

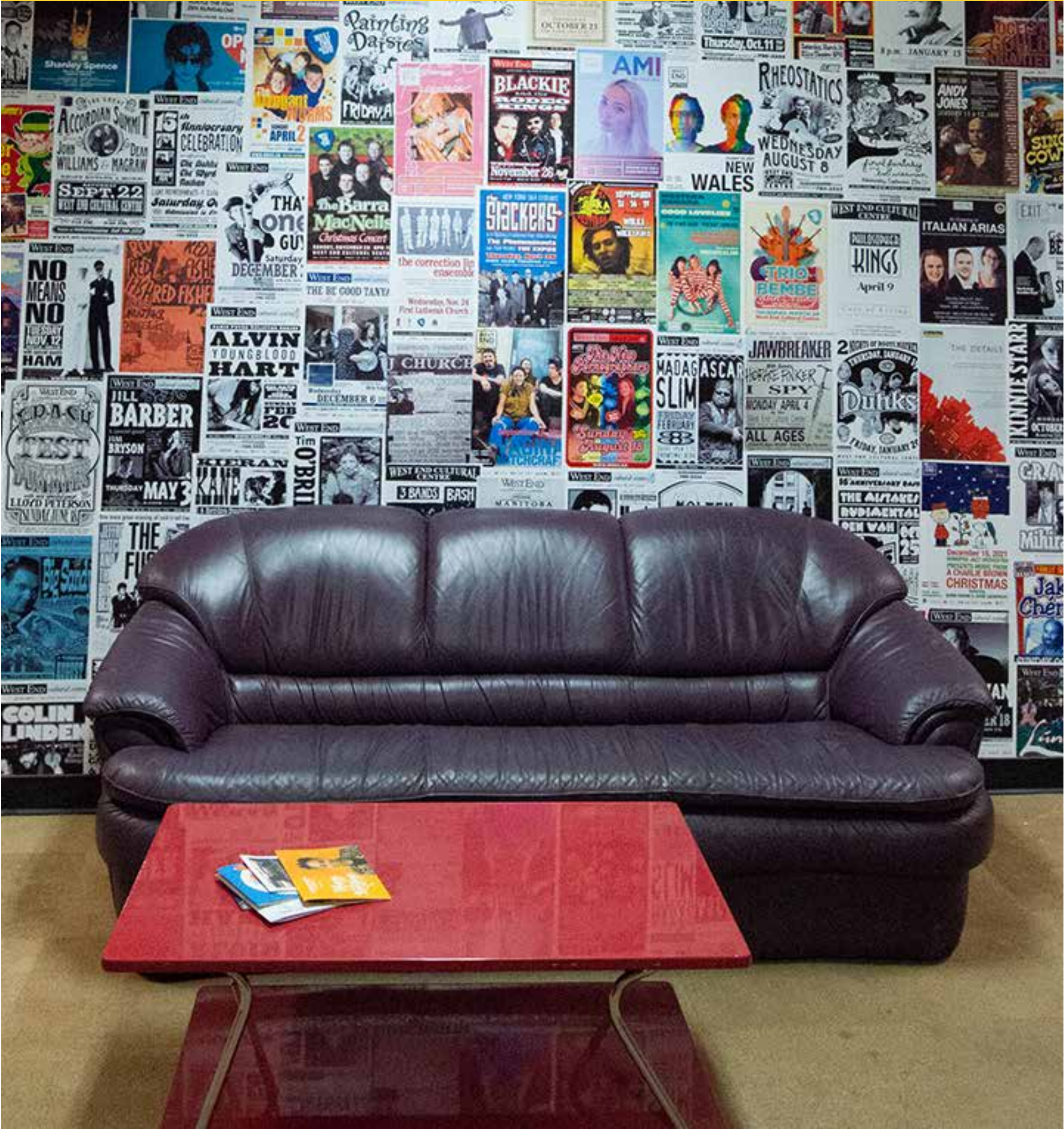
THE **UNITER**

#CURTAINDUP ON ABUSE IN
EDUCATION—P4

CANADA-US RELATIONS STILL ICY—P11

ESSENTIALLY “NON-ESSENTIAL”
TRAVEL—P14

Volunteer-driven



HOW RECRUITING DIFFICULTIES DURING COVID-19 IMPACT THE MUSIC INDUSTRY



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The Uniter is seeking an opinionated, politically minded and well-connected person to fill the role of Comments Editor. This person should have experience and a passion for writing editorials and understand what it means to curate an opinion section of a newspaper.

Visit uniter.ca/jobs for more information.



PCs JUST KEEP FAILING ON HEALTHCARE

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



On Wednesday, Jan. 19, Manitoba’s task force on the growing backlog of surgeries and diagnostic tests announced their plans to address this crisis. While it’s good that something is being done, it’s important to remember that this is a mess made by this government’s years-long assault on healthcare.

I’m as tired of beating this drum as any Manitoban who believes in public medicine. I’ve been writing about the Progressive Conservatives’ cuts to the province’s healthcare system since 2019. This issue is often framed around the COVID-19 pandemic: a system pushed to its breaking point by an unforeseeable calamity. But that’s only a sliver of the truth.

As this pandemic grows longer and longer, as story after story about Manitoba’s healthcare system get added to the ever-growing list, it’s imperative to remember that the PCs have cut healthcare jobs, shuttered emergency rooms and reduced numbers of beds, all because Brian Pallister wanted to cut a paltry \$36 million from the provincial budget.

For reference, \$36 million is roughly how much Winnipeg’s lucrative professional sports teams collect in tax breaks every two years.

Now, the province is sending patients to the United States, a country famous for a failing healthcare system, to receive backlogged surgeries. I am grateful these Manitobans will finally get the care they need. But don’t let this erase the fact that they’ve waited this long to receive that care because of the governing party’s utter lack of compassion.

In this week’s *Mother of Goo* column, Madeline Rae explores the appeal and logistics of sex in public. Read more on page 14.

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

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

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ARTS

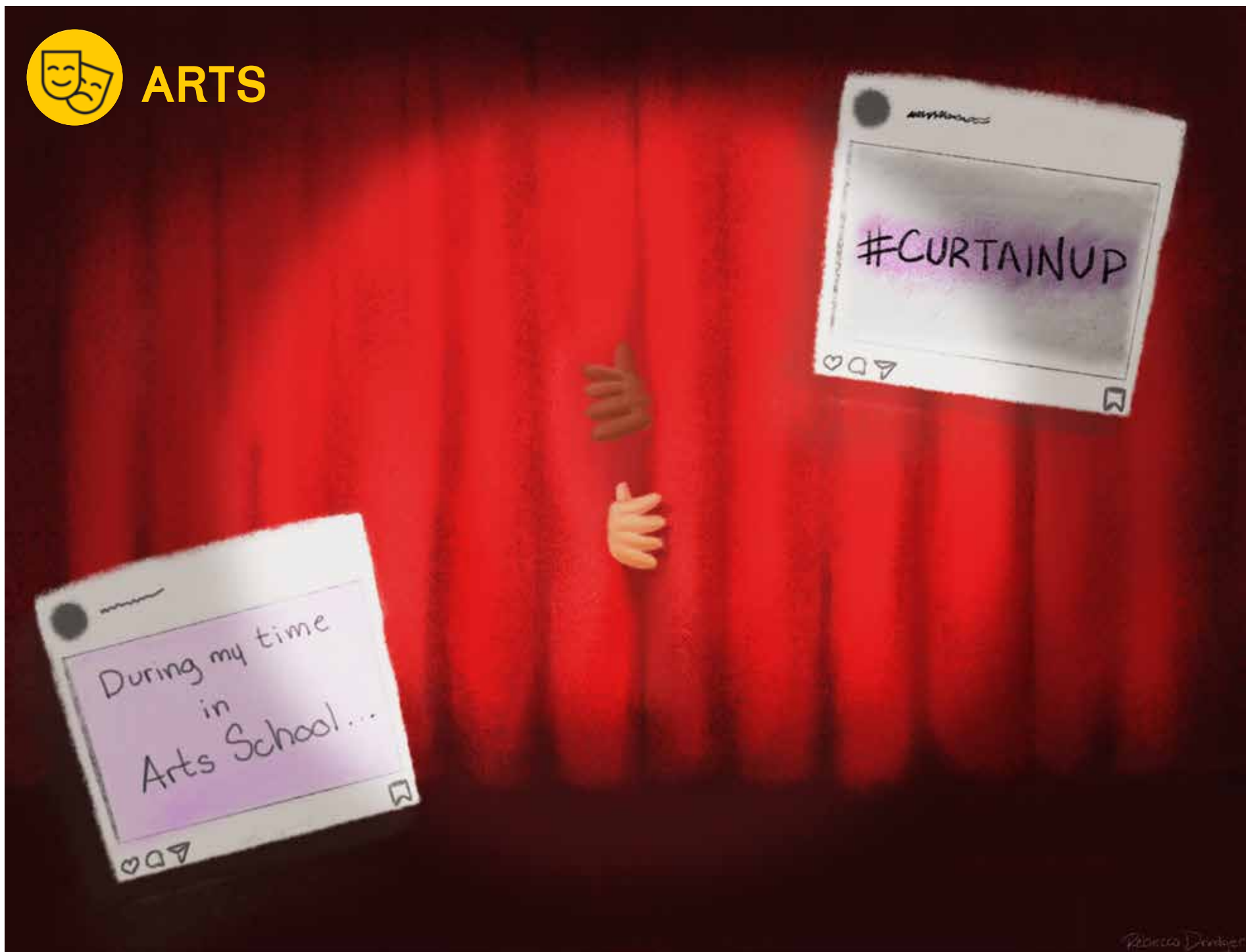


ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA DRIEDGER

THE CURTAINS ARE UP, AND THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE

@curtainup2021 shines spotlight on toxic theatre education practices

REBECCA DRIEDGER | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | REBECCADRIEDGER

For many, post-secondary education is a pivotal time in one's life – a time to make and learn from mistakes without fear of jeopardizing a career.

In March of 2021, a group of students created the Instagram account @curtainup2021 and the hashtag #curtainup to share anonymous accounts of what it's like to be a theatre student behind closed doors.

"I was messaged along with a bunch of other people from my school," Reid McTavish, a Winnipeg performer, says. "I believe it was people who were at (Sheridan College) who started it, but then it grew into this overall thing of theatre schools in general."

Past and present students across the country were asked to submit experiences of how their arts education was compromised, and how they were mistreated.

The Instagram account became flooded with stories of racism, sexism, homophobia, fatphobia, assault and more. Some posts included trigger warnings if the stories went in-depth about a specific traumatic event.

McTavish explains they were asked to share their experiences along with other classmates and told the posts would be completely anonymous, since many wor-

ried that speaking out would harm their reputation.

"There was this weird energy of this potential threat that anything we did, (teachers) would tell the industry, then we could be blacklisted and not work. It was as if it was a way to keep us in line," McTavish says.

McTavish explained that school felt like a kind of game. For example, if you were given two different opportunities in the industry and you declined one, that company may hold it against you, and you may never be able to work for them solely for not choosing their first offer.

"There are traumatic experiences that anyone can have in theatre that can turn someone away from it completely," McTavish says. "I've heard of a lot of people who go to theatre school, and then their love of theatre kind of dies. I know that was the case for me for a little while. But then there are these people who go off and thrive."

That seems to be the case for University of Winnipeg (U of W) theatre student Willow Harvey. Harvey is in the theatre honours program at the U of W and has found it to be a positive experience.

"The professors are awesome, and they practice what they teach. And it is excit-

ing that we are able to make all these connections and are able to network while we are still learning," Harvey says.

When Harvey learned about #curtainup2021 and the stories posted online, she was saddened.

She says she has heard stories about the theatre industry and how difficult it can be to make it, but she has been fortunate so far in her educational experiences. At the U of W, she has not had an experience like any of those posted on @curtainup2021, but she has concerns about what will happen after graduation.

"Being in this container of the university does scare me. Like, is this the last time I am going to be treated this well?" Harvey wonders.

McTavish believes all theatre students deserve experiences like Harvey's.

"I think theatre school should be meant to thrive, not survive. For the longest time, I thought 'if you can survive this, you can survive anything.' But that doesn't really foster creativity or growth or creation. It's like I'm barely hanging on for this rollercoaster, and when you get out, can you really stand on your own two feet?" McTavish says.

They say theatre has a history of making actors "suffer for their art," but it shouldn't have to be that way.

"They tell you to 'reach down, dig deep into that trauma' for a character, but then you're left there with nothing to help put you back together," McTavish says.

Harvey says that, generally speaking, the theatre industry can be daunting, especially after hearing horror stories.

"It's scary, because you hear a lot of stuff about speaking up and getting blacklisted, but we as actors are trained to say yes. Exercises are like 'just go with it, say yes,' – don't talk back. The directors are here to guide you, don't question things," Harvey says. "It's such vulnerable work."

Both McTavish and Harvey talk about how acting can take a toll on an individ-

ual. Actors have to be vulnerable. They are critiqued on seemingly every aspect of their being, from their voice to their posture, and must avoid internalizing any criticism.

"Performers are always seeking this external validation," McTavish says, "whether it is a standing ovation or something else. Artistic people who are putting themselves out there are sensitive to some degree and also very vulnerable. I think with any training program, you have to be understanding and (allow) these people to grow."

Harvey says the COVID-19 pandemic has increased students' vulnerability, noting that home environments can make it difficult for actors to get into character.

"The theatre acts as a safe space, a designated space to create and take risks, and what's in the room stays in the room," Harvey says. "But when you are in your own home, you have roommates and pets, family, other students also trying to do online classes, and your bed is three feet away. It's like you are taken out of your creative body."

Harvey is optimistic about finishing off her degree at the U of W, even if her final performances are online. She hopes that by the time she enters the industry, its toxic culture will be addressed.

"Theatre is supposed to be progressing and changing and adapting with the times. It's supposed to be creative and accepting and exploratory and bending. And to hear these stories and experiences of others it's like, wow, we're really stuck. I'm devastated, because that is not what's at the heart of all of this," Harvey says.

McTavish also believes that change will come, but it will take work, difficult conversations and more understanding.

"I think this whole world in itself just needs a bit more kindness, and theatre schools can be the first place to start with that kindness and safety," McTavish says.



ARTS



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

LANGUAGES SPEAK LOUDER THAN BARRIERS

Preserving one's mother tongue while living abroad

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

Communication is key to fostering relationships, establishing professional connections and for simple tasks like asking for proper directions to a destination. Learning a new language has become a necessity for many people living abroad, as well as an important means of expression for families with international backgrounds.

Luana Cunha worked as a Portuguese teacher in Brazil for years prior to her move to Canada. Her passion for music and leading classrooms have been there for as long as she can remember. That is why Cunha decided to launch the Soneto Language School and help children learn Portuguese and English, while promoting Brazilian culture in Winnipeg.

"I noticed that a lot of children had a hard time expressing themselves in Portuguese, and, to my surprise, those who did speak the language didn't know how to read or write," Cunha says.

The courses offered at Soneto range from beginner to intermediate levels, and there is a literacy program available for young students to learn how to read and write in Portuguese. Music and comic books – primarily a Brazilian book series called *Turma da Mônica* – have been valuable resources to keep students en-

gaged during the learning process.

"One thing that parents might not understand is that literacy doesn't depend on only reading to their children and making their children read. We choose reading passages that match the student's level, and over 40 to 50 per cent of our students here have been educated in Portuguese literacy," Cunha says.

According to the census collected by Statistics Canada in 2016, over 95.5 per cent of Manitoba's population uses English as their first official language, 3.2 per cent speak French as their first official language and only 8.6 per cent have bilingual knowledge of English and French.

These numbers don't reflect the full scope of the linguistic diversity in the province, which isn't just tied to Canada's official languages. With the rise of immigration and bilingual education in Manitoba, more students have the chance to learn an additional language in a school setting.

The Seven Oaks School Division is only one of the public-school divisions offering bilingual programs and after-school classes in multiple, non-official languages, such as Arabic, Filipino, Ojibwe, Polish and Ukrainian.

The English-Ukrainian Bilingual

Program at R. F. Morrison School has attracted children in Grades 1 to 6 who have grown up in Ukrainian-speaking and non-Ukrainian-speaking households alike. The program offers Ukrainian instruction in language arts, social studies, music and art, as well as English instruction in mathematics, science, computer and English language arts.

"Use of language at home is probably one of the greatest factors to fluency here in the school. A lot of the Ukrainian content is in the language-arts curriculum, social studies and music. The opportunity that kids have to develop the Ukrainian language goes beyond the context of language class," R. F. Morrison principal Andrew Volk says.

The school division's Ukrainian program has been around for over 40 years because of the historical concentration of Ukrainian settlers in Winnipeg's North End and Garden City regions.

"Being valued by communities and having started in public schools is a neat thing to see, because you don't see this (language element) everywhere," Volk says.

Outside of a school setting, another reason to practice speaking in another language is tied to professional development. More people are drawn to opportunities outside of Canada for job purposes and connections with workplaces abroad.

Jesús Ángel Miguel-García, the director of the Spanish Institute in Winnipeg, has observed that most of the students who enroll to learn Spanish in Winnipeg cite job opportunities and travel as their leading motivations.

"The adults that attend the institute do it for personal development and traveling. A few of them learn Spanish because of their relatives who come from Latin America or Spain, and they want to communicate with them," Miguel-García says.

Having taught Spanish for over 13 years in Spain, British universities and Canadian universities, Miguel-García

couldn't help but notice that there are less people in Canada who are naturally interested in learning a second language. He says this is something that diverges from his experience teaching in Europe, where most people have more than one language under their belt.

"When you go inside of universities in other countries, you can see the linguistic diversity in the posters, in conferences. There are professors and students switching languages in the halls, and that is part of the culture," Miguel-García says.

Since English has become somewhat of a globalized language, not everyone has the desire to learn another one or sometimes don't have the resources to be taught in their family's mother tongues.

That is the case for University of Manitoba student Peculiar-Gift Aregbesola, who moved to Canada at an early age and was never able to pick up Yorùbá, a language spoken in her home country Nigeria.

"I moved to Canada when I was five, which meant that I had to adapt to learning English by writing and reading through the school system," she says.

Not being able to speak directly to her grandparents, aunts and uncles when they come to visit, Aregbesola wishes she had learned Yorùbá when she was little so that she wouldn't face the language barrier she does to this day.

"If I were to learn my language, it would be very hard to find classes that teach Yorùbá in Canada. Sometimes people say that I sound too white, which shouldn't be the case, since people should know that I come from Nigeria through my voice," Aregbesola says.

Although the reasoning behind learning a language varies from person to person, it is fair to say there are challenges in any situation when it comes to connecting with people and preserving the language heritage. The importance of language in preserving culture and connecting to others is undeniable.



CRITIPEG



NETFLIX (SUPPLIED)

THE HOUSE

Streaming now on Netflix



THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | THOMASPASHKO

Reviewing an anthology film is always a tricky prospect. Multiple directors contributing individual segments to a feature inevitably leads to certain segments standing out above others. The themes tying the chapters together can be loose, while the quality of each can be inconsistent. *The House* is an especially odd duck, with its segments remaining consistent in quality and style, but varying wildly in genre and tone.

The stop-motion animated *The House*, written by Irish playwright Enda Walsh (*Disco Pigs*, *Once*), is advertised by Netflix as a “satire” or a “dark comedy.” This is a little misleading. The film’s three

segments are all dark and unsettling, but they range in tone from “a comedy about anxiety” to “full-blown Gothic horror.”

Each of the film’s three segments take place in the same house, each presented in a different time period. They all deal with some form of domestic angst attached to the house itself. Otherwise, each takes a unique approach to the material.

The first segment, by far the film’s best, is a surreal Victorian horror about a young family moving into the eponymous house, an attempt by the down-on-his-luck patriarch to recapture the upper-class status of his youth. He strikes a mysterious bargain to gain possession of the house, a sort of

“deal with the devil” that plunges his two young daughters into a hellish house full of secrets and sorrow.

Co-directors Emma De Swaef and Marc James Roels manage to use cute, fuzzy puppets to create a legitimately scary bit of cinema. That seems impossible. How can something that presents no physical threat be genuinely horrifying? It’s a reminder that most of what makes good horror actually scary has nothing to do with actual threats. The scares come from camera placement, editing, lighting, sound design – all those aspects of craft that build the tension and atmosphere that create horror.

The second segment, directed by Niki Lindroth von Bahr, is the film’s weakest. It’s not entirely von Bahr’s fault. There’s a certain amount of tonal whiplash going from De Swaef and Roels’ unmitigated horror to von Bahr’s more tempered and paranoid dark comedy. The segment stars Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker as an anthropomorphic rat who has purchased the house, attempting to renovate it into a hip, soulless home for millennial yuppies. His plans are challenged by a growing bug

infestation and some other eerie squatters.

von Bahr’s segment evokes the sort of self-righteous, Book of Job-esque suffering that the Coen brothers explored in movies like *A Serious Man* and *Barton Fink*. The rat’s problems snowball and multiply until the line between unfortunate coincidence and divine punishment is blurred beyond recognition.

The third segment is the most overtly comedic, even while set in a future climate catastrophe where sea levels have covered the entire landscape surrounding the house. Director Paloma Baeza follows the futile attempts of the house’s owner (this time it’s an anthropomorphic cat) to turn it into an apartment building, dutifully ignoring society’s collapse.

In a time when so much of Netflix’s original programming feels like it was designed by an algorithm, it’s refreshing to see something as offbeat as *The House*. Lovingly handcrafted (literally) and idiosyncratic, its unevenness actually increases its appeal. What a relief to have something this weird and beautiful only a couple clicks away.

ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | FICTIONALCIERRA CIERRABETTENS

In conversation with Maureen Gruben

As part of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and RBC’s INUA virtual speaker sessions, Inuvialuk artist Maureen Gruben will discuss her artistic practice, focusing on links between global climate concerns and life in the Western Arctic. Visit bit.ly/33ww89j for the Zoom link and registration information.

Through and Through

The latest exhibition at cr8ery (125 Adelaide St.) features work by visual artist and photographer Tameem Safi. *Through and Through* combines Safi’s formative experiences in Kabul with his passion for nature. The exhibition runs from Feb. 3 to 15. For gallery hours and information about the show, visit cre8ery.com/portfolio/safi.

Artist talk with Grace Nickel

Join Gallery 1C03 and the Manitoba Craft Council on Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. for a studio chat with artist Grace Nickel. Nickel will discuss her recent exhibition, *Eruptions*, where she “col-lects, studies, transforms and memorializes felled trees and forest fragments in porcelain.” Register for the Zoom event at bit.ly/3KuNEvs.

Music, mavens and more

Rady JCC’s Music ‘N’ Mavens concert and speaker series kicks off on Jan. 25 with inspiring speakers and intriguing musical acts. The speaker series is free with registration and will take place virtually over Zoom from Jan. 25 to Feb.15. The concert leg of the festival begins on Feb. 22 and ends on March 24. Concert tickets and passes, as well as speaker series registration, are at bit.ly/3rBqMBt.

Pulling heart-strings at home

The Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO) is going virtual with their Heartstrings@Home concert. Offering ticket packages with three-course meal, appetizer and dessert options from Bergmann’s on Lombard, the gala brings the luxuries of a night out to the comfort of home. An auction will run from Feb. 11 to March 4, and the concert will be streamed on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit themco.ca/heartstrings.

Winnipeg New Music Festival

The Winnipeg New Music Festival is back. On Jan. 25, a collective of acclaimed musicians will perform on the theme of digital landscapes. Pianist Steven Beck will perform a solo act on Jan. 26. The festival concludes on the theme of the last word with members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 28. All concerts take place in person at the Centennial Concert Hall (555 Main St.) but will also be streamed virtually. For more information, visit wnmf.ca.

Volunteer-driven



This newly postered seating area in the basement of the West End Cultural Centre is where volunteers meet up for events at the historic venue.

How recruiting difficulties during COVID-19 impact the music industry

At a time when industries are finding it extremely difficult to keep their doors open due to staffing shortages, organizations are facing similar challenges recruiting volunteers. This is an issue, as

many larger music events and festivals rely heavily on volunteers to operate.



the emu and domo11 perform at the Good Will Social Club on Jan. 24, 2020. The performance was part of the last in-person Winterruption.

Winterruption

Meagan Stewart is a volunteer-turned-house manager and volunteer coordinator of the West End Cultural Centre (WECC), a partner and venue for the Winterruption festival. Stewart says the WECC has taken a number of steps to make their volunteers feel more comfortable when on shift.

“The staff are now doing more. We have more paid staff around during the events than we might otherwise,” Stewart says.

They also have a venue safety attendant to check vaccination status, so that volunteers are not put in an uncomfortable or vulnerable position.

The WECC typically operates with six crews of 30 or more people. According to Stewart, most crews are operating with

about 20 people or less. In response, the WECC has broadened recruitment through social platforms and increased their reach through creating partnerships, such as with Real Love Winnipeg, to collaborate with the WECC on Winterruption.

“Previously, it was more organic. People that were in the building would see posters and email to the volunteer coordinator and (go) through the orientation process,” Stewart says.

At the time of publication, Winterruption has announced a postponement and has yet to set a new date. Stewart is trying to be open and honest with volunteers to keep them involved.



left: Hannah Epperson performing at the Good Will Social Club as part of Winterruption on Jan. 24, 2020
right: Megan Stewart is a house manager and volunteer coordinator at the West End Cultural Centre



Violet Vopni is the volunteer coordinator for BreakOut West.

BreakOut West

Violet Vopni, volunteer coordinator on contract for BreakOut West (BOW), echoes the sentiment of difficulty in volunteer recruitment.

“It’s been really slow,” Vopni says. BOW is an annual event presented by the Western Canadian Music Alliance and includes a music festival and an industry conference.

Originally BOW projected having their usual 120 volunteers. However, prior to the holiday season, they had only 20. That is when Vopni reached out to other groups she had worked with previously, such as Central Canada Comic Con (which held its last convention in 2019), or groups she had recruited volunteers from in the past, such as the Tec-Voc High School student broadcasting group and Northwest Law Enforcement Academy.

“Now we have 60, maybe 70,” Vopni says – a far cry from the expected 120.

Vopni has found it challenging to anticipate the number of positions required, as it meant balancing fewer attendees

allowed with the increased number of jobs required and anticipating people being unable to attend their shifts due to illness.

“When you have less crowds to manage, you need less volunteers to manage them. I think we will be okay,” Vopni says.

Vopni thinks potential volunteers were caught off guard, since BOW typically occurs during the fall.

“Events haven’t been happening, so people weren’t prepared for this. BOW usually happens in October, not in February. They are doing the 2021 conference and showcase series in 2022, and then they are rolling forward and doing the 2022 conference and concert series in October 2022.”

After this interview, BOW shifted to an online format that requires little to no volunteers. Vopni will reach out to volunteers already signed up if any new opportunities arise.



Le Winston Band performing at the Sugar Shack as part of the 2020 Festival du Voyageur

Festival du Voyageur

Dan Girard has volunteered for Festival du Voyageur, the festival celebrating Franco-manitoban culture, since he was 14 years old, eventually rising to become a blacksmith at the festival and now the volunteer coordinator.

While Girard doesn’t personally have past years’ experience as volunteer coordinator to compare, the records indicate the number of volunteers appear to be lower than previous years. However, he is hopeful, because there are many people who, like himself, have never missed a year of Festival.

“I have never missed a Festival in my life,” Girard says. “The keeners have already signed up.”

“We are trying to book more volunteers knowing we will have people who last-minute are drop-

ping out,” he says. “We are telling our volunteers that if you don’t feel good, stay home. Don’t worry about anything. We will figure it out.”

There are certain volunteer groups at Festival in charge of their own recruitment.

“All the bar staff in the park. You have your heads of the bar department. They find their own volunteers for each tent. The trading post across Winnipeg, CCFM (Centre culturel franco-manitobain), the Notre Dame Recreational Centre – it’s usually volunteer groups that take charge of that. I still have to communicate with them for their needs,” Girard says.

At the time of this interview, Festival du Voyageur was planning to go ahead with the festival with precautions in place.



Dan Girard, the new volunteer coordinator for Festival du Voyageur, has been volunteering for the fest since he was 14 years old.

Chantal Vielfaure, director of marketing for Festival du Voyageur, adds that they have posted on their website the health protocols the festival will have onsite for all attendees, volunteers and staff. The festival will also feature virtual content for those attending from home.

“We are currently building a mobile concert trailer, where you can have a four-piece band in there. This will allow us to offer music anywhere. We are looking at where it could be possible to offer entertainment and traditional music,” Vielfaure says.

While festivals and large-scale music events face challenges as they continually adapt to COVID-19, many organizers are hopeful for positive outcomes and are appreciative of the support.



(Clockwise from top left) Attica Riots, Five Alarm Funk and House Handshake each performed as part of Festival du Voyageur 2020.

BreakOut West runs from Feb. 2 to 6. Virtual passes are available at breakoutwest.ca

To volunteer for Festival du Voyageur, click the red volunteer button on the navigation bar of their website, heho.ca, or sign up by calling the office at 204-237-7692. Festival du Voyageur runs from Feb. 18 to 27.

Available volunteer positions include bonfire attendants, toboggan and winter playground staff, parking staff, tent assistants, beard-growing competitors, tear-down workers, hosts, ambassadors and more!

Many West End Cultural Centre events are currently postponed or shifting to other platforms. Volunteer intake is still open for future shows. To sign up, email volunteer@wecc.ca or visit bit.ly/33wISON.

Winterruption is postponed. People who wish to volunteer for the event can sign up once the new dates are announced. BOW, Festival du Voyageur, Winterruption and WECC have volunteer-appreciation packages and programs.



CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

Vaccine walk-ins at RBC

The Government of Manitoba has announced that the RBC Convention Centre, which is a vaccine supersite, is switching from an appointment-only vaccination program to a walk-in program, regardless of which dose a walk-in patient is getting.

Oral history overview

The Oral History Centre will hold a three-part virtual workshop on using oral history as a research method. The three parts of the workshop will be held on Jan. 21, Jan. 28, and Feb. 4. Registration is free for University of Winnipeg students, faculty and staff and \$100 for community members.

UWSA student space launches on Discord

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association has created a Discord server to serve as a virtual community space for University of Winnipeg students. Any U of W students interested in joining the server can fill out a survey on theuwsa.ca.

nēhinawēwin launches in the App Store

Cameron Adams, a University of Winnipeg undergraduate student, launched nēhinawēwin, an app for learning the N dialect of Swampy Cree, on Jan. 14. The app is voiced by Elder Ellen Cook and was developed in part with funding from the U of W.

Sara Riel receives housing grant

Sara Riel Inc. will receive a \$131,000 Housing Supports Initiatives Grant, which will support the CASE Management/Wraparound Housing Project. The project will support Manitobans who are at risk for or experiencing homelessness and who are experiencing mental-health challenges, substance-use disorders or who are newcomers or living with disabilities.

UW alumni honoured by Government of Canada

Several U of W alumni received the 2021 Order of Canada on Dec. 29, including Elder Ruth Christie, Harvey Lyon Selter, Bob Silver and the Honourable Murray Sinclair. The Order of Canada is awarded to those who the Government of Canada recognizes as having “outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.”



Amazon Prime delivery vans, pictured here in Gainesville, Fla., have become a common sight in Winnipeg since the e-commerce giant opened two warehouses in the city.

TWO NEW AMAZON WAREHOUSES IN WINNIPEG

Multinational has been criticized for business practices

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

Amazon, the multinational tech company known for its e-commerce website, recently opened two delivery warehouses in Winnipeg. These stations, which became operational in December 2021, are located on Regent Avenue and Plymouth Street.

While the goal of these warehouses is to improve delivery times for Winnipeg customers, there may be other consequences. In particular, Amazon, one of the largest

companies in the world, has been criticized for its negative impact on small businesses.

Jill Zdunich is the owner of Shop Take Care, a Winnipeg-based consignment clothing and home goods store. They have two locations: 109 Osborne St. and 217 McDermot Ave.

“We’ve felt the impact of e-commerce platforms,” Zdunich says in an email to *The Uniter*, adding that “I don’t think

there’s a small (business) out there that hasn’t by now, to be honest.”

In fact, RBC’s Canadian E-Commerce Survey, released in 2019, found that 85 per cent of consumers have bought something on Amazon’s website. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased its popularity.

Nevertheless, Zdunich says she does not feel “overly threatened” by Amazon at the moment, for a variety of reasons.

“Because 80 per cent of our overall business is recycled/consignment clothing, we’ve been able to stay afloat through these hard times thanks to our loyal customer base here in Winnipeg,” Zdunich says.

“There will always be folks who make the conscious effort to choose local, and those folks will always be our clientele.”

Like so many other small businesses, e-commerce has been a double-edged sword for Shop Take Care. On the one hand, e-commerce giants like Amazon have significant market power, but, on the other, online platforms also help small businesses stay afloat – which has been especially relevant during the past two years.

“When the pandemic first hit, we were scrambling ... to get our e-commerce shop

up and running,” Zdunich says. “Thankfully, because of our e-commerce site, we were able to still make some revenue while we were fully locked down.”

Amazon did not return *The Uniter’s* request for comment. In December 2021, however, Amazon Logistics’ regional director Mikhail Clarkson told Global News that the new delivery stations “are expected to create more than 200 jobs, both full- and part-time.”

“Our customers and residents in Winnipeg and its surrounding areas have been longtime supporters of Amazon, and we’re so proud to create jobs and provide even better delivery times and customer service in the region,” he said.

In addition to encroaching on small businesses, Amazon has also been criticized for a wide range of its business practices. These include anti-competitive behaviour, anti-union practices, allegedly using forced Uighur labour, tax avoidance, selling books promoting pedophilia and antisemitism, poor working conditions and influence over local news stations in the United States.

RESTRICTIONS, UNCERTAINTY AND POLITICKING

Canada-US relations in the Biden era

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER | CGOULETKILGOUR

Exactly one year ago, on Jan. 20, 2021, Joe Biden was inaugurated as the United States’ 46th president, succeeding Donald Trump. The 45th president’s tenure was a tumultuous time in American politics, which culminated with the Jan. 6 insurrection in Washington, DC and Trump’s second impeachment for “incitement of insurrection.”

Canadians’ overwhelming support of Biden over Trump led many to believe the somewhat strained Canada-US relations over the past few years might be over. However, the continued presence of political extremism in the US, the ever-present COVID-19 pandemic and Biden’s continuation of some of Trump’s policies have complicated the potential *détente*.

Dr. Kawser Ahmed, adjunct professor of political science at the University of Winnipeg, says “many of the foreign-policy decisions have not changed during the first year of the Biden administration.”

“That includes China’s policy, trade and tariffs (particularly electric-vehicle production, which will not receive any subsidy in the USA),” he says in an email to *The Uniter*.

“We ought not to forget that Biden’s first year (since elected) witnessed two monumental US defeats (one at home, the Jan. 6 insurrection, and one abroad, the Afghanistan

withdrawal after 20 years),” Ahmed says.

He adds that the rise of far-right politics in the US has helped inspire extremist acts and groups in Canada.

“Never in the history of Manitoba has someone driven a truck through the Legislative building stairs in the past,” he says, referring to the event that occurred in July 2021.

For the coming year, Ahmed believes shifts in Canada-US relations will depend on the American midterm election, scheduled to take place on Nov. 8, 2022.

“I am waiting to see how Canada steers its foreign-policy decisions without US hegemony and takes independent and well-informed measures about China,” he says. Ahmed adds that he does not expect any significant pro-Canada policy changes during the Biden presidency.

One complicating factor is the interdependence of the two economies, particularly in border provinces and states.

Charley Johnson, president and CEO of the Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau, says North Dakota, a popular destination for Manitobans, has suffered due to a lack of visitors during the pandemic.

“Border crossings at Pembina fell off to virtually nothing in the wake of the shutdown and still amount to only a trickle compared



Joe Biden and Justin Trudeau warmly embraced at COP26, but Canada-US relations remain strained during Biden’s presidency.

with non-pandemic years,” he says.

“The return of Canadian traffic is complicated by the requirement of a negative PCR test for re-entry to Canada, the processing time of which is not conducive for a quick weekend getaway to Fargo or Grand Forks,” Johnson notes.

“I don’t realistically expect that to be relaxed until the Omicron surge abates, so we’re

in wait-and-see mode.”

Johnson does, however, say he is cautiously optimistic about the coming year.

“I do believe there is pent-up demand among Manitobans who want to come south, just as there has been for Americans to visit Canada, so I hope things ease up again soon,” he says.



CAMPUS



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

U of W rhetoric professors Andrew McGillivray (left) and Tracey Whalen are the co-editors of the academic journal *Crossings*.

BUILD YOUR CV WITH CLASSICS AND *CROSSINGS*

On-campus initiatives include students in academic activities

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

Students are often excluded from participating in many of the activities, events and accomplishments that are hallmarks of academic careers as academics themselves. But at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), there are initiatives trying to change that and engage undergraduate and graduate students as academics rather than assistants.

The University of Winnipeg Classics Students Association (UWCSA) is holding its annual colloquium on Jan. 28. While there are many departmental colloquiums held at the U of W that feature student work, the UWCSA is one of the few entirely led by students and the only student-led colloquium that has become an annual event.

This year, the UWCSA colloquium is organized by UWCSA co-consuls Marina Milne and Samantha Frost. Both have been part of the UWCSA since their first year and have memories of attending the colloquium earlier in their degrees.

Ordinarily, students are responsible for advertising the call for papers, reviewing and selecting the papers to be presented, communicating with participants and organizing the food and logistics. While the UWCSA had initially planned to hold the 2022 colloquium in person, it will instead be the event's second virtual iteration.

Milne says attending the colloquium in her first year of university "felt like a really special experience. It really added to my university experience, because we were such a tight-knit

group that was able to do so much together. The colloquium is a big part of that, (and) our trivia night is a big part of that."

"Usually, the faculty is really excited to attend, as well," she says. "It's a big event for our club, even if it's virtual."

"I hadn't realized that other colloquiums aren't student-led," Milne says. "This was just something that we came into, but it also lets us get to know the profs really well, which is so great, because the classics department is small but really mighty. We also include the history and anthropology departments, so it's just a really exciting opportunity to make connections at such an early university level."

Crossings, an interdisciplinary journal based at the U of W, publishes articles by undergraduate and graduate students. Tracy Whalen and Andrew McGillivray, the current co-editors of the journal, emphasize the importance of providing publication opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students. Whalen and McGillivray are also both professors in the rhetoric department.

McGillivray points out that, as a professor, he benefits from getting to read essays with new perspectives and approaches by undergraduates. "But I'm the only one benefitting as a reader from those essays," he says. "I think part of the mission (of the journal) is bringing undergraduate and graduate essays to a larger audience."

The journal is "designed to acknowledge and circulate some really superlative work

that was going on in our classes," Whalen says. "Sometimes professors will read these really amazing papers that really warrant a larger readership, and this gives students who maybe would never otherwise have an opportunity or access to a published venue to see their fine work in publication."

"A lot of these papers are important and timely," she says. "These are papers that engage with identity, climate change, representation, BIPOC writing and scholarship, discourse around power and even more of what you might think of as classically oriented scholarship in literary critique and classics."

Milne says the younger scholars who contribute to the UWSCA colloquium also tend to focus more on "minority groups, women, LGBTQ+, putting spotlight on those who would historically have (had less research attention) in academic settings" in their submissions.

The publication also provides firsthand experience with the peer-review process, as every article goes under an editorial and review process from academics with relevant expertise at the U of W. An interdisciplinary approach also allows students to get a glimpse at what's going on in other departments and how it might relate to their own academic interests.

Crossings has published an annual journal since 2017 and is in the early development stage of its sixth volume. The first four were primarily edited by Jane Barter, with the others co-edited by Barter and Jenny Heijun Wills, but the *Crossings* editorial team also includes additional editors from different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

McGillivray says one benefit of publishing student work is that it provides students with "something extending beyond the end of the course."

"Often there's a term paper in the humanities or social sciences that's graded, perhaps with comments depending on the course and the content, and that's the endpoint — completing the course components to get a grade," he says.

"This provides the opportunity for students who have done exceptional work to develop that paper, to refine it further

based on not only comments they may have received from their instructor but editorial and peer-review comments, as well," he says. "It gives that piece of writing a new life beyond the classroom."

Developing scholarship outside of a classroom model can also help students consider their work from new perspectives.

"There's a lot at stake when a student is composing a final paper that might be at the top of their mind, including the grade (and) the student's relationship with the instructor," McGillivray says. "Publishing for a public audience has a whole different set of factors at stake entering that public discourse, perhaps less practical in terms of 'is this paper going to get me the grade I need for this course.' There's something different about publishing for a general audience."

Whalen says the process of revising and editing an essay for a wider academic audience can also be empowering for students and push them further in their approach to writing about their research.

"Sometimes undergrad students might have two people read their work, but this requires imagining a wider readership, and that can be very empowering," she says. "They're contributing in new and novel ways, that they're making new knowledge claims, that their ideas are shared and get uptake."

Whalen further emphasizes that this process shows students the value of their work and gives students more time to develop their ideas and insights. Students get to sit with their work and take the time to push their insights further, and the resulting articles become contributions to a larger collective volume.

"You occupy the practice of a published scholar, and I think there's a change in ethos when you go through this process," she says. "I think it can really boost confidence."

Crossings can also publish articles in any language taught at the university. So far, they have published in English and French, but Whalen says they would like to publish Ojibway scholarship in the future.

Submissions to *Crossings* Volume 6 are due on Jan. 31, 2022.

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

6AM

MORNING BREATH

!EARSHOT 20

Cafecito Latinoamericano

FLY Travel Radio ★

FANTASTIC FRIDAY
World - Island music

THE MAN IN THE GREY FLANNEL SUIT SHOW

CKU-SPEAKS

7AM

8AM

9AM

10AM

11AM

NOON

1PM

2PM

3PM

4PM

5PM

6PM

7PM

8PM

9PM

10PM

11PM

MIDNIGHT

1AM

2AM

3AM

4AM

5AM

6AM

CKUW MORNING NEWS / FRONT BURNER (CBC)

DEMOCRACY NOW!

DEPARTMENT 13
POP/ROCK

This Way Out
WINGS

VOYAGE
Jazz

PLANETARY RADIO
Cheeze Pleeze

SUNNY ROAD
Roots Music

MUD PUDDLE RADIO
For Kids (Adults too)

SHADES OF CLASSICS
Classical and New Age

INDIGENOUS In Music

NEON BEIGE SOUND EXCHANGE

YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD
Gospel

Classical Delights

THE TRIP
PSYCHADELIC ROCK

WE BUILD HITS
Hip-Hop

RED BOX
Hip-Hop

DANCE HALL FEVER
Dancehall and Reggae

CRYSTAL PALACE

Rainbow Country

Your Show Here

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

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



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

Tuition Fees for Winter Term

U2021W fees are due **Jan. 24**. Pay the easy – pay online through your financial institution.

1. Log on to your bank's website
2. Add The University of Winnipeg – Tuition as a bill payee
3. Use your seven-digit student number as the account number

(International payments can be made via flywire.com.)

For more details on fees, please see uwinnipeg.ca/fees.

Fall Term Grades

Grades for the Fall Term will be available on WebAdvisor on tentatively **Jan. 26**.

Spring Graduation

Are you finishing your last courses in April? Interested in graduating in June? The final date to apply to graduate in June 2022 is **Feb. 1**.

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

Study Skills Workshops

Study Skills Workshops are designed to

improve your learning skills and help you achieve your academic goals. Topics include time management, writing essays, and test-taking strategies.

Organized by Academic & Career Services, the series of six workshops continues on Mondays and Wednesdays until **Feb. 2**. Each session is held 12:30 to 1:20 pm, via Zoom.

Registration in advance is required. For details and to sign up, see: uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html

Webinar Wednesdays

Student Services staff share some valuable strategies and tips to help you succeed at UWinnipeg. Upcoming dates/topics include:

Jan. 26 – Finding Freedom from your Inner Critic

Feb. 9 - Budgeting and Financial Literacy

Feb. 16 - Building Resiliency

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

UWinnipeg Award Applications Now Open

For current students:

- Winter 2022 Bursaries - Online application deadline Feb. 1. <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/index.html>
- UWSA Student Conference/Travel Fund Award - Online application deadline March 15. <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/index.html>

For new students:

- 2022-23 Entrance Awards - Online application deadline March 1. <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/index.html>

2022-23 President's Scholarship for World Leaders – web application form now open; deadlines vary by term start and program of entry (PACE, ELP, Collegiate, Undergraduate, Graduate Studies). <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/awards-bursaries-and-scholarships/international-students.html>

Student ID Cards

New students for Winter Term and others who need an ID card: The next deadline for ordering your card is coming up on Feb. 2 (for pick up Feb. 4).

For instructions, please go to:

uwinnipeg.ca/accepted-students/getting-ready/student-id-cards.html

Student Services Goes Remote

Departments in Student Services are now offering their services remotely. No appointments for in-person meetings are available. Please see this webpage for details about each department: uwinnipeg.ca/student-services

Klinic Health Services Re-opens

Klinic on campus is once again available to provide virtual and in-person appointments to the University community. For more information, please visit uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness/health-services.html

Use the myVisit App

Need some help from staff 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 meeting with an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can also be booked through the website: www.myvisit.com.

PHONE: 204.779.8946

I

EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca



MOTHER OF GOO

Right here, right now

MADELINE RAE | COLUMNIST | MOTHEROFGOO

Sand coats my tangled hair, our sweat cooled by the touch of the witching hour.

Anaïs Nin read in almost-whispers in Central Park, your desire unable to hide through thin fabric.

Humans can't always contain our desires to the bedroom. What's hottest to me about sex in public is the burning desire: *I need you now*. Some people get off on the idea of being caught or seen, which has more to do with exhibitionism.

Merriam-Webster defines "exhibitionism" as "a perversion in which sexual gratification is obtained from the indecent exposure of one's genitals (as to a stranger)."

I disagree with the narrow perspective of this definition. Exhibitionism is not necessarily a perversion, nor is it always related to indecency. The word "indecent" implies that those who are experiencing the exposure did not consent to it.

As most things, exhibitionism exists on a spectrum. Not everyone who gets titillated at the thought of possibly being caught in the act receives sexual gratification specifically from "indecent exposure of one's genitals." There are ways to enjoy exhibitionism and public sex that are completely consensual.

If being seen or caught is an important part of the thrill, try a sex club. In Winnipeg, we don't have many (or any), but many larger cities do. If you can't find a

club or a consensual party to play at, consider chatting with pals who are open to creating an event like this.

Tasting him on the roof behind the air conditioner, traffic sounds below.

Against the bathroom tiles, we melt into rhythm with eager swiftness, veins running with expensive liquor.

Katy Thorn, writing for *Volonte*, explains that although public sex is technically illegal in Canada, 49 per cent of Canadians say they've engaged in it. This discrepancy also further supports the reality that folks can engage in sex or sex-related activities publicly without getting it on in the middle of the road in broad daylight.

Web MD explains that "consensual exhibitionism takes self-awareness and planning." I would further this by saying that all consent takes self-awareness and planning. And like all forms of sexual expression, setting intention and checking in doesn't need to take away from spontaneity.

Ways to be more prepared for spontaneous sex while out and about include wearing clothing with easy access, carrying condoms and dental dams and having a small bottle of lubricant in your bag (since there isn't always enough time for thorough foreplay).

Here's to dreaming of COVID-free days when we can run around like eager little bunnies in heat. This pandemic



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

does make spontaneous public sex a bit trickier to do safely, but hey, if your sexual partner(s) are in your bubble, it could be an exciting time to explore your creativity. Have fun, be safe, mum loves you.

My back pushed hard against the brick wall, steam from my breath hits the buzzer system as you search for the pheromones on my neck with your lips. My toes curl.

Madeline Rae is a sex educator and writer living on Treaty 1 territory. She holds a BFA in performative sculpture and a BA in psychology, and she is pursuing schooling to specialize in sex therapy. Rae is trained in client-centred sex education, reproductive and sexual-health counselling and harm reduction. She works locally in both feminist healthcare and community support work.



TRAVELLING WAS NECESSARY TO ME

My "non-essential" vacation was anything but

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | BELLASOARES0601 BELLA_SOARES16

This autumn, with COVID-19 cases at a steady low and a permanent residency card in hand, I decided to visit family members and my long-time boyfriend in São Paulo, Brazil. The holiday break seemed like an incredible opportunity to book a trip to my home country. Everything was settled in October, and the very thought of the trip brightened my spirit, as I hadn't seen many of my loved ones since my family moved to Canada in 2019.

All was well until the week before my trip, when the Government of Canada started advising Canadians to avoid non-essential travel. My mind and heart were suddenly in constant commotion while I tried to decide how I would carry on if more restrictions were placed in my way.

Fast-forward to Dec. 23, and I followed through with my travel plans, despite a series of challenges. From almost being denied boarding even though I tested negative for COVID-19 to waiting two hours on board due to technical difficulties in Toronto, I almost felt like it was karma (even though I don't believe in it) that I made it to Brazil on

Christmas Eve.

Little did I know that returning to the place I grew up would be an essential endeavor. Hugging my aunt, uncles and grandparents in the first few days was not only tear-jerking but also fundamental in cementing the connections we had maintained by chatting on WhatsApp for more than two years.

They needed to know I was fine, and that my parents and brother in Canada had been healthy and happy since we moved abroad. In exchange, I needed to know they were okay despite the hardships inflicted by the pandemic.

Some family members had lost their parents. Others had financial struggles and had to renounce their possessions in order to provide for their households. Although I wasn't there when the wounds were fresh, I could be there now to listen to them share about these traumas and see how they were healing.

I also hadn't seen my boyfriend in a year and nine months. When he pulled over next to my grandma's sidewalk and left the car, it was like I was 16 again and nothing had changed between us.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

The special moments we spent together over this short trip were incomparable and inspired us to take the next step in our relationship and get engaged. Despite my brief stay, it is formative decisions like these that make travelling during the pandemic worthwhile.

After saying goodbye to everyone again, packing my bags and returning to my normal routine, I was immensely grateful that I had finally been able to see my family again after so many years apart.

These important, in-person family connections were critical in order to feel strong for any new restrictions or turnaround that may come with this next wave of COVID-19. A deemed non-es-

sential trip was essential for me, bringing comfort, emotional reprieve and exciting new beginnings into my life.

As I jump into 2022, I have begun to understand that sometimes caring for your mental health can be just as important as caring for your physical self, and that, after getting tested multiple times and adhering to protocols, travel can be both life-giving and safe.

Isabella Soares is an arts and culture reporter for *The Uniter*. During her downtime, she loves writing about movies and TV shows for *Collider* and reading romance novels.



HOROSCOPES

The moon is in Virgo tonight.

Mental resilience and patience are themes of Aquarius. It can also be a time of cabin fever, so look for ways to find stability and inner peace.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM



ARIES

The moon moves into Virgo this morning, helping you get back on track if you've deviated from your typical routines lately. Just try not to let your social media pages distract, as Luna shares an unbalanced aspect to the Aquarius sun. Try to pace yourself right now even if you're feeling productive, or your emotions could begin to overwhelm you later in the afternoon when the moon opposes expansive Jupiter. You may start to lose control of your situation from this point forward as the universe continues to throw you off your center. Try not to get upset about things you cannot control, and don't feel guilty about throwing in the towel. You can always try again tomorrow.



TAURUS

The day could start a little rough, dear Taurus, as the Leo moon enters a harsh t-square with the nodes of fate. Things will feel especially tense within your home and romantic life, but try not to let it hurt your confidence or ambition. If you are struggling and need to focus on yourself, don't feel bad about backing away from your friends temporarily, as Luna faces off with expansive Jupiter. Piling other people's problems onto your own won't serve anyone right now, so make sure you're setting appropriate boundaries and taking time for yourself.



GEMINI

Your home will feel especially chaotic today, as the Virgo moon makes a series of unbalanced connections in the cosmos. This issue could feel especially problematic if you work from home, so you may need to focus on tidying up your space to counter these effects. You will also notice that your housemates are more temperamental or high-strung than usual, especially if they feel crowded within their space. Try to create quiet for yourself by implementing boundaries with the people you cohabitate with, and send any fussy kids out into the backyard so that they can blow off some steam.



CANCER

Though you'll be in a communicative mood today, you may have a hard time organizing your thoughts as the Virgo moon hits a few bumps in the sky. These vibes could make it difficult for you to connect with your loved ones on a deep level, creating the illusion of distance. Don't despair if your nearest and dearest feel far away right now. This energy is fleeting and won't last more than a day. Rather than stressing over how to connect with the people you care about, focus on nurturing your mind, body, and soul with a meditative walk or relaxing bath.



LEO

No matter how cute something is or how badly you want it, avoid spending impulsively right now! As the moon makes its way through Virgo, it will be inundated by a series of wonky or difficult aspects, which are set to hit you on a financial level. Shopping sprees are likely to lead to buyer's remorse, especially if you don't research your products first or go overboard and forget your budgetary restrictions. If you're financially entwined in your relationship, things could get tense over you or your partner's spending habits later in the afternoon, as the moon faces off with Jupiter.



VIRGO

The moon enters your sign this morning, darling Virgo, but that doesn't mean you'll get to breeze through the day. As Luna moves through the sky, she will encounter issues with the other planets, throwing you off your typical routine. Try not to freak out if things don't go according to plan right now since a need for control is unlikely to serve you at this time. Give yourself permission to bow out from any social situations or tasks that can be put off for another day, and don't feel guilty about throwing up your hands and declaring these 24 hours a wash.



LIBRA

There's no nice way to cut it, dear Libra. Today will be a rough one for you. As the moon makes her way through Virgo, activating the sector of your chart that rules the subconscious, the cosmic waters will get a little choppy. These vibes might trigger insecurities you thought you'd overcome, especially if you're confronted with awkward memories from the past. It'll also be important that you avoid judgmental family members or friends right now, so don't feel guilty if you need to temporarily place your phone on "do not disturb" or take a break from your family text thread.



SCORPIO

People might get on your nerves today, little Scorpion, as the Virgo moon puts you in a more critical headspace than you're used to. Try not to go overboard judging your coworkers or housemates, even if it's on an internal level. Picking at the flaws of others in your mind or verbally can cause rifts in your relationships will ultimately make you feel more self-conscious about the possibility that others could be looking at you in the same way. If you can manage to escape and carve out some time for yourself, do it! Meditation, grounding, and quiet can help you survive today's wonky vibes and will prevent you from inadvertently summoning the "evil eye."



SAGITTARIUS

You're naturally charismatic and gifted at flirting, dear Archer, but today your sparkle will be a force to be reckoned with as the Gemini moon illuminates your seventh house. Your powers of persuasion will be strong right now as you charm your way through each conversation. Just try not to lead anyone on if you're not truly interested, or you could have a hard time pushing them away in the future. Set aside some time for self-care this evening. Since Mercury goes retrograde today, it'll be important that you're nurturing and pampering yourself before the upheaval of this cosmic climate reaches its peak.



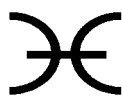
CAPRICORN

If you've felt uninspired or trapped in an unhappy situation lately, it could begin to grate on you spiritually as the Virgo moon moves through a series of unpleasant aspects in the sky. Try not to get impatient if your manifestation game or intuition has felt off lately, especially since both Mercury and Venus are currently retrograde. Financial blows and unexpected costs could leave you feeling more hopeless than usual, but try to remember that your bank account will replenish in time. Even if you've got money to blow, you should avoid emotional spending right now since it's unlikely to make you feel better when all is said and done.



AQUARIUS

You could feel a little frazzled this morning, dear Aquarius, as the moon crosses over into Virgo while forming an unbalanced aspect to the sun. While it's very possible that you've let some work pile up, try not to get too caught up in the stress of what tasks must be completed today, and instead focus on crossing them off your list one at a time. Just remember to check in with your physical needs as you frenzy through the day, and try to be mindful about taking short breaks, even if you're feeling the pressure of a ticking clock.



PISCES

Your romantic relationships could get messy today, little Fish, as the Virgo moon travels through the sector of your chart that governs romantic connections. You may feel as though your significant other is hiding something, though these sentiments could be the result of paranoia that stems from old wounds that haven't been properly dealt with. Try to separate your current partner from the people you dated in the past, but make sure you're not ignoring red flags either. You may not find a resolution to your concerns right now, but try to trust that you won't be stuck in limbo forever.

It's Aquarius season!



Aquarius is the eleventh sign of the zodiac, and Aquarians are the perfect representatives for the Age of Aquarius. Those born under this horoscope sign have the social conscience needed to carry us into the new millennium. Those of the Aquarius zodiac sign are humanitarian, philanthropic, and keenly interested in making the world a better place. Along those lines, they'd like to make the world work better, which is why they focus much of their energy on our social institutions and how they work (or don't work).

Aquarians are visionaries, progressive souls who love to spend time thinking about how things can be better. They are also quick to engage others in this process, which is why they have so many friends and acquaintances. Making the world a better place is a collaborative effort for Aquarians.

Dates—
January 20 –
February 18

Symbol—
The Water-Bearer
Mode + Element—
Fixed Air

Ruling Planet—
Saturn & Uranus
House—
Eleventh
Mantra—
"I Know."

Tarot Card—
The Star
Colors—
Silver & Blue
Body Part—
The Shins

Those born with the Water-Bearer as their rising, sun, or moon sign have a clear objective, yet intelligent and inventive energy in their core personality, like the icy heart of winter.

As a fixed sign, The Water-Bearer holds the qualities of being a sustainer, making those with Aquarius prominent in their charts great at dedicating themselves to projects, and tenaciously sticking to their social principals. Ruled by Saturn, Aquarians can be thought of as the "reformers" of the zodiac that challenge and test the societal conventions we have built to see if they are still relevant and inclusive.

A Conversation with Adeline Bird

Unpacking the white gaze in
“Canadian” media and television

Afro-Anishinaabe author, filmmaker and producer

HOSTED BY TBD

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