohn currently resides with his spouse, Megan, who lives and laughs alongside him in their home of 14 years.

1) MEET BUFFY

Mitch: “She has a few faces. She has the ‘I'm pissed off at you’ face (and) the extremely curious face.”

2) A SCREWDRIVER, EXCEPT IT'S A LITTLE MORE SONIC

Mitch: “We're Whovians.”

3) PRETTY WINDOW FRAME

Mitch: “When we redid our windows, we took the old windows out of the inside, so that we could still have the (frame).”

4) COZY FIREPLACE

Mitch: “We were an individual house that lost power. So it wasn't like our neighbourhood lost power. Our house was the only house on the street that lost power.”

Megan: “That fireplace was a lifesaver.”

Mitch: “We didn't have an oven, so we boiled water, and we heated food on there.”

5) PROP ROOM: A HAT TREE

Megan: “It's just costumes, costumes, costumes.”

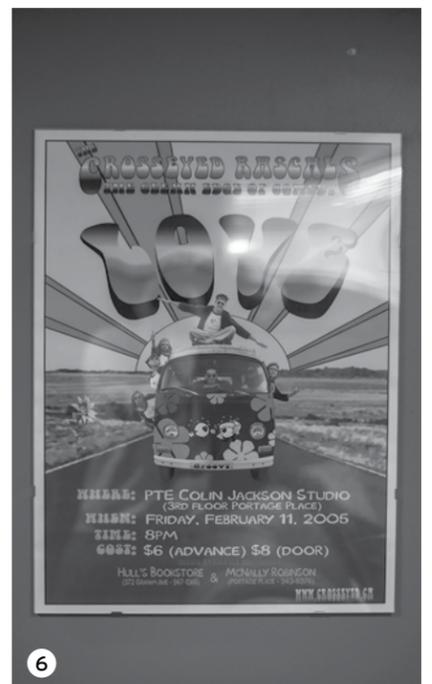
6) A VERY SPECIAL POSTER

Megan: “So this poster here is from the show (when) Mitch proposed to me. It was actually in a show that we got engaged ... I should let him tell the story.”

Mitch: “It was during the improv show, and there's the game ‘questions,’ where you can only ask questions. In that particular game, we asked all of our loving volunteers - and Megan was actually one of our volunteers at that show - to come up and join on stage ... so as we were playing the game, in one scene, I got down on one knee ... and I was in a Southern drawl.”

Megan: “It was awful.”

Mitch: “And I kept the Southern drawl when I asked her ‘will you marry me?’ And she just looks at me and goes ‘are you crazy?’”



THE POWER OF A HOME-COOKED MEAL

There is more to cooking classes than just food

NAAMAN STURRUP

[@NAAMANSTURRUP](#)

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Food preparation and production is arguably as important as the ingredients used.

In the 2019 Canada Food Guide, home cooking became one of the four main healthy eating habits, and the guide advises readers to cook more often, use more whole grains, vegetables and fruits and to have fun while cooking. In Winnipeg, Mary Jane's Cooking School and The Food Studio reinforce these concepts and offer much more than just cooking directions.

Nutritionist Mary Jane Eason, who received her master's from the University of Manitoba, says her school uses a different approach to cooking.

"Food is considered a sacred gift, and the earth is sacred, so whenever we cook food, we do it in a way that is respectful, and do not use harmful chemicals," she says.

"We do not throw food away. We try to use everything in different ways. So it stems from being practical and how people used to live, before we became dependent on other people making food for us."

Mary Jane's Cooking School offers a variety of lessons, such as soup and stew classes, Indian cooking classes and vegan and vegetarian classes.

Eason, along with Wilhelmina Howes, Diane Yu and Laura Steiman, first started the cooking school as a for-profit cooking class. However, their focus shifted and they changed the business model.

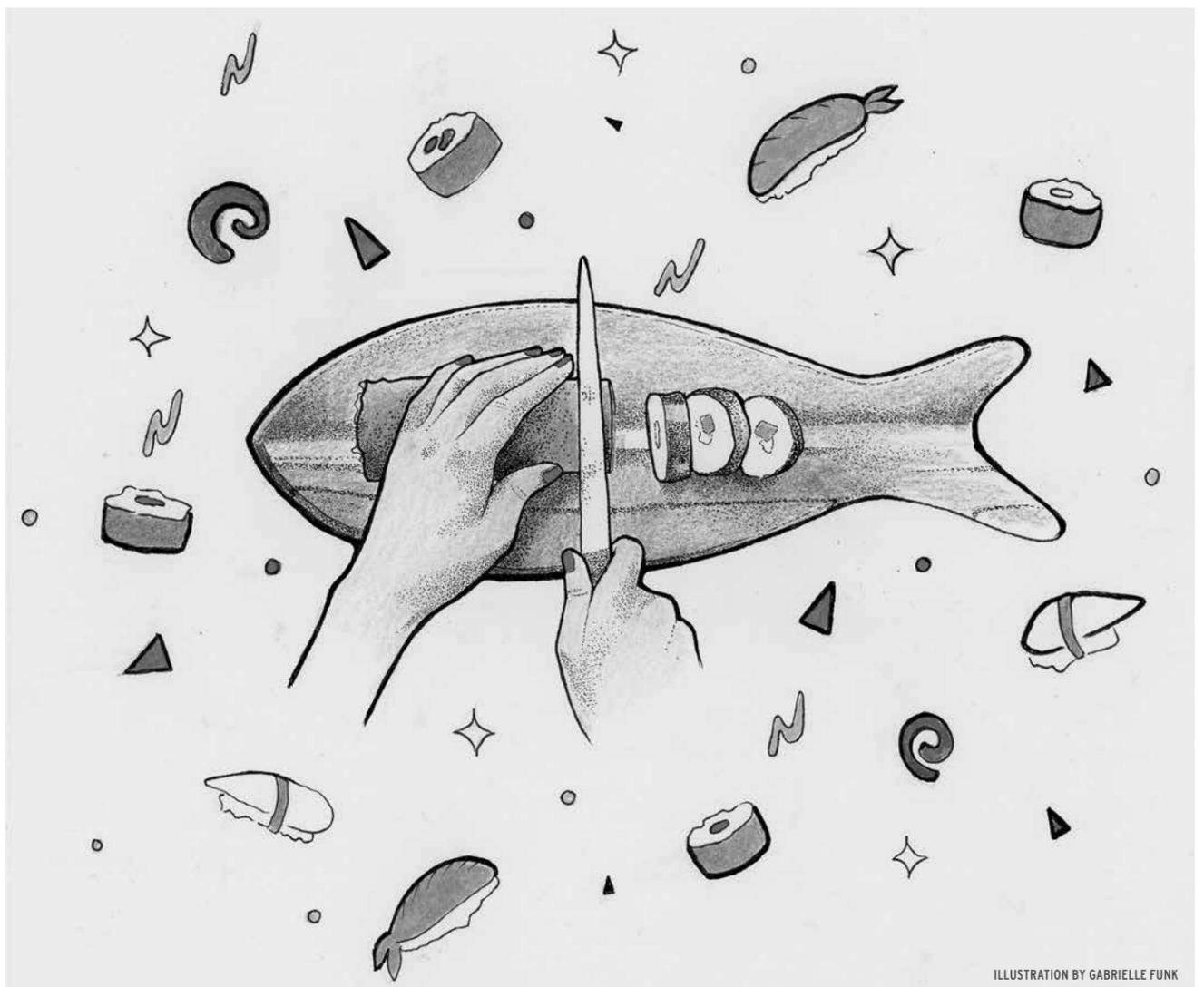


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Sushi-making classes, Sardinian cooking and basics of Italian sausage-making are some of the classes available at The Food Studio.

"When we first started, we were going to be a business, but that did not seem to fit with what we were doing, so we became a non-profit and eventually (achieved) charitable status," Eason says.

Maria Abiusi, owner of The Food Studio, says that food has a strong connective effect on people.

"Food is a commonality that can bring people together, and it has the power to break down differences in people and the unknown of the other," she says.

The Food Studio's programming includes baking, cooking, healthy lifestyle, international cuisine classes and a

variety of kids' events.

"There are classes set up for all age groups. So we have a wide range, from four-year-olds who come for a birthday party to seniors who are retirees and want to do something different. All the classes are open to whoever wants to learn."

Praising her young participants, she says, "the kids are becoming more sophisticated with their understanding of food, spending more time cooking for themselves, so their curiosity is driving their learning, which is great."

Abiusi points out that her cooking classes highlight the communal nature of food, and she sees growth of togetherness

among her participants.

"We do not work individually. We work as teams in classes," she says.

"Each group works on an item. Whenever we do a class, one of the outcomes is that we will have a meal by the end of the class. We eat everything we make, or if it is the baking classes on Saturday mornings, everyone can go home with the baked goods they have created.

"As we are cooking together, food becomes the commonality. So we are learning together, and then we sit down and have a meal together. There we talk and share about what we learn, what challenges were encountered."

GOOD VIBES AT THE GOOD LANDS CAFE

Coffee, conversation and music return to old Strong Badger building

HANNAH FOULGER

[@FOULGERSCOVFEFE](#)

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

The Good Lands Cafe opened in October of 2019 at 679 Sargent Ave. The space was formerly filled by community favourite Strong Badger Coffeehouse, run by Brock Peters, which closed last April. The new cafe is owned and operated by Bassam Hozaima, a Palestinian-Canadian who lives in the neighbourhood.

The café features a number of sandwiches and wraps, all of which are Middle Eastern and vegan. "It's all vegan and Middle Eastern, because I'm Middle Eastern, and vegan, because my wife and kids are vegan," Hozaima says. He also carries some more western fare like chocolate chip cookies, but he spices them up with cardamom.

The café's name and atmosphere is inspired by a dear family member. "My grandmother loved to garden. She had an awesome garden. I wanted something to remember my grandmother but also something positive," Hozaima says. The fledgling café, decorated with art by Hozaima's daughter, does indeed have a positive, family vibe.

When he was designing the logo, Hozaima says "I wanted to have a prairie scene, with a bit of rolling hills as well. There is a bird in there flying in across

the sky, (which) is inspired by my paternal grandmother. She was illiterate. (One day she said) 'Oh I can write my name,' (and) my grandmother took the pencil and made a symbol on the paper and said 'that's my name.' That symbol is the same as the bird in the Good Lands logo.

Good Lands is a community-centred space after hours, too. Hozaima says he's happy to rent the venue to people in the community or to non-profits for a low to non-existent rate. He also opens the space after hours for a biweekly open mic. The event was one of the staples of the former Strong Badger Coffeehouse, which musician Bev Solomon missed.

"There were all different things that were happening here that supported the artistic community," Solomon says, including typewriter events, open mics and book launches. "It really became a hub, and you could see connections happening.

"So when the Badger was closing, I was thinking 'oh, no! There goes the open mic. The community that was gathering was quite a neat core of people over three years.'"

With the opening of Good Lands Cafe, Solomon saw an opportunity.

"I felt really drawn to continue something that was happening in this place over those three years. I regathered the community," which continues to meet every second Friday. "Bassam was not hesitant. It was really great,"



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Bassam Hozaima, owner of the Good Lands Cafe, says the business's name and logo were inspired by his grandmother.

Solomon says.

They've had four open mics since the opening of Good Lands. "It has been really great to have musicians here (again)," Solomon says. But it's not the number of people that makes each open mic special.

During one open mic, Solomon says "Bassam told a story. There were six of us, and then somehow we ended up dis-

cussing the environment, politics or our songs." The structure of the night can change based on who attends. "We (are) very flexible and open," Solomon says.

Good Lands Cafe will be closed until the beginning of April, but the open mics will still happen every second Friday.

The next open mic is Jan 31. Doors open at 5 p.m., and performances start at 6 p.m.

BUREAUCRATIC MAZE THREATENS TRAPPIST CHEESEMAKING TRADITION

Inconsistent regulation places strain on artisanal cheese producers

MARK TEAGUE

VOLUNTEER  @BIKEWITHOUTWHEELS

Dustin Peltier and Rachel Isaak run local cheesemaking business Loaf and Honey, and the duo says the Manitoba Government has cost them tens of thousands of dollars trying to conform to “inconsistent regulations” for artisanal, unpasteurized cheese.

Isaak and Peltier have dreams of producing cheese in the style of the Trappist monks, who have a long history of creating unpasteurized cheese in Holland, Man. The two worked with the last monk who knew how to make the cheese, and they now want to continue the tradition, for fear of seeing the end of the craft.

“The worst part is, I went to Manitoba Agriculture and told them what I was going to do. Usually, I prefer to ask for forgiveness rather than permission, but this time I tried to be upfront with them, and it cost us,” Peltier says.

“We have seen a \$70,000 loss as a direct result of Manitoba Agriculture. What about small businesses? We, in just this operation, support four other dairy farmers. Just think of the growth the local dairy community would see if we were given support.”

He adds that the ever-changing regulations are partially due to the absence of a dairy regulator at Manitoba Agriculture.

“The last representative retired and has not yet been replaced,” he says. Peltier also mentions that “they aren’t even consistent about what part of the government we deal with. We have been dealing with Manitoba Agriculture, but other cheesemakers deal with Manitoba Health.”

In an emailed statement to *The Uniter*, Manitoba Agriculture expressed concern about risks regard-

ing foodborne illness and states that Loaf and Honey has been “unable to demonstrate through microbiological testing that the method they are using consistently produces a safe product.”

The pair explains that, as with breadmaking, certain bacteria need to occupy the air in the cheesemaking space, and, as more time passes, better cheese is produced.

“You must create an environment where the good microbes have the opportunity to overtake the problematic ones,” Peltier explains. He says that, in the early days, “Our counts were too high when we had the cheese tested by the University of Manitoba, but even after these counts were reported to Manitoba Ag, it took them months to come here. You would think, if they were (as) interested in public safety as they say they are, they would have been here right after they received those counts.”

University of Winnipeg food historian Dr. Janis Thiessen also appeals to the Trappist tradition when asked about pasteurization.

“Unpasteurized cheese has been produced successfully and safely in this province for decades by the Trappist monks,” Thiessen writes in an email to *The Uniter*. “Loaf and Honey, who were trained by the last Manitoba Trappist cheesemaker to take over this process, have been having considerable challenges carrying on this tradition. I support their petition.”

Although Isaak and Peltier have not given up, they do not have the remaining capital to continue making Trappist-style cheese without return. For now, they are focusing on other styles of cow and goat cheese, as well as professional catering.

Petitions in support of the business can be accessed by contacting loafandhoney@gmail.com.



Dustin Peltier and Rachel Isaak of Loaf and Honey



The cheesemaking tradition of the Trappist monks in Holland, Man. is at risk of being lost because of inconsistent provincial regulations.

ARTS BRIEFS

BETH SCHELLENBERG // ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR  @BETHGAZELLENBERG

Heartbeat City EP release party

Heartbeat City is releasing their new EP *Tanglespruce* are at the Times Change(d) High & Lonesome Club (234 Main St.) on Thursday, Jan. 30. Doors are 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Speaking Crow: February Edition

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, Chimwewe Undi will read as part of Speaking Crow's ongoing open-mic series in the Carol Shields Auditorium at Millennium Library (251 Donald St.). Undi will read at 7:15 p.m., followed up by the open mic. Signup for the open mic is at 7 p.m.

Sustainable Winnipeg Panel

In conjunction with the launch of *Canadian Modern Architecture, 1967 to present*, this panel will address issues of urban density, green design and Indigenous place-making. The talk is on Feb. 3, starts at 7 p.m. and is at McNally Robinson Booksellers (4000-1120 Grant Ave.).

Lecture by Diane Driedger

Diane Driedger is a visual artist, poet and assistant professor in the Interdisciplinary Masters program in Disability Studies at the University of Manitoba. Her lecture will address the career of canonical artists who lived with disabilities and will take place in room 2C15 at the University of Winnipeg (515 Portage Ave.) on Jan. 31 at 1 p.m.

Restoration Tuesdays at Cinematheque

Cinematheque (100 Arthur St.) is screening the late filmmaker Agnès Varda's *Vagabond* and *The Gleaners and I* back to back on Feb. 4. *Vagabond* plays at 7 p.m. and is followed by *The Gleaners and I* at 9. Admission for Restoration Tuesdays screenings is \$5.

Manitoba Music x Real Love Thursday

Manitoba Music and Real Love Thursday are teaming up to bring a night of local talent featuring Roman Clarke, Erika Fowler and housepanther on Jan. 30 at the Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave.). Doors open at 8 p.m., music starts at 8:30 p.m., and cover is \$10 at the door or \$7 in advance.

CKUW TOP 30

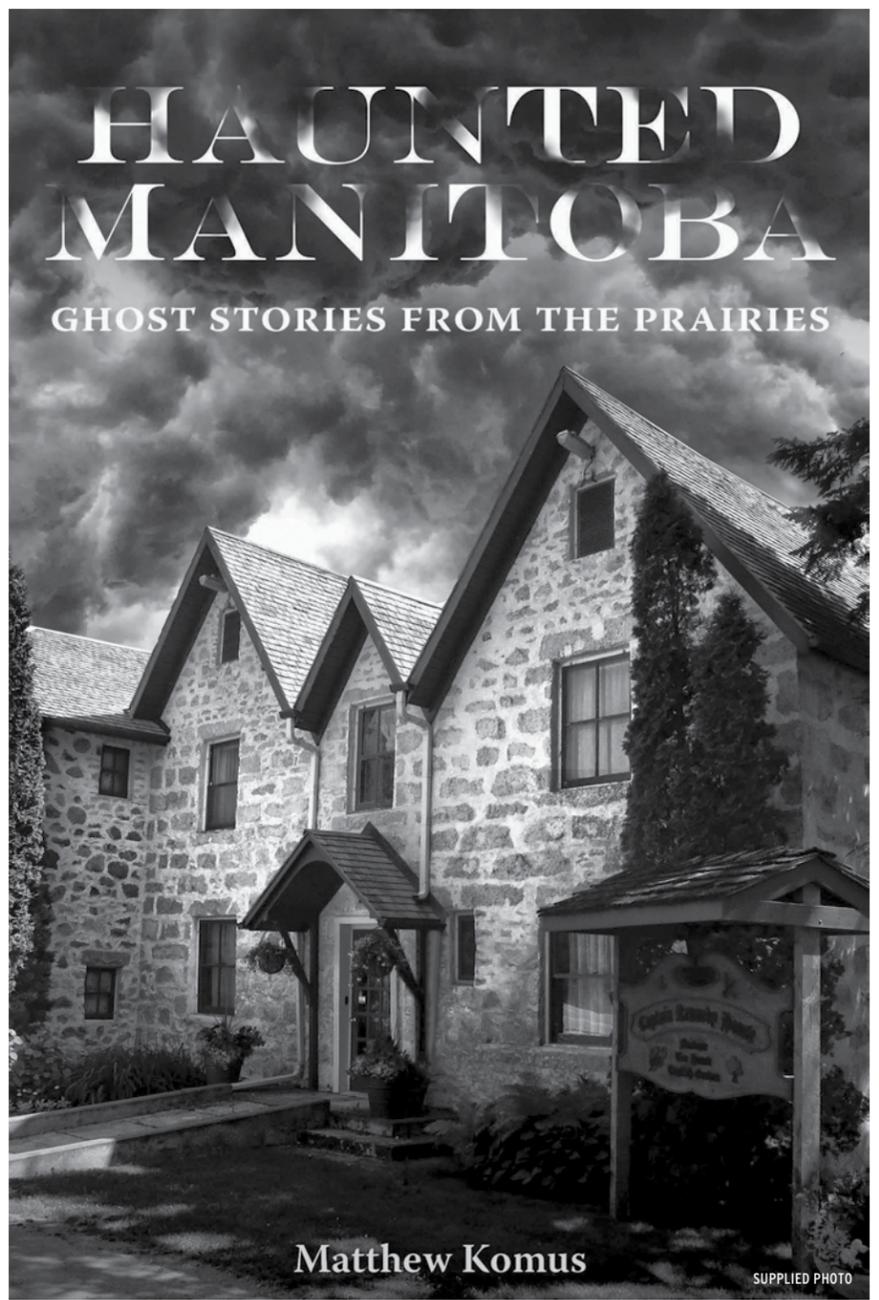
January 20–26, 2020



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

TW	LW	C	Artist	Album	Label
1	2	!	Begonia	Fear	Rex Baby
2	3	*	Matana Roberts	Coin Coin Chapter Four: Memphis	Constellation
3	4		Cell	Ancient Incantations Of Xarbos	Self-Released
4	8		Purple Mountains	Purple Mountains	Drag City
5	7		Guided By Voices	Sweating The Plague	GBV Inc.
6	23	*	Little Scream	Speed Queen	Dine Alone
7	6	!	Micah Erenberg	Love Is Gonna Find You	Sleepless
8	17	*	Baritone Madness	Baritone Madness	Chronograph
9	5	*	Fly Pan Am	C'est Ca	Constellation
10	27	!	Living Hour	Softer Faces	Kanine
11	19	*	The Flamingos Pink	Kustom Kreme	Label Etiquette
12	10	!	Greg Rekus & The Inside Job	Death + Taxes	Self-Released
13	20		Los Straitjackets	Channel Surfing	Yep Roc
14	9	!	JayWood	Time	Self-Released
15	22	*	Geoff Berner	Grand Hotel Cosmopolis	Coax
16	15	!	Selci	Effervescence	Self-Released
17	24	*	Shotgun Jimmie	Transistor Sister 2	You've Changed
18	1	!	The Mariachi Ghost	Polo Dolor	Sugar Gator
19	13	!	Smoky Tiger & The Manitobandits	Royal Rumpous	Self-Released
20	21		Negativland	True False	Seeland
21	25	*	Friendly Rich	We Are All Terrorists	Pumpkin Pie Corporation
22	28	*	The New Pornographers	In The Morse Code Of Brakelights	Concord
23	30	!	The Famous Sandhogs	Pan Jan Potop	Self-Released
24	29	*	Rheostatics	Here Come The Wolves	Six Shooter
25	12		Jpod	Circadian Rhythms	Additech
26	RE	*	Land Of Kush	Sand Enigma	Constellation
27	RE	*	Dany Laj And The Looks	Everything New Is New Again	Transistor 66
28	RE	*	Juliana Hatfield	Sings The Police	American Laundromat
29	RE	*	Various Artists	Calgary Folk Music Festival 2019	Calgary Folk Music Festival
30	RE	!	Heather Bishop	The Last Tracks	Mother Of Pearl

CRIT PEG



DELIVERING CHILLS

Haunted Manitoba

Matthew Komus

200 pages, Great Plains Publications, September 2019

HANNAH FOULGER

@FOULGERSCOVFEFE

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

If you're looking for an accessible ghostly read, *Haunted Manitoba* by Matthew Komus delivers. *Haunted Manitoba* is a plain-language book that expands on *Haunted Winnipeg*, Komus' previous book exploring haunted sites in the city by widening its scope to the province at large.

Like *Haunted Winnipeg*, the writing is not exceptional, but it is clear and direct and could appeal to a broad range of readers, including teenagers or people who are even younger. The simple language makes these stories accessible and not overburdened with historical facts, although Komus is indeed the historical expert on haunted sites in Manitoba.

Komus has developed many programs and exhibits for museums around Manitoba, and he operates the Winnipeg Ghost Walk. Komus does a good job of rooting the reader in each haunted site, with a deep description of what these buildings were used for. People who have been to places like Lower Fort Garry may be sufficiently creeped out by the stories he tells.

Komus tells these stories in a sanitized, PG way, yet they are still disturbing and told as if they are completely true. Komus does not reveal his sources but does provide a robust bibliography for any readers curious in learning more.

This book acknowledges the colonial history of the sites featured and does not shy away from naming some of the settlers as violent and racist, without getting into graphic detail. *Haunted Manitoba* does not focus on the locus of trauma, but how the dead interact with the living, in order to maintain a broad range of readership.

A little dry at times, the author gives himself away as a historian and museum curator, preferring not to sensationalize the supernatural. However, each of these stories are presented as factual. The book is not concerned with how these stories came to be passed on, only on the fact that they exist.

This technique is chilling. Telling the stories as fact may make even the most skeptical reader feel like they are there when a man appears in the back seat of a student's car while they're working at Lower Fort Garry, or in the Delta Marsh Field station when a man appears in the window.

I wanted a deeper dive into the research and to know more about the people who had these ghostly encounters, how they were recorded and if people connected with the sites today still believe these ghost stories. But that's not what this book is.

Haunted Manitoba is an easy but pleasurable historical read. If you enjoy ghost stories steeped in historical content, you will probably like *Haunted Manitoba*, but the book may surprise even skeptics, as it roots its stories in the prairies we know so well.

FILL THE (W)HOLE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

III

THREE WEIRD SISTERS, TRAPPED THROUGH THE FOG AND FILTHY AIR.

DO YOU WANT TO MEET THEM?

VISIT FILLTHEWHOLE.BPT.ME FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS

ShakespeareFest

@FILLTHEWHOLE

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Great reach, great rates!
For more info, contact Thomas Pashko
at editor@uniter.ca

Feature

Words by Beth Schellenberg

Arts and Culture Editor

 @bethgazellenberg

Photos by Daniel Crump

Photo Editor

 @dannyboycrump

Winnipeg building out, a downward spiral

Proposed city budget shuts down inner-city resources, expands suburban infrastructure



From the very recent destruction of the homeless camps by the Disraeli Bridge, to making diamond lanes open to cabs, the City's decisions can be head-scratching at best and heartbreaking at worst.

Winnipeg can be a challenging place to live even under fairly ideal circumstances, but the threat of losing public recreation services could turn challenging into unbearable for those who live in higher-needs neighbourhoods.

The proposed City budget, which was released in October and will be

passed in February, details closing libraries, pools and recreation facilities in older neighbourhoods throughout the city and eradicating public art funding as ways to rein-in spending over the next four years.

These decisions were followed by the quiet proposal to create a multimillion-dollar leisure centre in Waverley West, a new suburban development that has come under fire as a serious move away from responsible, sustainable city planning and as a major drain on city resources and tax dollars.

----- COVER FEATURE CONTINUES | NEXT PAGE >>



The Happyland Pool on Marion Street in St. Boniface provides free summertime entertainment for neighbourhood kids. The pool is one of many public spaces threatened by Winnipeg's proposed 2020 budget.



"I met a lot of my neighbours (at the pool) ... Parents and grandparents are socializing, watching their kids swim." - St. Boniface resident Diana Sawatzky

Philip Mikulec, who works in the sustainable transportation sector, says while "the budget is certainly concerning, this is nothing new. We've had budget after budget that has contained 'difficult decisions.' It happens year after year."

Mikulec, who has a background in city planning, explains that "we are overbuilding our city, sprawling way too much. Our capital budget (disproportionately favours spending on) roads, yet Winnipeggers continue to believe we have an underfunded road system."

Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg, explains that public services like pools and libraries "are the most critically important for people who do not have resources to access private facilities. When we are talking about inclusion and prevention, these are exactly the kinds of services we don't want to be cutting."

According to MacKinnon, the public perception that we need more money spent on roads and policing needs to shift if we are going to create a more liveable city. "We are sinking a lot of money into the policing budget in contrast to cutting

"Part of the picture is our mixed priorities. We'd rather build a massive community complex in Waverley West than support the ones that already exist in high-need neighbourhoods."

-Philip Mikulec

The Public Works budget, which covers streets, public parks, open spaces and other street projects, accounted for 30.4 per cent of Winnipeg's total capital budget for 2019. Of that 30.4 per cent, 83.43 per cent went to local and regional streets, a cost of nearly \$84 million.

"Building roads has the lowest return on investment compared to cycling and transit infrastructure and community and recreation services," he says.

"Part of the picture is our mixed priorities. We'd rather build a massive community complex in Waverley West than support the ones that already exist in high-need neighbourhoods. At one point, the City is saying that recreation and community services keep costs down, then they are proposing closing them down and building a multi-million dollar complex elsewhere."

Happyland Outdoor Pool, a St. Boniface mainstay that provides free swim-time to residents throughout the summer, is one of many services on the chopping block.

St. Boniface resident Diana Sawatzky moved with her family to the neighbourhood five years ago and says "I met a lot of my neighbours there ... Parents and grandparents are socializing, watching their kids swim." Sawatzky, who is car-free, "depends a lot on transit, so having resources close to home is so important."

"Lots of kids go (to the pool) without their parents. It's a safe place, especially for kids whose parents work throughout the summer months or can't be home as much. The fact that it's free is huge for families who may not have money to spend on recreation. These are the kids who maybe don't get to take extracurricular sports, so if they want activity, they go to the pool, get outdoors and are supervised."

These cuts will likely hurt the people with the least the very most. Shauna MacKinnon, a professor of Urban and

services that would help prevent issues of crime," she says.

Investing in public transportation and recreation services can be a tough sell for those who live in outlying areas, and MacKinnon points out that "people living in newer suburban areas want different things. They want roads to get to the (city) centre quicker and may not see a need for things like opening up Portage and Main, because they aren't the ones walking the streets. We have really divided priorities as a city based on how we're organized, and it continues to get worse."

Mikulec believes that the cuts to community services "are a canary in the coalmine. The reality is if we don't make significant changes right away to our tax structure, the city's finances will only worsen."

On that note, Mikulec adds "our property taxes are among the lowest of our city cohorts. If you care about the city and you want these services, you need to be okay paying a little more in property taxes."

Winnipeg has been notably reluctant to raise property taxes. Since 1998, property taxes in Winnipeg have only increased 17 per cent. That's significantly lower than Regina's 95 per cent, Saskatoon's 122 per cent, Calgary's 127 per cent or Edmonton's 142 per cent increases.

Winnipeg Coun. Matt Allard says "the perception is often that the city is flush with cash," which clearly isn't the case, given this current proposed budget. Allard says there are multiple reasons why the city is in such a tight spot, not least of which is that "the provincial government used to support transit with 50/50 funding but they pulled out in 2017, which left an \$8 million hole in the transit budget."

For a city whose mayors have been freezing taxes for well over a decade, filling these gaps in an already tight budget is a serious challenge.

Allard believes that "essentially, we



"It's a safe place, especially for kids whose parents work throughout the summer months or can't be home as much." - Diana Sawatzky



The Kinsmen Sherbrook Pool sat vacant for years and was nearly demolished because of an unwillingness by the City to pay for renovations.



The Westwood Library is one of Winnipeg's many cultural and recreational institutions at risk of closure because of budget cuts.



"Ultimately, it has to come down to infill and transit and the realization that we have already built more infrastructure than we can handle. We need to maintain what we have and stop building new stuff."
- Michel Durand-Wood



The City of Winnipeg claims there isn't money in the budget to save libraries but is still spending millions of dollars on a new leisure centre in the south-end Waverley West suburb.

need more infill and densification in Winnipeg. If we can intensify our land use, we are going to be able to increase available revenue at a much more modest required investment."

Michel Durand-Wood runs a blog called *Dear Winnipeg* that tackles current city infrastructure issues. He says "When you do the math, the best investments with the highest returns are trees, transit and recreation services instead of concrete."

Durand-Wood notes that people don't often realize that limited budgets might mean choosing between "smooth roads or parks, libraries and a community centre. The real problem is that the city has no money. It is struggling to meet basic services and is actually quite good at delivering services on a tight budget. We have the lowest expenditure per capita in Canada by far. Our city is able to deliver services on a shoestring (budget)."

He believes that in the "short term, it's going to come to service cuts or a tax increase. Longer term is to start building in a different way, to look at incremental changes at a neighbourhood level – a grassroots approach.

"Ultimately, it has to come down to infill and transit and the realization that we have already built more infrastructure than we can handle. We need to maintain what we have and stop building new stuff," he says.

Winnipeg's Public Art Program funds the creation of large-scale sculptural and site-specific works throughout the city, and is run by the Winnipeg Art Council with funding from the City. The Public Art Program, which is nationally and internationally renowned, is under threat of disappearing entirely.

tamara rae biebrich, a senior project manager in the public art department of the Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC),

says that "with an annual allocation of \$500,000 from City's Capital Budget, WAC has been creating public art in Winnipeg for 15 years. This amount was reduced by half in 2019 to \$250,000."

WAC supports artists and brings their work to the public, often striving for "diversity of expression" while bringing to the public stories about Winnipeg and "ideas that can be encountered on a daily basis."

biebrich explains that "the future of Winnipeg's Public Art Program is currently unknown. The City is considering reducing the 2020 public art allocation to \$200,000 and then eliminating the program all together in 2021."

What is a city if not its communities, its creativity and the vibrant neighbourhoods that comprise it? Brand new suburban roads and an overabundance of cops? This seems to be the reality Winnipeg is

hurtling towards. Public services go hand in hand with access to safer public space and recreation, particularly for those who are under-resourced and facing any kind of societal marginalization.

Durand-Wood, when talking about the possibility for Winnipeg to be a truly sustainable, inclusive and beautiful city says "I think we've forgotten what we can hope for."

It's not too late to turn around decisions the city is prepared to make, so if you are interested in saying your piece take a minute to write to city councillors. You can find their contact info at winnipeg.ca/council/contact.stm. Budget For All Winnipeg is a coalition fighting against the budget cuts. More info is available at budgetforall.org.

CITY BRIEFS

LISA MIZAN // CITY EDITOR @LISA_MIZAN

Divest UWinnipeg launches another campaign

Divest UWinnipeg launched its 2020 campaign on Jan. 29 at The Hive with the support of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) and president Meaghan Malcolm presenting. The University of Winnipeg has \$2.58 million invested in the fossil-fuel sector, and the UWSA is calling on the university to become the first institution in Manitoba to fully divest in a long line of efforts to help fight climate change.

Library research workshop

The University of Winnipeg library will host a Ready, Set, Go workshop, which helps new students get started doing academic research in the library, on Feb. 5 called Searching for Academic Sources. It will explore "how modern search services like Google are designed to retrieve what's popular, not what's relevant" and teach students how to construct thoughtful searches. All workshops take place on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1 p.m. at the Library Learning Commons (fourth floor of Centennial Hall).

Indigenous film screening at the WAG

The Winnipeg Art Gallery will host a free screening of Tasha Hubbard's award-winning film, *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The film centres around the Colton Boushie case and subsequent trial and acquittal of Gerard Stanley that captivated Canada's attention in 2018. A panel discussion with Hubbard and Winnipeg-based Cree lawyer Jessica Saunders will take place after the screening.

Bell Let's Talk supports local women's resource centre

West Central Women's Resource Centre is receiving a donation of \$20,000 from the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund grant to "create a unique Creative Wellness and Healing Project for women with mental health challenges in Winnipeg." The money will help fund a trauma-focused therapist and several creative outlets like art therapy, beading and sewing. West Central is among 650 organizations supported by Bell as part of its Bell Let's Talk initiative that takes place annually on Jan. 29.

Second beading symposium to take place in Winnipeg

Ziigimineshin Winnipeg 2020 is the second iteration of the Beadwork Symposia, organized by the Manitoba Craft Council (MCC) in partnership with Urban Shaman, the Manitoba Museum and MAWA (Mentoring Artists for Women's Art). Registration costs \$150 and includes breakfasts and lunches and a pass to the Manitoba Museum (190 Rupert Ave.), which is where the event is taking place from Feb. 6 to 9. Registration for both regular and student passes can be done through c2centreforcrafter.ca/2019/08/21/wpg-beading-symposium-2020/.

Free Royal Canoe show

Royal Canoe, a Canadian indie-pop band from Winnipeg and Steinbach, will perform a free show at The Forks on Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. They will collaborate with the creator of the Ice Hotel from Sweden as the invited artist for Warming Huts v2020: An Art + Architecture Competition On Ice. Renowned ice sculptor Luca Roncoroni, instrument designer Andy Rudolph, projectionist Stephanie Kuse and sound tech extraordinaire Elliot Filbert will help create the show.

HIRING NURSES

An expanding psychiatric hospital in Grand Forks, ND is looking for nurses.

- Visa and licensing fees covered
- Relocation assistance available
- Comprehensive benefits and high wages
- Day & evening shifts available

Learn more and apply online at Redriverbhs.com/join-our-team

RED RIVER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM



Blood for Life

Are you the type to save a life?

Learn your blood type and discover your lifesaving potential.

Blood typing event

University of Winnipeg
Riddell Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 4
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Crystal,
blood, platelet
and cord blood
stem cell recipient



Canadian Blood Services

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Learn more at
blood.ca/bloodtype

Launch your path to success MASTER OF TAXATION

Become a highly-valued member of the Canadian tax community.

Join Canada's most comprehensive English-speaking program for the development of tax professionals. Offered through the University of Waterloo at our downtown Toronto classrooms.

Learn to REACH BEYOND



EXPERT FACULTY | DOWNTOWN TORONTO CLASSROOM



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

learn ... develop ... experience

The MTax advantage

mtax.ca



THE SECURITY AND INSECURITY OF BUREAUCRACY

Disability and taxes session held as new income program concludes consultations

ALEX NEUFELDT

CITY REPORTER @ALEXEJNEUFELDT

On Jan. 29, the Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC) hosted an information session on disability and taxes led by Sally Massey-Wiebe of Community Financial Counselling Services.

Chelsey Sommerfield, who works with the ILRC's Information Referral, Independent Living Skills, Peer Support and Volunteer programs, says the sessions are an important part of supporting independent living.

"Knowing what you're eligible for for tax credits and refunds is very important," she says. "If you live with disability on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), you get a little bit now, but it's definitely not much."

"Part of independent living is having a knowledge of what's available and being able to live your life how you want to. (This) disability and taxes (workshop) gives them that information that they may benefit from."

Massey-Wiebe, who has led the session for several years, says "when someone has a lot of these costs in just trying to do life, it may impact their tax returns."

Taxes can be especially stressful "when you have a lot of expenses or claims that could be made on a tax return that you're not familiar with, especially if your health challenge is new and recent, and you've never had to deal with it before. That can add stress to an already challenging circumstance," she says. "Taxes can be essential to someone's well-being."

The session comes as the Government of Manitoba wraps up an online consultation period for a possible new income program for people with long-term or chronic disabilities that would be separate from EIA.

Sommerfield says she would like to see more funds for the new program, "as people with disabilities have more needs, and living on a welfare system is very difficult."

"EIA wasn't built to be a permanent solution, but an interim program, so it definitely needs to be adapted for people who need to be on it long-term or for life," she says.

Sherry Ritchot, chairperson of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD), said in an email statement that while there are hopes that a new program would make it easier and



PHOTO BY CALLIE LUGOSI

The Independent Living Resource Centre is working to ensure that folks living with chronic or long-term disabilities know how to access eligible benefits.

clearer to receive benefits, "grave concerns have been put forward from disabled persons that they will simply fall through the cracks and not be granted access to the 'new program,' yet fall out of the old program," forcing many to jump through expensive and physically taxing medical and bureaucratic hoops to prove that they have disabilities and are eligible for assistance all over again.

"If the consultations were really serious about getting insight on disability issues, they would contact MLPD directly for an interview and say 'this is

what we are proposing. You as MLPD represent 500-plus disabled persons. What are your insights as to our plan?' This never occurred. It is welcomed by MLPD, but (meetings) never occurred."

Ritchot says, ideally, anyone who has been on disability EIA for more than two years would be grandfathered into the new program, but at this point, there has been no guarantee of that. "The other large fear is that benefits will be lost to those who do not 'qualify' according to EIA workers for the new program," she says.

WHEN TALK IS NOT CHEAP

As #BellLetsTalk trends, people in prison are priced out of community support

ALEX NEUFELDT

CITY REPORTER @ALEXEJNEUFELDT

The centerpiece of the Bell Let's Talk campaign was Jan. 29, but the public awareness campaign stretches from early January well into March. Alannah Fricker, president of Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP) out of Ryerson University, is planning events to call the corporation out for profiting off of incarcerated people in federal and provincial prisons.

Fricker says Bell's double standard has had major consequences for incarcerated people. Bell currently has an exclusive contract with the Ontario government to provide phone services, and with their exorbitant call rates, they make it hard for inmates with mental illnesses to reach out for help and support.

Those living under the Bell prison phone monopoly cannot call cell phones, have a 20-minute call time restriction, cannot receive voicemails and are charged over a dollar per minute after the first minute. Fricker says that with restrictions like these, important phone calls between incarcerated people and their support networks can become tense – if not impossible.

"Bell acts like they're champions of mental health in Canada," Fricker says, "but we know that they have bad workers' rights and workers' health standards for their employees, and that they really profit off of marginalized people in prisons, their families, their social support workers and networks and their lawyers."

Fricker says the contract between Bell and the Government of Ontario means that

the province also profits from these call fees.

The Government of Manitoba, meanwhile, contracts its prison phone system out to an American phone company, called Synergy. Jon Benson, who is an organizer with Bar None Winnipeg, a Winnipeg-based prison abolition solidarity group, says "phone calls went from being free to costing \$3 for a local phone call, regardless of how long the call is, and a little bit more for long-distance calls."

"That was a terrible thing both for people in prison and those outside, because (those in prison) have such limited access to family and community support, so they've made (accessing those supports) a very hard economic reality."

Benson says that, given how many people are in prison because they can't afford bail and the over-policing of impoverished and Indigenous people, the phone tolls target and isolate low-income individuals from their support networks.

This is hardly the only way that prisons restrict access to vital support networks.

"Prisons have an ultimate authority that very few institutions have. They can make incredibly arbitrary decisions, and they don't have to tell you why they made them or if they're going to change their minds about them," Benson says, citing unexplained visitation denials, access denials and random lockdowns. "For families that need that access to support their loved ones, that can be an incredibly traumatizing experience."

Prisons also tend to be geographically isolated from general population centres, which is why one of Bar None's main initiatives is a rideshare program for the families and loved ones of incarcerated people.

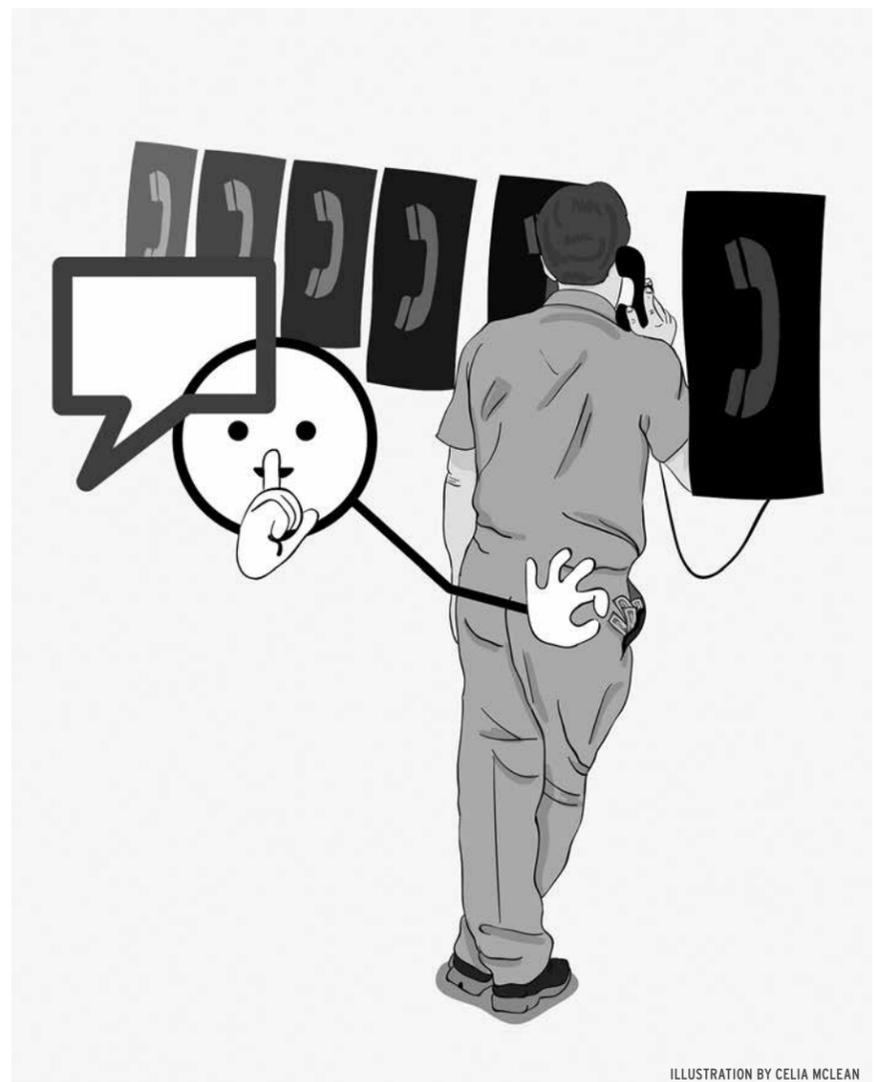


ILLUSTRATION BY CELIA MCLEAN

"Prisons are set up in places that are incredibly inaccessible for people who don't own their own car, and a lot of people are in prison because they don't have money and don't come from families or communities with the ability to provide financial support," Benson says.

CSSDP will run events in Toronto to raise awareness about Bell's prison phone system monopoly, but encourage everyone to sign their online petition to end the contract,

print out the petition sheet to get physical signatures and contact their provincial and federal representatives. They also encourage people to talk about the issue on social media using the hashtags #ListenUpBell, #BellLetUsTalk, #LetsTalkBell, #BellPrisonPhones, #CrisisInCorrections and #BoycottBell. Bar None Winnipeg is looking for volunteer drivers, even if they do not have access to a car, and accepting donations at barnonewpg.org.



U OF W HOSTS ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR ON FEB. 5

2020 Vision showcases research by faculty, students

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR

CAMPUS REPORTER

@CGOULETKILGOUR

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, the University of Winnipeg (U of W) will host 2020 Vision, an environmental research fair. This event, taking place between 12:30 and 1 p.m. in the Richardson College for the Environment's (RCFE) Power Corporation Atrium, aims to showcase environmental research at the U of W.

According to the event's description, this fair hopes to display environmental research being done by various "departments, researchers (and) student groups, as well as campus centres, labs and organizations." The U of W's Dr. Jino Distasio, vice-president of research and innovation, will deliver remarks. Other discussions and presentations will also occur throughout the event.

Michael Kvern, a fourth-year geography student at the U of W, believes that "exploring and providing research opportunities on campus is super important for students."

"As an undergrad-focused university, U of W can give students a leg up with more research experience in their first

degree," he says.

Kvern, who conducts research on northern energy systems in Canada and how communities can reshape definitions of energy security, speaks highly of his research experience at the U of W and the "community of students and profs."

"Undergrads don't get to do this elsewhere," he says, adding that he thinks "geography and environment have some of the best funding and opportunities for research in a wide range of areas."

Alan Diduck, professor of environmental studies and science at the U of W, says that "a particular joy of being a researcher in environmental and sustainability issues at the U of W is getting the chance to work with brilliant and inspirational undergraduate thesis students and research assistants."

This research fair is organized by the university's Campus Sustainability Office and the RCFE. In fact, the Campus Sustainability Office has a mandate to make the U of W more "environmentally and socially responsible."

In addition to organizing events such as these, they co-ordinate efforts to promote sustainability across areas like food, transportation and waste management. According to the Association for the Advancement



SUPPLIED PHOTO

"As an undergrad-focused university, U of W can give students a leg up with more research experience in their first degree." - Fourth-year geography student Michael Kvern

of Sustainability in Higher Education, the U of W was ranked as the most sustainable postsecondary institution in North America (out of 337) for food and dining.

Sustainability is a priority for the U of W. In president and vice-chancellor Dr. Annette Trimbee's State of the University Address on Sept. 9, 2019, she said "sustainability and accountability are important considerations in our work" and went on to mention environmental goals targeted by the university.

The RCFE, where the event is being held, is home to research activity in biology, chemistry, environmental studies and social sciences. Furthermore, this build-

ing houses four Canada Research Chairs: Science Education in Cultural Contexts, Inner City Issues and Community Learning and Engagement, Quantum Materials Discovery and Environmental Toxicology. These are prestigious positions which "aim to achieve research excellence," according to the program's website.

For more information on this event, visit uwinnipeg.ca/sustainability, call 204-988-7618 or email sustainability@uwinnipeg.ca to reserve a table for the event or register as an attendee.

U OF W WELCOMES MULTIDISCIPLINARY WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

GMB Chomichuk begins his position on Feb. 3

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR

CAMPUS REPORTER

@CGOULETKILGOUR

"There's an old saying that the source of all human misery is that we sometimes believe our thoughts," GMB Chomichuk, the University of Winnipeg's (U of W) 2020 Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence, says. He mentions this after being asked about the biggest challenges facing young writers.

"I would say that most people believe that they can't do it, and if I can show them that it's not as hard as they think, that'll go a long way," he says.

Chomichuk, a writer and illustrator, will begin his position as writer-in-residence on Feb. 3. According to the U of W website, he will help writers on campus.

His inaugural reading took place on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 12:30 p.m., in Room 2M70, while the Carol Shields Distinguished Lecture will take place on Thursday Feb. 27 at 7 p.m., in Room 2M70.

Past writers-in-residence have included Sandra Birdsell, Garry Thomas Morse, Maria Campbell and David Bergen.

"I think the writer-in-residence (program) is invaluable, because it bridges the university and the community," Can-

didia Rifkind, a professor in the English department at the U of W, says.

"It brings a working writer onto campus and gives students access to that for individual feedback and through readings and other workshops," she says.

When asked about Chomichuk being this year's writer-in-residence, Rifkind describes his work as "dynamic, exciting and rich."

"I'm really excited that this is our first writer-in-residence who is an illustrator and cartoonist, as well as a writer," she says.

"He's also a former teacher and educator, and he's just wonderful and engaging with people."

Chomichuk himself says his previous experience as an educator will make this experience as a "nice combination of those two passions" of teaching and writing.

"I think the reason they selected me is what I'm hoping to help people with ... the next steps in their writing," he says.

"I've done a really wide range of stuff, and I think that the English department is not just for the novelist, but for people who want to use words or words and pictures together," Chomichuk says.

This "wide range of stuff" includes writing graphic novels such as *Cassie and Tonk*, hosting the podcast *Super Pulp Science* and

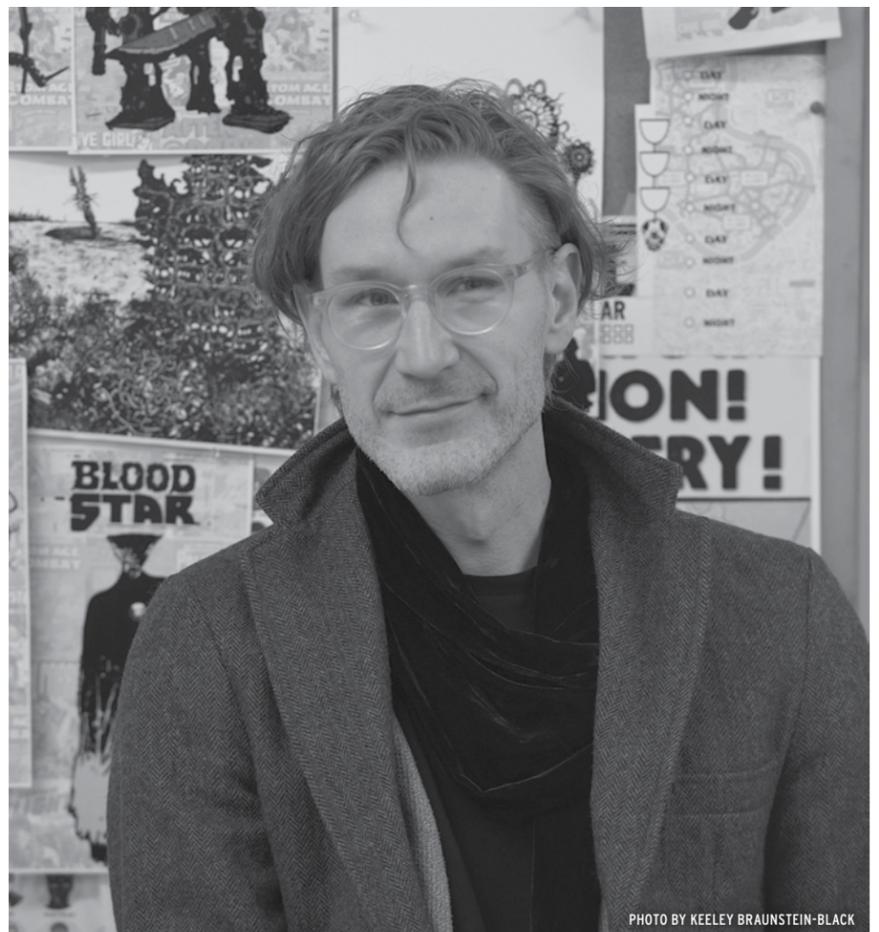


PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Writer and illustrator GMB Chomichuk is the 2020 Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence.

producing work for "film, television, theatre, books, comics and graphic novels," according to his bio in a media release announcing his new residency.

Rifkind mentions the multidisciplinary nature of his work and output as a huge asset.

"The other reason I'm really pleased to have him with us is he works collaboratively quite a lot more than many other

writers, and I think that's becoming increasingly important for people," she says.

For more information on the U of W writer-in-residence and related events, visit uwinnipeg.ca/english/writer-in-residence.html.

MILOS MITROVIC

CONTRACT ACADEMIC STAFF INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND FILM, U OF W

KEESHA HAREWOOD

FEATURES REPORTER @KEESHAHAREWOOD



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

When Milos Mitrovic teaches Introduction to Film at the University of Winnipeg, he brings his passion for filmmaking into the classroom with him.

"I think that's the exciting part," he says, "getting to show the students what inspires me as a filmmaker and what really drove me to be so driven in filmmaking."

While trying to incorporate elements of filmmaking that speak to his passion for the art, Mitrovic also keeps to the core components of the course. His aim is to ensure the students grasp the fundamental lessons while also having fun along the way.

In terms of filmmaking itself, Mitrovic is proud of his accomplishments in the industry so far. In addition to the many films he has created, which have been showcased in multiple film festivals, Mitrovic also works as a professional editor for Tripwire Media Group and Fairpoint Films.

For Mitrovic, the best part about filmmaking comes through self-expression.

"With a movie, you can make characters who signify how you feel about something.

"You could do more with the artform," he says in regards to any ideas, thoughts or feelings one has about the world. The potential is limitless.

Mitrovic hopes to inspire his students to approach films and filmmaking with the same enthusiasm that he has for the craft.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE LEARNED FROM YOUR STUDENTS?

"That you have to be patient with the students and make sure everybody is comfortable before they're able to speak about analysis in filmmaking."

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

"Definitely time travel."

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST GRADE IN UNIVERSITY?

"Worst mark I ever got was a C, I think."

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

"*Apocalypse Now*, because it's really long and really good ... probably *Dumb and Dumber*, because it's funny and it makes me laugh, and then the third one would be *Life is Beautiful*, because I would cry."



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

ACADEMIC & CAREER SERVICES

NEW: Study Skills at Merchant's Corner

For the first time, seven of the Study Skills workshops are being offered on-site at Merchant's Corner, 541 Selkirk Ave.

This new series covers most of the same topics as the regular series on the main campus.

The workshops run:

Every Monday and Wednesday until Feb 10
12:15 - 1:00 pm
Room 115, Merchant's Corner

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

Need funding for Winter Term?

It's not too late to apply for student aid funding for Fall-Winter 2019-20. You may apply until Feb. 29. For more information and to apply, please visit Manitoba Student Aid at edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/. Awards Officers can also help during our drop-in hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, 2nd floor, Rice Centre.

Opportunity Fund & General Bursary winter applications are due on Jan. 31. For more information, please visit uwinnipeg.ca/awards and click on "In-Course Awards (current students)."

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

One-on-One Tutoring

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

Wanted: Volunteer Language Partners

Language partners are fluent English-speaking volunteers who give English as an Additional Language (EAL) students a chance to practice English outside of the classroom and learn more about the Canadian way of life.

This volunteer opportunity is a great way to learn about other cultures, help other students and gain practical experience for careers in teaching, international relations, or tourism.

To volunteer, please call 204.982.1151, email elpstudentlife@uwinnipeg.ca or stop by office 1C18 to apply today.

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

Information Session

If you are thinking about going on an exchange, please join us for an information session:

Fri, Feb 7

12:30-2:10 pm

Room 2M70

You can also visit our website at uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad or drop in to the Exchange Opportunities Resource Area:

2nd floor, Rice Centre, 2R155

Mon.- Fri., 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Note: The main deadline to apply is March 1.

INTERNATIONAL, IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE STUDENT SERVICES

Academic Success Workshops

IIRSS is offering a series of workshops to help international, immigrant and refugee students maximize their academic performance.

Held every Saturday, each workshop focuses on developing one or two essential study skills, such as reading, note-taking, and time management.

Each workshop also features a Library research session, and Academic Advisors will be on hand to assist with degree/program planning.

Workshops will be held:
Every Saturday until Feb. 8
10:30 am - 2:30 pm

IIRSS Office, 8th floor, Rice Centre
Free lunch provided.

Student Soccer Tournament

IIRSS is hosting a semi-competitive Soccer Tournament on Mon., Feb. 10, from 12 noon to 4:00 pm in the Recplex. This event is FREE for students, staff and friends.

All players must register as individuals. Teams will be created before the tournament using an automatic team generator. All skill levels are welcome.

Food and refreshments will be provided to all participants after the playoff round and medals/prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

To register online, please go to recreationservices.uwinnipeg.ca, click on "Recreation Service Programs" and choose "Student Activities and Intramurals."

For more information, contact Himat at h.parekh@uwinnipeg.ca

STUDENT CENTRAL

SINs and Tax Receipts

Starting with the 2019 tax year, the Canada Revenue Agency requires all designated educational institutions to provide students' Social Insurance Numbers (SIN) on the T2202 tax forms and so The University of Winnipeg is requesting students' SIN in order to comply with this requirement.

There is a new module in WebAdvisor and Student Planning through which students add their SIN to their University record. Please follow these steps:

- 1) Login to WebAdvisor
- 2) Click on Current Students
- 3) Click on Student Planning/Registration or Student Finance
- 4) Choose Social Insurance Number (SIN) Information
- 5) Click on the pencil/edit icon on the right side
- 6) Type in your nine-digit SIN and save

The University is creating the T2202 tax forms now in order to have them ready to be posted on WebAdvisor on Fri., Feb. 28. It is very important that students provide their SIN immediately.

Locker Rental for Winter Term

Brrrrr, it's chilly weather outside! Need a place to store your toque? Rent a locker for Winter Term!

To rent a locker:

- 1) register for your courses
- 2) choose a locker location & type or specify a couple of locker numbers
- 3) choose the rental time frame - Winter Term (Jan. 6 - Apr. 21) - \$21.00/person
- 4) go in-person to Student Central OR fill out the form online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/lockers

Fall/Winter Term Courses

The final day to withdraw from a Fall/Winter Term (U2019FW) class is Feb. 14. No refund is applicable.

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

Winter Term Reading Week

Reading Week is Feb. 16-22. No classes. The University is closed Mon., Feb. 17 for Louis Riel Day, but the campus will be open for the remainder of the week.

STUDENT RECORDS

Application Deadline for June Convocation

Sat., Feb. 1 is the deadline to apply to graduate at the June 2020 convocation.

To apply for graduation, go to the "Student Planning/Registration" link on WebAdvisor. Click on the "Graduation" tab and complete the form.

CITY ROOTS

The tragic tale of the Wolseley Elm

KATHRYN BOSCHMANN

COLUMNIST

Trees are often caught up in human politics and drama on all scales. Every once in a while, these politics centre around a single tree. Such was the case of the Wolseley Elm.

On Sept. 19, 1957, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported that 12 Wolseley women managed to stop city workers from cutting down a beloved neighbourhood elm through an impassioned protest, creating a human shield and shouting their objections. One elderly woman was particularly menacing, holding an axe while she glared at officials.

The tree was slated for removal because it stood in the middle of Wolseley Avenue at the end of Basswood Place, making it a driving hazard. The women's defence of the old elm moved the mayor to stop the felling of the tree.

This tree was significant to these women for many reasons. The beautiful elm had stood in that spot for over 90 years, and it featured in many people's fond memories. It also slowed traffic along the street, making the neighbourhood safer. And, for a few, it had become something of a war memorial, represent-

ing the boys who had played under its branches before going to war and never coming home.

Some Winnipeggers complained in the *Winnipeg Tribune* that not everyone could have a tree growing in the middle of their streets to slow traffic. They argued that if this was something these women were genuinely concerned about, they should put their energy toward lowering speed limits in residential areas instead of rescuing an old tree.

Others expressed their displeasure in much more violent ways. Following the women's successful defence of the elm, it was set on fire multiple times, and its bark was stripped. It is also suspected by many that someone tried to blow up the tree with dynamite in October of 1958, although police never confirmed this.

While various city departments kept passing off responsibility for the tree, Wolseley residents and local tree experts worked time and again to save it. They provided grafts for stripped bark, ensured it was well-watered while it recovered and petitioned for a fence to protect it. Finally, when vandals ripped off all but one graft, the tree died in 1960.

I felt immensely sad for this elm as I researched its story. It was simply doing what it had always done: taking in nutrients, spreading its canopy wide and growing tall. The attention that was garnered from its defence unfortunately brought violence and what seems to be a slow death.

The Wolseley Elm continues to figure centrally in the neighbourhood's cultural memory. It has been commemorated with everything from business names and social media accounts to plaques about



An archival photo from the *Winnipeg Tribune* in 1957 of women defending the Wolseley Elm tree from being chopped down.

the tree and the women who defended it. But most of the public tributes I have seen sidestep the violence in this story.

I am glad that the "Wild Women" (as one newspaper called them) and the elm are remembered. But part of me feels we should also remember the targeted violence that was inflicted against the beloved tree. This kind of behaviour is not unfamiliar to us today. Perhaps if we work to understand where it stems from, we can be better equipped to challenge

it in the future.

Kathryn Boschmann is a doctoral student in the history department at Concordia University whose research focuses on the relationship between religious communities and Indigenous activism in Winnipeg. She was born and raised in Manitoba and has made Winnipeg her home.

ANOTHER FAIL FOR THE ACADEMY

The 2020 Oscars lack diversity in all areas, creating concern for progress in film

MICHELLE KARLENZIG

VOLUNTEER [@MICHELLEKARLENZIG](https://twitter.com/michellekarlenzig)

Another awards season is approaching, and another failure to recognize women in Hollywood is at our doorsteps.

The 2020 Oscar nominations were announced on Jan. 13, but I've needed some time to gather my thoughts and frustration with the Academy for snubbing women in film yet again.

The Academy still – in 2020 – has failed to represent diversity in its nomination practices, despite the fact that, since 2016, the number of voting Members of Colour has doubled. Although things started to change for the better four years ago, this year's nominations are still indicative of major shortcomings in the Academy.

Of the 20 actors nominated this year, only one, Cynthia Erivo, is a Person of Colour, and no women have been nominated for "Best Director."

Critics have focused in particular on the fact that director Greta Gerwig did not receive a nomination for *Little Women*. Actor Issa Rae commented after she announced the nominees, saying, "Congratulations to those men." Rae later expressed at the Television Critics Associa-

tion press tour that she is tired of having the same conversation and expects more from the Academy.

Today, women make up 32 per cent of the Academy's members (up from 25 per cent in 2015). While diversity has improved overall, the Academy's entire voting body only casts ballots for who takes home an Oscar, not who gets the nomination. Recently, *TIME* magazine requested a report on the gender breakdown for the directors' branch, and the Academy declined to share. I have my bets that if we start breaking down the gender and racial makeup of each sector the Academy has, we'll uncover haunting truths.

The film industry is working its way back from decades of systemic sexism. Historically, there have been fewer opportunities for women to direct films than men, which has led to fewer women in those roles. And, of course, society consistently views and portrays women as less capable than men. This casts a dark cloud over female directors, making it difficult for society to accept the success or genius of a woman.

While I agree we need to put pressure on the Academy, it goes so much further. We need to change the conversation around women and their ability to succeed. How long can we sit by and watch another Quentin Tarantino film (with an almost



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

all-white, male cast) take home a handful of awards?

So, after different tweet trends like 2016's #OscarsSoWhite and #TimesUp, what will this year's Oscars hold for advocates at the awards?

I bet this year we'll see a winning female actor use her platform to call out systemic sexism in society and the Academy. Many viewers will patiently wait to watch the brave soul who uses their limited minutes to speak up on gender or racial inequality, rather than accept an award they competed for and earned fairly.

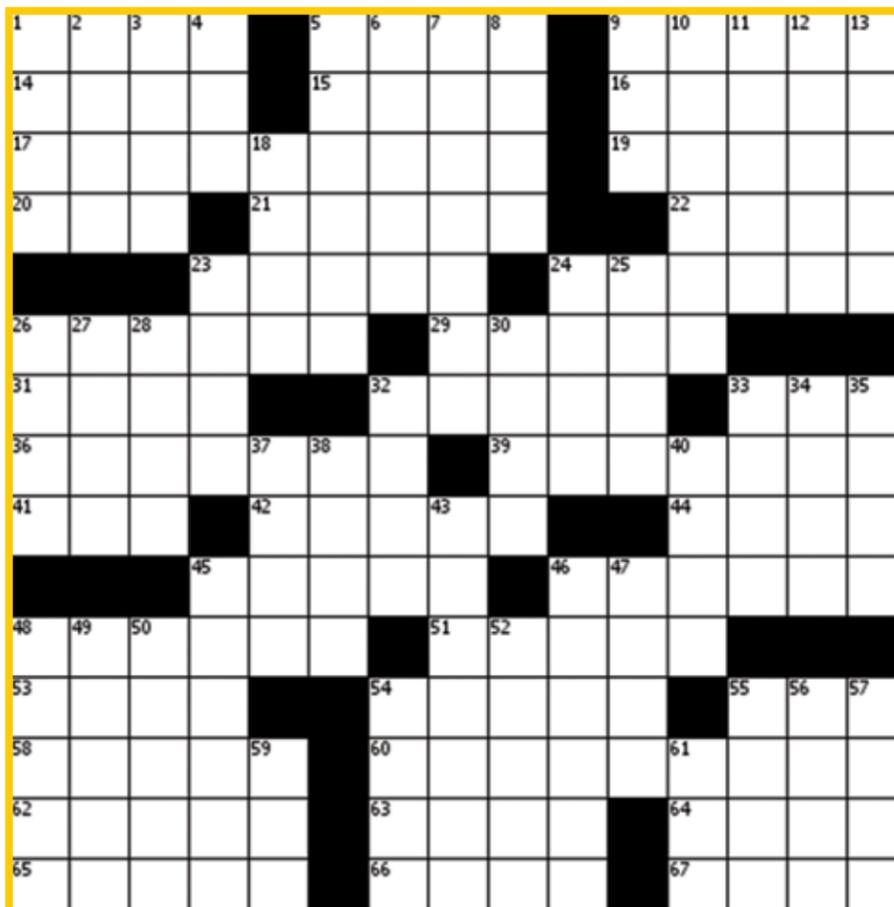
We'll see what Feb. 9 brings. You'll find me eating my popcorn and rolling my eyes

while the Oscars are handed out to yet another male-dominated group. I look forward to a time where women and People of Colour have no need to use acceptance speeches for anything but thank yous.

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



@PUNCHIECOMICS

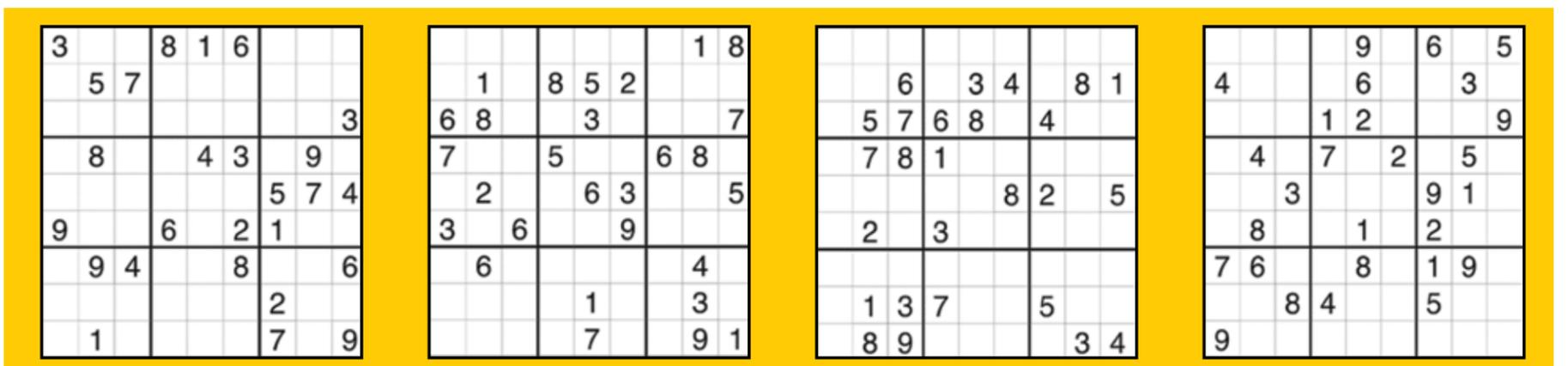


ACROSS

- 1. RIGID
- 5. ROWER'S NEEDS
- 9. STICKER
- 14. EXPENDED
- 15. FAMILY DIAGRAM
- 16. TEXAS SHRINE
- 17. CHOOZY
- 19. NOBLEMAN
- 20. HORSE FOOD
- 21. RELIEVED
- 22. TRIM
- 23. MORE RECENT
- 24. ANNOY
- 26. INDIA'S MOTHER ____
- 29. ACTOR ____ MARTIN
- 31. BUTTER'S RIVAL
- 32. STOP
- 33. EMINEM'S MILIEU
- 36. THIN
- 39. IDAHO'S NEIGHBOR
- 41. UNHAPPY
- 42. WIPE AWAY
- 44. REAR
- 45. HOLD RESPONSIBLE
- 46. FISHING NETS
- 48. PAINTERS' STANDS
- 51. DIAMOND AND ARMSTRONG
- 53. NIGHT TWINKLER
- 54. LOOKS CLOSELY
- 55. ____ ANGELES
- 58. WISE PEOPLE
- 60. CONCURRENCE
- 62. DELIGHT
- 63. PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT
- 64. ANDEAN MOUNTAIN NATIVE
- 65. PERCEIVE
- 66. TAVERN ORDERS
- 67. NEGATIVES

DOWN

- 1. Quiet!
- 2. On the ocean
- 3. Depend
- 4. JFK's predecessor
- 5. Canadian capital
- 6. Stand up
- 7. Opposite
- 8. Poppy or sesame
- 9. Dollop
- 10. Go by, as time
- 11. Gem weight
- 12. Love (Ital.)
- 13. Hermit
- 18. Average grades
- 23. City light
- 24. Mexican money
- 25. Smooth
- 26. Hurl
- 27. Jazz great ____ Fitzgerald
- 28. Critic Rex ____
- 30. Gentle
- 32. Pack tightly
- 33. Downpour
- 34. Diarist ____ Frank
- 35. Mats
- 37. Wooded valley
- 38. Important times
- 40. The thing here
- 43. African country
- 45. French caps
- 46. Fire truck alarms
- 47. Besides
- 48. Curvy letters
- 49. Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- 50. Astronomer Carl ____
- 52. Scary
- 54. Mama's man
- 55. Letterman's rival
- 56. Fairy tale starter
- 57. RR terminals
- 59. Look at
- 61. 60 secs.



METH IN THE MEDIA

A PANEL DISCUSSION
ABOUT HOW METH AND THE
PEOPLE WHO USE IT ARE
PORTRAYED IN THE MEDIA

PANELISTS FROM:

Manitoba Harm Reduction Network,
13 Moons Harm Reduction Initiative,
The Free Press, CBC, and The
University of Winnipeg

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6:30-8 PM AT
X-CUES BILLIARDS AND CAFE, 551 SARGENT AVE.**

THE **UNITER**

 Social Sciences and
Humanities Research
Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches
en sciences humaines
du Canada
Canada