

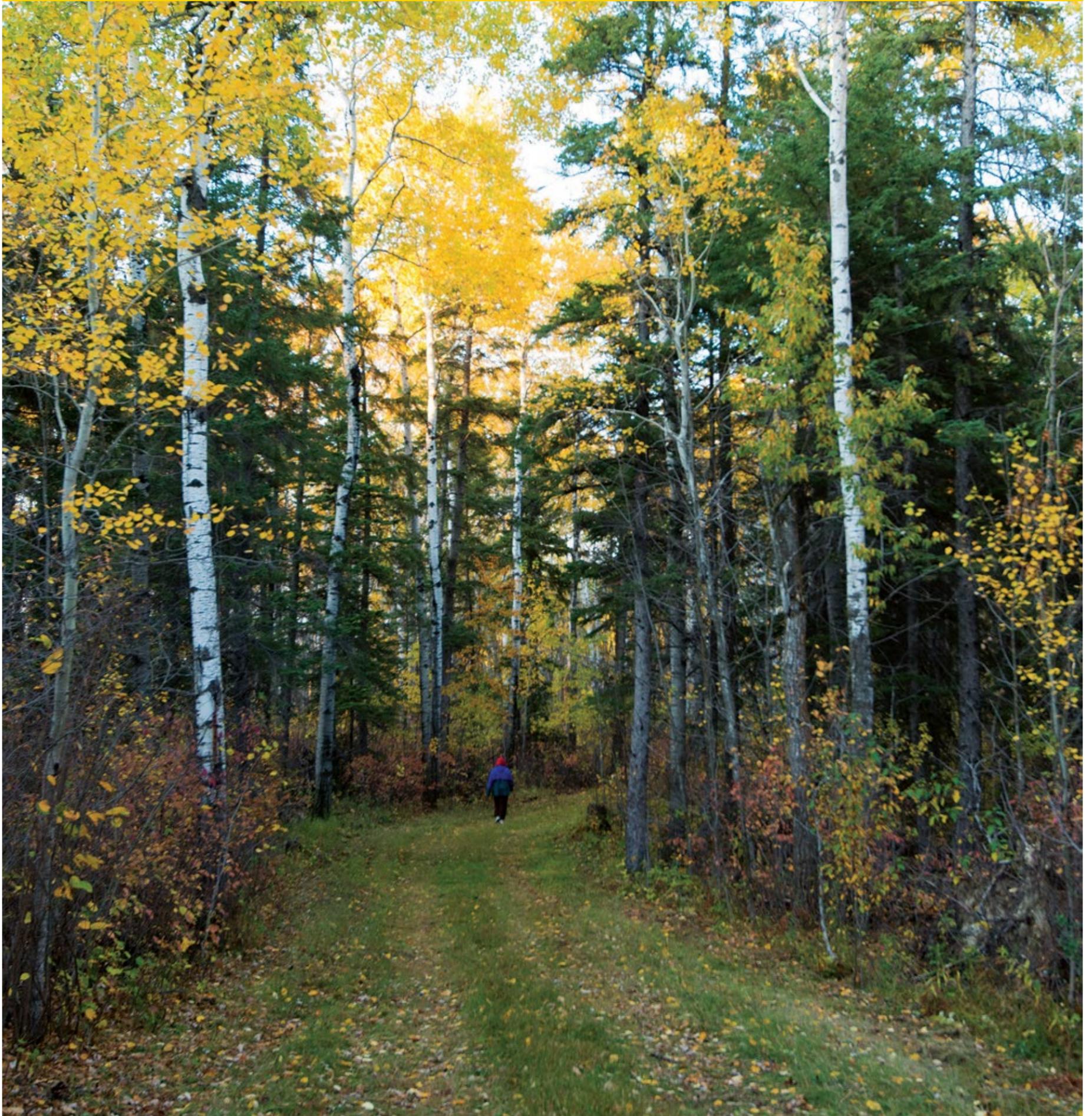
THE **U** N I T E R

FRESH PRODUCE IN WINTER—P3

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EDUCATING CHILDREN ON RACE—P14

HAPPY TRAILS!



BE PREPARED WHEN EXPLORING MANITOBA'S PARKS AND WILDERNESS

SILVER LININGS

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



THOMASPASHKO

On Tuesday, I went for my first COVID test. Perhaps, as this pandemic drags on, this will become a rite of passage (hopefully not literally) for many. But a persistent dry cough for the last week activated my neurosis enough to take the plunge.

As someone who rarely leaves the house these days, going for a COVID test felt like the biggest adventure I'd taken in months. That might not seem particularly exciting for the folks who are still inexplicably hitting up bars for some reason. But to me, the oddity of the situation sparked an unexpected feeling of normalcy.

For someone like myself, who spends non-COVID times stricken with anxiety in virtually every public setting, I'd sort of forgotten what it felt like to be nervous in a social situation. I spent the entire time in line thinking, "I'm the idiot who will somehow screw this lineup for everyone else." We were all in our cars, so I didn't get to project imaginary stares of disapproval on everyone's faces. But it did still seem like their automobiles were angry at me. It was kind of neat!

Finally reaching the front of the line and getting the test was simultaneously surreal and uneventful. Sitting in a small garage surrounded by healthcare professionals covered head to toe in PPE felt like something out of a movie. But the workers were kind and courteous (underlining how badly we need to throw frontline workers a ticker-tape parade when this is all over), and getting a swab shoved into a part of my nose so deep I didn't know existed was surprisingly fine.

I'm still waiting for my test results, but as I basked in my own narcissistic appreciation of social anxiety, it made me weirdly hopeful for the future. Seeing people take unnecessary trips to the gym or restaurants during a pandemic can activate my pessimism. But seeing a kilometre-long line of cars, their drivers patient, and a garage full of people working together for collective good? That activates my optimism.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

Jonathan's Farm sells their veggies at the Wolseley Farmers' Market. Read more on page 3.

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

In-person volunteer orientations are currently suspended due to COVID-19, but over-the-phone and remote orientations can be arranged. Please email volunteer@uniter.ca for more details.

Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, transphobic, ableist, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING EMERGING VOICES

Writer-in-residence Lauren Carter hopes to encourage a diverse range of writers

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

This fall, Lauren Carter starts her term as writer-in-residence at the Millennium Library. Carter won the 2020 Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction for her novel *This Has Nothing to Do With You*, as well as the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer. She is a novelist, poet, blogger and writing coach whose work has appeared in magazines including *Prairie Fire*, *Room* and *The Fiddlehead*.

The writer-in-residence program is an annual residency run by the Winnipeg Public Library, which not only gives the writer an office and time to work on a project of their choice, but they are also made available to help members of the public with their writing.

"A lot of people are very nervous about writing and may not have done it since high school," Danielle Pilon, head of reader services at the Winnipeg Public Library, says. "They don't have a lot of knowledge about it, and the writer-in-residence is there as a resource for them."

In the early stages of her writing career, Carter benefited from a writer-in-residence program in The Pas, which hosted poet Lorri Neilsen Glenn.

"It was incredibly valuable to be able to sit with her, and she went over some of my poems and even just to be able to talk writing," Carter says.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, consultation appointments with Carter will be held largely online or over the phone for the time being, which is a service that Carter has been offering to writers for several years.

The benefit of the residency program, especially with its virtual availability, is that she is able to offer these services for free to anyone in Manitoba.

"I'm hoping for a wide diversity of writers," Carter says. "I'm hoping for people who are just beginning to write, people who feel like they can't or they shouldn't. I'm here for them, and I'm also here for people who have been writing for a long time and are looking for ways to figure out next steps or solve some problems that have been sticking points."

"Lauren is a great mentor. She's very warm and has a lot of experience working both in person and online, which is going to be important," Pilon says.

"At the start of the pandemic, there was a lot of talk about how we all were going to be so creative. Everyone was talking about the novel they were going to write, the art they were going to make, the bread they were going to bake. Six months in, some of that optimism may be a little deflated, but it is still important, and people still have the stuff to say about their lives that are important to them."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Lauren Carter, the new writer-in-residence at the Millennium Library

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the public has been engaged in difficult conversations and political action, and Carter says we need writing from a wide range of viewpoints more than ever.

"In these very scary times, with the rise of white nationalism, and as we are focusing on the importance of equality, stories give us an opportunity to step into other people's circumstances to develop empathy and understanding," Carter says.

"We are all human, and some of us have

had a much easier journey than others. We need to listen to those stories that we might not have (been) listening to or might not have had the opportunity to listen to in times past."

To learn more about the writer-in-residence program, book an appointment with Carter or learn about upcoming virtual workshops, visit the Winnipeg Public Library website.

EATING FRESH WHEN IT'S FREEZING

Accessing local produce in the winter

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

In our cold northern climate, getting fresh, local produce in the winter can be a challenge, especially in the downtown area. The pandemic has increased restrictions and forced many local organizations and farmers to shift their market seasons and programming.

The West Broadway Farmers' Market was cancelled this summer. The West Broadway Community Organization largely focused their efforts on online workshops and the pandemic-friendly Good Food Box program, an affordable weekly fruit and vegetable package available by pre-order. The Downtown Winnipeg Farmers' Market had a late start and will continue in its Cityplace location this winter.

The St. Norbert Farmers' Market offers a reduced number of vendors all winter long, and the Wolsley Farmers' Market at Robert A. Steen Community Centre continues until the end of October, around the same time that most Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares end.

CSAs are a subscription-based model of purchasing produce directly from farmers. Customers pay a larger fee upfront for a weekly portion of vegetables over a particular season.

Jonathan's Farm is one of the few market farms to offer a winter CSA in Winnipeg. Running from November to February, their

winter CSA supplies people with vegetables like squash, beans, potatoes, carrots, onions and celeriac from their summer harvest.

"You can't grow anything in the winter, so it is a matter of storing it," Jonathan Stevens, owner of Jonathan's Farm, says. In the first two weeks of October, Jonathan's Farm will harvest their winter CSA crops. "We spend the week washing, bagging and putting it in the cooler. On pickup days, we haul it out."

Organic Planet Worker Co-op, an organic grocery store co-operative, is another source of fresh veggies in the summer. The collective also struggles to stock local produce in the winter.

"We stock local up until a certain point when farmers run out," Elizabeth McMechan, member of the Organic Planet co-op, says. "We try to get as much local produce as we can, as long as we can. From there we get stuff from B.C., and then we go further south based on necessity from Oregon, California and Mexico, as a last resort, because it has to travel so far, so it doesn't maintain its freshness as well."

Buying local has several benefits. Not only is a purchase of local produce an investment in local farmers, but it is also an investment in the local economy. Transporting food across long distances has adverse effects on the food



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

Jonathan's Farm sells their veggies at the Wolsley Farmers' Market.

and the environment. Produce can lose nutrients over time, and pollutants are released into the atmosphere from vehicles used to transport food.

"We don't want things to have to travel further than necessary. The nice thing about local produce is that we build a relationship with the farmers that come in here," McMechan says. "We know them by their names, and

we support them by going to markets. We are able to support local, but (also) reduce our carbon footprint."

To sign up for a winter CSA with Jonathan's Farm, go to jonathansfarm.com. Organic Planet Co-op's grocery and deli is at 877 Westminister Ave. You can also order a Good Food Box from westbroadway.mb.ca.



ARTS



Diana Thorneycroft's *Portrait of Winnipeg (life is like a box of chocolates)*, part of the WAG's *In Place* exhibition

IN PLACE OPENS AT THE WAG

Exhibit highlights Manitoban artworks over the years

NAAMAN STURRUP | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [NAAMANSTURRUP](#)

Harsh winters, record Slurpee sales and Winnie-the-Pooh's real-life backstory all add to the distinctive nature of Winnipeg, but according to *National Geographic*, the city is prominently known for its growing arts scene. This growth is the focus of the Winnipeg Art Gallery's (WAG) newest exhibit, *In Place*.

The exhibit draws from the gallery's permanent collection and features artworks from 42 Manitobans, spanning from 1970

to today. Curator Riva Symko calls the exhibit a "celebration of what Winnipeg's contemporary artistic community has produced over a half a century."

"In May of this year, we were forced to postpone and reschedule our planned exhibits due to the COVID shutdowns," she says. "It was difficult to have our planned shows, which had loans from other galleries, which were also shut down, so we turned to our permanent collection and

curated shows from that, and *In Place* was one of five exhibits that are replacing the postponed exhibitions."

As a new Manitoban who moved to Winnipeg after taking up the position of the WAG's head of collections and exhibitions and the curator of Canadian art, Symko says she went into the exhibit hoping to find some common connections between the art pieces to learn more about Winnipeg art. She wanted to divide the exhibition into spaces where the works are talking to each other. Two recurring themes stood out to her.

"Since being here, I keep hearing the term 'gritty' to describe Manitobans, and I can see that play out in the works we have in the collection," she says.

"I think that is something Manitoba is known for nationally and internationally, and it is a theme that produces work that is on the edge, at the forefront of new ideas and experimental styles."

Along with the grit, Symko also noticed a focus on urban landscapes in most art-

works, and she uses her first experience with Winnipeg artist Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald's work, who was a part of the Group of Seven, to help her figure out Winnipeg.

"When I first got here, I was helping to install *Into the Light*, a travelling exhibit from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection about Lionel FitzGerald," she says.

"Having to experience my new place through a FitzGerald lens, it really gave me a sense of the urban spaces here that I could not experience during the shutdown. And in *In Place*, there are works that also speak to the urban landscape of Winnipeg and other bigger cities in the province, but also some of the 'place,' in the sense of the different identities and cultures that make up the province as well."

Grab a coffee (or Slurpee) and visit *In Place* at the WAG. The exhibit runs from Oct. 10 to Jan. 17, and the gallery is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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SUPPLIED PHOTO

GEN:LOCK

“The Pilot”

Season 1 is available on RoosterTeeth.com



KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | @KEESHAHAREWOOD

Featuring an intentionally diverse cast of actors, Rooster Teeth’s original animated series *Gen:Lock* is set in a dystopian future that follows a ragtag team of fighter-pilots who subject themselves to experimental neuroscience in order to upload their consciousnesses into special giant mecha suits. Why? To wage war against an oppressive autocratic force threatening to take over free society, naturally.

With such heavy topics folded into the

story, the series’ pilot episode is a wild ride. Unfortunately, with its short 30-minute run time, it takes on a little bit more than it can chew story-wise.

Early in the first half of the episode, the story drops its characters into a desperate situation. The stakes are high. They have everything to lose. While this creates some intrigue and suspense, there is a missing connection between the audience and the characters that somewhat inhibits immer-

sion into the story.

In essence, the episode needs more time devoted to character development before disaster strikes. Without that extra time, it’s difficult for a viewer to sympathize with them right off the bat. As a result, the first half of the pilot doesn’t have as much emotional impact. If the episodes were 40 minutes in length as opposed to 30, this likely would not be an issue.

Despite this, Michael B. Jordan as Julian Chase, David Tennant as Dr. Rufus Weller and Dakota Fanning as Miranda Worth give fantastic performances. As the story unfolds, each of their characters become distinct, relatable and charming in their own ways. Even though it takes a bit more time to get to know them, they are definitely worth the wait.

While the story and character development are just a touch off base, the show excels in a number of different areas. For one, its visuals and animation style are gorgeous.

The world of the show is resplendent,

futuristic and downright cool. It’s a classic, technologically advanced sci-fi space with a unique flare. It’s sharp, colourful, detailed and sleek. In many ways, the aesthetic of the world alone almost makes up for the show’s initial deficits.

In addition to the visuals, the mecha combat scenes are incredible. They’re slick, fast, action-packed and adrenaline-inducing – not to mention they flaunt the show’s exceptional animation style. This, alongside the epic orchestral score, generates a feeling of awe during those scenes. All in all, the pilot episode is a thrill to watch.

With *Gen:Lock* being picked up by HBO Max, additional BIPOC writers joining the production team and its key cast members set to return for the second season, there is a lot to be excited about for the future. With so much to look forward to, it’s definitely worth watching, right from the beginning.

CKUW TOP 30

September 8, 2020



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

TW	LW	C	Artist	Album	Label
1	!		Silver Clouds	Silver Clouds	Disintegration
2	!		Slow Leaves	Shelf Life	Birthday Cake
3			Matmos	The Consuming Flame: Open Exercises In Group Form	Thrill Jockey
4	*		Tough Age	Which Way Am I?	Mint
5	!		Sean Burns	It Takes Luck To Get The Best Of Me	Self-Released
6			Built To Spill	Plays The Songs Of Daniel Johnston	Ernest Jenning
7	*		Zoon Bleached Wavves	Paper Bag	
8			Various Artists	Metal Postcard 2020 Lockdown Samples	Metal Postcard
9			Black Marble	I Must Be Living Twice	Sacred Bones
10	*		Laurence-Anne	Accident	Bonsound
11			Godcaster	Long Haired Locusts	Ramp Local
12			Trevor Powers	Capricorn	Fat Possum
13			Jobs	Endless Birthdays	Ramp Local
14	*		Pharis And Jason Romero	Bet On Love	Lula
15	*		Freak Heat Waves	Zap The Planet	Telephone Explosion
16	*		Braids	Shadow Offering	Secret City
17			Narrow Head	12th House Rock	Run For Cover
18	*		Tommy And The Commies	Hurtin' 4 Certain Ep	Slovenly
19			Protomartyr	Ultimate Success Today	Domino
20			Wicca Phase Springs Eternal	This Moment I Miss	Run For Cover
21	*		New Fries	The Idea Of Us	Telephone Explosion
22	*		Wares	Survival	Miint
23			Woods	Strange To Explain	Woodsist
24	!		Billy Simard	Secret	Ki-Keek
25	!		Pip Skid & Rob Crooks	It's Ok	Marathon Of Dope
26			Washed Out	Purple Noon	Partisan
27			Video Age	Pleasure Line	Winspear
28	!		Mouthfeel	Mouthfeel	Self-Released
29			Vinyl Williams	Azure	Requiem Pour Un Twister
30			Baseball Game	Baseball Game	House Arrest

ARTS BRIEFS

BETH SCHELLENBERG | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | @BETHGAZELLENBERG

Bîstyek

Self-taught artist Bîstyek has their first solo exhibition at 300 Ross Ave. The exhibition focuses on the artist's journey from Syria to Lebanon to Winnipeg and uses portraiture to explore the refugee experience. The show can be viewed until Nov. 14 by scheduling an appointment via bistyekexhibition@gmail.com.

Pandemic's Box Puppet Slam

Tune in to an online screening of short puppet films from around the world on Oct. 24. Presented by the Winnipeg Puppet Slam, the event will be livestreamed with hosts and starts at 7 p.m. Find the link on Facebook.

Mutual aid workshop

Poverty Awareness & Community Action is presenting an online workshop about mutual aid on Thursday, Oct. 22. This workshop is part of a series exploring the concept of mutual aid and building skills and knowledge that lead to advocacy and supporting community. The workshop starts at 6 p.m., and you can apply online.

LURE

Peter Tittenberger's latest solo exhibition, *LURE*, is a ceramics project inspired by the brain that explores desire. Presented by the Manitoba Craft Council, the exhibition can be viewed from 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, until Oct. 31 at C2 Centre for Craft (329 Cumberland Ave.).

Reconciling Ways of Knowing

Reconciling Ways of Knowing's fourth dialogue, called Two-Eyed Seeing and Beyond, is a discussion moderated by Jacqui Miller about frameworks for understanding. This installment features Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall, as well as Drs. Jesse Popp, Andrea Reid and Deborah McGregor. The event is on Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m., and you can register online.

Back in the Day

Cinematheque is hosting a live Zoom call with Elizabeth McCormac, director of *Back in the Day: The Legendary Arrows Club*, on Oct. 25 at 4:30 p.m. *Back in the Day* is the story of one of the first Black-owned nightclubs in Halifax and is a rare archival copy on loan from Dalhousie's archives. Tickets can be found on the Winnipeg Film Group website.

HAPPY TRAILS!

Be prepared when exploring Manitoba's parks and wilderness



The Chestnut Trail at Birds Hill Provincial Park

During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have been drawn to Manitoba's hiking trails. Avid hikers John Colin Steele and Jaime Manness talk about their favourite Manitoba trails, favourite gear, tips and tricks.

Steele usually hikes out of province and had plans to complete the Appalachian Trail in April. Forced to switch gears, Steele found great enjoyment hiking the Mantario Trail, Devil's Punchbowl and the Manitoba section of the Great Trail.

"Differences between the three trails are vast," Steele says.

The Mantario Trail is "a world-class backwoods trek through pristine wilderness. You need experience, fitness and the appropriate equipment. If you think you have seen everything Manitoba has to offer, you need to try this one someday," Steele says.

While Steele describes the Devil's Punchbowl in Spruce Woods Provincial Park as an amazing hike, "You won't be quite sure that

you're in Manitoba. Like all good hikes, there's a reward at the end, in the form of some unique geological features. He adds that you should bring "lots of water."

"The Manitoba section of the Great Trail is about 1,350 km and makes its way (eventually) from Saskatchewan to Ontario. The trail works really hard to take you from one place of interest to another, so it wanders all over the place. There is a free app that you can download that will allow you to see exactly where the trail goes," Steele says.

He mentions that although the trail does not have much change in elevation, the composition of the trail itself varies greatly.

"Gravel road, dirt path, gravel path, bike path, etc." Steele says. "I guess I want to be able to say 'I walked all the way across Manitoba' one day. I'm sure I'll get a stare or two, at least!"

Manness is a blogger who recently published a book about hiking in Manitoba.

She says her favourite trail is Bear Lake in the Whiteshell.

"It's a little six-kilometre linear out-and-back trail through central Whiteshell. The trail is moderately difficult. It wanders through the woods, over rocky outcrops ... along some beautiful ridges. Near the lake, the trail dips down, and a bit of scrambling along rocks is required to climb over the last ridge to get to the lake. (It's) worth it," Manness says.

Manness loves aqua packs. "They're larger capacity but sit nicely in the pack to keep the weight balanced. Very convenient way of drinking water through the little hose," she says.

For Steele, the go-to gear is hiking poles. "I love my poles. They make me look and feel like a hiker, and have saved me a zillion times from injury and even more fatigue. I read somewhere that if used properly, hiking poles can conserve up to 30 per cent of

your energy while going uphill," Steele says.

However, Steele places shoes as the most important item to wear for a hike. Similarly, Manness is a fan of using gaiters, protective garments worn from the knee down.

"Keeping my feet and ankles clean and dry for years!" she says.

Manness also places importance on staying warm and dry.

"If you're not reasonably warm and dry, you won't enjoy yourself, and you probably won't hike again," Manness says.

She also hikes with a dog.

"I always have a fair amount of safety gear on me: a sling to carry my dog out if he is injured and all the other dog-related gear: food, water, booties (in case he injures a paw/pad). First-aid kit. Knife. Flashlight. Bear bangers and/or bear spray," Manness says.

Falcon Lake



Located near some fun cycling trails, Falcon Lake has a number of amenities, including hiking, swimming, biking, campgrounds, a beach, stables, fishing, a marina, playgrounds, skiing, snowmobiling and more.

Little Limestone Lake



One of Manitoba's lesser-known gems, Little Limestone is a marl lake. According to Manitoba Conservation and Climate, "a marl lake changes colour as its water temperature rises in the summer months and calcite in the water separates, forming tiny crystals. In this state, the lake's waters turns from clear to a striking opaque turquoise colour or even a milky blue-white in warm summer weather."

A protected area, Little Limestone is a natural park with backcountry land use category (LUC). That means there is no forest harvesting, mining, hydroelectric

development or oil and gas exploration. It is a non-operational park with no programming, no infrastructure, no trails, roads, campgrounds or support buildings. Open fires are not allowed in this area.

Little Limestone is located "within the Mosakahiken Cree Nation Resource Management Area (RMA) and Moose Lake Registered Trapline Section controlled by Mosakahiken Cree Nation. Mosakahiken Cree Nation Reserve land parcel 31J is adjacent to Little Limestone Lake and the park area."

TIPS AND TRICKS

Educate yourself on the Leave No Trace principles (LNT principles).

Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back. Make sure somebody knows where you are, and where you're going each day.

Learn backcountry fire safety.

Take enough water. Fill up on water every chance you get.

Know your own abilities and limitations before heading out.

Research before going on an adventure.

Know the route and weather conditions.

Buy shoes that work for you.

Don't rely exclusively on technology for navigation.

Know that the Mantario Trail requires GPS for safety.

"Cotton is death," Steele says (This refers to clothing).

A rain poncho doubles as a picnic blanket.

Any item that you don't use for many days or weeks needs to get tossed or left at home.

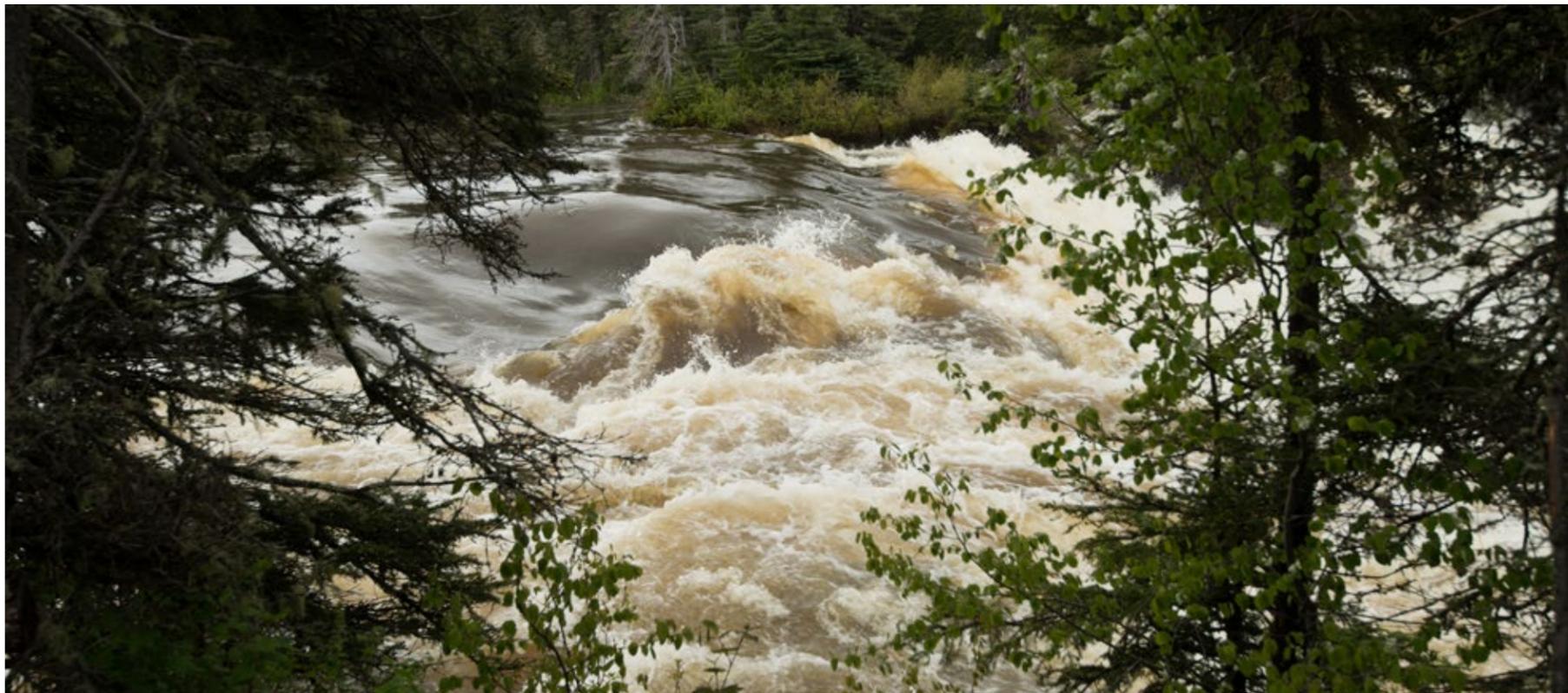
Some backpacks weigh five or six pounds when they're empty. Take a lighter one, if at all possible.

"Enjoy every sandwich," Steele says.

Be aware of the time, especially in fall. Night comes sooner than you think. Embark on the trail earlier in the day.

Feature continues on next page.

Pisew Falls and Kwasitchewan Loop



This hiking loop begins at Pisew Falls with an overnight spot at Kwasitchewan Falls, where you can fall asleep to the sound of the highest waterfall in Manitoba. There are no bear boxes on this

trail, so be prepared to hang your bag. While Parks Manitoba lists this as a 20 to 22 km hike, most hikers' GPS report traveling 27.5 to 30 km for the entire loop.

Churchill



While Churchill is known for polar bears, with bear season being at its height in November, there are a number of other things you can do there. There are beluga whales (during the summer), birdwatching, sled dogs and the northern lights.

Lester Beach



Lester Beach is a lesser-known beach and cabin community located north of Patricia Beach and Grand Beach but south of Victoria Beach. It's not a provincial park.

Beaudry Provincial Park



If you are looking for a place close to Winnipeg to spend an afternoon or early evening, Beaudry Provincial Park is west 10 km on Roblin Blvd. (PR 241). This park follows the Assiniboine River and sports some ski trails, hiking trails and paddling.

Hunt Lake Trail



Due to the increased popularity of this trail, Manitoba Conservation and Climate announced on Oct. 8 2020 construction to the trail, rerouting it away from cottages in the area. Construction includes additional parking and a one-stall privy (non-modern washroom). Set to be completed by spring 2021, the trail will remain open during construction. Watch for signs and be aware of your surroundings.

Birds Hill



While known for hosting the Winnipeg Folk Festival during non-COVID years and its proximity to Winnipeg, Birds Hill Provincial Park is home to many trails and amenities, including hiking, biking, stables, swimming, skiing and more.

CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

Scares to stave off the existential dread

Despite rising COVID-19 numbers in Winnipeg as Halloween approaches, there are still some options for those looking to get out of the house and have some festive fun. A Maze In Corn and Deer Meadow Farms are both hosting socially distant scary activities by having visitors pre-book visiting times online.

Waste Reduction Week reminders

Oct. 19 to 23 is Waste Reduction Week across Canada, and the City of Winnipeg is reminding residents to take steps to reduce their waste through recycling, thrifting, avoiding wasteful packaging, safely managing and disposing of household chemicals and investing in reusable rather than single-use face masks.

Online poetry and prose reading

On Oct. 30, there will be a virtual poetry and prose reading hosted by Dr. Paul DePasquale and featuring Duncan Mercredi, Marie-Anne Redhead and Özten Shebagegit. The reading was initially intended to accompany the touring *Alootook Ipellie: Walking Both Sides of an Invisible Border* exhibition, which was hosted by Gallery 1C03.

Learn about historical booze

The first talk in this year's New Directions in Classics series will take place via Zoom on Oct. 23. The event, titled "De ebrietas: Alcohol in the Roman World – New Data and Future Directions; A Conversation with Dr. Matt Gibbs (MacEwan University)," will be hosted by Gibbs, who formerly worked with the University of Winnipeg and has brewed ancient beer and mead with Barn Hammer Brewing in the past.

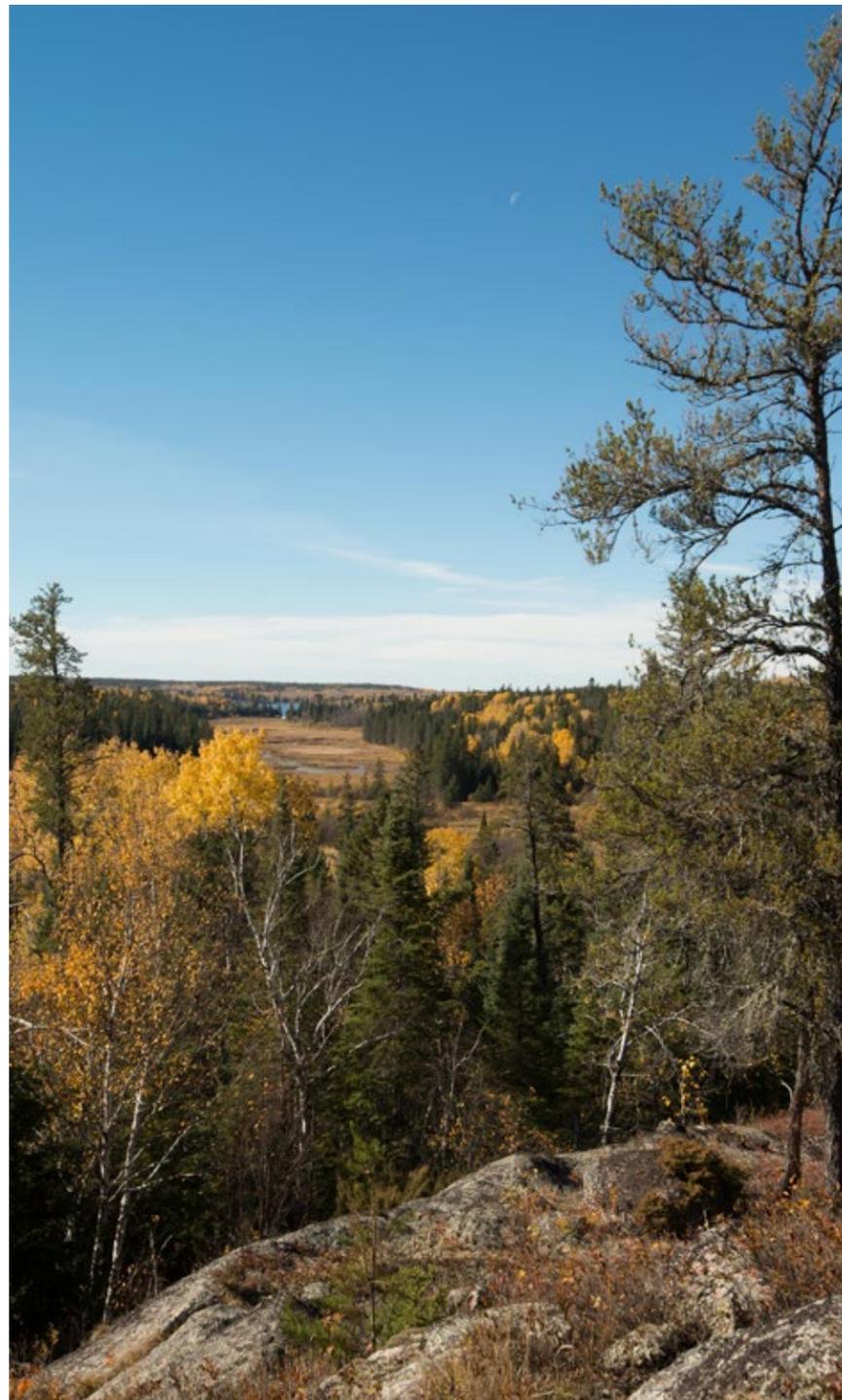
COVID-19 freezes City inspections

Due to rising COVID-19 numbers, the City of Winnipeg will suspend certain in-person home inspection services in hopes of reducing the spread. All interior residence appointments, whether for taxation or bylaw compliance purposes, can be conducted via phone and photos. Unoccupied homes can still be inspected for property development purposes. While emergency utility services will continue, water metre returns, removals and replacements have been suspended.

Virtual convocation

The University of Winnipeg will hold its 117th convocation ceremony virtually on Oct. 22 and 23. The university has created different ways to virtually celebrate, including custom Zoom backgrounds and Spotify playlists. The morning of Oct. 22 will celebrate art degree recipients, and Tantoo Cardinal will receive an honorary degree. The afternoon is dedicated to science degree recipients. The next day will celebrate recipients of education, kinesiology, physical and health education and marriage and family therapy degrees, as well as Allan Levine, who will receive an honorary degree.

Mantario Trail



The Mantario Trail is best suited to avid and experienced backpackers. Located near the Manitoba/Ontario provincial border in Manitoba's Whiteshell Provincial Park, the Mantario Trail runs about 60 km through the Canadian Shield and boreal forest. The trail has bear boxes and picnic tables.

Follow Steele's hiking adventures @johncolinsteel on Instagram and get information on winter activities, including a guide to winter camping, from Manness' blog at hikemanitoba.co or in her recent book, *Hike Manitoba*.

SEEKING SPACE FOR A SAFER SPACE

Does Winnipeg have adequate shelter for sex workers?

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

Vancouver will soon be home to Canada's first 24-7 shelter for street-based sex workers. The 23-bed facility will operate under a partnership between the WISH Drop-In Centre, the City of Vancouver and BC Housing. It will be open to those seeking short-term respite and extended stays.

Though Winnipeg doesn't have a similar 24-7 shelter right now, other shelter options and resources are available for sex workers. Organizations like the Mount Carmel Clinic's Sage House work to provide a variety of supports to cisgender and transgender women in the sex work industry.

Deena Brock is the provincial co-ordinator of the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters.

Over the years, Brock says that women's shelters in Manitoba have evolved to be able to support people who are fleeing non-domestic or family violence, including men who seek resources and those in the sex work industry.

"What we found is that there is a gap in terms of sex workers," Brock says. "A lot has changed in the last three or four years, where we've been able to put the onus on the shelter to be able to say 'we need to bring you in because this is unsafe.'"

Now, the greatest hurdle is not necessarily an inability to provide services and resources to sex workers, but a lack of shelter space.

"It's almost a grey area, in a sense," Brock says. "If they are in a dangerous situation, they can definitely call a shelter. The problem is that Winnipeg shelters are usually full."

Marcie Wood is the executive director of Willow Place, a shelter that primarily serves those fleeing domestic or family violence, but also offers services to sex workers in need, according to Wood. Despite being the largest shelter of its kind in Manitoba, Wood says that it, too, tends to lack bed space, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened capacity issues.

"In a typical year without a pandemic, we have somewhere between 20 and 25 individuals plus their children," Wood says. "This year, we can only have a maximum of 17 individuals plus their children."

Aside from issues around shelter capacity, Brock says measures aimed at keeping those in shelters safe might pose as a barrier. Having to screen callers in order to assure they are legitimate and not a threat to those who sought shelter in the first place may be necessary, but could be a deterrent for sex workers who require immediate service.

While Wood advocates for more space as a way to be able to expand their services, Brock says she would like to see additional sex worker supports implemented in Winnipeg.

In the meantime, both Wood and Brock emphasize that the shelter and outreach ser-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Deena Brock, provincial co-ordinator of the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters

vices they offer are available to sex workers.

"I recognize that it might not always be accessible due to a lack of space, but we certainly do provide service for sex workers,"

Wood says. "We want to make sure the community is aware of that."

PSYCHOACTIVE ETHICS

Webinar to cover ethics and law in psychedelic-assisted therapies

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

A drug often associated with the music festival, rave and club-going crowd, 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) is commonly known for its euphoria-inducing effects. New innovations in psychedelic research, however, show that it could be a promising remedy for those who live with PTSD and other trauma-related illnesses.

The Enhanced Therapy Institute will host a webinar called MDMA and Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy: Ethics and Law on Nov. 7. Dr. Darek Dawda, a Winnipeg-based clinical psychologist and founder of the institute, says some of the leading experts in the field will be present at the conference, including the founder of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), Dr. Rick Doblin.

Dawda says current studies on MDMA-assisted therapy are targeted at the treatment of trauma and PTSD. MDMA is currently illegal in Canada. As the research trials continue, the Enhanced Therapy Institute aims to provide training to ensure services can be offered safely and ethically if and when they are legalized.

"We want to prepare to provide these

services," he says. "There's a lot of training that has to be done."

Dr. Neil McArthur, an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Manitoba, ethicist and the co-host of the conference, argues in favour of providing access to these therapies if they are proven to improve the lives of prospective patients. He is optimistic about the possibilities of these therapies but says that more scientific study into the topic is needed.

"As an ethicist, you want to make sure that these are safe technologies," he says. "At the very least, we have a moral obligation to find out if these drugs are beneficial."

While Dawda says the current target of MDMA therapy is focused on trauma, it is also being explored as a treatment for alcoholism, and even in healing relationships. In the case of the latter, McArthur says MDMA-therapy could act as an external aid to overcome certain blocks couples face.

"It's a drug that creates bonds. It creates connections. That is often what's lacking in a relationship," McArthur says. "You often have situations, especially in long-term relationships, where people want to be

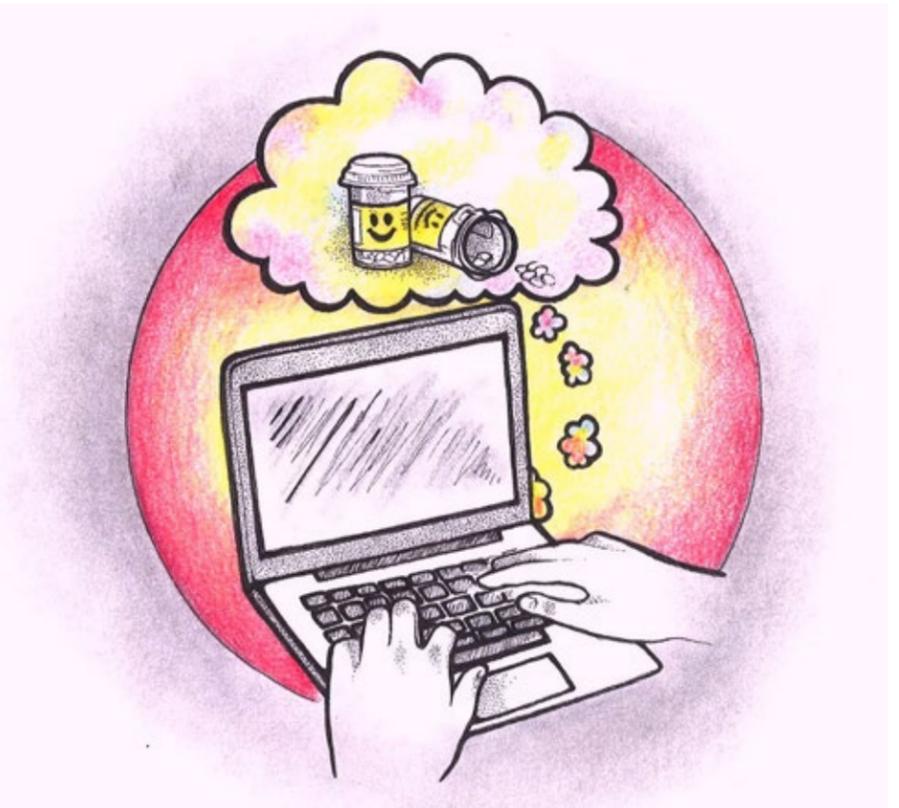


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

connected but find themselves trapped by things that have happened in the past."

Addressing the stigma that surrounds MDMA and other psychedelic-assisted therapies is a roadblock on the path toward legalization. McArthur suspects that its reputation as a "party-drug" may put some under the impression that it isn't a serious therapy.

However, Dawda says that, in spite of these perceptions, there remains great excitement inside and outside of the field,

because of the strong research going into it.

"It's coming from mainstream research approved by the FDA and Health Canada," Dawda says. "It's just a matter of time that these therapies will become destigmatized."

Webinar tickets can be purchased through enhancedtherapy.ca/conference. Students and those who cannot afford admission may receive a complimentary ticket upon request.



LEVINE AND CARDINAL TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES

Degrees will be conferred at upcoming U of W convocation

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CAMPUS REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

At the University of Winnipeg's (U of W) autumn convocation, on Oct. 22 and 23, honorary degrees will be conferred upon TV and film actor Tantoo Cardinal, along with historian and author Allan Levine. Due to public health restrictions, the ceremony will be held virtually.

"The ceremonies will take place via Zoom webcast and will include an order of proceedings similar to what is normally held," Kevin Rosen, the U of W's executive director of marketing and communications, says.

"There will be video remarks from the president, presentation of honorary degrees and greetings from the (honorary degree) recipients," he says, adding that "graduates will have personalized slides featured on the screen when their names are read aloud for the virtual conferring of degrees."

"Family and friends of the graduates, as well as the UWinnipeg community, will be able to view the proceedings safely from wherever they are located," Rosen says.

Levine, who earned his doctorate in history from the University of Toronto in 1985, says he is "truly honored" to be recognized by the U of W.

"I regard it as a significant moment in my close to four-decade career as a historian, writer and educator, one which I can share with my family," he says. Levine has written 13 books on topics ranging from William Lyon Mackenzie King to the city of Toronto.

"The U of W has always engaged in a positive way with the larger community and embraced its role as a lively and ever-changing educational centre," Levine, who is currently based in Winnipeg, says. Levine's latest book, *Details Are Unprintable: Wayne Lonergan and the Sensational Cafe Society Murder*, is a historical novel about a 1943 murder in New York City.

"Over many years, (the U of W's) faculty and students have sought to advance learning, debate, literature, science and the arts at the university, but, more importantly, beyond the campus, touching the lives of thousands of Winnipeggers," he says. He regrets, however, not being able to speak at an in-person convocation due to the pandemic.

Tantoo Cardinal, who is also being honoured, has been in countless television shows, movies and theatrical productions across North America such as *Legends of the Fall* and *North of 60*. According to The Ca-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Historian Allan Levine will receive an honorary degree from the University of Winnipeg on Oct. 23.

nadian Encyclopedia, she has broken "barriers for onscreen representation of Indigenous peoples." Cardinal is an outspoken activist and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"Tantoo Cardinal and Allan Levine are innovators whose works (have) opened us

up to new perspectives and enriched our understanding of the world," Dr. James Currie, U of W interim president and vice chancellor, says.

"The university is proud to recognize their many achievements with honorary degrees," he says.



PHOTO BY HEATHER LEWIS (SUPPLIED)

The Trio Saint-Laurent performing at a past Virtuosi concert. The concert series has cancelled its fall season due to COVID-19.

VIRTUOSI CANCELS FALL SEASON

Arts organizations everywhere facing 'existential' challenges

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CAMPUS REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

Virtuosi Concerts, a classical music recital and chamber music series based at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), has been delighting Winnipeg audiences since 1991. This year would have been their 30th anniversary season, but they have had to cancel their fall programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew Thomson, executive director of Virtuosi Concerts, says this decision was made around August.

"As our knowledge of COVID increased, it became clear that international

travel, especially with the United States, would be affected for the foreseeable future," he says.

"Financially, Virtuosi has taken in no ticket revenue for 2020-21," Thomson says, though they are operating with the support of their public funders, the U of W, their reserve fund and the Virtuosi Endowment Fund.

"This is an incredibly challenging time for all performing arts organizations, so I would ask those that have supported their chosen organizations to be sure to 'give' as

they did last year but to also consider increasing their financial support this year," he says.

Jonathan Paquette, professor of political studies at the University of Ottawa, specializes in cultural administration and institutions.

"Arts managers have to deal with the aftermath of undoing a season, which is a very long process on the one hand. And on the other hand, planning for the future, for a year ahead, is almost impossible," he says.

"This is not just a financial hurdle or a technical problem, bearing disappointment. It is an existential one," Paquette says.

When asked about how governments should respond to this situation, he suggests "supporting programming, offering clear advice, resources and a pattern of contingency plan(s) to adapt to the fluctuation of COVID restrictions."

"You want arts organizations to be able to operate and do what they are meant to do," Paquette says.

Despite the difficult situation, Thomson remains optimistic.

"The arts have found creative ways to survive without live audiences, and this cre-

ativity is key to the arts, including classical music, surviving this pandemic," he says.

In fact, Virtuosi has scheduled concerts starting in January, subject to public health guidelines.

"We will not begin promotion and ticket sales for each concert until we have a green light from provincial health authorities," Thomson says.

Among the protocols that would be in place at these concerts are mandatory masks, smaller and physically distanced audiences and no intermissions. These concerts would feature Manitoban artists like Yuri Hooker, Victoria Sparks, Naomi Woo, Tracy Dahl and Laura Loewen.

"Our primary goal has been to present programming that nourishes the soul, offering cathartic experiences that heal and virtuosity that excites," Thomson says.

"While we remain committed to programming that encompasses the pillars of the traditional classical canon, we are resolved to present new works and commissions, unheard voices past and present and artists who challenge the status quo."



PROFile

TEACHING DURING THE PANDEMIC

Dr. Davina DesRoches, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, U of W

KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | KEESHAHAREWOOD

When it comes to teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Davina DesRoches – an assistant professor in the University of Winnipeg’s (U of W) Department of Sociology – actively tries to be as understanding as possible under the current circumstances.

For DesRoches, the difficulty lies in maintaining balance between being compassionate and upholding certain academic standards. In addition to trying to find and maintain this balance, DesRoches has to adapt her lectures to an online format. Naturally, the situation is not ideal for students or faculty alike.

“They say that to become a really good online teacher, it takes about five years of training,” she says.

DesRoches notes that while some professors acclimate a little faster, others struggle to get accustomed to the change. In particular, DesRoches has difficulties working with Zoom and dealing with technological challenges that come with online teaching.

But despite these difficulties, DesRoches has noticed some of her students

pitching in and helping out.

“People are really stepping up,” she says. “A sociologist would say they’re ‘saving the scene.’”

In fact, DesRoches has found that in both her urban sociology class and especially in her sociology of work class, there was a great deal of discussion among her students for an extended period of time.

“I’ve never had this in person before,” she says. “In person, we maybe talk for 10 minutes, and then everyone would go silent, but over Zoom, when we’re just kind of staring at each other – but really looking a little off – you have to talk.”

DesRoches found this impressive, since, in her experience, second-year students tend to be a little more shy about raising their hands and sharing information.

What’s more, the quality of the discussions also meet a high standard. DesRoches says she can tell her students are engaging with the material and doing the readings, which brings a smile to her face.

Ultimately DesRoches takes the good with the bad, which is all anyone can do.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

—
What is something you’ve learned from your students?

“If I stumble and flail around occasionally, that’s okay.”

What was your worst grade in university?

“I got a B+ in my first intro psychology class, and it’s the only one I got, and it makes me really mad.”

What’s the best thing about your work?

“It’s timely, and it’s relevant, and I know after every interview I do, that interview

mattered. It mattered to the person I did the interview with. It will matter to the broader community once they’re able to read it.”

A question DesRoches asks her students in class: Do you think a robot could do your job?

“I think a robot could do some of my job. I think the right AI technology could potentially scan all of the relevant literature on a particular topic and pull out themes and kind of spit them out. So ... a robot could do parts of my job.”

BIG WIN FOR WINNIPEG STUDENTS

Manitobans among recipients of scholarship for students with Crohn’s and colitis

LEIA PATTERSON | VOLUNTEER | LEIA_PATTERSON

The life of a university student can be difficult and stressful. With student loans and paying rent, not to mention the looming presence of a pandemic, it can be hard to balance schoolwork with personal and financial obligations. For students with Crohn’s and colitis, that struggle can be even more pronounced.

Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis are part of a group of conditions known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which affect the body’s ability to digest food and absorb nutrients. They are lifelong conditions that affect about one in every 140 Canadians and can make aspects of everyday life more challenging, as they can cause pain, fatigue and other symptoms.

Every year, Crohn’s and Colitis Canada, a national volunteer-based charity aiming to find cures for Crohn’s and colitis, gives away 10 different \$5,000 scholarships to students living with the disease from across Canada. This year, two of the recipients are students from the University of Manitoba, Ann Weber and Dennis Drewnik.

Drewnik, who is currently pursuing a bachelor of science in cellular, molecular and developmental biology with a minor in chemistry, says “it’s a challenging disease to have,” but it won’t stop him from succeeding academically and off campus.

He hopes to pursue a master’s degree in

molecular neuroscience, with goals of eventually working in research or becoming a professor. Drewnik is also currently the president of the Winnipeg chapter of the Crohn’s and Colitis Canada community.

“I’m interested in helping people,” Drewnik says. The disease “has definitely given me a broader outlook on life. It opened up a lot of different opportunities for me.”

The scholarship, which is made possible through a grant provided by AbbVie Canada, is a huge help in unloading unnecessary stress, according to Jenn Ackerman, the scholarship’s project manager.

“Stress can amplify the disease,” Ackerman says. “A lot of people have to work a part-time or full-time job while going to school, and that doesn’t leave a lot of time to take care of yourself and your disease.”

Ackerman, who will have been with the program for two years this November, says the scholarship helps build a cross-country community that helps both students and anyone who has been impacted by Crohn’s and colitis.

“They can lean on one another ... everyone is so thankful for the opportunity,” she says.

Students from across Canada are able to apply, as long as they are entering or returning to a postsecondary institution.

Crohn’s and Colitis Canada also has oth-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dennis Drewnik is one of two University of Manitoba students to win a scholarship from Crohn’s and Colitis Canada.

er initiatives, like the Gutsy Walk, an event to raise funds and awareness for those with IBD, and Camp Got2Go, an overnight stay for children suffering from the disease.

“It’s great seeing where the impact has hit the most,” Ackerman says. The program is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2021, and she encourages anyone who’s new to the community to apply and make the most of their local chapter.

Drewnik’s advice to anyone newly diagnosed or looking to get involved is to be patient and explore new opportunities. “It does get better,” he says.

Anyone looking for more information on Crohn’s and Colitis Canada and the AbbVie scholarship is invited to visit crohnsandcolitis.ca. The Winnipeg chapter is open to all ages.



THE UNITER IS SEEKING ILLUSTRATORS

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

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

Contact creative@uniter.ca for more information!



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Student Services

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

More information on the opportunities listed below is available on our website: uwinnipeg.ca/awards.

Current Award Opportunities

A \$78 UWSA Transit Subsidy is available to students who purchase a semester bus pass for the 2020 Fall term. Applications are available through our online award application system and will remain open until Oct. 31. More information is available here: Applications for the UWSA transit subsidy program

Graduate and Professional Studies Expenses Bursary is available for students in their final year of an undergraduate degree program in the 2020-21 academic year that are applying for Graduate or Professional Studies which begin in 2021-22. The application is open until funds have been exhausted. To obtain the application form, visit: In-Course Awards (current students).

The 2020-21 Work-Study Program is accepting student applications until Fri., Dec. 4. The position listing is now available online. More positions will be available to those that apply early. To obtain the application form and check out the position listing, go to: Work Study Program.

Student Aid

The Canada Student Aid program is offering more loans and non-repayable forms of aid (grants) this year. If you have ever thought about applying, this would be the year to do so. For more information, check out Government Student Aid.

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

STUDENT CENTRAL

The last day to drop a U2020F class is Nov. 17. No refund is applicable.

myVisit App

Need to drop in to see someone from Student Central via Zoom? You will be able to add yourself to the line virtually!

Download the myVisit app today, available through Google Play or the App Store. The myVisit app allows students to enqueue themselves to see a Student Central representative on Zoom.

A text message will be sent with the Zoom meeting ID and pass-

code when you are near the front of the line. The waiting room will be enabled.

Students will be admitted one at a time and will be required to show their student ID (or other photo ID), the same as in-person inquiries at Student Central.

Students can also use myVisit to book an appointment with an academic or career advisor from Academic and Career Services and/or International, Immigrant and Refugee Services (IIRSS). Appointments with advisors can be booked through www.myvisit.com as well

Campus Closed

The University of Winnipeg campus remains closed at this time. Student Central (SC) and other Student Services are continuing to provide services remotely though. Please check our websites for contact information. SC's regular hours are 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday.

STUDENT RECORDS

February Graduation

Finishing your last courses in December? Interested in graduating in February? The final date to apply to graduate in February (in absentia) is Sun., Nov. 1.

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

STUDENT SERVICES

Webinar Wednesdays

In weekly half-hour sessions, Student Services staff will share valuable strategies to help you settle in and succeed at UWinnipeg.

Topics for the series:

- Joining a Community at UWinnipeg (Oct. 28)
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities or Medical Conditions (Nov. 4)
- Final Drop Date and End of Term Tips (Nov. 18)
- Meditation for Grounding and Relaxation (Nov. 25)
- Exploring Career Options and Gaining Relevant Experience During your Studies (Dec. 2)
- Preparing for Winter Term (Dec. 9)

All sessions are from 12:30-1:00 pm.

Advanced registration is required. Sign up here: uwinnipeg.ca/webinar-wednesdays.

Social Media

To stay on top of the latest news and events in Student Services, follow us on Instagram or Twitter or join our Facebook groups.

Instagram:

@UWinnipegRecruit (Student Recruitment)

@AcademicAdvisingUWinnipeg (Academic & Career Services)

@UWpgWellnessCentre (Wellness Centre)

Facebook:

UWinnipegISS (International, Immigrant & Refugee Student Services)

uofwacademicadvising (Academic & Career Services)

UWCareerServices (Career Services)

UWinnipegExchangeProgram (UWinnipeg Exchange Program)

Twitter:

@UWAcadAdvising (Academic & Career Services)

PHONE: 204.779.8946

| EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca



READING IN COLOUR

I want you to see me

VALERIE CHELANGAT | COLUMNIST | VALERIECHELA

Books are an invaluable tool that can be used for teaching children from an early age about ethnic and cultural differences. The messages children are exposed to through books shape their ideas about themselves and others.

It is through early reading (and for infants and toddlers, looking at the colourful images in their storybooks) that children begin to form perspectives on who matters. When certain groups are not depicted in children's literature, those groups may become invisible to children.

In order to foster accurate learning and positive attitudes toward diversity, it is crucial to be intentional when selecting books for a child's home or a classroom library.

Doyin Richards, an African-American father and author, wrote a book for children aged two to 10 titled *What's the Difference?: Being Different is Amazing*. Richards' book aims to support parents in raising racially conscious children. He urges children to recognize the differences between their friends and themselves and see those differences in a positive light.

"Your friends may not look like you, and that's a good thing," Richards writes in his book. "You see, little one, you may not be the same on the outside as your friends, but it's what makes you different that makes you wonderful."

Along with the words on the page, the

book includes photographs of children from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds laughing, playing, eating and carrying out other activities together.

Richards discourages shying away from acknowledging racial differences. "Don't be COLOR-BLIND" he writes. "The sky is blue during the day and black at night. If colours could talk, they could tell different stories about what they see when it's their turn to LIGHT UP THE WORLD".

Children ask questions all the time (sometimes at the most dreadful moments). If a child asks about the texture of another person's hair or the attire a passerby is wearing, it is easy to quiet them and find the closest exit.

Instead of silencing children or taking flight, consider using that opportunity as a teaching moment to talk to the child about the race, beliefs and culture of the individual in question. If you don't have all the answers, be honest with them and suggest going home to research and learn together. Demonstrate to the child that it is okay to ask questions, to be unsure and to be open to learning. Avoiding these kinds of conversations can imply there is something wrong with the person in question, which may only serve to reinforce racial tensions.

Books are a great way to introduce children to race, beliefs, cultures and other differences that can exist between people.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

While there are many books published that help children understand and embrace diversity, not all books convey accurate information. Being selective about the books that accurately and sensitively portray diversity is critical in fostering the development of woke kids who understand the importance of embracing differences.

The website teach4diversity.ca/multicul-

[tural-childrens-literature](#) lists various links to guides to help assess children's literature.

Valerie Chelangat is a Kenyan-Canadian writer. She loves Winnipeg but struggles with the winter. She gets through the season by reading any books she gets her hands on and drinking too much tea.



THERE'S NOTHING MAGICAL ABOUT TERFS

When it's no longer possible to separate the art from the artist

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | DANIELLEDMDOIRON

It makes sense that, after years of working as an educational assistant, my mom recently became a school librarian. Like me, she's a writer, and many of my childhood memories involve books. We often went on excursions to the public library and stayed up past my bedtime reading together.

We continued this practice well into my teenage years, as we devoured each installment of the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling. The magical world of Hogwarts, flying broomsticks and "liquid luck" was our common ground, even when we seemed to disagree about almost everything else. Now, a shared love of the series is the main way I bond with my young niece.

The books aren't perfect. Their lack of openly queer characters and racial diversity bothered me years ago, but, in a way, I was willing to suspend my disbelief at their non-existence to focus on the (Triwizard) tasks at hand. However, it's irresponsible for readers to ignore issues that directly extend into the real world.

Rowling has a long-documented history of transphobic comments, many of which resurfaced this summer. In June, Rowling (who also publishes under the moniker Robert Galbraith) retweeted an op-ed piece that used the inclusive phrase "people who menstruate," apparently, as *Glamour* put it, "taking issue with the fact that the story did not use the word women."

Rowling later penned an essay that both condemned the TERF (trans-exclusionary radical feminist) label she claims is tossed about the internet and solidified her status as

part of that group. Her arguments are reductionist, insulting and downright harmful.

It's much easier for me to skip the new Louis C.K. comedy special or ask my wedding DJ to add songs by Michael Jackson, Chris Brown and R. Kelly to my "do-not-play" list. Their works, especially Jackson's, are iconic to some and culturally significant to many – but my apartment isn't full of solitary white gloves.

As Lindy West writes in her essay collection *The Witches Are Coming*, "separating art from artist, to some degree, may not be a choice. We can't un-Michael-Jackson music or de-Alfred-Hitchcock film – nor, necessarily, should we."

I write this with a Marauder's Map-patterned hair scrunchie beside my laptop. I remember dressing up for midnight movie premieres and playing Harry Potter-themed games of 20 Questions. My husband and I still talk about our favourite beer cart vendor from a pre-pandemic trip to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando. My fan-fiction probably still resides in some corner of the internet, for crying out loud.

As *Toronto Star* op-ed contributor Sarah Wallace writes, "it is disheartening when the creators of our heroes ... reveal themselves to be more like the villains they wrote about than the heroes we looked up to."

It's dangerous when these creators have large platforms, dedicated fanbases and celebrity status. Rowling has a responsibility to do better, especially since her most famous novels are intended for young readers and preach ideas of love and acceptance.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

"In the age of information, ignorance is a choice," Wallace continues. "She is purposefully choosing to fearmonger, speak half-truths and deny facts, creating an echo chamber of ignorance, rather than accuracy."

If reading about Harry's misadventures in the Forbidden Forest still brings you joy, don't stop. But, if you're cisgender like me, it's especially important to also read up on trans issues. Learn the facts and hear people's stories, because you won't find them in the pages of *Deathly Hallows* or *Troubled Blood*. The latter, her most recent release, "appears to lean into problematic stereotypes portraying transgender people as vil-

lains," according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

It might not be possible to take down Rowling or ignore her works, but we can at least speak up when someone echoes her transphobic views. After all, as Albus Dumbledore famously said, "it takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends."

Danielle Doiron is a writer, editor and marketer based in Winnipeg. She's spending the pandemic reading, practicing yoga and stubbornly refusing to clean the apartment.



HOROSCOPES

Scorpio season begins Thursday, October 22, at 6:59 p.m.

Scorpio season begins on Thursday, October 22, at 6:59 p.m. This marks the middle of the tropical autumn season in the northern hemisphere. Temperatures are locked in, unwavering. We are more determined and intuitive as a whole.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

♈ ARIES

The universe is amplifying your charm right now, and many people are intrigued by what you have to offer! This doesn't necessarily apply to your romantic life. It might mean that you're getting more positive attention at work or school. This really counts, and you need to be aware of the increase in the positive attention you're getting right now in order to make the most of it. There is a great opportunity for you to use your charm to get what you want, and you should make no apologies for doing so.

♉ TAURUS

Today, if you're feeling stressed at any point, your imagination will rescue you! Just close your eyes and try to pretend you're drifting along a quiet stream on a sunny day. Relax and just go with the flow. Don't worry about where you end up. Part of the stress you're feeling could be self-imposed. You can't know everything all the time. Trusting those around you more and giving over some of your control to them will help you stay cool and calm.

♊ GEMINI

Instead of trying to plan out every minute of your busy day today, why not just let things unfold naturally? That way, you'll find more surprises along the way. Making a schedule is usually a helpful thing to do, but it can also narrow your focus too much and keep you from seeing things that could illuminate your thought process. Don't look at the clock. Think of things in a looser, more relaxed way. Don't fret if things don't happen exactly when they are "supposed" to happen.

♋ CANCER

Has your energy been getting more unpredictable lately? Your domestic bliss might be challenged right now. The people you live with are not trying to annoy you, but inevitably they are starting to. The best plan is to get your distance from them so you can control just how much interaction you have. This makes it a wonderful day to curl up by yourself with an absorbing book or go for a long walk by yourself. Use this introspective energy to accomplish new thinking.

♌ LEO

It's a great day for a date. And by date, that doesn't necessarily mean romance. You can have a date with friends and you can have a date with yourself! In fact, treating yourself to a lovely time is a wonderful way to show yourself the love you deserve. After all, no one knows how to please you better than you. If you can't have all your needs met by others, don't feel neglected. Just make sure that you fill in the blanks. Give yourself what other people won't give you.

♍ VIRGO

There could be one or two people who cause some minor setbacks in a project. If that happens, you can rely on your charm and empathy to nullify the negative effects. It will be possible to disarm problems and get these folks on your side if you see things from their perspective. This is not a day to take no for an answer. It's a day to listen to someone's arguments and then educate them about what you know to be a better way. Verbal communication is your secret weapon.

♎ LIBRA

Flirting isn't always the best way to get what you want in life, but today it could be the most effective! As long as you aren't making promises to someone that you don't intend to keep, there is absolutely nothing wrong with putting a smile on their face in order to make them highly amenable to what you want. You know how to push someone's buttons, and they won't mind if you push them today. There's nothing wrong with that arrangement.

♏ SCORPIO

An elusive person is suddenly a lot more approachable, so take the opportunity to strike up a conversation and get to know them better. They will probably turn out to be very different than you thought they would be, which will serve as yet another example proving that you can't judge a book by its cover. Giving others the benefit of the doubt is a habit you should get into more often. You might be dismissing people who could add a lot of richness to your world.

♐ SAGITTARIUS

There could be a lot of laughter throughout the day. Oddly enough, it might all get started by an embarrassing situation that everyone involved chooses to see as funny. This laughter could create a warm environment in which you can feel free to share things about yourself that you wouldn't normally share with the group. Your life is opening up to let others in, and it feels good.

♑ CAPRICORN

Put a little bit more effort into planning today. If you want your latest project to go as well as possible, you have to put in the work that it requires. Sure, it's not always fun or exciting to research information or compare different options meticulously, but it will be well worth the trouble. Some even bigger challenges are coming up for you, so consider this day to be good practice. If you want things to be stress-free, preparation is crucial.

♒ AQUARIUS

Getting involved with something or someone from a different cultural is a great idea today. Even if you just eat some foreign food, you should do something that involves a culture that is very different from yours. It's a good time for you to explore customs, foods, music, and philosophies that vary from those you have known all your life. Not only are you likely to find a new hobby, friend, or obsession, but you are likely to learn something new about yourself, too.

♓ PISCES

There's no particular direction you need to go right now, which is simultaneously frightening and exciting. How do you decide where to go from here? The process of picking a path doesn't always have to be based on logic or facts. This time, move according to your whims. Curious about how wine is made? Research it. Interested in worldwide politics? Spend time reading news sites from other countries. It's a big, diverse world. Explore it!



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