

# THE **U**NITER

LOCAL BLACK HISTORY INITIATIVES—P4 & 5

TORY VACANCIES RAISE QUESTIONS—P11

SHUT THE TRUCK UP—P14

## Foreign labour, homegrown precarity



### THE HIDDEN MIGRANT WORK BEHIND CANADA'S FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN



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Contact Talia at [creative@uniter.ca](mailto:creative@uniter.ca) for more information.



PHOTO BY LEIGH LUGOSI

The University of Winnipeg Library is celebrating Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week, an international celebration of exceptions to copyright law which benefit students. Read more on page 12.

# VERDICT ON A WINNIPEG URBAN LEGEND

THOMAS PASHKO  
MANAGING EDITOR

THOMASPASHKO

Longtime readers of *The Uniter* may know that I have a fascination with odd bits of Winnipeg past and its many urban legends. Over the years, I've written stories about the histories of various Winnipeg things, including vaudeville, movie theatres, funeral homes and prohibition.

One of my favourites was an article in which I examined a handful of stories about Winnipeg's connections to showbiz greats, investigating Groucho Marx's introduction to Charlie Chaplin and Bob Newhart's career-making gig. But there was one claim I couldn't get to that has bothered me ever since: the persistent urban legend that Bob Hope learned to golf in Winnipeg.

This claim seemingly originated in a 1988 article in *Manitoba History* magazine, which cited Hope's 1985 memoir, *Confessions of a Hooker: My Lifelong Love Affair with Golf* (the comedian's love of the sport was so famous that he dedicated an entire memoir to it). The article claimed that Hope specifically mentions playing his first round of golf in Winnipeg in 1930 with tourmates The Diamond Brothers.

In 2014, Christian Cassidy at the blog *West End Dumplings* did a deep dive on this claim. Cassidy called it into question, going as far as to look up Winnipeg's weather on Hope's 1930 tour date in the city. It was a freezing February day. However, he wasn't able to find a copy of the long-out-of-print book.

While Cassidy was comfortable declaring the claim debunked, I wasn't quite so ready. Yes, it's unlikely anyone was golfing in Winnipeg in February. But Winnipeg was also a layover railway stop, where vaudeville performers killed time between tour dates (this is how Groucho discovered Chaplin, taking a walk while his brothers played billiards). Until someone was willing to buy a copy of that book and check it themselves, I wouldn't be satisfied. And I figured if Cassidy wasn't willing to track down a copy, I might be the only Winnipegger who was.

After a couple of years watching eBay, where copies were selling for hundreds of dollars, I was finally able to find a book reseller in Missouri with a shabby paperback copy in a warehouse in Texas. They were selling the crumbling book for \$3, but shipping would cost an additional \$13. It was a price I was willing to pay to know the truth.

Yesterday, the book arrived. I opened to the first page of the first chapter, and while Winnipeg gets a cursory name-check, there's no ambiguity in Hope's words: "One day, in Seattle, (the Diamond Brothers) invited me to come along" for a round of golf.

So, there you have it. Myth debunked. Let the record show: Bob Hope definitively did *not* learn to golf in Winnipeg.

## 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.

be arranged. Please email [volunteer@uniter.ca](mailto: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.

In-person volunteer orientations are currently suspended due to COVID-19, but over-the-phone and remote orientations can

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# LITERACY CAMPAIGN SHEDS LIGHT ON BLACK HISTORY

Black History Manitoba educates communities through literary resources

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TW BELLASOARES0601](#) [IG BELLA\\_SOARES16](#)

The month of February is dedicated to recognizing Black history, as well as promoting readership through I Love to Read Month. When taking both subject matters into account, storytelling and literature are crucial resources to understanding Black history and deconstructing racism. Aware of this, Black History Manitoba (BHM) offers various resources to help expose the community to Black history, which is often overlooked in school textbooks.

Nadia Thompson, BHM's chairperson, says the volunteer-driven committee was initially called Black History Month, but they decided to rename it to reiterate that valuing Black history should be a year-round goal.

One of the ways BHM has contributed to further educating Manitobans is by partnering with libraries and schools to curate literature displays and storytelling activities.

"We talked a lot about February being I Love to Read Month, so we have been connecting with different organizations along the years to promote Black literature and Black authors. We have partnered with the Winnipeg Public Library for over 10 years. Last year, we extended the partnership with more community-based libraries for Black History Month and provided story times to various youth," she says.

Thompson says part of why resources of-

fered by BHM are so important is because they can lead people to gain more knowledge about and respect other cultures.

"There are many students out there who are open to learning about different backgrounds and other ethnicities, so this is a way to give them a platform to ask questions and be more community-based outside social media," Thompson says.

Misgana Alemayehu learned about BHM through her church, Truth and Life Worship Centre. After participating in a debate, Alemayehu was immediately drawn to the internship opportunity with the committee as an administrative assistant.

"Prior to coming across BHM, I was quite unaware of Black history affairs in Canada in general. Even though my parents and I have Black backgrounds, they really did not teach us, me and my siblings, to be conscious of the subject matter. What really helped me to gain insight was participating in (BHM's Youth Symposium debate). If I were not to get that chance, I would likely be in the same mindset today where I know little about my own history," Alemayehu says.

Throughout her experience in the debate and as an intern, Alemayehu has learned about various Canadian figures who are part of Black history through story records. One of her personal favorites is Viola Desmond.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Nadia Thompson is the chairperson of Black History Manitoba.

"She challenged racial discrimination when she sat on the seat reserved for whites-only in a cinema in Nova Scotia. She got arrested and fined at the time, but she inspired later generations to refuse racial discrimination all throughout Canada. This is meaningful to me, because if brave people like Desmond hadn't fought

for Black freedom, we may still live in a racially segregated society today," she says.

For more information on BHM initiatives, follow [@bhmwinnipeg](#) on Twitter and Instagram.

# 'THERE MUST BE SOMETHING (BETTER) OUT THERE'

Local artists weigh in on the positives and negatives of streaming

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TW BELLASOARES0601](#) [IG BELLA\\_SOARES16](#)

It doesn't come as a surprise that the streaming era has drastically affected artists with its significantly low pay per stream and its impact on international visibility.

Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and other artists recently pulled their discographies from Spotify, citing the platform's role in spreading COVID-19 vaccine misinformation by podcaster Joe Rogan, with whom Spotify signed a \$100 million licensing deal in 2020. As the controversy has expanded to include Rogan's racism and Spotify's poor compensation for musicians, artists are opening up about the advantages and disadvantages of music streaming and other forms of online distribution.

Devin Latimer is a member of Winnipeg folk group Leaf Rapids, who recently pulled their music from Spotify. Despite their decision being sparked by the controversy, they say they've long been dissatisfied with the streaming service.

"It made us look around and think about how there must be something (better) out

there. We changed over to Tidal, which still doesn't pay a lot, but it does pay three times more than Spotify," Latimer says.

The decrease in monetary gain since streaming came into play has been unsettling for artists with established careers. In the past, selling merchandise and physical album copies could usually cover the expenses that come with playing at festivals. Now, that isn't the case for many artists.

"When we played at a festival, we could make \$5,000 in fees for that weekend and make up that amount in CDs, which had a great impact on sales. Now with streaming, (physical sales) basically decreased down to barely anything, so it has made a great impact on artists in all genres to the point that festivals still cost the same, but merch sales have decreased," Latimer says.

Emily Sinclair, vocalist of local indie-pop band Virgo Rising, has seen most revenue coming from Bandcamp, where the band also sells merch.

"Streaming platforms like Bandcamp are



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

where we see more monetary gain, because they have those events where all the money goes towards the artist," Sinclair says.

Setting aside money matters, there are still aspects of streaming that are worthwhile, especially for emerging artists. Sinclair pointed out that Spotify has helped increase the band's visibility in and outside of Canada.

"(We) went from seeing people in Saskatchewan and Alberta to people from Hong Kong and all over the world. That was the first thing we noticed, seeing people outside our country, which was really cool," Sinclair says.

Virgo Rising's multi-instrumentalist Jenna

Wittmann also pointed out that songs from their latest EP, *Sixteenth Sapphire*, being added to playlists helped increase their music's streaming performance. Currently, the band is satisfied with the recognition they gain through digital distribution.

"It would be nice to see (monetary gain), but where we are at now, it's just good to know that people are listening to our music and that it is accessible," Wittmann says.

Both Leaf Rapids and Virgo Rising are on SoundCloud and Bandcamp. Follow [@virgorisingmusic](#) and [@leafrapidsmusic](#) on Instagram to keep up with tour dates, purchase merch and more.



# VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Manitoba Museum and Black History Manitoba collaborate to educate students

REBECCA DRIEDGER | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TW](#) [IG](#) REBECCADRIEDGER

What was first identified as Black History Week in the early 1970s was expanded to what Canadians now celebrate as Black History Month in 1976. To commemorate this, the Manitoba Museum is offering a series of virtual field trips for participants to learn about Black history in Canada.

Anya Moodie-Foster, the learning and engagement supervisor at the Manitoba Museum, is one of the people working on and running the Black History Month Virtual Field Trips. She usually works with school groups, but she has also been a part of a number of new programs at the museum.

"Recently, we started a series we've been calling Community Voices, where we've been working with different communities," she says. "So, for example, in the fall, we had a program under the Community Voices banner where we talked about LGBTQ2+ history. And then we sort of brought the Black History public programs under that banner, as well."

The current Virtual Field Trips are meant to help educate school groups across the province over a livestream, but they have also been attended by classes across the country.

Even though Black Canadians have been involved in the shaping of Canadian history and identity at least since Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, arrived in the early 1600s, Black Canadians have largely been ignored in Canada's school curricula.

Very few people even know or acknowledge that African people were in fact enslaved here, and not just by our southern neighbours.

When the Black Lives Matter movement grew in 2019 and 2020 after George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor were killed, organizations across the country took a look inward at what they needed to change.

"I think, like many organizations, the pandemic – which stopped regular activities – and things like the Black Lives Matter movement really have caused people to look and say, 'You know, what are we doing? Are we telling these stories?'" Moodie-Foster says.

Moodie-Foster says the Black Lives Matter movement also caused teachers to look at what stories they are including and not including in their lessons.

"We're really happy to be part of this new

effort that's happening in classrooms across Manitoba," she says.

Moodie-Foster explains that the programs are meant for a general audience and are "family-friendly." Kids and adults alike can learn from the field trips.

"Previous generations didn't have Black history in their schooling. And there are stories that they may not have heard of that students today are exploring more," she says. "People tend to be much more familiar with American Black history, and not so much about Canadian stories."

The Virtual Field Trips are hosted by Moodie-Foster and Andre Sheppard, a member of Black History Manitoba. Each program consists of a PowerPoint presentation, polls and questions that can be typed into the virtual chat.

The collaboration between the Manitoba Museum and Black History Manitoba has been in the works since 2019.

"We decided that a virtual field trip was ... the best way for us to partner," Moodie-Foster says. "We've been doing these programs for about a year. And we're really, really pleased with the response. Last year, we probably had about 3,000 people or so see our programs. This year, we're hoping to get beyond 5,000."

Nadia Thompson, the chair of Black History Manitoba, says this collaboration has been an amazing experience to reach more students.

"February is also I Love to Read Month, so we (used to be) able to go into some schools and do some reading with the students. We've done presentations, and we've done different events," Thompson says.

"The benefit of partnering with the Manitoba Museum is that we have reached thousands of kids now. We were only (in touch) with maybe 100 kids, but now that they are able to join us virtually, we've had participants from within the city, from within the province and from outside of the province across Canada."

Thompson also says this collaboration has been a long time coming, but Black History Manitoba is glad that the museum is incorporating more Black history into the exhibits.

"I think the museum itself was going



PHOTO BY LEIGH LUGOSI

A new mannequin featured in the Manitoba Museum's Old Winnipeg exhibit, inspired by John Arthur Robinson, a local labour organizer and Black porter for the Canadian Pacific Railway

through some rebranding, and when they were looking at their inventory and what they had within the museum, they realized that they were not heavily influenced by other cultures within the realm of what they had," Thompson says.

"So they reached out to us to ask questions regarding who we were and what we do, and in those conversations, we realized that we could kind of help each other by giving some direction as to where their focus wasn't and what they wanted to do."

Thompson says that although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way these programs operate, both organizations are learning ways to become more accessible.

"(Using our) social media and online presence and all those other platforms that we are able to use now to touch and connect with people within the city and across the nation – it's really a great thing," she says.

"We're lucky to have all the best technology that we have, so we have been able to reach out to a lot more people."

Thompson says virtual field trips may still be offered once pandemic restrictions loosen. Black History Manitoba also hopes that more information will be added to the museum's exhibits.

"We want to encourage people to be looking and wanting to learn about Black history outside of one month," Thompson says. "We're really pushing the (concept of) Black History 365 to make sure that people realize that (Black) history, in its entirety, is an important part of Canadian history."

**To register for the virtual field trip on Feb. 19 or 23, visit [manitobamuseum.ca](http://manitobamuseum.ca) or tune in on Facebook Live.**

## ARTS BRIEFS

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

### Jazz improv with Carter Graham

Hone your musical improv skills with jazz musician Carter Graham at a workshop presented by the Manitoba Conservatory of Music & Arts (1B01, Bryce Hall, 515 Portage Ave.). This improvisation workshop takes place in person on Feb. 26 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and costs \$35.

### Gallery 1C03 re-opens its doors

For the first time in over two years, Gallery 1C03 is hosting an in-person exhibition. The gallery, which is located inside of the University of Winnipeg (515 Portage Ave.) will feature Grace Nickel's *Eruptions* exhibition from Feb. 17 to March 25. Visitors are required to register for a 30-minute time slot 24 hours in advance. Visit [bit.ly/3H5I4IR](http://bit.ly/3H5I4IR) to register.

### The Winnipeg Comedy Showcase returns

The 28th edition of the Winnipeg Comedy Showcase features local comics Chad Anderson, Jaydin Pommer, Jon Wilson, Angie St. Mars, Garrett Leblanc and Tyler Kotowski. Join host Jared Story for a night of laughs at the Park Theatre (698 Osborne St.) on March 3. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and can be purchased via [bit.ly/3JxxOyA](http://bit.ly/3JxxOyA).

### Lighting up The Cube

Looking for something to do this weekend? Drop by the community rink at The Cube in Old Market Square for a night of music and interactive art. Friday and Saturday programming features curated bops from Manitoba Music and a neon light display created by Victoria-based art-tech company Limbic Media. Visit [exchangedistrict.org](http://exchangedistrict.org) to keep up to date on events in the area.

### window presents Eve Tagny

Montreal-based artist Eve Tagny's work is featured in the latest installation at the window gallery. *Moors [Romanticizing the uncultivated]* examines "the creative ways in which marginalized individuals and communities commit to live, rather than merely survive, and resist personal annihilation," as per the artist's statement. window is a sidewalk-level gallery located at the Artspace building on the corner of Bannatyne Avenue and Arthur Street.

### PTE announces two digital projects

After cancelling the in-person performance of Ins Choi's play *Bad Parents* due to health and safety concerns, the Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE) has announced two digital plays that will be available to stream in March. *Places We Go*, a series presented in both Tagalog and English, will begin streaming free on March 1 and will continue throughout the month. *A Dance to the End of the World* will be available from March 14 to Apr. 31. Visit [pte.mb.ca](http://pte.mb.ca) for more information.



# ORIGIN STORIES: ROSEMARY BARTON, CBC CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

'I sort of stumbled into' journalism

ARMANDE MARTINE | FEATURES REPORTER |  1MANDE7

Rosemary Barton originates from our wintry city. A couple of years ago, I interviewed her mother, Mary Barton, a beloved early childhood educator who had an honorary street in Winnipeg named after her.

At that time, I learned Mary was Rosemary's mother. Mary was known to encourage young women to be strong. That fact helped explain the confident person and strong interviewer the CBC chief

political correspondent is known to be.

Rosemary's path to journalism and her rise to her current position with the CBC was not planned. "I sort of stumbled into it, is probably the best way to put it," she says.

She was working on a French literature degree at Université de Saint-Boniface when a political-science professor recommended her for a part-time research job with ICI RDI – Radio Canada.

"That was my first space in a newsroom. One of the things I liked about it was learning about different things every day and talking to people," Barton says. It was then that she decided to pursue a journalism degree at Carleton University in Ottawa, and the rest is history.

Today, Barton realizes her interests growing up were indicative of the career she enjoys in the present day.

"I was in a lot of public-speaking contests, and it kind of all makes sense now," she says.

Some viewers may not realize that Barton is bilingual. "I get a chance to use French often, either by communicating with MPs or sometimes doing translation on TV live," Rosemary says.

I asked her what it was like to hear former premier Brian Pallister tell her in a November 2020 interview "You haven't come up with a single idea in this interview that would have made this plan work better." He was referring to Manitoba's pandemic response plan as the province experienced the highest COVID-19 numbers in the nation at that time.

"When politicians don't have a good answer, they evade the question. I think the most important thing is to call out the person, which is what I did. That's my job," she says.

Now living in Ottawa, Barton spends

her spare time reading fiction, cooking, baking and working out. "Just regular things," she says.

What she misses most about Winnipeg is her family, whom she usually visits twice a year. As a child, Barton remembers that all family vacations were trips to Northern Ireland, visiting her parents' relatives. She remembers one exception, which was a car trip through Western Canada.

Winnipeg is "a lovely place to grow up. I think there's a lovely sense of community. There's lots of exciting things to do. Summers are fantastic. Winters I could do without," she says.

Barton has a special fondness for the Riverview community, where she grew up.

"I remember biking around the neighbourhood with friends and feeling very safe and secure in my environment. Having love and big networks of people in that community, being able to grow up that comfortable and secure does lead you to be a more confident person," she says.

That self-confidence is what enabled her to make bold life decisions.

"I took a lot of risks in terms of what I would be and where I would go. It just allows you to do a very public-facing job like I do. I think that foundation helped enormously," she says.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6AM	MORNING BREATH	!EARSHOT 20	Cafecito Latinoamericano	FLY Travel Radio ★ CANQUEER	FANTASTIC FRIDAY World - Island music	THE MAN IN THE GREY FLANNEL SUIT SHOW	CKU-SPEAKS	
7AM	CKUW MORNING NEWS / FRONT BURNER (CBC)						WOODEN SPOONS	SHADES OF CLASSICS Classical and New Age
8AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!						MUD PUDDLE RADIO For Kids (Adults too)	INDIGENOUS IN MUSIC
9AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!						THE ELECTRIC CHAIR	TEMPLE OF JAZZ
10AM	DEPARTMENT 13 POP/ROCK	This Way Out WINGS	VOYAGE Jazz	PLANETARY RADIO Cheeze Pleasee	SUNNY ROAD Roots Music	THE IVORY TOWER Eclectic Mix	Classical Delights ★	
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2PM	PSYCLE RADIO	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire	WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?	CLASSICAL KALEIDOSCOPE	Let's Play DJ!	DANCE HALL FEVER Dancehall and Reggae	Your Show Here	
3PM	INNER CITY VOICES	THE GREEN BLUES SHOW	AMATEUR HOUR So Bad, It's Good	SPACE CADET MUSIC OUT OF THIS WORLD	WHAT'S UP WINNIPEG?	RAINBOW COUNTRY		
4PM	THE WORLD World	Lost Chunes	TWANG TRUST Country/Roots/Big, Dumb Rock 'n' Roll	THE HOW DO YOU DO REVUE	Chart Noises CKUW's Top 38			
5PM	THE TONIC Garage, Punk, Surf, and R&R	BLUESDAY PLAYING THE BLUES	S.A.N.E. * RADIO Local Experimental Music	Adult Kindergarten	PEG CITY PLAYLIST			
6PM	DESTINATION MOON Sock-Hop-A-Go-Go	!EARSHOT DAILY	Your Show Here	PHASE ONE Electronic	QUADRAFUNK Electric Dance Party			
7PM	!EARSHOT DAILY	MONKEY SPARROW	Two Princes	THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN	Brain Drainer Radio			
8PM	BREAK NORTH RADIO ★	LISTENING PLEASURES	HURLEMENTS SUR LA TOUNDRA	MANITOBA MOON	CRYSTAL PALACE			
9PM	METAL MONDAY	NIGHT DANGER RADIO	THE SENTINEL'S MARVELOUS KALEIDOSCOPE					
10PM	MODERN JAZZ TODAY	The Motherland Influence	DEEP THREES					
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12 Some programs are on hiatus and/or airing different content due to university closure for COVID-19.

## Foreign labour, homegrown precarity



### The hidden migrant work behind Canada's food supply chain

Canadians often don't think about the food supply chain until their favourite leafy green or salty snack is absent from grocery-store shelves.

What many fail to realize is that an absence of a product is often the result

of the absence, or lack, of a person, too.

From production to distribution, Canada's food supply chain is powered by migrant work – work that is often hazardous and even exploitative.

The journey of an organic tomato, from

being picked to reaching a kitchen table, is a trail of challenges faced by migrant workers, including precarious legal status, wage theft and health hazards.



### Grown by migrants

For more than 30 years, the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW), in tandem with the Agriculture Workers Alliance, has laboured on the frontlines of advocacy for migrant farm workers' rights.

Santiago Escobar, a national representative for UFCW and long-time migrant-rights advocate, has witnessed the struggles of workers in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP).

"The agriculture industry, without the support and labour of migrant workers, would be in trouble," Escobar says.

Indeed, Canada has long relied on migrant labour to fill gaps in its system. Radhika Desai, a professor of political studies at the University of Manitoba, says this has resulted from a variety of dynamics. Primarily, she says migrant labour is recruited to fill labour gaps in sectors that cannot attract enough local workers.

"When capitalist economies are growing at a fast rate, they suck in labour like there's no tomorrow. They come to the point where the demand for labour may go so high as to increase wages, which is something that capitalists don't like very much," Desai says.

"A lot of jobs that Canadians are not willing to do at the rates that are offered are typically the ones that go to migrants."

The SAWP was established in 1966 by the Pearson government in hopes of filling local labour shortages in Canada's agricultural sector with migrant work. In 2020, 50,126 temporary foreign workers (TFWs) landed on Canadian soil to work at farms across the country.

Stefan Larass, a senior policy advisor for the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, says many SAWP workers return to farms during the spring and summer months for several years and occasionally decades.

"The most typical frequency is around

10 years. That's the median frequency, but some folks have come back for 30 years," Larass says.

Despite the decades-long tenure of these workers, this is often not enough to receive permanent settlement in Canada. Further, a migrant worker's ability to stay in Canada is often directly linked to their employer – an issue that Escobar says has led to the abuse of migrant workers, who fear deportation if they don't comply.

In the time of COVID-19, the already hazardous nature of migrant farm work has been met with health and safety concerns brought on by the virus. In December 2021, Canada's Auditor General (AG) released a damning report about the health and safety conditions migrant agricultural workers face. The AG found problems in 73 per cent of quarantine inspection reports in the agricultural sector.

"The main reason why these workers were so vulnerable to COVID was because they had to live in bunk houses, sharing a room with 12 to 14 coworkers," Escobar alleges. "It's impossible to practice physical distancing and impossible to implement anti-COVID measures."

The federal government has made some attempts to improve the safety and security of migrant workers. In 2019, the federal government established open work permits for vulnerable workers under the International Mobility Program. The permits allow migrant workers who are experiencing or at risk of employer abuse to leave their job.

Since they were made accessible, Escobar says the UFCW has helped over 200 migrant farm workers obtain open work permits. In one case, they assisted 20 workers at a single farm.

"Two years ago, we assisted temporary foreign workers to leave that farm, and we have assisted, two weeks ago, other workers to leave that employer," Escobar says. "We were shocked to learn that the federal government is allowing these bad



Radhika Desai, professor of political studies at the University of Manitoba

employers to keep hiring temporary foreign workers."

For this reason, Escobar believes the federal government is still complicit in allowing farms that have been accused of mistreating migrant workers, who obtained open work permits, to continue recruiting through SAWP.

As the growing season inches around the corner, farms across the country are preparing to hire another swath of migrant farm workers through the SAWP. Escobar, along with many other advocates for migrant workers, continues to plead for increased protections for TFWs.



### Transporting goods, fighting wage theft

After produce is hand-picked or meat is processed, it has to go somewhere. Increasingly, TFWs are recruited to fill labour gaps in transportation sectors.

Despite the framing of the current anti-restrictions occupation as a “trucker” convoy, the majority of Canadian truckers – 90 per cent – are vaccinated. Increasingly, working truckers are racialized. More than half of all truckers in Vancouver and Toronto – 55.9 per cent and 53.9 per cent, respectively – are South Asian, according to a report from Newcom Media that drew from 25 years of Canadian census data.

Wage theft, long hours and an inability to access washrooms are issues many truckers face, according to Manan Gupta, the publisher of *Road Today*, a publication for South Asian truckers in Canada.

Gupta says an arrangement called Driver Inc. has allowed trucking companies to create loopholes.

“Basically, it’s a tax scheme used by many trucking companies where they misclassify their drivers as independent owner-operators,” Gupta says. “Say I am driving for Company A. I’m driving their truck, I’m only delivering what they ask me to, and I’m working based on their mandate. Ideally, I should be a company driver on their payroll, but what these companies do is ask their drivers to start their own incorporation.”

In doing so, Gupta says drivers lose out on benefits like vacation pay and overtime. At its most sinister, drivers wrongfully lose their wages.

In December 2021, a *Toronto Star* investigation revealed rampant wage theft being facilitated through Driver Inc. In the article, Stephen Laskowski, president of the Canadian Trucking Alliance, estimates that 20 per cent of the industry has been taken over by the “billion-dollar” scam, where companies illegally pocket

roughly \$15,000 in “savings” – that is, stolen wages – per worker.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also given rise to the popularity of food delivery services like DoorDash and Instacart, which have added additional steps to the food supply chain. Many newcomers to Canada are increasingly turning to gig-economy jobs. Yet, similar to truckers, the promise of freedom, mobility and independence remains a reach.

“The drivers think they are their own masters. They can file deductions for their cellphones, their office calls, all those related incidental expenses. But in the eyes of the CRA, that is not the right way, because, as a company driver, they don’t have any control (over) being independent,” Gupta says.

### Challenges remain, but advocacy persists

Migrant-rights groups have been advocating on behalf of workers since the inception of the TFW program.

However, one of the greatest challenges in shedding light on migrant workers’ struggles is the lack of visibility in the public sphere. Migrant workers often work in isolated environments, which makes it difficult for the public and organizers to connect with them.

Larass says that despite many of the challenges, changes have progressively been made throughout the years to ensure migrant agricultural workers feel safe at work.

“There’s a lot of good developments, like workers having a tip line they can contact,” Larass says. “I think that’s the silver bullet. It’s giving people the power to speak up and not be afraid of getting fired.”

Many migrant workers aspire to become permanent residents in Canada and hope the temporary foreign worker program can act as a stepping stone.



Manan Gupta, publisher of *Road Today* magazine

SUPPLIED PHOTO

“Many of these newcomers want to continue on their path to become a permanent resident in Canada” and eventually become citizens, Gupta says. “In that path, many of the labour issues come into action.”

Gupta suggests more education and training is needed for truckers on the occupational and legal hazards of the trucking industry.

Escobar, on the other hand, believes training isn't enough. Workers need to be able to exercise their rights in the workplace, not just be aware of them.

“If these workers don't have protections, the training is not enough. What's the point of knowing your rights but not being able to put them into practice?” Escobar says. “We need to implement a program that will really address why these problems (exist) in the first place.”

At nearly every step in Canada's food supply chain is the precarious labour of a migrant worker. Migrant workers sustain Canada's food supply chain. They are essential workers in every sense of the word.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Temporary foreign workers play a role at every level of Canada's food supply chain.

# CPC AT A CROSSROADS

## O'Toole ousted during Freedom Convoy; Bergen named interim leader

 CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

The past month has been a tumultuous one for Canadian politics. Much of the country has been immobilized by the Freedom Convoy, a series of protests and blockades calling for, among many things, an end to public-health restrictions. In Ottawa, where the protests began on Jan. 29, political changes have been occurring — though likely not the ones the convoy participants have been hoping for.

Following the ouster of Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) leader Erin O'Toole on Feb. 2, Manitoban Candice Bergen was voted by her caucus to be the party's interim leader.

While the vote for interim leader is not necessarily representative of the CPC's membership, it may indicate where the party is headed ideologically, especially given that O'Toole was criticized for being "liberal-lite." Bergen is socially conservative, wants to defund the CBC and has worn a "Make America Great Again" hat.

She expressed initial support for the Freedom Convoy but has since modified her tone. As the protests continue to unfold, politicians will certainly watch the CPC's approach.

Dr. Matthew Flisfeder is an associate professor of rhetoric and communications at the University of Winnipeg who special-

izes in social media, ideology and popular culture.

"The use of terms like 'freedom' and 'patriotism' are ideological but based on notions of individual and private liberty, rather than collective and social freedom or the public good," he says in an email to *The Uniter*.

"Freedom, here, means lifting (constraints) and doing whatever one wants, wherever one wants," Flisfeder says.

He notes that this is a "very limited conception of freedom that doesn't consider how we are most free when we help each other out in a society."

*The Uniter* has extensively covered the rise of the far-right in Canada, from the electoral success of the People's Party of Canada to the growing influence of American politics to the increased "militarization" of the country. As Flisfeder notes, however, these movements do not emerge and exist in political vacuums.

"We cannot simply blame the far-right for this conception of freedom, since decades of neoliberal governance have now engrained it into our culture, which is based on individualism and competition, and which is what someone like Margaret Thatcher meant when she proclaimed that there's no such thing as society," he says.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Merely three days after Bergen was named interim leader, the race for the permanent leader began. Pierre Poilievre, longtime MP and right-wing firebrand, threw his hat into the ring. He has since earned more than 20 endorsements from MPs, emerging as an early frontrunner.

Evan Robinson, vice-president of the University of Winnipeg Campus Conservatives, says party members he speaks to

want a strong leader.

"The criticisms of Andrew Scheer and Erin O'Toole were that they weren't a strongman who could stand up to Trudeau in debates and oralize themselves in a really effective manner," he says.

Robinson believes Poilievre is someone who "expresses ideas well and could communicate effectively to Canadians."

No other candidates have declared they are running.

# FORT WHYTE VOTERS TO HEAD TO THE POLLS

## Star-studded race will determine Pallister's successor

 CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

Constituents of the Fort Whyte riding, located in south Winnipeg, will have their voices heard in an upcoming provincial byelection. This contest was triggered by the resignation of former premier Brian Pallister, the riding's longtime MLA, last year.

While the date has yet to be determined, the campaign is well underway. The NDP has nominated Trudy Schreder, a well-known figure in Winnipeg's arts scene, and the Liberal Party has nominated Willard Reaves, a retired Winnipeg Blue Bombers player.

"I've been out there door-knocking ... (for) 96 days now," Reaves says.

When asked why he decided to throw his hat into the ring, he says "I just feel that we've gotten to the point where the divide in our political arena is too toxic to get anything done" and feels he can contribute to changing this.

Obby Khan, a business owner and another former Blue Bomber, recently won the Tory nomination. He is the PC Party's first Muslim candidate and endorsed Premier Heather Stefanson's leadership campaign in the fall.

Barry Ferguson, senior scholar at the

University of Manitoba, says that while voters may be freer from partisan identities in byelections, they are "seldom harbingers of big change."

"Within Manitoba, the party lines are pretty strongly drawn. The NDP has been (mostly) well-disciplined and has tried to broaden its base. The Conservatives (are) more dependent on its traditional 'base,' while the Liberals have been prone to thrashing around with no real base and a domineering federal wing," he says in an email to *The Uniter*.

"It is interesting to watch byelections for signs about the parties' state of organization, ability to attract good candidates and party discipline," Ferguson says.

Fort Whyte is one of Manitoba's most prosperous ridings. According to 2016 data, it has a median household income of \$117,535. It is also one of the province's most ethnically diverse areas, and immigrants comprise 24.9 per cent of its population.

In the 2019 election, the PC Party received 56.8 per cent of the votes, the NDP received 17.8 per cent and the Liberal Party received 17.5 per cent. Turnout was 60.25 per cent.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Willard Reaves is the Liberal candidate for Fort Whyte, the provincial riding vacated by former premier Brian Pallister.

Given the domination of the PCs in past elections, Khan is the front-runner. However, as Ferguson notes, the incumbent party is not without baggage.

"The Tories have looked like bunglers on (COVID-19) and weak on healthcare planning," he says.

Reaves says this issue is the focus of his campaign.

"Our health system is an absolute mess. You can't put it any other way," he says.

A recent poll showed that Premier Heather Stefanson, leader of the PC Party, has an approval rating of 21 per cent, the lowest of all Canadian premiers.

The NDP and the PC Party did not answer *The Uniter's* request for comment.

# INFORMATION FOR ALL!

## Celebrating fair dealing and the access it allows

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

Feb. 21 to 25 is Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week, an international celebration of the exceptions to copyright law that functionally allow information to be shared and used in beneficial ways across almost – if not all – aspects of society, though most who rely on these doctrines are not aware of their importance.

Students and faculty might not always be aware of it, but copyright law touches most aspects of academia, and fair use is a vital mechanism for text accessibility in education.

Brianne Selman, scholarly communications and copyright librarian at the University of Winnipeg Library (UWL), explains that fair dealing is the Canadian doctrine that legislates “any time we’re making or sharing a copy of something someone else has the copyright to without directly asking for their permission for a set of enumerated purposes,” including education, private study, research, criticism, review, news reporting, parody and satire.

Without these exceptions, copyright holders could require licensing agreements to use any text for any of these purposes, allowing them to file spurious copyright claims, preventing information from being accessible, shareable and usable by the public.

In American law, this function is provided by fair-use doctrine, which is functionally quite similar to fair dealing, but the structure of the exceptions list is a little different.

Mark Swartz, copyright manager at Queens University Library and visiting program officer with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, explains that “the major difference between fair dealing and fair use is that instead of having a list of exemplar purposes, we have a prescriptive list of things people can use fair dealing for, so there’s a list of allowable purposes, and users will have to fit their use into one of those purposes.”

Swartz notes that it is a pretty expansive list. “While people talk about fair dealing being more limiting than fair use, the supreme court has been clear that fair-dealing purposes should be interpreted fairly liberally,” he says.

Jenna Baraschuk-Modha, the copyright assistant at UWL, says a common example of the importance of fair use in academia is in syllabus creation. “Faculty and instructors (want) to use larger sections or excerpts

from copyright-protected material, and when we don’t have access to digital copies, we’re limited to the fair-dealing guidelines, which restricts us a significant amount, to, usually, 10 per cent or one chapter of a book, for instance,” she says.

For professors to use multiple chapters of multiple books, as is common in humanities courses, either the text needs to be licensed, or fair-dealing guidelines come into play. Baraschuk-Modha notes that while many professors stick to fair-use guidelines, the copyright office offers other options, like a thorough fair dealing analysis for particular use of a text or a deeper look into licensing options.

There are some texts for which fair dealing is the only option, though. Selman mentions that the UWL collection includes some texts, like old Canadian instructional videos made by small production studios, where there is not a locatable copyright holder who could authorize other licensing options.

These kinds of texts are often not commercially available and rarely digitized (which has become a much bigger problem due to the COVID-19 pandemic), so the fair-dealing exceptions are the only way these texts can be shown, shared, lent and academically engaged with.

Fair use/fair dealing can be perceived as limiting, but all librarians interviewed for this piece emphasized that it enables access significantly.

While copyright law might seem pretty static, changes in technology, publishing, copyright law and society as a whole raise new and interesting questions regarding copyright and fair use/fair dealing. These new developments in fair use/fair dealing, as well as new voices in the area, are often the subjects of webinars, blog posts and other events during Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week.

Kyle K. Courtney, copyright advisor and program manager at the Harvard Library, is one of the authors of a white paper on a recent technological innovation with significant implications for fair use: controlled digital lending (CDL). CDL allows libraries to digitally use their right to lend under the “transformative” exception fair use, which has allowed libraries to expand access to their collections.

Swartz is working on adapting the CDL white paper to Canada’s copyright context. The project is currently open for review



PHOTO BY LEIGH LUGOSI

The University of Winnipeg Library is celebrating Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week, an international celebration of exceptions to copyright law which benefit students.

and could be published in a few months.

Courtney explains that Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week has its origins in annual sessions on fair-use best practices hosted by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), beginning in 2010. By 2013, a capstone event had been added and a listserv called “Fair Use Allies” was created. Members of the listserv held the first week of fair-use activities in 2014. ARL joined the organizing effort in 2015 and brought in more branding, programming and website support.

“It’s a great example of successful grassroots organizing by cultural institutions – libraries, archives, museums and anyone else – to celebrate,” Courtney says.

“This year, we focused on a theme of fair-use supports, research journalism and truth,” Katherine Klosek, director of research policies at the ARL, says. “One of the reasons we chose the theme that we chose is because of the educational gag orders, the book bannings, assault on truth.” She also notes that the ARL is part of the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Movement, a national effort focused on community archiving and truth and history in the United States.

Selman and Baraschuk-Modha say they are particularly interested in Dr. Carys J. Craig’s presentation on open educational resources, Dr. Meera Nair’s presentation on questions about how fair dealing applies to data collection and Lucie Guibault’s presentation about students’ perspectives on fair use.

While Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week is a positive celebration of the copyright exceptions that allow for information to be shared and used beneficially, there are players in the copyright world that are less enthusiastic about it, such as Access Copyright, a nonprofit copyright collective which was, until November 2021, in a long court dispute with York University regarding licensing tariffs and fair dealing.

“We certainly see pushback from publishers who want to roll back things like fair dealing, and in particular they want to take ‘education’ out of the list of purposes in the copyright act,” Swartz says. “We spend a fair amount of time talking to MPs and explaining that that’s not a good idea, and if anything the list should be expanded rather than limited, and we should move towards a more open-ended list like they have in the US.”

## CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

### Defunding data open to public

Winnipeg Police Cause Harm released the results of their survey regarding Winnipeg citizens’ opinions on police funding on Feb. 11. A total of 530 people filled out the survey, and the results can be viewed at [winnipegpolicecauseharm.org](http://winnipegpolicecauseharm.org).

### Annual vegan food fest

From March 3 to 12, Winnipeg VegFest is hosting their annual Veg Out! event, featuring vegan comfort food from local restaurants. The event will conclude with a vote for best dish. For a full list of participating restaurants, or to take place in the vote, visit [winnipegvegfest.ca](http://winnipegvegfest.ca).

### Harm-reduction workshops

Manitoba Harm Reduction Network is hosting online workshops on harm reduction through an anti-racism and anti-oppression lens from Feb. 22 to 24 and an introduction to harm reduction workshop on Feb. 28. Those interested in participating can register and pay for the workshops on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

### The update on the inner city

On Feb. 23, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba is virtually launching their annual State of the Inner City Report and awarding the Joseph Zuken Citizen Activist Award. The event will also feature Lila Asher, Sarah Cooper, Kayla Villebrun-Normand and Owen Toews, as well as a community panel. Registration for the event is available on [facebook.com/CCPAMB](http://facebook.com/CCPAMB).

### Stefanson changes direction on emergency intervention

On Feb. 14, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act, which suspends certain civil liberties, in order to address the Freedom Convoy blockades. Premier Heather Stefanson publicly opposed this action, but private correspondence between Stefanson and Trudeau obtained by the *Winnipeg Free Press* revealed that she had requested federal intervention.

### UW chooses COVID-19 caution

While the provincial government has announced the lifting of many public-health measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Winnipeg is, as of publication, keeping activities primarily virtual for the rest of the winter 2022 term. While the administrators of other public venues have been awaiting news regarding whether the vaccine verification app will remain operational, the U of W added vaccine verification to university ID cards, so this will likely not present a problem for them. The library, however, will reopen to students, faculty and staff on Feb. 28.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

# BIAS TOWARD BODY TYPE

**Olya Bryksina, associate professor of marketing, University of Winnipeg**

ARMANDE MARTINE | FEATURES REPORTER | 1MANDE7

Originally from Novosibirsk, Russia, Olya Bryksina considers herself a Winnipegger after 20 years living in the city.

She teaches consumer behaviour, a psychology-based approach to understanding what motivates consumers. Bryksina's research recently won a Best Paper Award at

the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada Conference 2020, gaining recognition for her work.

Her latest publication is a paper co-authored with a University of Manitoba colleague.

"We looked at how a person's body size,

whether on the thinner side or the heavier side, will influence how observers evaluate them," she says.

The conclusion? Thinness is associated with competence, while a person with a heavier body type is perceived as being warm-hearted.

Delving deeper into these perceptions, the researchers discovered further biases.

"Thinner people are perceived as more competent, because thinness signals an underlying attribute of self-control. When people see a heavier person, not only does it signal lack of self-control, but it also signals emotional expressiveness, such as impulsivity and spontaneity," Bryksina says.

"I definitely think this is biased, because there are many people who are thinner and very warm, and, likewise, there are many people who are heavier and maybe not as kind but (are) competent," she says.

"My hope is to broaden people's minds

and views (as) to how appearance cues have much broader implications than people are used to thinking," Bryksina says in a U of W news release from October 2020.

## What do you do in your spare time?

"My two daughters take the bulk of my spare time, keeping me busy with their activities. I like to watch movies. I like to take the time to exercise. I like hanging out with people I love."

## What is something you've learned from your students?

"I learned not to be embarrassed too easily, because students definitely have a pattern of trying to make fun of their professor. You can't have a chip on your shoulder. This is just something you have to live with."



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Student Services

### Fall/Winter Term Courses – Final Withdrawal Date

The final day to withdraw from a Fall/Winter Term (U2021FW) class is Feb. 16. No refund is applicable. Courses are dropped through WebAdvisor using the "Student Planning/Registration" link.

### Webinar Wednesdays

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

**March 2** - Preparing for Spring Term Registration

**March 9** - Developing your own Personal Brand: Part 1 "What makes me Unique?"

**March 16** - Developing your own Personal Brand: Part 2 "How to Brag about Yourself"

**March 23** - Applying for Loans and Bursaries

**March 30** - Planning for Spring Term

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](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html)

### Reading Week

Winter Term Reading Week is **Feb. 20 – 26**. No classes all week. The University will be closed on Louis Riel Day, Feb. 21.

### 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 March 2 (for pick up March 4). For instructions, please go to: [uwinnipeg.ca/accepted-students/getting-ready/student-id-cards.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/accepted-students/getting-ready/student-id-cards.html)

### UWinnipeg Award Applications Now Open

For current students:

- 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>

### Winter Term Courses – Final Withdrawal Date

The final day to withdraw from a Winter Term class is **March 16**. No refund is applicable. Courses are dropped through WebAdvisor using the "Student Planning/Registration" link.

### End of Winter Term

April 6 is the last day of Winter Term 2022, except for courses that had a class on the first three days of term, which were cancelled due to concern about the surging Omicron variant:

- class cancelled Thursday, Jan. 6 --> make-up class is Thursday, **April 7**
- class cancelled Friday, Jan. 7 --> make-up class is Friday, **April 8**
- class cancelled Saturday, Jan. 8 --> make-up class is Saturday, **April 9**

### Student Services Continues Remote Service

Departments in Student Services are continuing to offer their services remotely. No appointments for in-person meetings are available. Please see this webpage for details about each department: [uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/)

### 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](http://www.myvisit.com).

### Klinic Health Services

Klinic on campus is once again available to provide virtual appointments to the University community. For more information, please visit: [uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness/health-services.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness/health-services.html)



## COMMENTS

# NOTHING SHORT OF VIOLENCE

A look at the local 'Freedom Convoy' occupation, from my front door

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR |  DANIELLEDOIRON

Alarm bells rang in my head as I read a Winnipeg Police Service news release that warned of a "planned demonstration" in the city's centre and advised people to "avoid the area." From my third-floor apartment beside the Manitoba Legislative Building, this was easier said than done.

I've watched TV during honk-a-thons and caught the end of ManyFest sets through my open bedroom window. Silent nights unnerve me. Traffic's hum, snow plows' beeps, firecrackers' pops are my lullabies. But nothing could have prepared me for the cacophony that invaded my home this month.

I followed along as the so-called "Freedom Convoy" swarmed Ottawa's streets more than three weeks ago. As the *New York Times* reported, what "began as a protest against the mandatory vaccination of truck drivers crossing the US-Canada border" soon "morphed into a battle cry against pandemic restrictions as a whole."

These demonstrators bore Nazi symbolism, "desecrated national monuments and threatened local residents," all while blaring horns day and night. Then, they descended on Winnipeg.

Rolling my eyes and occasionally lifting a middle finger in greeting, I limped between trailers and trucks as their drivers barricaded the intersection of Broadway and Memorial

on Feb. 4. With one foot in a cast and the other recovering from an injury, it was easier to shuffle through the growing crowd of unmasked protestors than take a longer route to my bus stop.

Many protests are and must be disruptive to convey a message. In *The Skin We're In*, activist Desmond Cole describes how "Black people must take extraordinary risks just to expose the violence" they experience. "Many people don't appreciate it when we stop traffic or confront public officials," he writes, "but it's usually the only way to get their attention."

In the five years I've lived across from the Legislature, I've seen, heard and been part of disruptive protests. Thousands of people attended a Justice 4 Black Lives rally on the building's west lawn that culminated in a march to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in 2020. The Migiziiwazison Sacred Fire Camp has peacefully claimed space on the east side of the Legislature for close to eight months.

But when I returned home on Feb. 4, I wasn't ready. What many news outlets and officials labelled "noise" is nothing short of violence. A barrage of horns, shouts and music continued into the night and has barely let up since.

As Niigaan Sinclair writes for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, "the difference with these protests" is that "unlike Indigenous or Black Lives



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Residents in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Windsor and Emerson have had to deal with a constant onslaught of noise from anti-vaccine protests.

Matter protests, which dissipate in hours, 'Freedom Convoy' protestors don't leave. Like colonizers, they arrive, stay and take up as much space as possible.

"Home" no longer seems like the right word to describe a place where I feel nervous, violated and unsafe. In this apartment, I cycle between wearing and charging my noise-cancelling headphones. I wake with headaches and ringing in my ears, unable to tell if the honking has ceased, even for a moment. I avoid calling sick relatives and my long-distance partner. We likely wouldn't be able to hear each other, anyway.

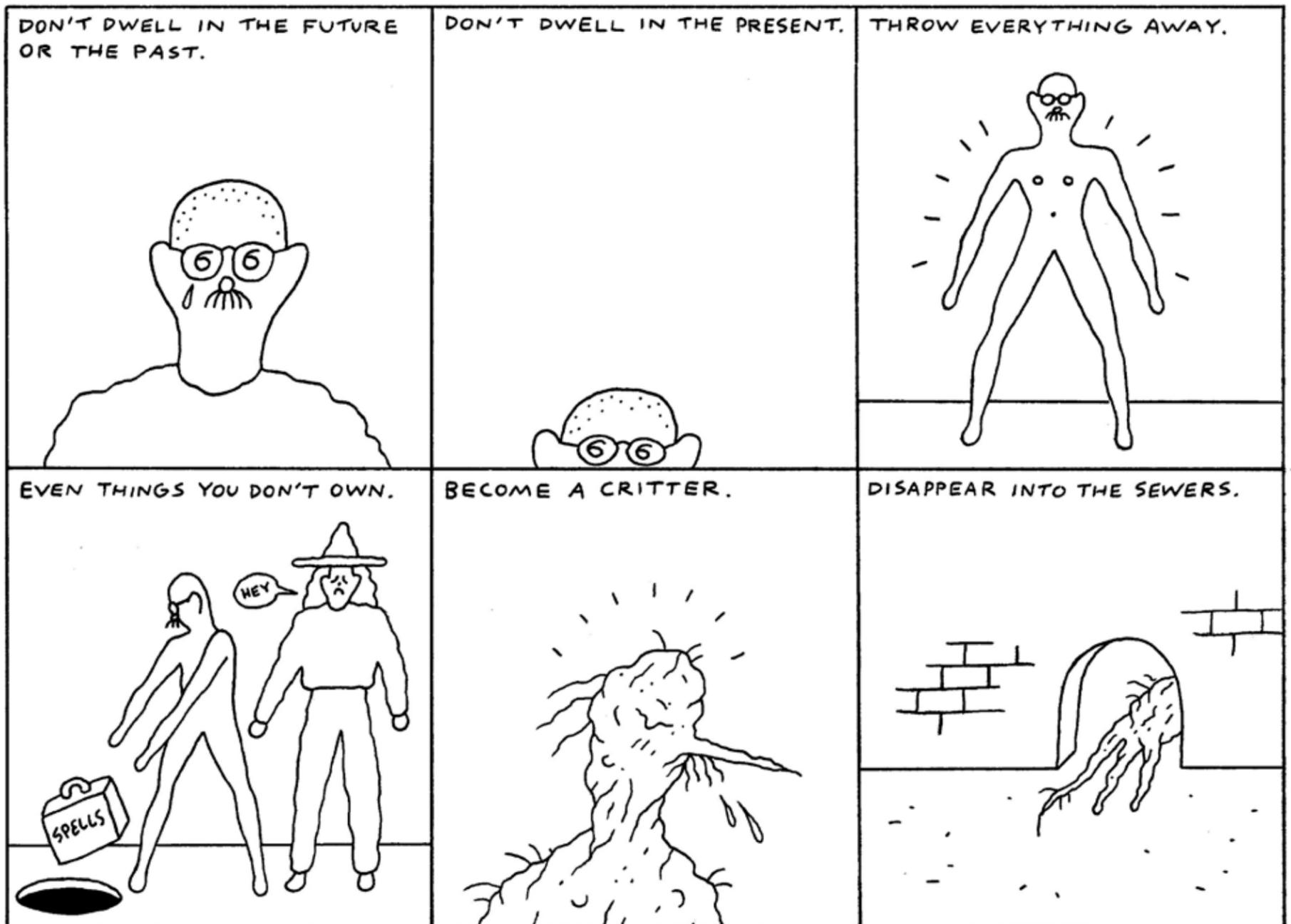
There's nothing peaceful about this audito-

ry onslaught. Despite what Const. Rob Carver has told reporters, Winnipeg hasn't fared "better than any other city" in terms of handling these protestors. Even if this claim were quantifiable and true, it ignores how they've accosted, assaulted and otherwise harmed local residents. And we've had enough.

Danielle Doiron is a creative and educator who splits her time between Winnipeg, Philadelphia and small Midwestern towns. Catch them reading, procrastinating or defending the pineapple on pizza.



## DIVERSIONS



K. STEELE 2022



# HOROSCOPES

Pisces season begins on February 18

Lucky Jupiter and electric Uranus make a supportive connection on February 17, inspiring progress and innovation.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

## ♈ ARIES

Your day is poised to be full of surprises, as the Virgo moon shares a sweet connection with Uranus, the cosmic wild card. However, you may not receive such blessings in the form of grandiose signs or gestures from beyond. These vibes are all about details and seeing the beauty that lies within them. Keep your eyes peeled for interesting sights, sounds, and even scents to tap into these subtle delights. As the day comes to a close, Luna blows a kiss to Venus and Mars, helping you reconnect with your passion and a love for the work that you do.

## ♉ TAURUS

If you're trying to grow your social media presence, now would be a good time to post something fabulous, as Jupiter and Uranus form a sweet connection in the sky. These vibes are perfect for going viral, so don't hold back when it comes to showing the world what you're all about. Just try not to over-invest in the results of anything you share right now, or you could end up throwing off your own mojo, thanks to an opposition between Luna and Jupiter this morning. Try to connect with a divination or spiritual practice this evening, when Luna blows a kiss to your ruling planet, Venus.

## ♊ GEMINI

You could receive some unexpected recognition at work today, dear Gemini, as Jupiter and Uranus share a supportive aspect in the sky. This newfound notoriety may be hard to swallow at first, but try not to harbor any feelings of self-doubt, as you certainly will have earned such praise! It'll also be important that you're taking credit for the work that you're doing, even if hiding in the shadows feels more tempting. Be sure to toast to your successes this evening, when Luna blows a kiss to Venus and Mars, helping you connect with your personal power and formidable business savvy.

## ♋ CANCER

Chance meetings and strange encounters could open up a new world for you today, little Crab, as Jupiter and Uranus exchange good vibes in the sky. Look for ways to expand upon your networking circle right now, as the connections you make could lead to major opportunities in the future. As the day comes to a close, a romantic energy will fill the air as the moon blows a kiss to Venus and Mars, who are currently cosmically entangled. These vibes are perfect for heating things up in the romance department, so be sure to give both yourself and your significant other some extra TLC.

## ♌ LEO

A cosmic kiss between Jupiter and Uranus will bring some serious earning potential your way today, dear Leo, especially if you're overdue for a raise at work. Don't sell yourself short within business negotiations right now, or you could end up losing out on money that you didn't even realize was available. If you're self-employed or assume contract work, this is also a good time to think about raising your rates. These vibes also suggest that you may be eligible for certain tax benefits that you weren't aware existed, so you may want to speak with an accountant to see what your filing options look like this year.

## ♍ VIRGO

The moon travels through your sign today, dear Virgo, adding pep to your step as the world around you seems to brim with life. A helpful connection between Luna and Uranus will perk up your third eye, so you'll want to be on the lookout for synchronicities and messages from beyond. Unfortunately, the guidance you receive might not totally align with your current path, especially in the romance department. Your heart could begin to show signs that things need to change within your love life, no matter what your current relationship status looks like. Luckily, the vibe will feel much lighter this evening when the moon enters a supportive connection to harmonious Venus.

## ♎ LIBRA

You could begin to see some serious results in your manifestation game today, dear Libra, as the Virgo moon aspects auspicious Jupiter and revolutionary Uranus. Unfortunately, you may begin to feel internal pressures build as you fight to stay on top of any new responsibilities that coincide with such blessings. Do your best to stay organized and grounded right now, and avoid demanding perfection of yourself. As the day comes to a close, plan on spending the night at home with someone special or opt to work on a creative project, as the moon blows a kiss to sweet Venus and passionate Mars.

## ♏ SCORPIO

You're blessed with wonderful friends and loved ones, dear Scorpio, and today's cosmic climate will remind you of just that. A helpful connection between the moon and Uranus could lead to surprising romantic gestures. Meanwhile, your closest friends will continue to bring you joy and laughter, raising your spirits, much like they do every other day. Unfortunately, you could run into issues with some of your extended friends—but only if they're feeling neglected and have a penchant for drama. Just in case trouble could be brewing outside of your immediate circle, be sure to send a few messages out to your group of extended pals.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS

Today's Virgo moon will put you in an organizational headspace, inspiring you to tidy up your workspace, inbox, and calendar. Since you're prone to going with the flow, you should make the most of these vibes by focusing only on logistics, cleaning up, and taking care of business. Luckily, you'll have a chance to reward yourself later this evening, when the moon blows a kiss to Venus and Mars. This cosmic climate will illuminate the sector of your chart that rules money and luxury, giving you celestial permission to buy yourself something nice. Just try not to go overboard with the spending.

## ♑ CAPRICORN

People will be in the mood to compliment and shower you with attention today, dear Sea-goat, as Jupiter and Uranus share a soft connection in the sky. While you tend to exist on the modest end of the scale, try not to brush off any kind words that are thrown your way, you deserve to hear them. A sacred vibe will come into play later this afternoon, as Luna blows a kiss to Venus and Mars, activating the spiritual center of your solar chart. Take some time out to practice meditation and self-care, as you're sure to benefit from some majorly therapeutic vibes from beyond.

## ♒ AQUARIUS

Missing items or money could suddenly reappear today, dear Aquarius, as Jupiter blows a kiss to Uranus, bringing pleasant surprises to your financial and home life. This is also a great time to invest in property, or at least outline a plan on how you might be able to do so in the future. This evening will bring heavy yet positively transformative vibes your way, as Luna sends some love to sweet Venus and passionate Uranus, activating the sector of your chart that governs the subconscious. Use this energy to cut ties with any people, situations, or habits that are holding you back, as you're sure to see a high success rate in such practices right now.

## ♓ PISCES

Your conversations are likely to take a few strange yet delightful turns today, dear Pisces, as expansive Jupiter blows a kiss to revolutionary Uranus. Your mind will be in the mood to explore under this cosmic climate, though you'll need to be open to learning new things and experiencing the unknown. Your love life is also set to benefit from these vibes, helping you connect with that special someone in unpredictable ways. This evening will be particularly conducive to taking any new relationships you're involved into the next level, as the moon enters a supportive connection with romantic Venus and passion-inducing Mars.

## 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	Ruling Planet— Saturn & Uranus	Tarot Card— The Star
Symbol— The Water-Bearer	House— Eleventh	Colors— Silver & Blue
Mode + Element— Fixed Air	Mantra— "I Know."	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.



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