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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 99 PER CENT?



A (VERY, VERY, VERY ABRIDGED) RETROSPECTIVE ON OCCUPY WINNIPEG

WINDCHILL LOOMING

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR

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It finally happened. For the first time in 2021, on Tuesday night, I watched the number on my digital thermometer creep below freezing temperatures as I lay in bed, unable to sleep.

My feelings about the cold are mixed. I'm one of those rare Winnipeggers who's more of a winter person than a summer person. This summer, while taking an online data-journalism course, I shared this personal detail with an award-winning journalist based in Ottawa. "You're a sick man," he responded. He was joking, but I understand the reaction.

I love autumn best, but the window of opportunity to enjoy this season feels shorter than usual this year. The sliver of time between Thanksgiving and Halloween is prime time for walks in the park or on not-yet-slushy sidewalks while wrapped in a woolly sweater. With this winter projected to be colder than usual, it's extra important to relish this moment before we plunge into the bitter cold we're famous for.

I've always been conflicted about our city's weather-based infamy. On the one hand, I love romanticizing Winnipeg winters to people from abroad. I laugh at Kevin Hart or Jim Gaffigan poking fun at us just as much as the next person.

But I also bristle at friends who have moved to warmer provinces and gloat about it on social media. "Boy, I'm sure glad I'm not in Winnipeg today!" the Manitobans-turned-Vancouverites will post any time we get hit with a blizzard, as if it's a point of pride. It's not. You left Winnipeg because of the weather? All that means is that you lost, and Winnipeg won!

In the meantime, enjoy those changing leaves and dry socks while you can.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Kristie Beynon is the executive director of Direct Farm Manitoba. Read more on page 3.

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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.

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.

CORRECTIONS

The original version of the Oct. 7 article "Accessibility Services is ready to help" stated that a medical diagnosis is not required to utilize Accessibility Services, citing quotes and information from interviewees. The article has been updated to reflect new information provided by the University of Winnipeg, outlining that a medical diagnosis is required to access this service, but students are not required to share their diagnosis with the university.



KEEPING IT LOCAL

Cooperative connects farms to tables

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FICTIONALCIERRA](#) [CIERRABETTENS](#)

With the benefits that come with it, many Manitobans desire to eat local. However, sometimes that's easier said than done. In urban living spaces a far cry from rural homesteads, access to farm-fresh goods can be significantly limited.

Direct Farm Manitoba is a member-owned cooperative of 140 farms and 41 markets, with the overarching goal of boosting small-scale farms and fostering connections between farmers and communities.

Kristie Beynon, the executive director of Direct Farm Manitoba, says the cooperative was birthed out of the Farmers' Market Association of Manitoba, stemming from a desire to include direct-to-consumer farmers.

"Basically, we're working to increase opportunities for direct sales of Manitoban agricultural products in the local economy and also working towards a strong local food system," Beynon says.

Jennifer deGroot co-owns and operates Big Oak Farm, family-owned in Morden, MB, which farms greens, fresh eggs, livestock and more. She says Direct Farm Manitoba has provided their farm with opportunities to network, attend conferences and secure funding for everyday operations.

"It's a great feeling, like you're a part of a bigger picture," deGroot says. "It's that whole relationship piece ... you can ask questions, and most small farmers readily share their information about their

farming practices with their customers."

Beynon and deGroot cite many benefits of supporting small-scale farming, including cutting supply chains, reducing environmental footprints and keeping money in the local economy.

"People eat three times a day, so if you can switch your food or some of your food to local foods, then you're making a definite positive contribution to reducing your carbon footprint," deGroot says.

In an effort to achieve their mandate of making farm-fresh goods accessible to urban tables, Direct Farm Manitoba launched the Manitoba Community Food Currency Program in the 2020 market season.

By connecting local farms with community health and social-service organizations, fresh, local and whole foods are made available to those who otherwise would have difficulty obtaining them. Modelled after the British Columbia Association of Farmers' Markets' Nutrition Coupon Program, the program offers an alternate, community, food currency that can be used at local farmers' markets.

Beynon says the Manitoba Community Food Currency Program is beneficial to both sides of the exchange: it counters food insecurity while supporting local, small-scale farmers.

"The Community Food Currency Program helps to introduce people who might not have been farmers' market



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Kristie Beynon, executive director of Direct Farm Manitoba

shoppers or people who didn't attend as often be able to be at the farmers' market and be part of that community gathering place," Beynon says.

Above all, the Direct Farm Manitoba's cooperative and currency program is a pilot in broadening the farmers' market community, making the joy of interacting with local vendors and taking home nourishing goods accessible to all.

"When you're supporting your local producers and your local farmers' markets, you're supporting your local communities," Beynon says. "It's a win-win for everyone."

Visit directfarmmanitoba.ca for a directory of local farmers, markets and pickup locations.

DON'T BE A SCAREDY CAT (OR POLAR BEAR)

Boo at the Zoo sets the tone for spooky season

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [BELLASOARES0601](#) [BELLA_SOARES16](#)

Trick-or-treating in the neighbourhood might be the tradition during Halloween, but for Winnipeegers who grew up attending the Assiniboine Park Zoo's October programming in the past, the highlight was to ignite the scary season with Boo at the Zoo.

Among the event-goers, Brittney Cowan harboured fond childhood memories during this time of the year.

"I was probably 5 or 6 when I last went to Boo at the Zoo. I mostly remember being at the zoo closer to the evening time. It seemed spooky seeing everyone dressed up, and I remember being cold but snuggled up in a wagon. It's hard to remember all the specifics, but I remember it was a lot of Halloween fun," Cowan says.

When the announcement was made on social media that the event would be back after it was discontinued eight years ago due to declining attendance, Cowan was instantly excited to relive the good old days alongside friends.

"I hope that they have awesome Halloween decorations, lights and fun little activities for guests to engage in. Also, for that fun spookiness," she says.

Boo at the Zoo will take place Tuesdays

through Sundays from Oct. 8 to 31. Nights run from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. with tasty treats and interactive activities of all sorts throughout the zoo's headquarters. Aimed at a wide range of audiences, the attractions promise to be entertaining and less scary during the earlier portion of the evenings and then gradually intensify later at night.

"The experience is diverse enough that if you want a traditional Halloween with the kids, you can get that. As the night progresses, things start to get a bit spookier, so there are rides, a midway and themed areas," Assiniboine Park Conservancy public relations communications manager Laura Cabak says.

"The Mystical Fair is themed after the entire experience, but within that there is a Mystical Midway with a carousel, a ferris wheel, slides and a few midway games," Cabak says.

There are other stops along the way, including the Pumpkin Patch, Spider's Den, Riddle Maze and Tunnel Home. Each event integrates wizards, witches and warlocks.

Despite most of the programming happening outdoors, the event does require proof of double vaccination for all



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Boo at the Zoo is back at the Assiniboine Zoo this October after an eight-year hiatus.

attendees over 12, as instructed by public-health orders. Face coverings are required for indoor activities and recommended outdoors if physical distancing isn't possible. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and attendees must arrive 30 minutes before the time indicated on their passes.

Other than the fun attractions that will

set the tone for a magical and nostalgic experience, there will be a house band playing some tunes throughout the night.

For more information on participating in Boo at the Zoo, visit assiniboinepark.ca/events/boo-at-the-zoo/experience.

WINNIPEG COMICCON SHOWCASES FANDOMS

It's the first edition of this well-known convention in Winnipeg

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TW BELLASOARES0601](#) [IG BELLA_SOARES16](#)

Comiccon, the popular convention known for gathering comic book fans, cosplayers and pop-culture store owners, is heading to Winnipeg for the first time, running at the RBC Convention Centre from Oct. 29 to 31.

Comiccon (which is distinct from the famous San Diego Comic-Con) was launched as Montreal Comiccon in 2008. It has since expanded to hold conventions in Ottawa, Quebec City, Laval and now Winnipeg. Winnipeg Comiccon fills the gap left by the now-defunct Central Canada Comic Con, or C4, which ran from 2006 to 2019.

"The fun thing about our team is that we have been doing these events for years, so we know exactly what to do. We are really excited to bring this to Winnipeg, because we have been doing this in Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec City," Comiccon coordinator Jason Rockman says.

Hosting the very first Winnipeg Comiccon during Halloween weekend comes with a great advantage. Given that many attendees decide to purchase costumes from their favourite anime and superhero franchises in order to participate in the costume competition, the time frame couldn't be more fitting

for the occasion.

"Cosplay is huge worldwide, and being able to show your homemade costumes at a Comiccon, on Halloween, is the perfect opportunity," Rockman says.

Despite this convention following a similar structure to those held in other Canadian cities, local exhibitors are responsible for bringing a unique factor into the mix.

"People will be able to put their content on display, and we are having local artists and comic book (creators) coming in, so it's always an experience to be able to go and see what is happening out there. There are a lot of people requesting tables and wanting to participate in this event," Rockman says.

Go Beyond Games, a game store located in Dauphin, Man., is one of the local vendors that will sell geek-friendly products at the Winnipeg Comiccon.

"We have participated in conventions in the past. Mostly what we are looking for is a well-advertised convention and to make sure that everyone is safe," store co-owner Joe Houston says.

Go Beyond Games sells tabletop board and roleplaying games and retro video games. The store will be well-equipped to entertain at the event throughout its three days.



Actor Billy Boyd, best known for playing Pippin in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, will appear at Winnipeg Comiccon.

"We are seeking a lot of retro games specifically, because a lot of customers are excited about them. Our primary goal is to be present and visible at all times," Houston says.

The Winnipeg Comiccon will include more than 450 exhibitor booths, aimed at selling toys, replicas and other exclusive pop-culture content.

In addition, there will be guests flying in and having their share of the fun both on stage and through autographs and photo ops. Some confirmed celebrity appearances are Billy Boyd (*The Lord of the Rings*), Laurie Holden (*The Walking Dead*) and John De Lancie (*Star Trek*).

There will also be comic-book creators participating in panels and hosting workshops. Casey Parsons, Hugh Rookwood and Becka are only a few of the names on the list.

Following provincial health guidelines, attendees must always wear a mask and present proof of double vaccination with photo ID upon arrival.

Since some guests and workshops have yet to be announced, the schedule might be subject to changes. Visit comicconwinnipeg.com for information about the convention and COVID-19 guidelines.

DANCING THROUGH CHANGE

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers Emerging Artist Initiative returns to the stage

KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER | [IG KEELEY_IMAGE](#)

On Oct. 22, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers (WCD) Emerging Artist Initiative returns with a new show. Program choreographer Jolene Bailie processes the feelings and experiences of this past year and transforms them through artistic expression into dance.

The program is in partnership between the School of Contemporary Dancers professional program and WCD. It is a bridge program for recent or soon-to-be graduates to link the skills learned in school to the reality of professional work with a company.

The show consists of three pieces performed by five dancers: Andrés Jiménez Mejía, Sophie Milord, Gabriela García Ortiz, Shayla Rudd and Ariadna Schulz. The three pieces explore a range of emotions Bailie experienced since 2020, drawing on themes of loss, grief and letting go.

"The pieces I craft are idea-based and based on what I see, what I feel, what I sense often," Bailie says.

For the dancers involved in the initiative, working in a company has altered their traditional rehearsal environments.

"When you do pieces in school, they

are pieces that have been performed for a long time, so they don't feel as connected to the context that we live in. When you work for a company, they try to stay in the context of what is going on," Jiménez says.

"It's a really great way not to overwork a piece, because you are working on it enough to feel comfortable in it (while) at the same time still feeling like you can put that emotion into it," Milord says.

The past year has presented some unique opportunities in digital performance for the dancers. Though COVID-19 pandemic restrictions created temporary performance boundaries, Bailie says the challenges have taken performers to new heights.

"Having those restrictions, obstacles and boundaries, you are always at the fork in the road. Do you push further, or do you stay where you are? How far can we go? How far should we go?" Bailie says.

While digital performance presents a learning opportunity, the dancers are excited to perform in person and connect with a live audience.

"It's been (almost two years) since I have performed in front of people. It is exciting, but it is also a little nerve-wracking. It is



Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers' Emerging Artist Initiative returns with a new show on Oct. 22.

going to be surreal being in a room full of people," Rudd says.

Bailie believes connection with the audience is imperative to the artistry of contemporary dance.

"These are all abstract physical dances derived by ballet, modern-dance technique plus experimental thought processes. While these ideas are clear in my motivation, it's not important. We want the audience to come and have an

experience themselves and what it means to them," Bailie says.

"In contemporary dance, we aren't telling people what to think and feel. We are sharing a story. How they feel about it, that's their experience. It is intimate in that way."

Tickets for the in-person show at the Rachel Browne Theatre can be purchased on Eventbrite.



ART SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Exhibition sheds light on human rights through a youth perspective

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TW BELLASOARES0601](#) [IG @BELLA_SOARES16](#)

If youth had the opportunity to express their vision of human rights through art, what would they create?

Challenged by this thought, Manitoban youth between the ages of 13 and 19 had the chance to showcase their work through the *ARTiculate Our Rights* exhibition at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR).

The artists “had to submit their art and explain what human rights meant to them. It’s the most fun gallery in the museum at this point in time,” CMHR interpretive program developer Lola Whonnock says.

Each piece conveys a particular human right that stood out to the participants. Some of the recurring themes are communication, inclusivity, activism and mental health.

“You can’t express (the meaning behind these rights) in a paragraph. It takes too much energy to communicate that way, whereas the visual impact hits you immediately,” Whonnock says.

The project started last year, aligning with the 150th anniversary of Manitoba. Selected artwork was featured on billboards at The Forks during 2020. Now, these thought-provoking artworks made by youth will be displayed inside the museum at the Level 6 gallery until June 30, 2022. Among the pieces available at the exhibition is Liam Sewell’s.

“My painting is inspired by a Cree artist named Jane Ash Poitras, specifically a piece called *Bearclaw*. The work itself is a self-portrait of me. My facial expression is supposed to look anxious (a representation of my emotions at the time), with the eye in the corner representing my feeling of being watched and judged,” Sewell says in an email to *The Uniter*.

Sewell acknowledges the importance of keeping human rights in artists’ conversations, especially because there are so many young people with progressive thinking. The opportunity to combine topics that youth are passionate about with their artistic abilities makes the exhibition a rewarding moment.

“I was in a very creative period of my life, and I knew that my piece had something to say about myself. I also felt very happy with how it turned out and that I could contribute with the exhibition,” Sewell says.

Some participants, including Chase Fedak, were encouraged by their teachers and family members to submit art projects, which were represented through paintings, drawings and photography.

“I felt so proud of what I accomplished and how the photo came out, especially since it meant so much to my aunt, who loves birdwatching. We both pretty much lost our minds when we found out it was going to be shown in the Canadian



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A painting by Liam Sewell featured in the *ARTiculate Our Rights* exhibition at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Museum for Human Rights,” Fedak says.

More than 100 submissions were analyzed by the jury, which selected the pieces to be displayed for public viewing.

Those who visit CMHR will be able

to see the paintings indoors through a dynamic slideshow. Alongside the art on the screens, the Graffiti Gallery left their imprint on the museum walls, with a mural by artists Kerri Parnell and Rey Hope.



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITES!

It’s back! The Uniter 30 readers’ poll aims to put the spotlight on your favourite local people, places and things of 2021.

Voting deadline is Nov. 12, 2021 at noon, with winners being announced in the Dec. 2 issue of *The Uniter*.

To submit your vote, visit us online at uniter.ca/vote.



NETFLIX (SUPPLIED)

MIDNIGHT MASS

“Book I: Genesis,” available on Netflix



KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | @KEESHAHAREWOOD

Netflix’s limited series *Midnight Mass* is a supernatural horror that follows an insular, religious island community that experiences strange happenings after a new priest arrives in town.

In the show’s first episode, “Book I: Genesis,” a good portion of the runtime is devoted toward establishing a long lineup of hefty themes.

Trauma, PTSD, faith and religion – among other topics – are represented through the archetypal characters that almost come across as avatars for each theme.

It isn’t inherently terrible to utilize personifications of heavy subject matter to generate a story. Unfortunately, in *Midnight Mass*, each social issue is addressed through preachy monologues where one point of view is spotlighted. There is no discourse, just a dominant opinion.

It’s important to note that in “Book I: Genesis,” the dominant opinion is often spoken by the white, able-bodied characters. Considering how there are very few BIPOC and disabled bodies on screen, it’s worth mentioning exactly who gets to speak on any of the topics raised.

In this way, the show’s appeal might only reach a select audience. Specifically, those who have a stronger understanding of Catholicism might have a more enjoyable experience.

What’s more, the preachy monologues are lengthy and tend to bog down the story. They stall the narrative and generate boring pockets of time. It’s a shame, especially considering how the actors’ performances during their speeches are fairly well done.

The weighty philosophical commentary aside, *Midnight Mass* also laces its ruminations with interspersed moments of horror.

Sadly, the spooky element is lacklustre. In fact, based on the first episode alone, the series feels more like a drama than a supernatural horror.

Anyone looking for a frightful time with creepy church elements might be disappointed. Of course, every individual’s fear threshold is different, but the few terror-inducing moments in “Book I: Genesis” fall a little flat.

The issue lies predominantly in the

buildup. Instead of lingering in that all-too-critical window right before the scare (where tension and suspense begin to surface), the payoff happens prematurely. This results in cheap jumpscare that come across as gimmicky.

And since the jumpscare are mainly used to illustrate the PTSD of one of the central characters, there’s very little threat. Knowing the character being haunted isn’t in any mortal peril brings down the fright factor significantly.

Plus, outside of signifying that the character has trauma, the jump-scary figment of PTSD doesn’t offer new insights or depth. In all fairness, this might change in future episodes, but in the pilot, it’s subpar.

Everything considered, Netflix’s *Midnight Mass* is clearly not for everyone. While the series might go on to expand beyond its early first-episode preachings, first impressions are critical, and this particular pilot left something to be desired. It falls short within the conventions of its genre and tackles ideas that other film and television shows handle better.

ARTS BRIEFS

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

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival

The annual imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival kicked off on Oct. 19 and will show dozens of short and feature-length works by Indigenous filmmakers in theatres and on demand until Oct. 24. Passes, tickets, schedules and more can be found by visiting festival.imaginenative.org.

Friday night at the Good Will Social Club

Local musical acts Warming, Merin and Fencing (formerly Urban Vacation) will take the stage this Friday, Oct. 22 at the Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave.). Tickets are \$15 in advance at reallovevpg.com. Doors open at 8 p.m., and the show starts at 9 p.m. The event is 18+, and proof of double vaccination with ID is required.

Winnipeg Crankie Festival

The fourth annual Winnipeg Crankie Festival is an interdisciplinary, cross-media festival featuring a wide range of visual artists, musicians, writers and more. Hosted by Home Routes/Chemin Chez Nous, the festival will feature acts like The Mariachi Ghost, Scott Nolan and Glenn Buhr. The full schedule and ticket information can be found on crankiefestival.com.

Winnipeg Comedy Showcase at the Park Theatre

On Oct. 30, a roster of six Winnipeg comedians will perform at the Park Theatre (698 Osborne St.). Local comedy veteran Jared Story will host the show, which will feature emerging and established Winnipeg comedians. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.

Cinémental launches 30th edition

Returning for its 30th edition, Manitoba French film festival Cinémental will screen cinematic, French-language selections from all over the world at the Centre culturel franco-manitobain (340 Provencher Blvd.). The festival begins from Oct. 22 to 24 and also runs from Nov. 5 to 7. Adult tickets are \$10 each or five for \$30. Reserve seats by calling 204-233-2556 or visiting cinemental.com.

Heartbeat of a Nation

Artist Tracey Charette Fehr created 250 handmade, smoke-fired bowls to represent 250 years of honouring Métis women. In partnership with the Infinity Women Secretariat, the Winnipeg Art Gallery will display the bowls as part of an exhibit called *Heartbeat of a Nation*, running from Oct. 19 to Nov. 7. The Winnipeg Art Gallery (300 Memorial Ave.) is open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 99 PER CENT?



A (VERY, VERY, VERY ABRIDGED) RETROSPECTIVE ON OCCUPY WINNIPEG

It's Oct. 15, 2011. The Arab Spring has been in progress for 10 months, Occupy Wall Street protests have been going on for just over a month and, in Winnipeg, the first Occupy event is taking place: the Occupy Winnipeg march, swiftly followed by the construction of the Occupy Winnipeg camp.

"I knew this was what I had to do. I didn't even know why, I just had to go," Pamela Godin says, reflecting on the march. Godin was a resident of the Occupy Winnipeg camp in Memorial Park for almost two months. She doesn't know who coordinated the original march, only that they were not the same people who organized the camp.

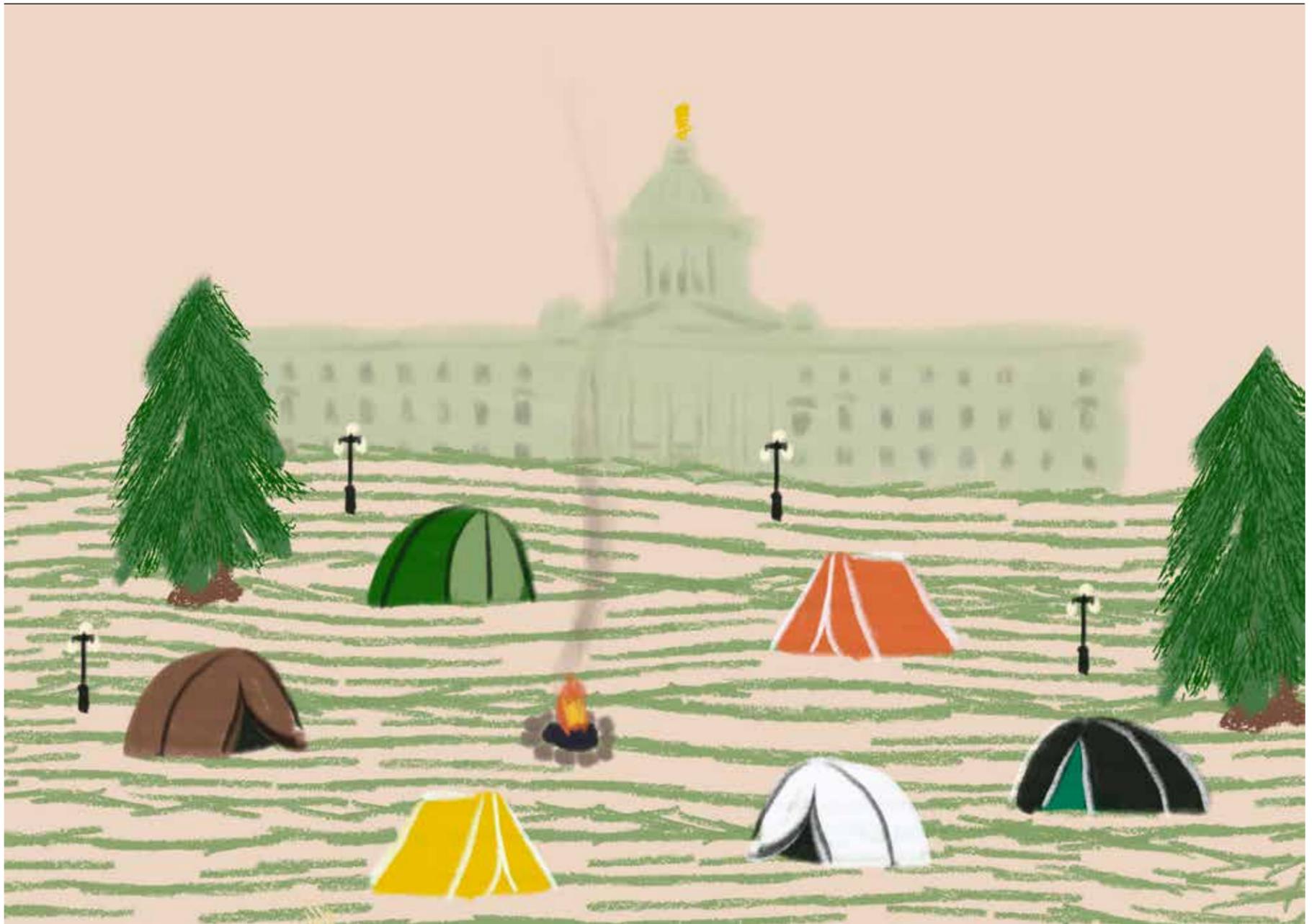
But this story starts long before Godin arrived. For a project largely characterized as a flash in the pan, Occupy Winnipeg was actually more than a decade in the making.

The odd political context for Occupy Winnipeg

On Oct. 15, 2011, Manitoba had been governed by an NDP premier since 1999. According to David Camfield, a member of Solidarity Winnipeg who has been active in Winnipeg's leftist community since 2003, the organizing scene

was "very quiet. There was a kind of complacency." "Manitoba had kind of not been affected by austerity policies under the NDP," they say. "They didn't deliver very much at all, but they didn't attack people."

This makes Occupy Winnipeg a little unique. The Occupy Wall Street movement was largely a response to poverty and corporate bailouts in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, but Canada was hit much less hard by the crisis than the United States, and, within Canada, Manitoba was one of the least-impacted provinces.



The fresh faces of Occupy

In 2011, prior to the Occupy Wall Street protests, “the dominant flavour of the radical left in the city was anarchist, and it was pretty insular,” Camfield says, mentioning the Old Market Autonomous Zone at 91 Albert St. and the Mondragon Cafe as examples of “lifestyle anarchism” that had little interest in advocacy and policy change.

He says the Occupy Winnipeg camp was largely made up of people who, as far as he knew, were not connected to the existing leftist networks in town.

This is true of Godin, who was working on her master’s degree at the time.

“Previous to (Occupy), I kind of always felt like things were off or wrong in society, but I didn’t really know what to do, and I didn’t have a lot of friends that were active in community or being activists,” she says. Godin mentions that watching the documentary *The Corporation* and hearing about Occupy on the news pushed her to join.

Occupy Winnipeg was also Kristaps John Balodis’ first experience with organizing. When Balodis joined the camp, he was in his first semester of undergrad at the University of Winnipeg (where he says the camp was fairly well-received) and was also inspired by watching documentaries and learning about injustice.

“It was a very interesting experience,” he says. “I thought at the time that I was saving the world.”

The practical truths of Occupying

Godin recalls the camp being very organized, with community members or camp members with kitchen access bringing in food every day for those living in tents, since cooking on the site was difficult.

She was living at the camp full-time and says that, during the day, people experiencing houselessness would visit the camp, and those on site would work on camp logistics and set up. In the evening, people would come by after work or school, and there would be Occupy meetings and guest speakers.

Much of the communication was facilitated via the Occupy Winnipeg Facebook page, which many people had admin



An archival photo of Occupy Winnipeg protests from the Oct. 26, 2011 edition of *The Uniter*

privileges over and would use to post announcements, often beginning with the author’s name in parentheses.

One feature of life at the camp was consensus decision-making, which happened in

large meetings twice per day. Balodis says this process slowed a lot of things down.

“We were a very diverse group of people from lots of diverse backgrounds with a common belief that something was wrong

with the way things were currently going and a hugely different set of opinions on how to improve the situation,” he says.

Balodis also recalls the camp becoming a hub of other activist groups, which allowed



SUPPLIED PHOTO

An archival photo of Occupy Winnipeg's wintry camp in Memorial Park, from the Nov. 30, 2011 edition of *The Uniter*

for effective mobilization of camp members to participate in other actions.

Clayton Thomas-Müller, who is now a senior campaign specialist with 350, wasn't working in Winnipeg when Occupy happened, but he remembers first hearing about the Wall Street protests. At the time, he was at the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance Conference, a large convention of BIPOC grassroots organizations from across North America, and he remembers noticing how few Black, Brown and Indigenous people were present at the Occupy protests.

Thomas-Müller, who is Cree from Pukatawagan, notes that many Occupy camps were maintained by anarchist networks that had previously been vital frontline volunteers to Indigenous community and political organizing.

"A lot of that capacity almost disappeared overnight with Occupy and had a dramatic impact on Indigenous groups who relied on people that got sucked into the Occupy movement," Thomas-Müller says.

"There's a big polarized space between (BIPOC organizers coming from inter-generational organizing traditions) and middle-class white kids, especially men. It became quickly apparent, across the continent, that (Occupy) was dominated by a certain age group of white males. That was a challenge," Thomas-Müller says, which led to the group making some preventable mistakes.

He says there were Occupy camps that eventually developed positive relationships with local BIPOC organizations and were able to mobilize a lot of money into vulnerable communities, particularly after Hurricane Sandy. However, the movement overall "didn't do the initial work to build (Occupy's) goals with a broad, diverse community."

"Occupy certainly came out of a base that I was not accountable to or identified with or organized social movements with," he says.

Thomas-Müller says Occupy "paid for (this lack of initial collaboration with existing BIPOC groups), as far as criticism and legitimacy goes." Many camps failed to

institute the kind of measures more established grassroots groups often use to amplify the voices of marginalized organizers and protect participants from lateral violence.

"For young (white) kids where that's their first foray into social movements, it's amazing, it's exciting, it's radical – but they all make the same mistakes," Thomas-Müller says. "They all have the same ideas that their privilege entitles them to have, but it's the same ideas that Black, Brown, Indigenous people have been hearing from white folks since white folks came here."

There was also the fact that the predominantly white movement was called "Occupy," a term which was and is incredibly loaded with the history of colonialism and which garnered many critical articles, particularly from Indigenous people.

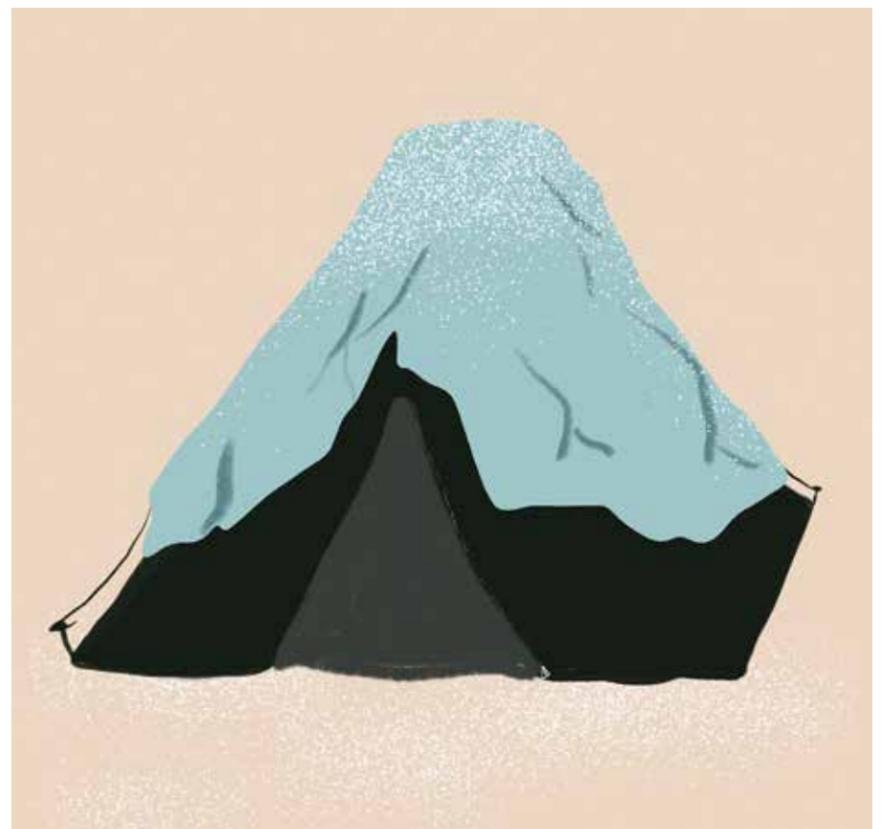
While these mistakes hindered the movement, Thomas-Müller says "Occupy provided a lot of good learning moments for the development and sharpening of strategies and tactics for these new, green, intersectional social movements to deal with the current triple threat that humanity is dealing with, that being the (COVID-19) pandemic, the economic recession at a global scale that we've never seen before and, of course, the existential threat of the climate emergency."

The problems that come when nights are long and cold

Godin and Balodis both point to the same causes of the camp's eventual drop in on-site residents: winter and diminishing energy.

"I remember lining my tent with emergency blankets and duct tape, insulating, and we were trying to create structures, because we didn't have a lot of money to winterize," Godin says. "A lot of people felt like there was more energy going into keeping the camp going than to the actual mandates and ideas that we had brought forward."

On Dec. 21, the solstice, Balodis was still living at the camp with two Indigenous men, one of whom was Métis. They were the last members of the camp living on site.





He remembers the Winnipeg police and Legislature security coming to tear down the camp. He says they threw the two Indigenous men in the back of a police car for a while, but not Balodis, who is white.

The police confiscated or destroyed everything from the camp, which Balodis says had largely been donated by people from the community. The items were held for a long time, and when Balodis and the owners of the items were able to recover their property, many things were missing.

Decade-old digital ruins

Occupy Winnipeg met up at churches and libraries for a while and eventually dissolved. Time passed. People moved. It's Oct. 21, 2021 at the time of publication. If you look up the Occupy Winnipeg Facebook page, the profile picture is a satanic Bill Gates, and the page is covered in anti-vax videos.

Godin says, at some point, one of the many people with admin access to the page blocked all the other admins, and the for-

mer camp members are still trying to figure out how to deal with it.

Camfield and Balodis suggest the shift toward conspiracy theorist content on the page also speaks to an issue already present in Occupy from the beginning.

"People have this general idea of being part of the 99 per cent and against the 1 per cent, but the question of who the 1 per cent were and what the roots of the problem were and are was very unclear," Camfield says, which opened the gates for anti-semetic conspiracy theories in Occupy circles.

Balodis says that while he doesn't believe in conspiracy theories, he can understand how someone might make the jump from general distrust of the government to anti-vax beliefs.

Lessons learned a decade later

While Occupy Winnipeg might seem outdated to the point of irrelevance in 2021, there are lessons to be learned from the camp that have relevance for organizers now.

A key takeaway for Godin is "making sure you put your energy into what is most important over what looks good." She says participating in Occupy Winnipeg still taught her a lot about speaking out, and that in the immediate aftermath of the camp, many Occupy Winnipeg members were involved in groups like the Council of Canadians, Idle No More, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, Water is Life and were inspired by the consistent organizing of Meet Me At The Bell Tower.

Balodis says it's hard to extract a single strong takeaway for organizers now. However, he thinks Occupy was most effective when it was breaking into smaller, more directed teams and regrouping regularly. He had a period of not being involved in political organizing but now volunteers with the Prison Mathematics Project.

Thomas-Müller highlights the need for activists in Winnipeg to develop clear communication and relationships with local Indigenous communities and African and Filipino diaspora groups in order to activate and mobi-

lize people effectively and prevent harm.

"Organizers, as you politicize yourselves and get involved in social movements, it's important to understand where you live, and that goes beyond being able to do a really eloquent land acknowledgment," he says. "It means having relationships with the original people of Treaty 1 territory and understanding, at least at a surface level, what each community is going through in the city."

He also recommends organizers read the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice, The Principles of Working Together and Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing.

Camfield identifies the importance of organizing beyond protests, understanding systems of power and avoiding conspiracy thinking as major lessons from the movement.

"Today, there's such historical amnesia. People often don't know anything about the previous debates and experiences, so there's a lot of reinventing the wheel," they say.

CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

How to vote in the UWSA byelection

At the time of publication, the campaign period for the UWSA byelection has begun and will run until Oct. 27. Voting will take place from Oct. 25 to 27. Students can vote online or at Riddell Hall from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more details on the candidates and election process, visit theuwsa.ca/elections.

End of the parking toll timeout

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Winnipeg has relaxed parking time limits on residential streets, but that measure will expire on Nov 1. Those intending to park on residential streets for longer than the posted time restrictions should acquire a residential parking permit from the City of Winnipeg.

Trimbee tributes

The University of Winnipeg and Manitoba Métis Federation have announced the creation of a scholarship for Indigenous students honouring former U of W president Annette Trimbee, who is a Red River Métis citizen. The scholarship will be one of the largest offered at the university. A portrait of Trimbee, which sits in the university, was also unveiled on Oct. 14.

In-person fitness classes return to campus

The Bill Wedlake Fitness Centre has reopened their fitness-class program for in-person classes with participation limits and social distancing as of Oct. 14. Those with fitness-centre memberships can sign up for individual classes two weeks before they are scheduled to take place.

Skywalk seminars

On Oct. 27 and 28, the Winnipeg Public Library, Virtuosi Concerts and the University of Winnipeg will host the last events of the Skywalk Series. The Wednesday and Thursday events will feature a lecture on the psychology of conspiracy theories from Jim Clark and compositions written and performed by Jocelyn Gould, respectively. Register on the Winnipeg Public Library website to attend these virtual events.

UMFA authorize strike

Eighty-five per cent of the voting members of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) voted to authorize a strike, the UMFA revealed in a press release on Oct. 19. Whether or not the UMFA will strike remains to be seen. The authorization comes after the university administration failed to provide faculty members and librarians with wages competitive to that of other research universities in Canada.

PPC TRIPLES VOTE SHARE IN FEDERAL ELECTION

Is the party a single-issue, one-man show?

 CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

Following Canada's federal election in September, many journalists and commentators remarked that voters elected a near-identical parliament as they did in 2019. One key difference, however, is the People's Party of Canada's (PPC) performance.

While the PPC failed to gain any seats, they received significantly more votes than in 2019. The party, led by far-right politician Maxime Bernier, increased their vote share from 1.6 per cent to 5 per cent. The 844,122 votes the PPC received is more than double what the Green Party, which has existed for 35 years longer, received. This is a cause of concern for many, given the vocal support the PPC has garnered from many of Canada's most prominent white supremacists and neo-fascists, including neo-Nazis Paul Fromm and Faith Goldy.

Omar Kinnarath, an organizer with Fascist Free Treaty 1, notes the importance of the COVID-19 pandemic in the PPC's fortunes.

"They found success—if you can call it that—in this election, because they campaigned heavily on the COVID-19 vaccine issue and concentrated (on) getting votes by opposing vaccines and vaccine mandates," he says in an email to *The Uniter*.

The PPC's proposed COVID-19 policy included repealing vaccine mandates, firing the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and supporting provincial measures geared

toward "protecting the most vulnerable" while opposing larger-scale lockdowns, according to their website.

"They took the political opportunity to cater to the anti-vax movement, which gave them more votes than their actual policy," Kinnarath says.

Kinnarath has firsthand experience with the party's dangerous tactics. After he successfully lobbied to have the venue for a planned PPC event cancelled, the Winnipeg Centre branch of the party shared his name, photo and home address on social media and falsely accused him of being a "terrorist." Kinnarath filed a lawsuit against the PPC in 2020.

Dr. Malcolm Bird, associate professor of political science at the University of Winnipeg, has a less critical take on the party, calling the PPC's performance in this election "a pretty impressive uptake." While COVID-19 issues have certainly galvanized some voters into supporting the PPC, he believes it is more than a "COVID-19 pandemic" protest party.

"I think their views on the pandemic, vaccines and freedoms is part of the story, but I definitely don't think that this is all of the story," Bird says.

"This party represents values, issues and policy ideas that are resonating with a big chunk of the electorate," he says. He cites



Local anti-racist activist Omar Kinnarath has been a target of harassment and doxxing by the People's Party of Canada.

their fiscal and energy policies as examples. However, a poll by Forum Research found that PPC voters had very different reasons for supporting the party. Apart from anti-vaccine and anti-vaccine-mandate views, PPC voters were also motivated by factors like climate denial, approval of former United States president Donald Trump and opposition to abortion rights and gun control.

Ideologically, the PPC has been described as "right-wing," "classical liberal," "libertarian" and "far-right." Their supporters persistently followed Liberal leader Justin Trudeau on the campaign trail and protested at his events, occasionally violently.

Kinnarath says that given "right-wing populism and ultra-nationalism is at its height worldwide right now," he thought the PPC would get more votes.

"I know from personal experience from the amount of threats and trolling that

(I) have received in the last two years that there is a sizable minority of Canadians that sway on the side of Trumpism and flirt with fascist politics," he says.

Bird notes that, while the PPC is a libertarian-oriented party often associated with people on the right, his sense is that "they're drawing from a whole host of different constituencies and groups of Canadians that are attracted to their platform."

It is unclear whether the PPC has a future in a post-COVID-19 world. In addition to being accused by many of espousing racist views (particularly with regards to immigration), it is essentially a one-man show focused on leader Bernier. In fact, the party has yet to have a leadership convention.

"The PPC is a cult of personality and one man's vanity project, nothing more," Kinnarath says.

'TIS THE SPOOKY SEASON

Winnipeg tour companies have Halloween-related offerings

 CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

If you feel too old for Boo at the Zoo, but are too scared for a haunted forest, you might feel like your only option this Halloween season is to stay at home, eat candy and rewatch your favourite horror movie. However, a Halloween-themed walking tour or trolley ride might be what many Winnipeg adults are looking for.

"We have two main tours based on paranormal phenomena," Kristen Treusch, owner and operator of SquarePeg Tours, says.

"I'm talking about the causes of paranormal phenomena and different ways in which they present themselves," she says. These two tours are the Broadway Ghost Walk and the Seven Oaks Museum Investigation.

Treusch is also booking for the Exchange District Ghost Walk, run by local author Matthew Komus.

SquarePeg Tours still has some availability leading up to Halloween. The Broadway Ghost Walk has spots on Oct. 28, 29 and 31. The Seven Oaks Museum Investigation has availability on Oct. 23. The Exchange District Ghost Walk has spots open on Oct. 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Benjamin Gillies is the executive director of the Winnipeg Trolley Company. He

says the COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous challenges for businesses like his over the past year and a half.

Even as restrictions have loosened in Manitoba, many companies have not returned to pre-pandemic customer levels. Specifically, international travel restrictions have been particularly detrimental.

"In a normal year, we have a lot of visitors from across Canada, as well as from around the world," Gillies says.

Despite this, the Winnipeg Trolley Company's tours have been filling up quickly this fall. In fact, they have sold out the Trolley of Terror tour. However, their Highlights and Unknown Sites tour still has spots on Oct. 23, 24, 30 and 31. Furthermore, the Ale and Cocktail Trail tour, which includes brewery tours and a crash course in beer tasting, has availability on Oct. 22.

"In 2020, we actually didn't operate at all as an in-person tour company," Gillies says. However, the Winnipeg Trolley Company found ways to adapt.

"We did instead develop a smartphone application and created a (self-guided) walking tour down Broadway," he says. "This is a mix of talking about the history of Broadway, as well as doing a bit of a



The Fort Garry Hotel is one of the allegedly haunted locations explored in the Broadway Ghost Walk.

culinary tour."

The Winnipeg Trolley Company Tours app can be downloaded on the App Store or on Google Play for \$6.99.

Both the Winnipeg Trolley Company and SquarePeg Tours have implemented COVID-19 safety precautions.

"We do operate at reduced capacity," Gillies says, adding that "people do wear masks onboard the trolley, as well as inside the place where we visit."

"Currently, everyone does need to be double vaccinated," he says.

SquarePeg Tours is requiring masks, limiting their groups sizes and offering the possibility of booking private tours to avoid mixing with other patrons. They will check vaccination status for the indoor parts of their tours.

More information on how to book with the Winnipeg Trolley Company can be found at winnipegrolley.ca. More information on how to book with SquarePeg Tours can be found at squarepeg.com.

WINNIPEGGERS NEED TO GET THEIR BUTTS ON BIKES

'It's not about bike. It's about the communities.'

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER |  REESEESTWICK

The UWSA Bike Lab has been a downtown hub for cyclists in Winnipeg since 2011. The lab is an accessible on-campus pit-stop for students and community members who need help with bike maintenance, biking information and support.

Beyond creating equitable access to bikes and services, the UWSA Bike Lab coordinators' *outSPOKE*n radio show aims to provide biking advice and tips, as well as discussion on how biking builds community.

According to its website, the lab works to help people of all skill levels learn how to take care of their bikes, adjust to different weather conditions and navigate the city's bike routes.

For a long time, biking has often been categorized as something that is always extreme or intense, partially because advertising often adopts this angle. Now, it is important that there is a shift in mindset, because biking can be strictly a mode of transportation.

"You are not a 'cyclist.' You're someone who rides their bike," David Dorning, Bike Lab coordinator and co-host of the *outSPOKE*n radio show, says. "It could be a hobby. It could be a recreational activity for you. It could be all of those things, but it's not extreme."

There are many people who partake in biking as an extreme sport, but the Bike Lab and radio show try "to do a little bit for everybody, even people who don't bike at all," Sandra Leone, another Bike Lab coordinator and *outSPOKE*n co-host, says.

Access to safe and reliable transportation is a political issue. All levels of government have a role to play in ensuring Winnipeg is a cyclist-friendly city.

"We need dedicated, separated, connected and extensive cycling infrastructure. We need paths and trails and bikeways that are destination-oriented," Dorning says. "We have a maintenance infrastructure budget ... that has not been dedicated to human-powered pathways and network(s), and we need the network."

Marginalized communities face many systemic barriers, including mobility issues and access to transportation. Accessibility to bikes, bike supports and purposeful biking routes throughout Winnipeg is a vital factor in the conversation about the promotion of equity in the city.

The conversation surrounding biking has often assumed a "white, middle-class ethos," Dorning says, which excludes many of the people who actually ride bikes.

"This is a societal issue," Dorning says. "This is why it is not about the bike. It's



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The UWSA Bike Lab works to help people of all skill levels learn bike maintenance, navigation and safety.

about the communities and building those networks of support that allow (all people) to live a just life in a just society."

The UWSA Bike Lab does exactly that. By creating equitable access to free services, the Bike Lab is empowering individuals to get on a bike and gain personal autonomy over their transportation.

A recent *outSPOKE*n episode examined how music and biking are related and

promote connection, whether it be sharing favourite commute playlists with others or deciding who is controlling the aux cord in the Bike Lab.

"It's eclectic," Leone says. The lab is a safe space for everyone from all walks of life to build connections over a central interest, making the lab not just a hub for bike repairs, but a place for connection and community.

WHAT IF SUPERMAN DIDN'T EXIST?

Virtual symposium highlights comics' role in society

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER |  REESEESTWICK

On Oct. 15 and 16, 80 Years and Beyond: A Virtual Symposium on Canadian Comics highlighted speakers from across Canada and brought the world of Canadian comics into the limelight.

The event united over 40 people from academia, the arts and the comics industry to share knowledge and experiences about Canadian comics. There was also discussion about the current and future challenges in the Canadian comics industry, including the need for a national repository for Canadian comics art.

Dr. Candida Rifkind is a University of Winnipeg English professor who specializes in alternative comics and graphic narratives, Canadian popular and political writing and feminist auto/biography theory. She is on the organizing committee for the virtual symposium.

"It's important for academia to take comics seriously," Rifkind says in an email to *The Uniter*. "They are important cultural artifacts that tell us a lot about who we were and are and who we want to be (or don't want to be). Since the birth of modern newspaper comic strips in the 1890s, comics artists have been telling stories about everyday life as well as huge global events, and comics are just a medium that can carry any kind of story."

Comics have played a significant role in many lives, even for those who have maybe never picked up a comic book before.

"Comics have not only been shaped by society, but society has been shaped by comics," Zachary Rondinelli, a PhD student at Brock University and symposium organizer, says in an email to *The Uniter*.

"I believe that examining and exploring that impact has profound implications for the way we understand our world today. How different would the world be today, for instance, if Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel hadn't created Superman?"

"This event will be the first gathering of Canadian comics researchers, teachers, artists and industry professionals where we can talk about the past, present and future of comics in this country," Rifkind says.

"We won't all agree, and that's okay, because we need to hear where everyone is coming from to get a sense of the diversity represented by Canadian comics."

The growth and development of comics over the last 80 years has been major, as social media, new hot topics and the need for equitable representation of all people have impacted the industry.

The organizers of the symposium developed a thoughtful schedule for the event that prompted meaningful conversations



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Zachary Rondinelli, a PhD student at Brock University, is an organizer of 80 Years and Beyond: A Virtual Symposium on Canadian Comics.

about what the world of comics should look like moving forward to ensure everyone can feel represented within the mosaic of Canadian comics.

"Being able to share those viewpoints and discuss the nuances of how and where these processes happen can only lead to a

meaningful symposium, I think," Rondinelli says. "Bringing us all together like this also breaks down invisible barriers that can sometimes be created ... we want to celebrate everyone who is a part of this wonderful tapestry of Canadian comics!"

CLARITY IN MATH

Mladen Despic, instructor, mathematics and statistics department, U of W

KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER |  KEESHAHAREWOOD

It was roughly 27 years ago that Mladen Despic – a mathematics and statistics instructor for the University of Winnipeg (U of W) – first began teaching on campus.

However, Despic’s time as a faculty member was interspersed throughout the years, as he would leave to pursue other career ventures.

“There was a gap (for) about 20 years, I think,” Despic says, “when I ended up working in (the) industry.”

While away from the U of W, Despic ran his own business, working with computers as a freelancer. But after a lull in his occupational activities, he decided to return to the classroom.

“I felt almost pulled to teach again,” he says. “I always was interested in teaching. I enjoy teaching.”

Specifically, he likes breaking down the course material in ways his students can effectively understand. Despic says a common barrier that stops students from appreciating mathematics is the confusion that drains their motivation to try. As a result, he enjoys clarifying mathematics as much as possible.

Plus, he’s been able to connect with friends and colleagues in the mathematics and statistics department who value his work. In return, Despic has a great appre-

ciation for their talents and abilities.

While Despic is open to freelancing once again, he finds that, as he grows older, his love of teaching increases. Career-wise, he’s happy where he’s at.

“I think I can add value to clarity in math,” he says. “I like to be helpful.”

What is something you’ve learned from your students?

“Listening. I’m a better listener thanks to my students.”

What’s the best thing about your work?

“I enjoy the work, and I enjoy the people I work with.”

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

“To experience love all the time.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Student Services

Webinar Wednesdays: Tips for Success!

Student Services staff share some valuable strategies and tips to help you succeed at UWinnipeg. They cover a wide variety of topics, including:

- Everything you ever wanted to know about Letters of Permission and Major Declarations. **(Oct. 27)**
- To Drop or Not to Drop? That is the Question. **(Nov. 3)**
- So What Can I Do with My Degree? **(Nov. 10)**
- Applying Your Learning: Gaining Skills & Experience for Career Success **(Nov. 17)**
- Seven Dimensions of Wellness **(Nov. 24)**

All sessions are from 12:30 to 1:00 pm on Zoom. For more information and to register online, please go to: uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html.

Apply for 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 **Nov. 1**.

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

In-Person Service Resumes for Some Departments in Student Services

Some departments in Student Services are now open for in-person meetings. All offices are continuing to offer some remote meeting options. Please see this webpage for details about each department: uwinnipeg.ca/student-services

Use the myVisit App

Need some help from someone in Student Central and/or Academic & Career Services? Download the myVisit app today.

The myVisit app enables students to add themselves to a virtual line for drop-in Zoom sessions at Student Central. The app can also be used to book appointments for a Zoom or in-person meeting with a student central staff member or an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can also be booked through the website: myvisit.com.

Need a Spot to Store your Stuff? Rent a Locker!

Locker rentals have resumed on campus, with options now available in Manitoba, Centennial and Riddell Halls, as well as in Richardson College and the Asper Centre. Find more information on location and cost, along with an online form, here: uwinnipeg.ca/accepted-students/getting-ready/locker-rental.html

Dropping Courses

The last day to drop a U2021F class is **Nov. 16**. No refund is applicable.



COLUMN

READING IN COLOUR

Reading the TRC Calls to Action

VALERIE CHELANGAT | BUSINESS MANAGER & COLUMNIST | [@VALERIE_CHELA](#) [VALERIECHELA](#)

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that took place only a few weeks ago gave all Canadians the opportunity to learn about and engage with Indigenous experiences and stories. There were both in-person and virtual events in Winnipeg that offered avenues for learning and listening, including powwows, sacred fires, walks, workshops and a youth and elder tea.

The pronouncement of Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a federal statutory holiday was in response to the 80th call to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The TRC released a total of 94 Calls to Action in 2015.

The call to action states: "We call upon

the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families and communities and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

The provision of this statutory holiday has, at the very least, exposed many Canadian residents to the phrase "truth and reconciliation." This in itself pushes people to begin to recognize and engage with Indigenous knowledge systems and histories. But settler Canadians shouldn't stop there. Now that most Canadians are familiar with at least one call to action, perhaps the next step should be to read all 94 of them.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the thought of reading a document written in formal language that includes technical terminology and has at least 94 points. However, in reality, the document is fairly straightforward. It is divided into two main topics: legacy and reconciliation.

The legacy section includes calls to action on issues arising from the legacy of residential schools, outlining the human-rights violations, oppression and racism that Indigenous people face in the child welfare, education, health and justice systems.

The reconciliation section covers calls to action that carve out a path toward a joint reconciliation between Indigenous peoples, the Crown, the Canadian government and non-Indigenous groups.

It also calls for educational inclusivity by various groups, such as educational institutions, faith groups and public servants to "provide education ... on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations."

Reading the calls to action of the TRC can enable Winnipeggers, and Canadians across the country, to understand their place within Canada's history of residential schools and learn about how they can integrate culturally appropriate knowledge into their education, work and personal life.

It is crucial that Canadians start to recognize Canada's attempts at eliminating Indigenous cultures through residential schools, understand the way trauma has passed down within Indigenous communities as a result of this and attempt to attend to these wounds by immediately incorporating culturally appropriate practices into all facets of society.

The TRC calls to action are by no means a solution in themselves, but they are a step in the right direction. Knowledge enables us to adjust ourselves, demand more from the institutions we are involved in and make necessary changes toward a more equal society.

Valerie Chelangat is a Kenyan-Canadian columnist and a bookseller for marginalized voices. She is a student and working toward a master's of fine arts in creative writing.



COMMENTS

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM FINDS A FOOTHOLD

Online radicalization and PPC votes put minority groups at risk

KARLA ATANACIO | VOLUNTEER | [@OKAYKARLA](#)

The People's Party of Canada (PPC) made headlines last month as they garnered 5 per cent, or about 800,000 total votes, in the recent federal election. Much of their success can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which created a fertile environment for extremist conspiracy theories to thrive online.

Through websites like Facebook and 4Chan, the PPC found an audience, including among people who abandoned the Conservative Party because of their views on immigration, gender identity, free speech and other issues. Many have been radicalized online, leading to acts of racial abuse and hate crimes against minorities, especially Asian-Canadians.

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) found that Canadians have a large presence on 4chan's "politically incorrect" (/pol/) board. The forum promotes racist and misogynistic rhetoric, encouraging white supremacy and acting as a rendezvous point for those wanting to incite violence. The pandemic is one of /pol/'s most widely discussed topics, often promoting conspiracy theories and anger toward governments.

Far-right individuals, many of whom have been radicalized online, gravitated toward the PPC's platform, which includes limiting immi-

gration and refugee intake, repealing legislation that curtails online hate speech, ending vaccine mandates and supporting public access to military-grade weapons.

In March, *The Toronto Star* reported that far-right nationalist groups urged their followers to support the PPC. The party seemingly struck a chord with people who want to defend their settler-colonial heritage and preserve a mythologized conception of Western civilization.

Writing about populism in America and Europe, researchers Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart suggest this extremism emerged as a cultural backlash against the social and political gains of women and other minority populations.

Men and working-class, native-born white people who feel excluded culturally and left behind economically focus their resentment on "outsiders." This resentment ranges from negative perceptions to hate crimes, according to ISD.

According to Statistics Canada, police-reported hate crimes nearly doubled between 2016 and 2020. Between 2019 and 2020, Vancouver reported a 717 per cent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes.

Because of conspiracy theories related to COVID-19 and its origination in China,



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Asian-Canadians were frequently racially abused and physically attacked. However, discrimination against Asian people is not a new phenomenon.

Canada's history includes Japanese internment camps during the Second World War, the Chinese Exclusion Act and pervasive Islamophobia. Discriminatory immigration policies only select "deserving" migrants, often meaning only those who are economically productive, aspirational and who align with conservative social norms.

PPC leader Maxime Bernier accuses minorities of diluting Canada's settler-colonial heritage, which is offensive for countless reasons – one being that many Asian-Canadians spend their entire lives trying to fit into the mould of a deserving minority.

Some Asians carry the term "model minority" with pride, trusting individualistic notions advanced by colonial governments that tell us that simply putting our heads down, working hard and following the law can lead to prosperity.

However, it's not that simple. Racism persists, and "model minorities" are often wielded as a strategy to divide and conquer.

As an Asian-Canadian woman, I constantly have to prove that I have earned and deserve my achievements. I often question my compulsion to be accomplished. Perhaps it is because it has been drilled into me that moving to Canada is a privilege, and that I am lucky to be here.

This is the reality for many Asian immigrants. We are reminded that we do not belong, and that we are only as good as our economic contributions. Now, we are also burdened with the need to be vigilant about people who view us as scapegoats for rapidly changing social landscapes and policies that do not prioritize settler-colonists anymore.

Karla Atanacio is a Filipino-Canadian policy assistant, community organizer and writer from Winnipeg, Man.



“You only work nights? But what do you do all day?”

COMIC BY CHARLIE MORIN | © MILLENNIAL DIGS

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



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

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



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