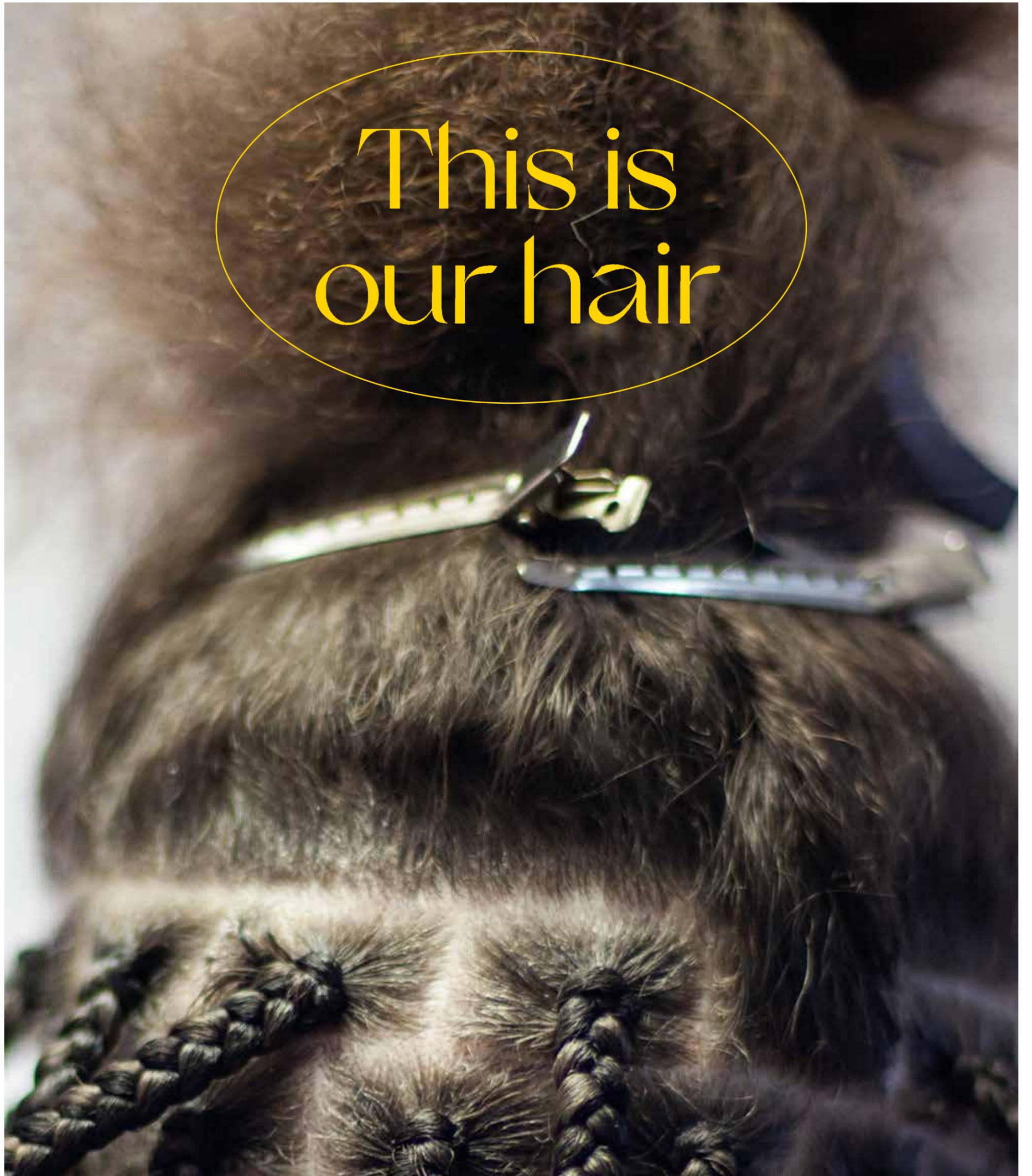


THE **U** N I T E R

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS IN BALLET—P4

MANITOBA'S NEW
PREMIER—P11

TEACHING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES—P13



This is
our hair

THE ARTISTRY OF AFRICAN-STYLE BRAIDING



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITES

WINNERS
ANNOUNCED
IN THE
DEC. 2 ISSUE!

It's back! The Uniter 30 readers' poll aims to put the spotlight on your favourite local people, places and things of 2021 – and we do stress LOCAL. Anything non-local (or non-2021) will not be counted.

We want to make this list as inclusive as possible, just like the rest of the paper, so we ask that you please write an answer for each of the 30 categories – but if you don't have an answer, feel free to write "N/A" or "I dunno" to fill the spot.

Ballots will be considered spoiled if they contain blank spaces, or if they contain any derogatory, homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous content. Let's keep it positive! Remember, you're voting for your favourites.

1. Favourite local achiever over 60
2. Favourite local achiever under 30
3. Favourite local activist
4. Favourite local album
5. Favourite local athlete
6. Favourite local photographer
7. Favourite local barber/hairstylist
8. Favourite local comedian
9. Favourite COVID-safe date activity
10. Favourite local dancer
11. Favourite movie by a local filmmaker
12. Favourite local gallery or artist space
13. Favourite local grassroots group
14. Favourite new local independent business
15. Favourite local outdoor gathering place
16. Favourite in-person or online performance (music, comedy, theatre, etc.)
17. Favourite local photographer
18. Favourite local place that no longer exists
19. Favourite place you can't wait to visit when the pandemic ends
20. Favourite local podcast
21. Favourite political moment
22. Favourite local politician
23. Favourite local public art piece
24. Favourite local publication (book, newspaper or magazine)
25. Favourite local restaurant
26. Favourite local social media presence
27. Favourite University of Winnipeg course
28. Favourite local visual artist
29. Favourite Winnipegger abroad
30. Favourite local writer

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/uniter30.



ANDREW MCCORMACK (SUPPLIED)

Syreeta Hector performing in *Black Ballerina*, which runs Nov. 26 to 28 at the Rachel Browne Theatre. Read more on page 4.

HAIRCARE AND SELF-CARE

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR

@THOMASPASHKO

It's finally here. Whether you've been anticipating it or dreading it, there is snow on the ground in Winnipeg. Wednesday morning, I watched out my apartment window as the rain gradually transformed into fluffy white flakes.

Winter might not officially start until Dec. 21, but Manitobans know that date is as arbitrary as an expiration date on a bottle of water.

It's also a time of year that has a tendency to wreak a certain degree of havoc on many locals' mental health, mine included. The combination of Daylight Savings Time adjustments, an earlier sunset and less opportunities for sunlight can often mean a decline in general well-being and an increase in symptoms of anxiety, depression and sleep problems.

One of the most important ways to combat winter sadness is by taking part in communal events and reducing isolation. That can be tough during COVID, but there are little ways to make it happen. I've been trying to go see a movie every week or two, and being in a packed (by pandemic standards) theatre laughing along with a hundred other masked people to *The French Dispatch* or feeling the electric charge of suspense in the air during *Dune* was a vibe I've missed for the last two years.

This week's cover feature by features reporter Keesha Harewood explores the specifics and artistry of Black hair and braiding, but it's also a story about community, about the group experience of visiting a salon and sharing learned practices and ancient culture. It reminds me of being around my Baba and the ladies from her church making perogies, or singing along at a punk show as a teenager.

As the temperature drops and the snowdrifts become permanent fixtures until spring, remember to carve out time with others. Go get your hair done. It'll do you good.

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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.

FIELD GUIDE CONCERT COMING TO THE WEST END CULTURAL CENTRE

On his first big tour, Field Guide returns home

REBECCA DRIEDGER | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER |   REBECCADRIEDGER

While some people chose to try new things and learn new hobbies over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, others worked hard on things they had always wanted to do. Dylan MacDonald, known by his musical alias, Field Guide, did exactly that.

Without the chance to play live shows, the musician spent his time writing what became two short EPs and his debut album, *Make Peace With That*. Now that live events are coming back and venues are reopening, Field Guide is on his first major tour. He comes home for a show at the West End Cultural Centre (WECC) on Nov. 26.

“It’s really his first tour as Field Guide,” Stu Anderson, co-founder and CEO of Birthday Cake Media, says. “When we released his EP, and it started catching momentum around the world, we didn’t have the ability to send him out on the road. Normally when a song takes off and people start to pay attention, you put them on the road, and we couldn’t.”

Field Guide has been performing his whole life, starting with a band he created

with high-school friends Liam Duncan (also known as Boy Golden) and Roman Clarke, and then branching into his own music while also being a guitar player for hire.

Finding his own voice, especially during a pandemic, has paid off thanks to platforms like Spotify, Sirius XM and CBC Radio Canada.

The singer-songwriter released his first EP, *Full Time*, in May 2019 and his debut album this past September. Now on tour, he is finally performing live for audiences that fell in love with his music during a time when live shows just weren’t an option.

“There’s an audience online looking to discover their new favourite song or artist, and it has really allowed him to have fans globally. He has been able to connect with fans in markets like New York and LA without leaving (Manitoba), and that’s very exciting, especially now that he’s touring and those fans can now see him live,” Anderson says.

Local venues and promoters are jumping at opportunities to host local musicians again, even though some international tours are still tentatively re-



KATHERINE KWAN (SUPPLIED)

Dylan MacDonald writes and performs music under the alias Field Guide.

scheduling dates. Gil Carroll, the festival co-director and artistic director at Real Love Winnipeg, is helping promote the upcoming event at the WECC.

“It’s very exciting that bands like Field Guide are able to perform again, and people can go out and discover new music and support the local scene again,” Carroll says.

“We’re friends with Dylan and worked closely with the West End Cultural Cen-

tre in the past, so it was a natural fit for us to come on board and help promote the event,” Carroll says.

Field Guide’s concert at the West End Cultural Centre is on Nov. 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online from wecc.ca or at eventbrite.ca.

EXPLORING IDENTITY THROUGH CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Syreeta Hector performs *Black Ballerina* in Winnipeg

REBECCA DRIEDGER | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER |   REBECCADRIEDGER

Historically, dance companies have looked for certain physical qualities: height, weight, body shape and skin colour. Syreeta Hector, a Toronto-based dancer and choreographer, is attempting to bring awareness to this elitism in the ballet world.

Hector’s work *Black Ballerina* is a culmination of her personal experience and research regarding identity, society and history. The work focuses on Hector’s Mi’kmaq, African American and Acadian heritage, in relation to her current dance practice. Her upcoming show in Winnipeg will be the first time she has performed the piece in Manitoba.

A visual representation of identity that Hector incorporates into the work is the use of a single sneaker and a ballet slipper.

“I hope that I am illustrating the pushes and pulls that one feels between two different identities, but also how ballet and street dance can come together, or if it will ever be together,” Hector says.

Hector speaks about her love of a variety of dance styles, including street dance and ballet. Although *Black Ballerina* is identified as a contemporary work, she incorporates elements of different styles

throughout her piece.

Jolene Bailie is the artistic director of the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers, which is featuring Hector’s work as a part of their season. Bailie believes choosing contemporary dance as the main style for this specific work makes complete sense.

“One of the beauties of contemporary dance is that, typically, the ideas on stage are coming right out of the creator’s imagination,” Bailie says. “It often includes movement, invention. There aren’t the same codified steps as there are in other dance forms.”

She explains how contemporary dance intertwines with the concept of identity and not fitting a singular style or mould.

“This exploration gets the conversations started and takes us on a journey that will ask us to look inside ourselves,” Bailie says.

“By listening and witnessing these shared stories, we have another perspective to guide our own lives and our own choices and just reflect.”

Black Ballerina has been a work in progress since 2017 and has only become more personal as time goes on.

Hector says it has taken her a long time to be able to be where she is right now, in regard



DAVID LEYES (SUPPLIED)

Syreeta Hector’s original work *Black Ballerina* explores the artist’s heritage in relation to her current dance practice.

to speaking out about how discouraged she felt as a BIPOC in the world of classical ballet.

“I started this project for me,” Hector says. “I am less scared to say my real opinions and truths now. I would just rather be brave.”

Black Ballerina is a 40-minute solo work that has been performed internationally and livestreamed due to restrictions caused by

the COVID-19 pandemic.

***Black Ballerina* will be performed at the Rachel Browne Theatre on Nov. 26, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and on Nov. 28 at 4 p.m. There will be an artist talk following the final performance. Tickets are available at eventbrite.ca.**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Boy Golden is one of the many local music acts taking the stage for So Long, Bannatyne at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

IT'S BEEN A LONG 'LIVE' COMING

So Long, Bannatyne showcases Manitoba-based music

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

After being cancelled last year due to COVID-19, the So Long, Bannatyne music festival will be held on Nov. 20 at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

An event solely incorporating Manitoban acts playing local music, So Long, Bannatyne is an initiative from Assiniboine Credit Union and the Winnipeg Folk Festival to celebrate Manitoba 150. Described as a festival-meets-workshop experience, it will include live music and hosts leading the night.

"These workshops are basically jam sessions. For this event, we will have a house band, and we will have guest artists rotating through and performing," Winnipeg Folk Festival artistic director Chris Frayer says.

The name of the festival is a reference to a classic 1971 Manitoban record by The Guess Who. The title was originally supposed to be So Long, Bannatyne, Hello Birds Hill Park, given that the celebration was set to happen during the 2020 edition of the Winnipeg Folk Festival. Still, event planners decided to maintain half of it as an ode to local talent.

"There is a lot of music in Manitoba. We have a great history here, and sometimes we forget about the music in our own backyard, because we are so focused on international and national music," he says.

Johnny Moonbeam & Friends will lead other artists in their brief interactive presentations. Joining them during the festival are Andrina Turenne, Boy Golden,

Dana Waldie, Diaphanie, JP Hoe, Rayannah, Sebastian Gaskin and The Lytics.

"At the end of the night, they will all perform together. I think it's going to be a fantastic evening of music. The rehearsals are doing great, and so much time has been put into this," Frayer says.

Beyond the artists taking center stage, other local musicians will host the show. Among them are FONTINE, Joanna Miller and Sol James. Frayer emphasises that partaking in So Long, Bannatyne is a gesture of support after a rocky year for in-person events.

"We just really want people to come out and support Manitoba musicians who suffered so much through COVID-19, and the best way that people can support us is attending the event," he says.

Boy Golden, one of the many artists involved in this project, is still adapting to playing onstage. After releasing his lo-fi debut album *Church of Better Daze* in July of this year, he's had few chances to play his new tunes live alongside his band.

"We've been able to perform a couple shows in the fall, and it's starting to feel normal. My band is heading out to Toronto on Nov. 11 to play a show there, and then we will head back to the Burt," he says.

As part of the So Long, Bannatyne program, each artist involved must play an original track and an additional cover from the local music scene. The festival

team sees this as a way to spotlight classic bands and artists within Manitoba whose music has inspired the work of emerging local musicians.

"I am doing one of the tracks off *Church of Better Daze* and a pretty cool song by a Manitoban artist from the 1940s. I didn't know this before, but Bob Nolan, who is from the Sons of the Pioneers and is a super famous country writer, was born in Winnipeg. This was one piece of Winnipeg history that I got to know about," he says.

Boy Golden is excited to join the house band (some members of which are his friends) and get a chance to collaborate with other artists in this all-around Manitoban music gettogether.

"It's going to be an experiment for sure, and I am excited to see them all," he says.

For people still uncomfortable with heading back to venues, So Long, Bannatyne will be livestreamed on Facebook and on YouTube through the Winnipeg Folk Festival social media accounts.

Audience members at the Burton Cummings Theatre on Nov. 20 must follow True North Sports and Entertainment's COVID-19 protocols.

Tickets are available on Ticketmaster.ca for \$37.50 each. For more information about the event, visit winnipegfolkfestival.ca.

ARTS BRIEFS

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

Half Moon Market at the King's Head

Dozens of local crafters and vendors will set up stands on the second floor of the King's Head Pub (120 King St.) for the Half Moon Market on Nov. 14. The market will open to shoppers at 11 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. The building is not wheelchair accessible, and admission is free.

Digital jazz

Cities across Canada are participating in the Canadian Online Jazz Festival (COJAZZ)'s second edition from Nov. 7 to 14. On Nov. 11 at 8 p.m., Jazz Winnipeg will present the trio Free Time as part of the festival's online programming. Tune into COJAZZ's Facebook and YouTube channels to watch the performance and visit cojazz.ca for a full performed schedule.

Fresh Blood Project 2

Grab your tickets and head down to the Crescent Fort Rouge United Church (525 Wardlaw Ave.) for a night of percussion music. On Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m., music by composers Steph Davis, Qianqian Jin, Kiara Nathaniel and Rebeka Schroeder will premiere at the concert. Visit camerondenby.com/tickets to reserve tickets.

Celebrating women in blues

The Park Theatre (698 Osborne St.) is paying tribute to the talented blues musicians in Winnipeg at their Women in Blues night on Nov. 13. Starting at 7:30 p.m., local blues names like Romi Mayes, Blue Noise and more will take the stage. Tickets are \$25 in advance and are available to purchase through Eventbrite. Doors open at 7 p.m., and seating is limited.

Royal MTC presents *Orlando*

The classic play *Orlando*, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf and adapted by Sarah Ruhl, will be performed at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Royal MTC, 174 Market Ave.) from Nov. 24 to Dec. 18. The play is described as "a modern take on love, art and identity" with "inventive theatricality and beguiling characters." Tickets are available for purchase by calling the box office at 204-942-6537 or by visiting royalmtc.ca.

Return of the Art Holm

Art Holm, a Winnipeg-based performance series, is showcasing another selection of local theatre artists. For this edition, theatre artists Joanna Hawkins, Jordan Sangalang, Rob Crooks, Gwen Trutnau and Tanja Faylene Woloshen will perform at The Output, located in the Video Pool Media Arts Centre (second floor, 100 Arthur St.). The show, which will be ASL supported each night, runs live from Nov. 19 to 21 at 7 p.m. and will be available to view online from Nov. 21 to 28. Ticket prices are on a sliding scale ranging from free to \$30 and can be purchased through Eventbrite.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

SEX EDUCATION SEASON 3

Streaming on Netflix



CHARLIE MORIN | FEATURES EDITOR | CHRLSMORIN

The third and latest season of *Sex Education* finally reckons with gender identity – a risky choice, given that the show revolves loosely around the premise of an illicit high-school sex clinic. Fortunately, the non-binary characters are not introduced as clients of the clinic but as a separate subplot laced with social justice and non-conformity. Cliché? Yes. But a good place to start.

For those unfamiliar with the show, the clinic is run by Otis Milburn (Asa Butterfield) and his friend Maeve Wiley (Emma Mackey). Season 2 ends with a

clinic-related scandal at Moordale Secondary School and the firing of their headteacher.

After two seasons featuring cisgender – although often queer – protagonists, the introduction of two enby (non-binary) characters comes as a breath of fresh air.

Cal (Dua Saleh), who features centrally in the plot, is assigned female at birth and conforms to other non-binary stereotypes: they bind their chest and have an overall androgynous style, use they/them pronouns and fight back against gender roles and gendered spaces.

Layla (Robyn Holdaway) is Cal’s self-effacing counterpart, conforming to the school’s gendered policies to keep Hope (Jemima Kirke), the new headteacher, happy. This is contrasted with the typical tragic montage of Layla struggling to bind their chest with an ACE bandage.

Sex Education does a good job at portraying non-binary identities as normal and easy to understand, making anyone who lacks respect seem out of touch. For instance, in a somewhat ham-fisted attempt to underline Cal and Layla’s struggles, the students are suddenly made to wear gendered uniforms.

However, this creates a weird paradox where it almost seems as though all Cal and Layla have to worry about are Hope’s ridiculous and regressive policies. Viewers barely see the microaggressions of Cal and Layla’s existence with their peers, making Hope out as a clear Other to be defeated and failing to address the systemic issues at play.

Cal denotes the existence of a non-binary stereotype, saying they aren’t a “good enby” because, unlike Layla, they don’t respect the confines of the school rules and are vocal about their disagree-

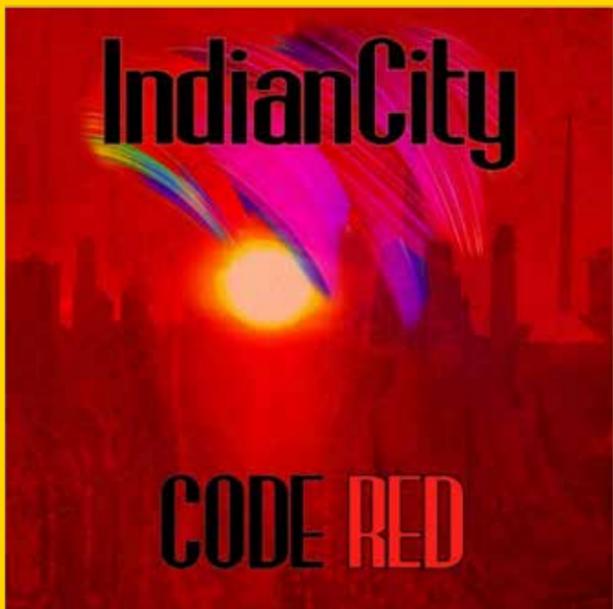
ments with Hope.

Cal partially misses the mark. In another sense, they are the good enby precisely because they fight back against the system, are visibly androgynous, sure of themselves and unaffected by social norms.

It would be good to see binary trans characters and non-binary characters who are intersex or assigned male at birth, who use neopronouns, who don’t look androgynous, aren’t thin and don’t have the energy to fight back.

Despite this, the show challenged the non-binary stereotype by centring the experience of a Black enby and in choosing to tell the story with an air of annoyance rather than tragedy. Because annoyance is really the emotion at the heart of all this. Gender identity and gender expression are not up for debate, and people are tired of arguing about it.

It is refreshing to see representation of enbies in the media. But it’s also disappointing that Cal and Layla’s stories revolve around their struggles to be seen and respected. Hopefully, Season 4 will bring a more interesting plot thread for these characters, and perhaps a more gender-diverse cast.



INDIAN CITY

Code Red
Self-released



Winnipeg-based folk-rock band Indian City (led by Vince Fontaine of Eagle & Hawk) takes an introspective dive into self-discovery and Indigenous narratives in their latest album, *Code Red*.

“Star People” introduces this ride with an acoustic-led arrangement that progresses into a drum-and-string punch. It goes side-by-side with the message about moving forward and embracing an identity defined by the stars (and numerous possibilities). Edgy guitar riffs make the title track a delightful bop. It’s an invitation for headbangs and stomps that will make listeners chant “code red” every single time the chorus kicks in.

The beat shifts when the Indigenous-inspired instrumentation and backing vocals surface in “Wannabe,” which acknowledges the idea of embracing the Seven Sacred Teachings. “I wannabe wisdom, truth, respect and honesty,” Juno award-winner Chantal Kreviazuk sings.

The astronomical concept of being on a journey to greatness present in the first track is a theme that continues in “The

Path,” a pop-y song that exudes optimism and togetherness on the road to reconciliation.

Stepping down a notch, “Forgiving” is a soothing ballad about righting wrongs and prioritizing love. It is easily one of the highlights of this recent release.

The bubblyness of true love is easily spotted all throughout “Smile,” with its catchy lyrics and feel-good arrangement. This song goes hand-in-hand with “The Path” and “Walk Around the World,” its equally joyful successor.

To finish things off, “Storyteller” is a folk singalong with a simple structure and repetition. It isn’t as much of an earworm as the previous tracks, but it ends the album with a sense of tranquility.

Overall, *Code Red* is a welcome soundtrack amid the hardships of reconciliation, emphasising hope for what the future can entail and, also, about how people can lead this process with mutual love and acceptance.

— Isabella Soares



This is our hair

The artistry of African-style braiding

Tunyia Scutter has her hair braided at Hairbru on Corydon Avenue.

One of the most sensational expressions of Black culture is African-style braids. The folds of each plait, parted by intricately traced sections, are achieved through hours of painful but precise labour. The result is stunning, but it is more than a trend: it's Black.

Feature continues on next page.



Mel Heinrich (left) and Anjola Odejayi (right) braid Tunyia Scutter's (middle) hair at Hairbru.

This is our culture

"Growing up, this is what we do," local stylist and owner of BraidsbyKemLis, Kemi Lisoyi, says.

"Our parents, this is what they do for us. This is what we know. We don't get to stretch our hair or do anything like that. We just get to wash and put it in cornrows, or you braid it, so it's part of what we are made of, and it's Black."

Lisoyi – originally from Nigeria – has braided for seven years. Like most local African braid specialists, she began braiding for her inner circle of family and friends. From there, her client base grew. Now, her skillset has become quite varied.

"I'm pretty much a jack of all trades," she says. "I can do box braids, knotless braids ... I also do dreads. I do hair colouring and cornrows."

On top of all that, she makes wigs, too.

But even with the accomplishment Lisoyi feels when she successfully completes the looks her clients request, she's aware of a deeper connection that braiding has to Black culture.

"I had a client who ... (is) Black, but all her life she has been here, so she really knows nothing about the Black culture," Lisoyi says.

"Our appointment was just for an hour and a half, and she decided to stay for two extra hours just for us to talk about the Black community, because she felt left behind when we were doing Black Lives Matter."

With the time each appointment can take (ranging anywhere from an hour to possibly 10, depending on the style), there's an incredible opportunity to bond and meet new people.

Twenty-two-year-old hairstylist Francine Oyoa takes great joy in this opportunity when working on her clients' hair.

"I've met a lot of people from different countries," she says. "Nigeria, Ethiopia – especially Ethiopia 'cause a lot of my clients

are from Ethiopia. I've even met people from Zambia."

Through her budding braiding business, France's Coiffure, Oyoa has shared moments with her clients that remind her how unifying braiding is for African people.

Specifically, she's noticed that while people from different parts of Africa might have different names for a certain look, the hair-style itself is the same.

"It defines us all," Oyoa says. "Although we call it different names, it is the same thing."

In this way, braiding provides an organic space to explore an aspect of the culture that's universal to Black people, no matter their country of origin. But more than that, it's an essential component of self-care.

This is our self-care

Nadia Wera-Asghedom, a hairstylist and the owner of Hairbru, pays careful attention to how hair translates to a person's well-being.

"It is an investment in a part of your life," Wera-Asghedom says, "the same way you (invest) in your skin."

African braids are protective hairstyles. Meant to last for weeks at a time, they are as beautiful as they are functional, shielding Black hair from harsher elements. Yet the process of having braids installed is not easily endured.

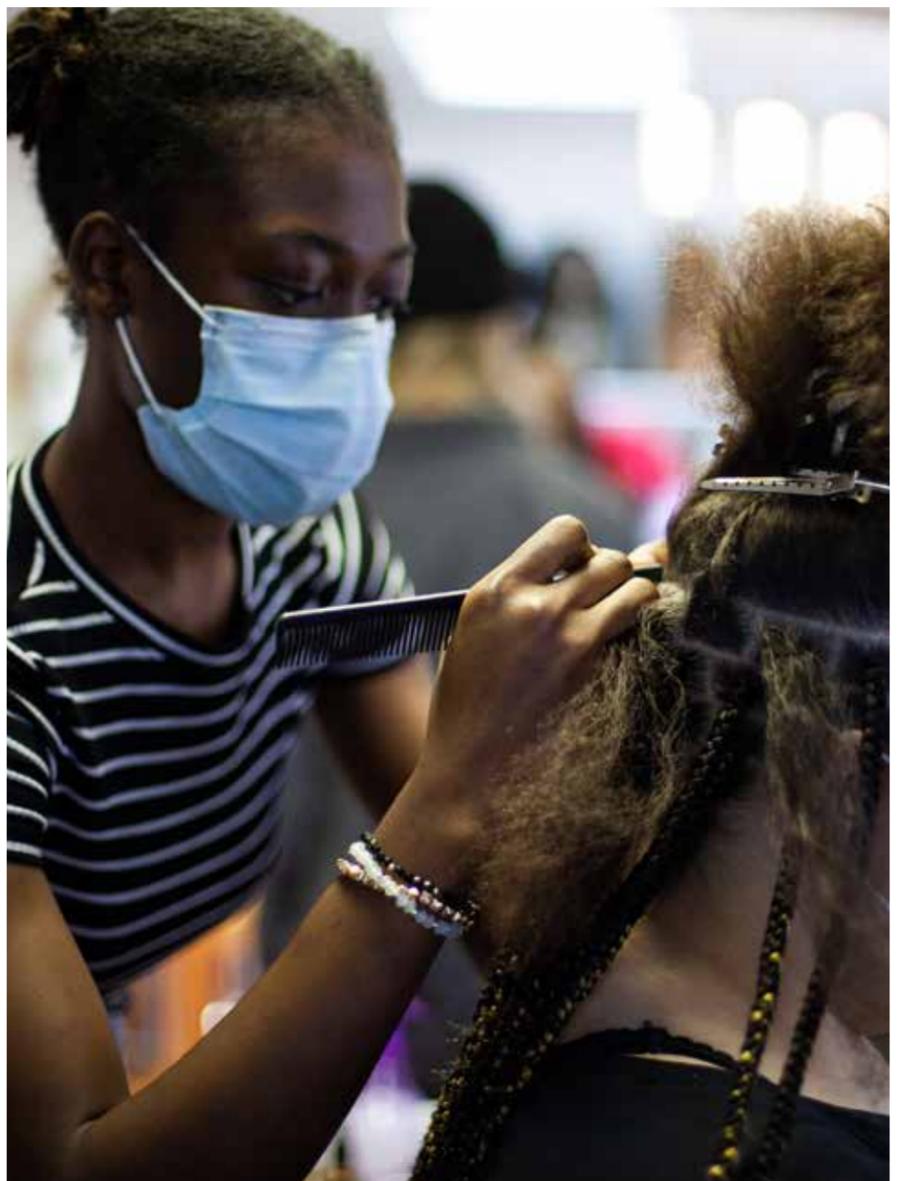
"A lot of people have traumas of taking care of their hair in terms of pain or how it looks or how hard it is to take care of," she says.

For a lot of Black women, haircare becomes something of a lifelong journey.

"Black hair is so versatile," Wera-Asghedom says. "It ranges from texture to texture, and the way you take care of it is also different."

While each Black woman's journey is very much her own, there's a profound resonance in knowing that, no matter what the hair texture, this self-care endeavour is uniquely Black.

"Our hair is different," she says, "but



Anjola Odejayi (left) parts Tunyia Scutter's (right) hair into sections with a comb.



"A lot of people have traumas of taking care of their hair in terms of pain or how it looks or how hard it is to take care of." - Nadia Wera-Asghedom, owner and hairstylist at Hairbru



A selection of wigs for sale at Hairbru

also the same."

Even with the pain, it's common for Black kids to have braids installed at a young age. Despite the physical discomfort, the practice has a few key benefits.

"One: it's protective," Wera-Asghedom says. "Two: it's a way of showing who you are, your identity. Three: it's a confidence-booster."

Considering how hair is so tightly bound in a Black person's perception of their own self-worth and identity, determining which professional to go to for braids or any sort of treatment is not a decision that's made lightly.

"It's not just braiding," Oyoa says. "There's more behind the braiding."

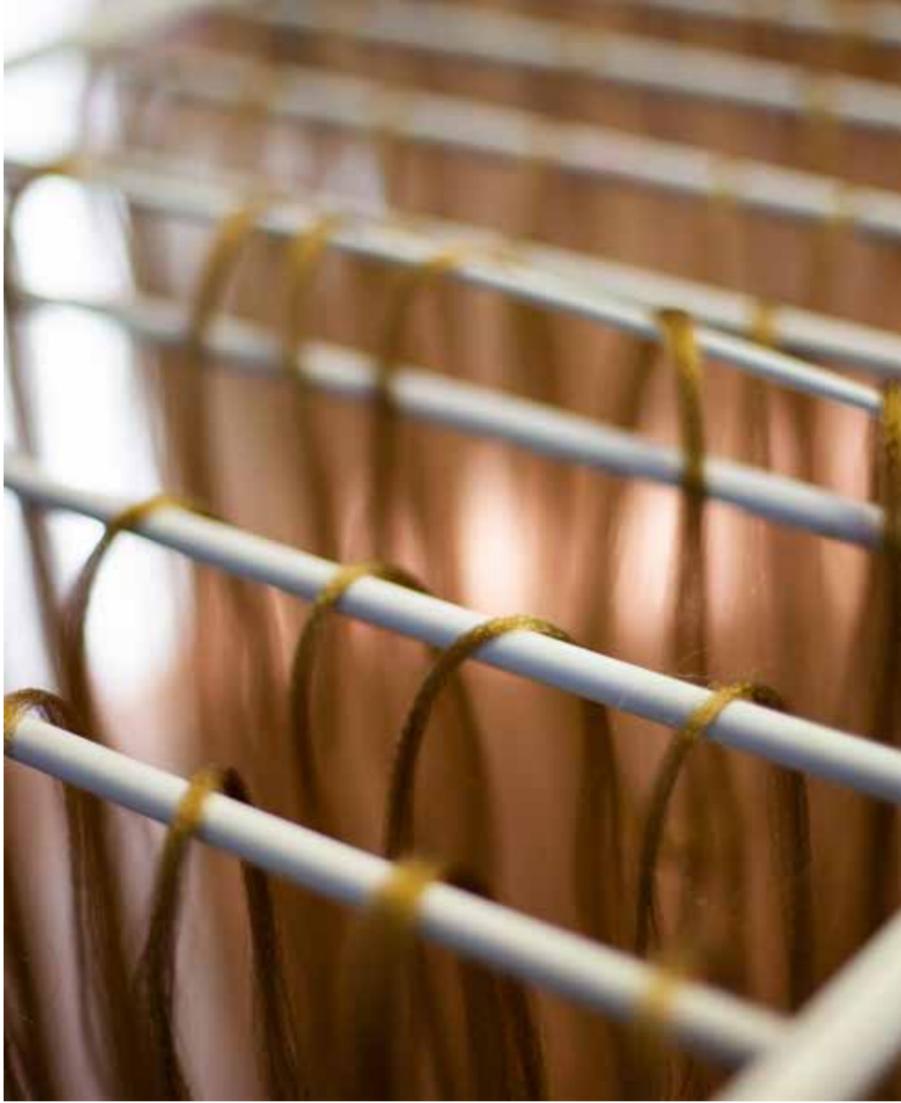
In fact, braiding involves assessing the current state of a client's hair and offering advice for achieving strong ends in the long run. Oyoa considers a great deal when working with a client's hair: everything from the hair's texture and history to the client's hair goals. She admits it's not easy work, but it's well worth it to see a gorgeous, healthy style take root.

"Braiding isn't easy at all," Oyoa says. "I stand there for hours braiding people's hair, and sometimes their hair texture can be a challenge. So seeing them leave with this smile, I'm not gonna lie: that's my motivation ... that's everything."

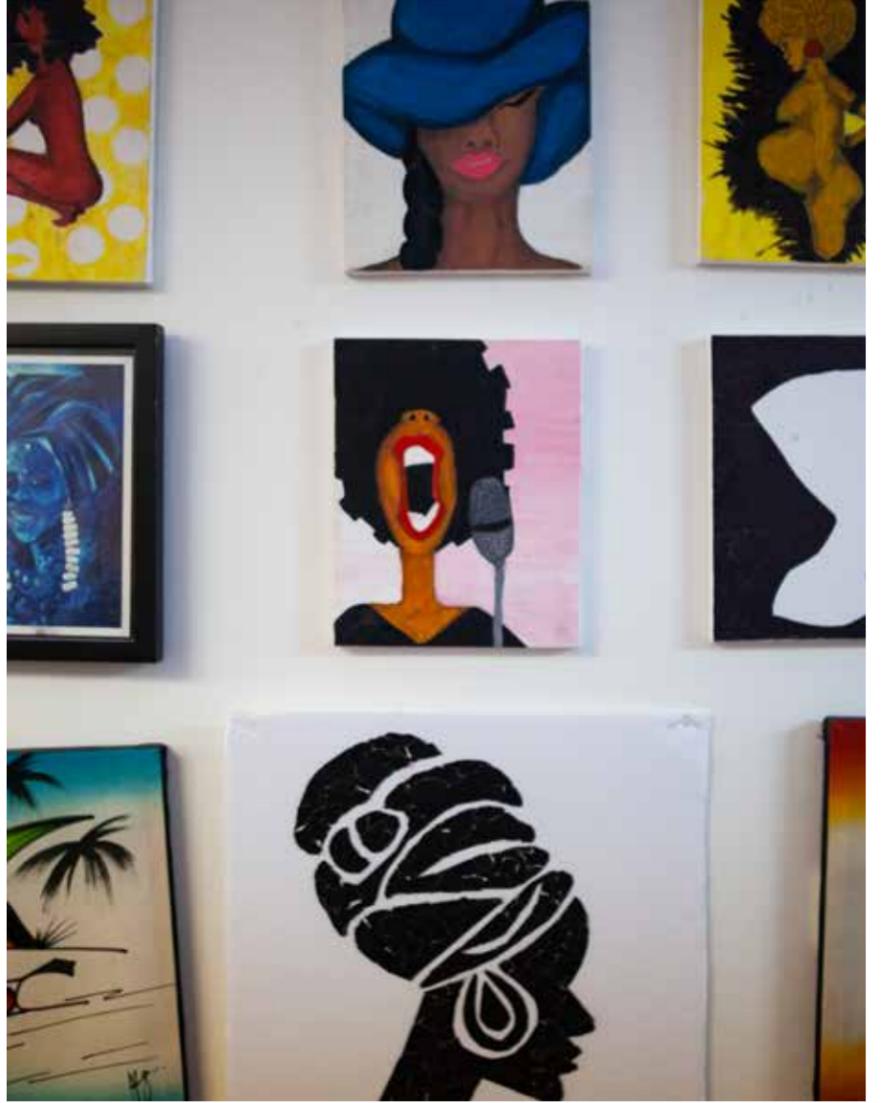
This is our artistry

It's indisputable that African-style braids fall beyond the bounds of what can be considered a normal hairstyle. In short, braids are art. With that, there's a great deal of accomplishment felt when a braided hairstyle is finally completed.

"We're creating a hairstyle that's not very



"I'm just happy we can make the culture continue while we are here in Canada." - Kemi Liyosi, owner and stylist at BraidsbyKemLis



Hair braiding "came from Africa. It's an art of braiding. It's Black. Period." - Nadia Wera-Asghedom

common," Wera-Asghedom says. "It's like canvas, and you want to help that person create that vision they have in their mind."

More often than not, clients tend to come in with an image of a unique style they want. Most of the time, stylists won't have the exact blueprint on how to achieve that look, but instead have the skill and technique to learn on the fly and recreate it in the moment.

"When I have clients that bring new styles, I don't say 'I don't know how to do it,'" Liyosi says. "I say 'I can do it,' (and) I just give it a shot."

Often, the look comes together, and it's deeply rewarding for the stylist. What's more, as new innovative styles continue to be developed for braids, more Black people tend to opt for those looks to feel their best.

"There was a time where you only do braids for regular days," Oyoa says, "and then have a weave for your birthday."

Now, Oyoa notices more and more clients are requesting braids for special occasions.

"Honestly, that makes me so happy," she says.

At Hairbru, Wera-Asghedom and her team will often incorporate free accessories and beads into the styles their clients request to make their hair look extra special. Again, seeing the end result is deeply fulfilling.

"It's that satisfaction of 'wow, we did that,'" Wera-Asghedom says, "and tomorrow, it's going to be something different."

The moment the hair is complete – often after several hours – is meaningful to everyone involved. The physical relief, for one, is immense, but to see the accumulation of Black culture, effort and precise technical skill come together into one hairstyle – it's magical.

This is our heritage

Beyond the emotional, creative and cultural depth that's embedded in the ongoing art that is African-style braiding, there's a certain spirit that comes with keeping this part of Black culture alive.

"I'm just happy we can make the culture

continue while we are here in Canada," Lisoyi says. "Being able to render the service to other Black communities, even out of the Black countries, is really an honour."

The history and weight of African-style braids is palpable, even to those who were not raised in the culture. As a result, it's typical for Black people – Black women in particular – to experience a great deal of curiosity around and questions about their braided hair. Sometimes, this curiosity can be invasive.

"I feel like hair is personal," Wera-Asghedom says. "If you want to get to know somebody, the best way is to ask, not invade their personal space. Then it creates that avenue for conversation. They get to know who I am, why I am the way I am, why I wear my hair the way I'm wearing it."

Ultimately, teaching the culture behind African-style braids is another way to keep the understanding of it alive. It's considerably gracious for anyone to freely share information regarding their heritage, espe-

cially if they're asked while going about their day-to-day life.

"I used to be very angry about it," Wera-Asghedom says, "but then I also realized 'well, who else is gonna tell them?'"

"The more people know about how to deal with Black hair, the more free and accepting (they) will be."

Regardless, offering support and appreciation to Black hairstylists is an excellent way to create a respectful avenue for understanding. Endorsements, via follows and shares on social media accounts, is especially important for those who braid hair out of their homes. After all, they keep a crucial piece of Black culture alive.

"It came from Africa," Wera-Asghedom says. "It's an art of braiding."

"It's Black. Period."

Follow Kemi Lisoyi on Instagram at [@kemi_lis](#), Francine Oyoa at [@francescoiffure](#) and Hairbru at [@ms_hairbru](#).

CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

What gets weird when we talk about free speech?

On Nov. 18, Dr. Peter Ives, a professor in the University of Winnipeg Department of Political Science, will give a talk on the various issues entangled in freedom-of-speech debates, including charter rights, academic freedom and the notion of open and critical debate. The talk will be held at the Centro Caboto Centre (1055 Wilkes Ave.) at 7 p.m.

Vaccine verification is back

The University of Winnipeg has announced that the vaccination and mask mandates on campus will remain in place for the winter semester. The vaccination verification centre will reopen from Nov. 15 to 26 for those looking to access the campus during the winter semester. The verification centre will be held in the multipurpose room of the Axworthy Health & RecPlex.

Love and Information live on YouTube

The 2021-22 theatre season from the University of Winnipeg's Department of Theatre and Film will open with *Selected Scenes From Love and Information*, written by playwright Caryl Churchill, directed by faculty member Tom Stroud and performed by the fourth-year honours acting class. Performances will run from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4 and be shown via a private YouTube channel.

A reading with Karen McBride

Karen McBride, an Algonquin Anishinaabe writer from the Timiskaming First Nation whose debut novel, *Crow Winter*, was published and met with acclaim in 2019, will give a virtual reading on Nov. 15. The event is the first in a series of readings from notable authors hosted by the University of Winnipeg English department. The reading will be hosted on Zoom and is free and open to the public.

Province recognizes assisted reproduction

On Nov. 3, the Government of Manitoba announced changes to the Family Maintenance Act, updating it to now include parentage legislation for children conceived through assisted reproduction with or without surrogacy. The updates bring Manitoba in line with the legal recognitions of assisted reproduction in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

While UMFA strikes, province pays \$12.5M for third-party job training

The Government of Manitoba has announced the launch of Retrain Manitoba, a \$12.5 million workforce skills development grant program that reimburses businesses, not-for-profits and charities that have provided or will provide third-party training to employees between April 1, 2021 and Aug. 31, 2022. Employers may apply for up to \$2,500 per employee, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per company.

STEFANSON IS MANITOBA'S FIRST WOMAN PREMIER

Internal party chaos and Pallister's legacy create early challenges

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

On Oct. 31, Heather Stefanson defeated Shelly Glover to become leader of the Progressive Conservative (PC) Party of Manitoba, succeeding Brian Pallister and interim leader Kelvin Goertzen. A few days later, she was sworn in as Manitoba's 24th premier and became the first woman to lead the province.

Evan Robinson, vice-president of the University of Winnipeg Campus Conservatives, endorsed Stefanson during the leadership race and says her victory is a "big deal."

"She's the first woman (premier) in the first province that allowed women to vote, and she'll be the only female premier currently," he says.

Stefanson, MLA for Tuxedo since 2000, has been the deputy premier since 2016 and has held many other high-profile ministerial positions. Most recently, she served as Minister of Health and Seniors Care from January to August 2021. During this period, Manitoba's disastrous third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the province had the highest per-capita infection rate across the United States and Canada, occurred.

During the leadership race, Stefanson was endorsed by many PC caucus members

and local business leaders. Robinson says this played a role in their endorsement and might indicate that she is a more collaborative leader than her predecessor.

"I think she's really willing to listen to people ... and take opinions from all the different members of the Progressive Conservative Party, as well as Manitobans," he says.

Dougald Lamont, leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party and MLA for St. Boniface, is skeptical that Stefanson's approach to governance will differ from Pallister's.

"A lot of trust has been turned up, and it's hard for people to regain that trust," he says. "This is a government that tried to ram through 19 blank bills and have made cuts that have been really damaging."

Stefanson is facing some major challenges in her first weeks as premier. The University of Manitoba Faculty Association is on strike, and the fourth wave of COVID-19 is well underway. Perhaps her biggest challenge, however, comes from within her own party.

Glover, a former federal cabinet minister, is claiming she is the victor of the leadership race, alleging irregularities in the voting process. This is being taken to court, but, in the meantime, is creating a



Heather Stefanson, the MLA for Tuxedo since 2000, was elected the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba on Oct. 31 and sworn in as premier on Nov. 2.

major distraction for Stefanson's first few weeks in office. For instance, the *Globe and Mail* published a cheeky opinion piece entitled "Is Heather Stefanson the real premier of Manitoba?"

Robinson acknowledges a divide in the party, particularly when it comes to the issue of vaccine mandates. However, he thinks Stefanson, who only won by 363 votes, is the right person to unite the Progressive Conservatives.

"When the election comes up in the next

few years, I don't think the Conservatives will have any problem uniting around a common message, especially because of the unpopularity of Wab Kinew within the (PC) party," Robinson says.

A Probe Research poll from September 2021 found that the NDP had 42 per cent of support, the PCs had 35 per cent, the Liberals had 12 per cent, the Greens had 3 per cent, and 13 per cent of respondents were undecided.

EQ3 OPENS FLAGSHIP STORE

Company's deep Winnipeg roots on display

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

EQ3, an internationally successful, Winnipeg-based furniture brand, opened a flagship store – its largest yet – in its hometown on Oct. 29. Located near the CF Polo Park Shopping Centre, this store is more than 40,000 square feet and may change the furniture-shopping experience.

Mark Letain, president of EQ3, shared the importance of Winnipeg to the company in an email to *The Uniter*.

"It's where we launched the first EQ3 store and where our designs come to life at our HQ, so we wanted to create a space made in consideration of that community," he says.

"We have a great amount of pride for our city, and this project presented an opportunity to celebrate that, bringing together local creatives like Chef Mandel Hitzer of Deer + Almond and architect firm Number TEN," Letain says.

The store includes a 40-seat café. Its menu, developed by Winnipegger Hitzer, will bring a "fresh take on casual dining influenced by local ingredients and California-modern cuisine, complemented by a full bar and unique wine list," according to an EQ3 press release.

Letain says that innovation, a central theme in all of his company's endeavours, is reflected in this store.

"We imagined an in-store experience where customers can not only connect more holistically with this furniture and our

designs, but also leverage off the expertise of our design consultants and tools like our virtual floor planner, QR codes and augmented reality," he says.

Serena Keshavjee, associate professor in the University of Winnipeg's History of Art program, characterizes EQ3's style as "neomodern," based on a revival of modernism.

"The modernist style took off in architecture and design after World War II ... and included really famous architects like Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Ray and Charles Eames, but also locally, there's a long-rooted tradition," she says.

"EQ3, Crate and Barrel and IKEA either make affordable reproductions of modernist pieces, or they make furniture inspired by the modernist style," Keshavjee says.

She emphasizes that Winnipeg has a rich history of modernist architecture, especially stemming from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture. In fact, Keshavjee notes that EQ3 hires many of its employees from the faculty.

"It's got that nice feeling that you're supporting a Canadian company and, even better, a Winnipeg company," she says.

Though some might say opening a store of this size and scope during a pandemic is a bold or risky move, Letain is confident with the decision.

"We don't see the pandemic as a right or



Winnipeg-based furniture brand EQ3 opened its flagship store on Oct. 29 at the CF Polo Park Shopping Centre.

wrong time. Our hometown community has supported us over the last 20 years, and we want to give back to them with a new experience they have never seen before," he says.

"We see consumers craving special experiences rather than the regular status quo."



Career Services Drop-in Sessions

November is Career Month. Are you looking for assistance with a job search or help with career planning? Join us for a virtual drop-in session on any Monday in November from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Email careers@uwinnipeg.ca for the Zoom link.

Dropping Courses

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

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:

- Applying Your Learning: Gaining Skills & Experience for Career Success (Nov. 17)
Seven Dimensions of Wellness (Nov. 24)
Managing Stress as you Prepare for Exams (Dec. 1)
Preparing for Winter Term (Dec. 8)

- Making the Most Out of the Career Fair (Dec. 15)

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

Thrive Week

The annual Thrive Week will be held Nov. 22 – 26. Watch the student wellness website for info on events and activities, both virtual and in-person.

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 an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can also be booked through the website: myvisit.com.

Need a Spot for your Winter Coat? 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

PHONE: 204.779.8946

EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

Radio schedule grid for CKUW 95.9 FM from 6AM to 6AM, listing various programs like Morning Breath, Democracy Now!, and various music shows.



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

WWW.CKUW.CA
OFFICE: 204-786-9782
NEWS DESK: 204-786-9998
ON AIR: 204-774-6877
FAX: 204-783-7080
EMAIL: CKUW@UWINNIPEG.CA

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

REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND PRESERVING CULTURES

New BA Indigenous Languages program a step toward reIndigenization

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER |  REESEESTWICK

As students browse the glossary of undergraduate programs offered at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), they will now see the new Bachelors of Arts in Indigenous Languages program. This program, which is offering three- and four-year degree options, was made available to students in the fall 2021 term.

This program is the first of its kind to be offered at a Manitoba post-secondary institution and will provide students with the skills to speak, analyze, educate and advocate for Indigenous-language revitalization strategies, specifically in Cree and Ojibwe, with plans to add more local Indigenous languages in the coming years.

The introduction of this program helps achieve one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls to action, which calls on “post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.”

The integration and accessibility of Indigenous languages in Canada has been in legal discussions for many years, as Canada’s national bilingualism removes Indigenous languages from many classrooms and communities, resulting in further loss of Indigenous languages.

Dr. Lorena Fontaine, an Indigenous academic lead and associate professor at the U of W, says most students who enroll in

Indigenous language courses are second-language learners.

“Part of that is due to Canada’s assimilation policy and the residential schools that targeted our language and culture,” Fontaine says.

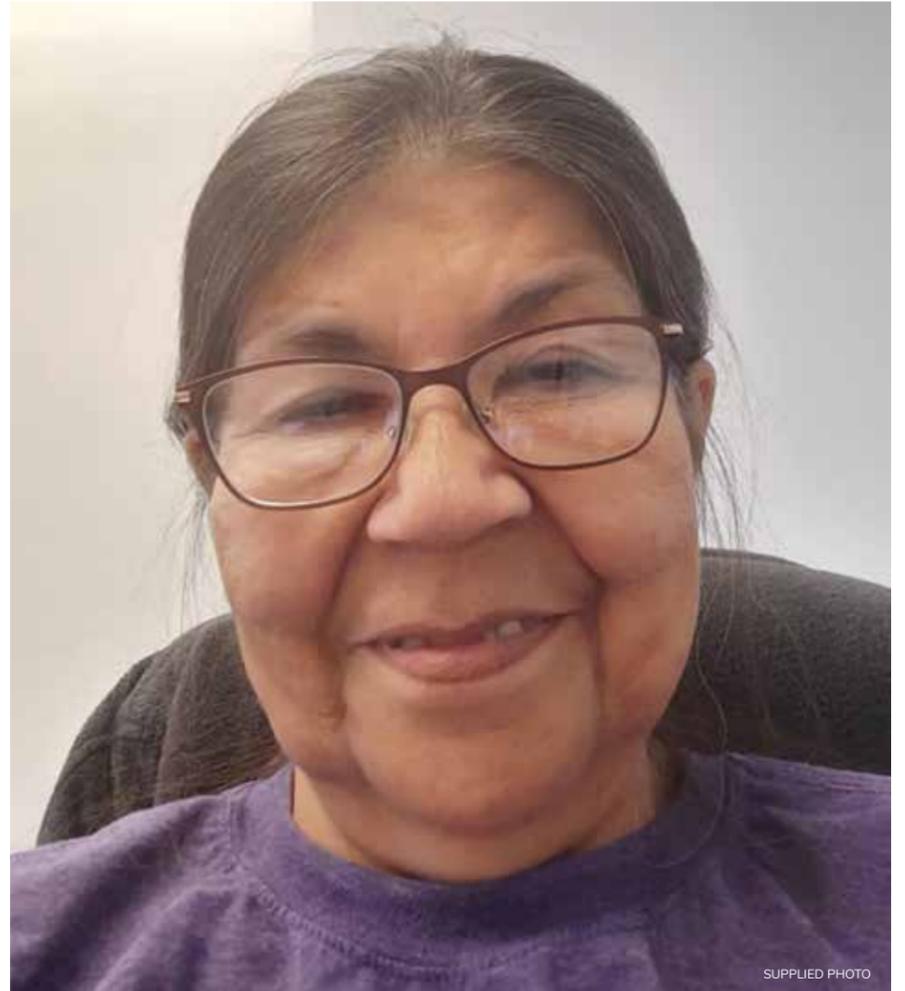
“Both my parents and their parents were in residential schools,” Elder Sharon Pelletier says in an email to *The Uniter*. “My parents chose not to speak Cree around us to protect us from being punished in school for speaking our language.”

Pelletier is a part of the U of W Elders in Residence program, which offers counselling and guidance to students, staff and faculty. She is also the executive director of the Manitoba Indian Education Association.

“I believe if one is learning the language, they must be immersed in the culture of that language to learn the holistic meanings and values of that language,” Pelletier says. “I was told that a name is not simply telling what that name means. It is seeing in one’s mind’s eye what that name looks like, smells like, feels like.”

As with any language or dialect, Indigenous languages speak to how one experiences the world around them.

“Our language comes from the land,” Fontaine says. “Our teachings are embedded in a lot of the oral stories that we have. (These stories) haven’t been told for a number of years, and there are concepts that talk about



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Elder Sharon Pelletier believes cultural immersion is important when learning Indigenous languages.

who we are as Indigenous people ... it has our historical, cultural, legal and political knowledge all embedded in the language.”

Learning Indigenous languages is about more than words. It’s also about the preservation of a culture, the sharing of stories and histories and the development of a deeper connection to the Creator and the community.

“Language helps (people) to understand, but it is up to the people to want to gain

deeper mean(ing) by attending the ceremonies, teachings and immersing themselves in the traditional ways of the people. Only then can one gain a deeper understanding,” Pelletier says.

Fontaine also highlights the work of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, an organization working to hold the federal government accountable for the Nunavut Agreement and preserve the Inuktitut language through the Inuk Education Innovation Fund.

‘A DONATION OF YOUR TIME’

Volunteer Manitoba launches a new youth program

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER |  REESEESTWICK

On Nov. 3, Career Services at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), in partnership with Volunteer Manitoba, hosted nine exhibitors and many students at the Volunteer Fair. At this event, students had the opportunity to learn about volunteerism and connect with different organizations that are currently recruiting volunteers.

Volunteering is a great way for people to get involved in the community, build their resumes, gain meaningful experience and explore their passions and interests.

“Volunteerism is important for youth, because it allows them to grow up learning a sense of community and the importance of giving back. As well, it gives you so many more skills that don’t come with studying,” Emily Lints says in an email to *The Uniter*.

Lint is the founder and executive director of the Non-Profit Youth Leadership Network (NPYLN), an online non-profit organization that connects, educates and inspires youth across Canada to get involved in the non-profit and volunteer sectors.

Lint founded the NPYLN in August 2020, and the network now has nearly 300 members and partners across Canada.

“Balancing school, volunteering, work and other responsibilities has never been easy, but I am inspired every day by the youth that we

have within our organization,” Lints says.

“We like to remind those looking to volunteer that volunteering is a donation of your time, so you get to decide how much time to give,” Gloria Dovah, the community relations coordinator at Volunteer Manitoba, says. “Even if you only volunteer once a year, you will still reap all the benefits of volunteering.”

For many young people, things like board governance, networking, scheduling and being one of the youngest people in the room can make volunteering feel inaccessible or intimidating. Although many organizations have created youth-specific positions, there is still much work to be done to ensure youth feel welcomed and respected.

“I have had some negative experiences with being a tokenized youth on boards,” Lints says. “I have been invited to participate in meaningful conversations, but I have also felt like I was simply sitting at the table for a photo-op.”

Volunteer Manitoba tries to ensure they provide services and programs to support youth who are hoping to gain new experiences through volunteering.

On Nov. 23, Volunteer Manitoba is “launching a brand-new program for youth who have a community project idea but don’t



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Emily Lints is the founder and executive director of Non-Profit Youth Leadership Network.

know where to start,” Dovah says. “This program will pair you with an organization, give you all the training needed to execute the project and get you a bit of kickstarter money to start your project.”

For Lints, volunteering has been a major part of her life for many years. She encourages youth to take their volunteer journey at a pace that works for them, whether that means starting slow or just diving into the deep end.

“There are so many people who will catch you as you fall into your passions,” Lints says. “There are opportunities everywhere, be it in school, sports, campus life or with organizations in the community that align with your passions. No matter what you care about, there is likely an organization for you. I did not start with creating my own organization.”

PROFILE

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIOLOGIST

Kristen Hardy, instructor in religion and culture, sociology, disability studies and women's and gender studies at the U of W

CHARLIE MORIN | FEATURES EDITOR | [TW](#) CHRLSMORIN

When Kristen Hardy started her undergraduate degree, she immediately knew she wanted to be an academic and a professor.

"I just felt like this was my place. This was where I wanted to be," Hardy says.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree and master of arts in religion at the University of Manitoba, Hardy spent a year exploring other topics by auditing courses and found she wanted to do interdisciplinary work.

Hardy got her PhD candidacy for the graduate program in social and political thought at York University but started teaching when an opportunity arose at Brandon University.

Hardy currently teaches Disabilities, Sexualities, and Rights; Theorizing Disability; and Sexuality in the Religious Context at the University of Winnipeg (U of W). Her courses are in the Departments of Disability Studies, Women's and Gender Studies and Religion and Culture, and she has also taught sociology and anthropology at the U of W.

"I still tend to identify myself as an

interdisciplinary sociologist, because I think, in some senses, that's my closest discipline – although it's probably the closest discipline because it's so broad," Hardy says.

What is your favourite thing about your job?

"I really like the fact that I learn through doing it – especially when I'm teaching new courses, but even when I'm teaching more familiar material."

Hardy also loves engaging with what she's passionate about and sharing that passion with others.

"Most of those things are in some way connected with social justice. (I get to) talk about those things with others, talk about my passion for those things with others."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

If you could create a dream course, what would that be?

"I would really love to teach a course on madness. I certainly would enjoy teaching something in fat studies, which is a big research area of mine, as well. I don't know that I could confine my interest to one dream course. One of the things I do like about teaching as a sessional instructor is that I get to dip my toes into many different areas in each discipline. It

forces you to think differently, to engage with different types of literature, different theory, to think about similar questions but from different perspectives."

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

"I would love the ability to remove people's suffering – to heal people from whatever they regard as suffering in their life."

COLUMN

READING IN COLOUR

Black contribution in war efforts

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

Even though Black Canadians faced resistance as they tried to join the army during the First World War, many were determined to fight for and show loyalty to their country.

Gus Este was a Black Canadian who served as a medical assistant during the Korean War in the 1950s. After his discharge, he decided to rejoin the service three years later and held the rank of major. In a series of interviews titled *Heroes Remember*, available on the Veterans Affairs Canada website, Este stressed the importance of recognizing the contribution of Black people in war efforts.

"There's very little knowledge in Canada about Blacks in the Canadian military, and I think that's gotta be exposed rather than hidden, because it started early, a long time before me," Este explained in one of the interviews. "You know, at the beginning of Canada's coming to be a nation, even before that, Blacks were involved in significant roles in the military, and I think that's unknown."

Black Canadians have been participating in Canadian war efforts since the country's formation, but much of this legacy remains undiscussed. In 1916, the first and only all-Black military unit in Canadian history was formed: the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

At the start of the First World War, the Canadian forces had a restricted enlistment policy that did not welcome most

men of Colour. The No. 2 Battalion, a segregated non-combatant unit, arose out of protests against these restrictive policies and appeals to military officials. The group arrived in Europe to respond to the needs of a depleted force, constructing trenches, roads and bridges and defusing landmines, which allowed troops to keep moving forward.

Though the army had initially rejected most minority applicants, by this time, Canada had instituted a conscription policy that included men of all races.

The relationship between Black Canadians and the Armed Forces remained fraught. Black soldiers, including those from the No. 2 Battalion, were not recognized with the same military honours as white Canadians, and their legacy remains largely under-recognized today.

Certain Black Canadians have been acknowledged and honoured for their contributions to Canadian military efforts, such as Able-Seaman William Neilson Edward Hall, more commonly known as William Hall, who enlisted in the British Royal Navy in 1852, serving in the Crimean War and the First Indian War of Independence.

Hall became the first Black and first Canadian Naval recipient of the Victoria Cross, a medal awarded for "most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour, self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy." The *Canadian Military Fam-*



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

lies magazine says the Victoria Cross is the "highest award of military valour" in Canada.

Over the years, Black Canadians have contributed immensely to various war efforts. As Este pointed out, there is little knowledge of this fact. This is why on Remembrance Day (even though it is a day later today), Canadians should remember the Black Canadians who served in the military.

To read more:

About William Hall: <https://tinyurl.com/dj87buj7>

About Black contributions to the Canadian Armed Forces: <https://tinyurl.com/vk3j2mzx>

About the all-Black battalion (a resource for children): <https://tinyurl.com/jaehkzwf>

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



HOROSCOPES

Welcome to Scorpio season!

Surprising messages come as Mercury faces off with Uranus, the planet of the unexpected on Saturday at 10:56 A.M. While much of this week's astrology is eager to plan and have structure, there are some things that throw us for a loop and give us more wiggle room and grace.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

♈ ARIES

You've been moving through difficult emotional terrain, Aries. This time of the year tends to find you in a transformative state — one where you're asked to stare into your own shadow and extract any emotional poisons that plague you on a partnership level. Thursday's skies see the arrival of the first quarter moon in gregarious Aquarius, highlighting the divide between your intimate relationships and your larger sense of community.

♉ TAURUS

This time of the year has you fully immersed in your close relationships, Taurus. Single or taken, you're diving deep into your experience of emotional give and take in this all-important terrain. Thursday's skies welcome the arrival of the first quarter moon in future-oriented Aquarius, illuminating the current divide between your relationship needs and the current changes waiting to be taken in your career approach.

♊ GEMINI

You've been all work and no play lately, Gemini. Scorpio season has you fully focused on untangling the knots in your current job landscape as you work to become more organized and get your health back on track. Thursday's skies witness the arrival of the first quarter moon in progressive Aquarius, highlighting the changes to be made between your existing day job and achieving your larger life plans.

♋ CANCER

The universe is nudging you to get closer to the needs of your heart, Cancer. Scorpio season asks you to be vulnerable enough to be creative, inhabit a stage of your choosing, and explore your sexuality in a new light. Thursday's skies show you changes to be made in your relationship approach, as the first quarter moon in future-oriented Aquarius illuminates the divide between sheer romance and mature commitments.

♌ LEO

As a Leo, it's unusual for you to be in circumstances where your radiant light doesn't automatically shine. This time of the year tends to find you deep underground, exploring ancient emotional material concerning family issues and your home environment. Thursday's skies work to highlight important changes to be made between your childhood upbringing and your current relationship story as you become more aware of how the past colors the present.

♍ VIRGO

Thursday's skies encourage change-making and action-taking, Virgo. The first quarter moon emerges in progressive Aquarius, highlighting the current gap between your mental world and your physical one. It's important that you get your story told this time of year, especially to free up headspace and provide you with an outlet. Take a good look at your exercise routine, diet, and work/life balance to see where changes are waiting to be made.

♎ LIBRA

This time of the year has you juggling a lot, Libra. Scorpio season asks you to examine feelings surrounding your self-worth in a fresh light as you work to acknowledge your natural skills and bring them to fruition. Thursday's skies witness the first quarter moon in Aquarius, which illuminates the divide between your raw natural skills and your ability to bring them onto a stage of your choosing.

♏ SCORPIO

All eyes are on you this time of year, Scorpio. You're knee-deep in the process of re-structuring your sense of identity and independence as you begin to redefine yourself in a new capacity. Thursday's skies usher in the first quarter moon in solution-finding Aquarius, illuminating the current divide between who you've been in the past and who you're becoming for your future.

♐ SAGITTARIUS

Let it all fall down around you, Sagittarius. Even if it's frightening in the moment, it's critical that you embrace a renewal-focused mindset. This time of the year finds you moving through a shedding phase, one that requires ample privacy and peace to make solid sense of. Thursday's skies welcome the first quarter moon in progressive Aquarius, illuminating what needs changing between your mental health and self-defeating patterns.

♑ CAPRICORN

As a Capricorn, you're here to choose one of the most daunting goals you can dream of and see it through fearlessly. Scorpio season currently has you deeply re-evaluating your list of aspirations and experience of community. Thursday's skies usher in the first quarter moon in solution-seeking Aquarius, bridging the gap between your sense of confidence in your abilities and your largest dreams into full focus for deeper contemplation.

♒ AQUARIUS

Career matters are all important during this time of year, Aquarius. Whether you're re-evaluating your current trajectory or climbing up a steady path, you're intended to be untangling any knots in this arena. Thursday's skies momentarily pull you out of this focus as the first quarter moon emerges in your sign. This lunation highlights the current divide between your career demands and independent needs.

♓ PISCES

The universe is pushing you to re-examine some long-held misconceptions you've been clinging to, Pisces. Scorpio season is all about pushing the boundaries for you as you explore new travel options, educational pursuits, and comfort zone breaking opportunities. Thursday's skies usher in the first quarter moon in solution-seeking Aquarius, which shines a revealing light on self-defeating patterns that need better dismantling.

IT'S SCORPIO SEASON!



Scorpio is the eighth sign of the zodiac, and that shouldn't be taken lightly—nor should Scorpios! Those born under this sign are dead serious in their mission to learn about others. There's no fluff or chatter for Scorpios, either; these folks will zero-in on the essential questions, gleaning the secrets that lie within.

The Scorpio zodiac sign concerns itself with beginnings and endings, and is unafraid of either. They also travel in a world that is black and white and has little use for gray. The curiosity of Scorpios is immeasurable, which may be why they are such adept investigators.

The folks with a Scorpio horoscope sign love to probe and know how to get to the bottom of things. The fact that they have a keen sense of intuition certainly helps.

Dates—
October 23 –
November 21

Symbol—
The Scorpion

Mode + Element—
Fixed Water

Ruling Planet—
Mars & Pluto

House—
Eighth

Mantra—
"I Transform."

Tarot Card—
Death

Colors—
Red & Black

Body Part—
The Genitals & the
Bowels

Alive in both a Scorpio woman or Scorpio man, those born with the Scorpion as their rising, sun, or moon sign have a mysterious, intuitive, and power-wielding dynamic in the core of their personality, an echo of the shadowy Autumn season.

As a fixed sign, Scorpio holds the qualities of being a sustainer, being able to apply profound powers of concentration to projects, and discovering hidden truths. As a result, those with the sign of the Scorpion prominent in their charts tend to be magnetic, highly sensitive, intuitive, creative, and secretive at times.



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