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A city for all



PUTTING ACCESSIBILITY AT THE CENTRE OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

SHEEGL'S SHAME

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



This week, news broke about one of the biggest political scandals in Winnipeg's history. A judge ruled that Phil Sheegl, Winnipeg's former chief administrative officer, accepted a \$327,000 bribe from Armik Babakhanians in order to award Babakhanians' company, Caspian Construction, the contract to build the new Winnipeg Police Service headquarters.

Sheegl will have to pay the amount of the bribe to the City of Winnipeg, as well as the \$250,000 severance package he received when he resigned in 2013, \$100,000 in punitive damages and some amount of the City's court costs. The fiasco could end up costing Sheegl more than \$700,000.

There's a lot that's galling about Sheegl's misconduct. But that \$250,000 severance package looks particularly egregious. When Sheegl resigned in disgrace in 2013, the police headquarters bribe wasn't even the scandal that undid him. The screw-up that cost him his job was one involving the construction of four new fire halls, a deal that involved unexplained cost overruns and a shady land deal.

Given the amount and scope of Sheegl's corruption, it's hard to think of any legitimate reason he should ever have received a quarter-million-dollar payout. It would be hard to come up with a less valid use for public money. But it's especially frustrating when considered as part of a larger picture of irresponsible spending at the expense of basic public services.

The Winnipeg Free Press recently exposed wasteful spending on a massive scale in the city's traffic infrastructure. The overfunded Winnipeg Police Service wracked up 156 hours of overtime pay during the Freedom Convoy protests, despite doing nothing to end it. Wealthy sports companies receive massive tax breaks with no pushback. But basic, actually helpful initiatives like public transit, homeless shelters and harm reduction continue to flounder financially while the city's richest continue lining their pockets.

As Jack Nicholson's *Joker* quipped in 1989's *Batman*, "This town needs an enema."



Mariia Tovpa holds a sign protesting Russia's war on Ukraine at the Manitoba Legislature on March 13. Read more on page 10.

UNITER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR
Thomas Pashko — editor@uniter.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Valerie Chelangat — businessmgr@uniter.ca

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Talia Steele — creative@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Cierra Bettens — culture@uniter.ca

FEATURES EDITOR
Charlie Morin — featureseditor@uniter.ca

CITY EDITOR
Alex Neufeldt — city@uniter.ca

COMMENTS EDITOR
Misha Falk — comments@uniter.ca

COPY & STYLE EDITOR
Danielle Doiron — style@uniter.ca

PHOTO EDITOR
Daniel Crump — photoeditor@uniter.ca

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Leigh Lugosi — leigh@uniter.ca

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Keeley Braunstein-Black — keeley@uniter.ca

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR
Gabrielle Funk — gabrielle@uniter.ca

FEATURES REPORTER
Armande Martine — features@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
Isabella Soares — isabella@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
Rebecca Driedger — rebecca@uniter.ca

CITY REPORTER
Callum Goulet-Kilgour — cityreporter@uniter.ca

CAMPUS REPORTER
Griffin Paragas — campus@uniter.ca

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR
Holly Liu — volunteer@uniter.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS
Madeline Rae
Kim Uduman

MOUSELAND PRESS

MOUSELAND PRESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Kristin Annable** (chair), **Anifat Olawoyin**, **Andrew Tod** and **Jack Walker** — For inquiries email: board@uniter.ca

CONTACT US

GENERAL INQUIRIES
editor@uniter.ca

ADVERTISING
businessmgr@uniter.ca

ROOM 0RM14
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
515 PORTAGE AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3B 2E9
TREATY ONE TERRITORY
HOMELAND OF THE MÉTIS NATION



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PHOTO BY LEIGH LUGOSI

While the province has lifted vaccine and mask mandates, many arts venues in Winnipeg are choosing to keep them in place.

VENUES ADAPT TO RELAXED RESTRICTIONS

Measures will continue to be in place at some venues

REBECCA DRIEDGER | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TWITTER](#) [INSTAGRAM](#) REBECCADRIEDGER

When the Manitoba government announced that COVID-19 restrictions would be slowly lifted, it gave entertainment venues a lot to consider.

On March 1, the provincial government lifted their restrictions for proof of vaccination for indoor venues, such as restaurants and event spaces. On March 15, all COVID-19 restrictions, including the mask mandate, were lifted. Now, many venues face a difficult decision: should they lift restrictions or keep them in place without government support?

“The proof of vaccination requirement was lifted March 1, and we’ve already had a few shows without QR restrictions,” Anthony Kowalczyk, one of the owners of the Good Will Social Club, says. “It’s been a pretty mixed but positive response so far. I feel like most people are still a little apprehensive to jump into large crowds but want to get some sense of normalcy.”

On March 4, the Good Will Social Club announced on Instagram that al-

though they will no longer require guests to provide proof of vaccination, groups that perform there can have their own attendance requirements.

This means some groups may ask audiences to provide proof of vaccination and wear masks, while others may impose only one of those restrictions. The Good Will says patrons should check their tickets prior to attending an event for specific requirements.

“Our staff will still be wearing masks for their safety and our customers,” Kowalczyk says.

The hardest part, from the standpoint of the venue owners and staff, is how to navigate whether or not to keep the restrictions when they no longer have the support of the government.

“The Good Will didn’t come about the decision to lift the requirements lightly, and we are still very much cautious,” Kowalczyk says. “We spoke at length with a lot of different businesses, event producers, staff, security, customers,

bands ... about how we should approach this situation. Obviously, there was no singular right answer or approach, and it’ll take some time to fully ease into these new rules – or lack thereof.”

The top priority for these businesses is to keep staff and audiences safe when things are still uncertain. This goes for both the Good Will Social Club and the West End Cultural Centre (WECC).

“We’re just going to keep (the restrictions) in place until our volunteers are comfortable, our patrons are comfortable, and our artists are comfortable,” Jason Hooper, the executive director of the WECC, says.

“There’s no point in going sooner than that. We don’t want to make people feel unwelcome ... People are going to be restricted one way or the other. Immunocompromised people won’t be able to attend or (may be) less likely to attend without masks and proof of vaccination. That just didn’t seem fair.”

On March 2, the WECC posted on Instagram that they will continue to require proof of vaccination and masks in the venue.

The response has been “overwhelmingly positive. It’s been just an avalanche of positive responses compared to the few negative ones that we’ve had,” Hooper says. “The negative ones are pretty much all-caps shouting, but, otherwise, it’s a very small minority of people.”

The Park Theatre also announced plans to keep checking proof of vaccination. Unlike the WECC, however, the Park Theatre will only keep their requirements in place until Apr. 30.

“I think that’s one of the issues with these orders. They don’t really allow for much nuance or changing, so I think it’s best to just leave (our restrictions)

open-ended and just continually assess the situation as best we can,” Hooper says.

“It’s really hard without having accurate testing numbers. We’re, unfortunately, relying on hospitalizations. Which, you know, are lagging indicators of community infection, so (it’s) almost too late at that point to do anything.”

Not only do venues need to consider how restrictions (or lack thereof) will impact audience members, but they’ll also need to take into account artists who perform on their stages.

Hooper says since the WECC announced it will maintain restrictions, some groups have said they will not perform there.

“I think that’s probably one of the good things about the relaxation of the public-health orders. There are options for people who want them,” Hooper says.

Although the restrictions at these three theatres may differ, they all face uncertainty with the provincial government’s rulings.

“I guess (if) public health says it’s fine, then I guess it’s fine. Maybe there’s a little bit more politics and public health involved. But, you know, it is what it is,” Hooper says. “Personally, I think it’s too soon, but I mean, what do I know? I just prefer caution when it comes to getting sick.”

Kowalczyk has similar feelings in regards to the restrictions being lifted.

“I think, like everyone else ... (I’m) confused. Rewinding the clock back two years, when we didn’t know what pandemic restrictions were/are is not an option. I am optimistically cautious that we can move in that direction, but we need to do it in the safest way possible,” Kowalczyk says.

A MODERN-DAY TWIST ON A CLASSIC

Upcoming Royal MTC play inspired by *To Kill a Mockingbird*

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

If the literary classic *To Kill A Mockingbird* were adapted to reflect the current reality, what would the story look like? The answer to this question lies in *Calpurnia*, a new Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Royal MTC) production premiering on March 24.

Written by Audrey Dwyer, the play centres on Julie Gordon as she aims to make a movie from the viewpoint of *To Kill A Mockingbird* character Calpurnia. Given that Calpurnia is a maid at the Finch household and didn't have the same upbringing as Julie, she struggles to prove herself worthy to tell this story, even though she comes from a place of privilege.

Although the play deals with heavily charged subjects such as racism and inequality, Dwyer says the story has a comedic feel.

"If someone hasn't read the book before, they will definitely be in for a fun and comedic night at the theatre. I think one of the major differences in our social sphere right now is that we are talking about (racism). This play is an opportunity for people to see themselves and their values or obstacles in a way that is delightful, kind of awkward and funny," she says.

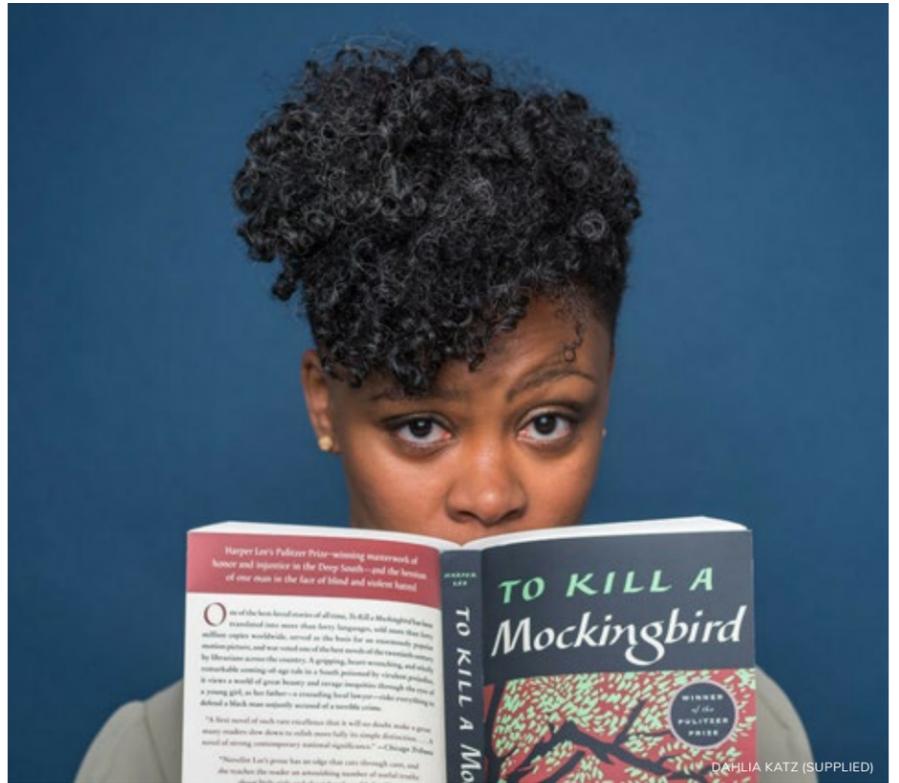
Centering Calpurnia as the main char-

acter is far from the play's only connection to Harper Lee's classic novel. According to Dwyer, most of the characters in the play were inspired by those in the book.

"I read *To Kill A Mockingbird* in high school, and when I decided that I wanted to write this play, I went back to the book and did a bit of comparison and contrast with the characters in my play. The father (in *Calpurnia*) is like Atticus Finch, and Julie is like Scout. The other characters in the play have similar behaviours and personalities to the ones in the book, and that was an intentional choice, because I wanted to examine *To Kill A Mockingbird* through a modern lens," Dwyer says.

Following the social and political impact of George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police in 2020, *Calpurnia* doesn't shy away from the hard questions. Actress Emerjade Simms, who plays Julie in the production, says audiences will feel reflected in her character's journey throughout the story.

"It's a lot of wondering about your voice and how you can use it. I think that this play is really good at drawing a mirror to society and showing the ways that we are all very flawed and need to have grace. It's an



Playwright Audrey Dwyer took inspiration from Harper Lee's classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* for her new play *Calpurnia*.

examination of race, class and feminism. If you want to have a good laugh and time to think, this is for you," Simms says.

Calpurnia isn't the only thought-provoking project to land on the Royal MTC stage. The theatre company recently announced its planned 2022-23 season. Amongst the production lineup starting in October are *Net-*

work, The Three Musketeers, Into the Woods and an Audrey Dwyer-directed piece called *Trouble in Mind*.

Calpurnia runs from March 24 to Apr. 16. For tickets and additional information about the play, visit royalmtc.ca.



The monthly Just(e) Slam event is a rare opportunity for French poets to share their work, though other languages are also welcome.

NO FUSS, JUST(E) SLAM

Writers share their poems in open-mic sessions

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

For writers seeking an opportunity to share their poetry beyond their journals, Just(e) Slam secures an attentive audience.

Organized by Centre culturel franco-manitobain, Alliance Française du Manitoba and La Maison Gabrielle-Roy, Just(e) Slam is a monthly event for professional and amateur writers to recite their own poems.

"It's an incredible night because of the audience. In this audience, there are poets, non-poets, early poets, and they share their texts in three minutes. These are three minutes without music or accessories, just your own text to share with people," Sébastien

Gaillard, the director of La Maison Gabrielle-Roy, says.

Unlike non-timed spoken-word gatherings, the slam sessions give an equal time limit for all participants or "slammers" to articulate their thoughts through poetry. This rule helps to engage the audience by keeping the poems concise and, as a result, more emotionally driven.

"In a situation like the one we are currently living in, poetry is the only form of art that can transmit sincerity. I can tell you that it is amazing to hear poems with so much emotion and with themes that are

important during one of these night sessions," Gaillard says.

A poet himself, Gaillard is one of the people coordinating Just(e) Slam. He leads writing workshops through La Maison Gabrielle-Roy on the Mondays prior to the sessions, which take place on the last Wednesday of every month. Having performed some of his work in Quebec and New Brunswick, Gaillard felt there weren't enough opportunities for francophone writers in Manitoba.

"I am a slammer and, as an artist, I felt like there was a lack of this art expression within the French-speaking community. I saw that there were a couple spoken-word sessions in English but not in French," he says.

"A slam session is a democratization of poetry, because we have this misconception that poetry belongs to writers only, and that is absolutely wrong. It belongs to everyone. As a slammer, I am very proud to have the opportunity to perform in French."

Although these sessions are predominantly

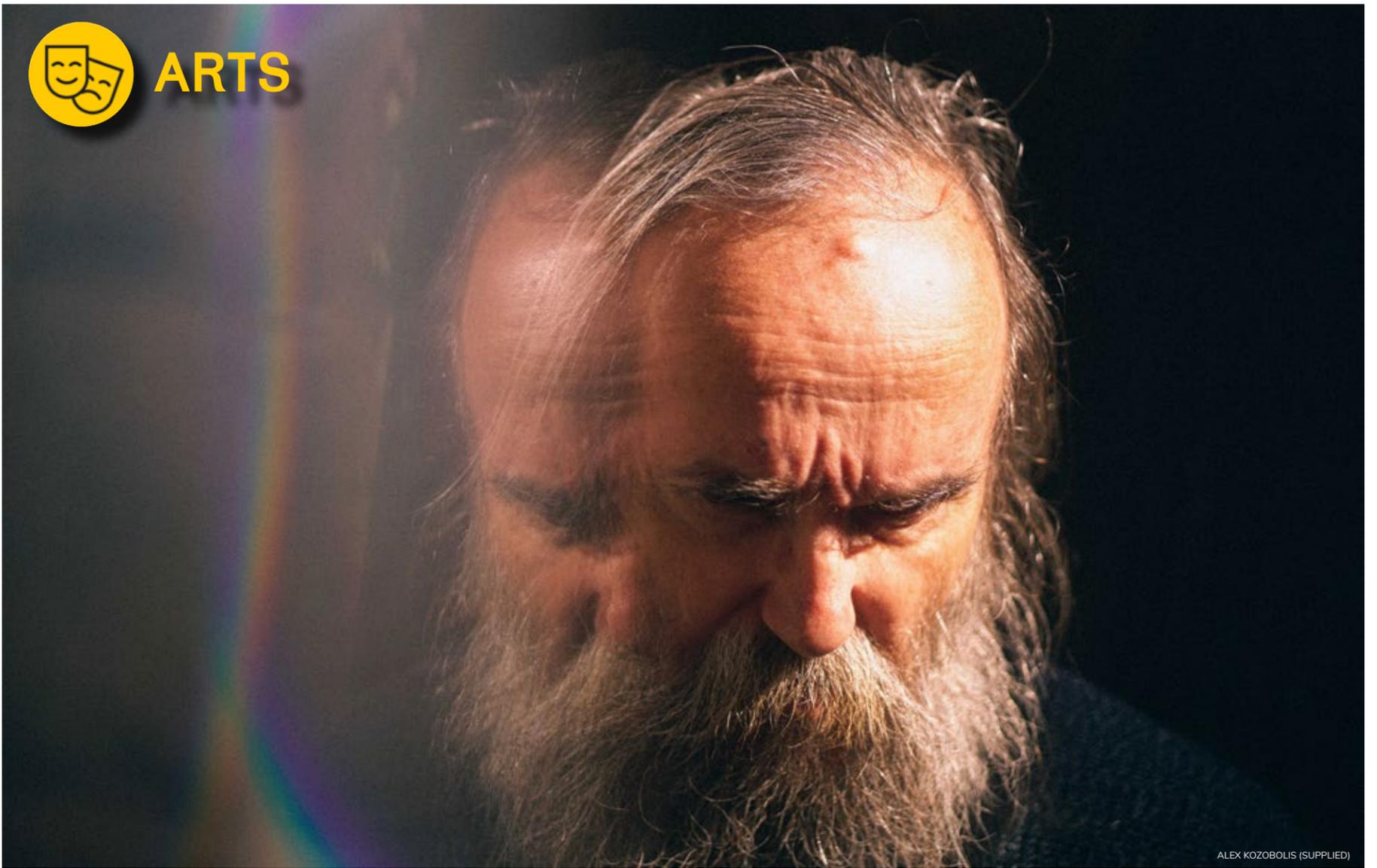
conducted in French, the mic is open for people who want to recite their poetry in other languages, as long as there is a way to explain the meaning of the poem beforehand.

"All slam sessions are open to multiple languages. In the past, we even had people performing in Arabic," Gaillard says.

Earlier this year, Just(e) Slam's efforts to maintain French programming in the province gained recognition from the Caravane des dix mots, an organization that promotes francophone rights and culture around the world.

The next session will happen in person at the Alliance Française du Manitoba. However, Gaillard says that the event will adopt a hybrid approach, so slammers still have the option to participate via Zoom.

To register for Just(e) Slam, email culture@afmanitoba.ca or call 204-477-1515. For more information about future sessions or other events, visit afmanitoba.ca.



ALEX KOZOBOLIS (SUPPLIED)

ORIGIN STORY: LUBOMYR MELNYK

A 'huge river of sound'

ARMANDE MARTINE | FEATURES REPORTER | [1MANDE7](#)

Lubomyr Melnyk is known for his “continuous music” style of piano playing. The rapid note-playing method was developed over many years of classical piano practice.

“I wasn’t that good as a classical performer, but I was quite advanced as a classical pianist. Without that training, I don’t think I would have managed the breakthrough into continuous music, which is a higher level of piano playing,” Melnyk says.

Having achieved a certain degree of proficiency as a classical pianist, Melnyk quickly attained the style of classical music he had intended.

“My main goal with the music was to break through into another dimension, another realm of piano playing. This is what continuous music revealed to me. It happened quite quickly,” Melnyk says.

Born in Ukraine, Melnyk moved to Winnipeg as an infant. Currently residing in central Sweden, Melnyk considers Winnipeg as an artistic city with a great spirit. He has returned here on occasion.

“I really enjoy (Winnipeg). Good things come out of small places. Cities get too big, and Winnipeg is small and liveable,” he says.

Melnyk explains how his musical interests and the influence of other performers

and composers shaped his own method of playing and performing.

“This ambiance of music like (that of) Terry Riley and Steve Reich had a tremendous influence on me. I really loved the spirit of their music. I wanted to bring that into the classical world. It was very connected to my desire to play classical music using modern elements. Combining those two resulted in continuous music,” Melnyk says.

The innovative pianist’s musical technique propels him into a spiritual state as he rapidly tickles the ivories.

“It was a totally new way of using the hands on the piano and using the mind and the body. It’s very much more spiritual. (It’s) something much more akin to the martial arts as opposed to what classical pianists do,” Melnyk says.

In an interview with Redaktion Niusic, Melnyk described his continuous playing technique as the first time someone has come along to “release the true voice of the piano” since its birth 300 years ago.

“The piano has been waiting dormant for someone to bring life to it, and this is what continuous music does. The speed is needed to create the symphonic sound.

You need a lot of notes to create this huge river of sound,” Melnyk says.

Around 1968, Melnyk left for Europe after living in Winnipeg for 20 years. Being Ukrainian, he describes feeling something like a magnet inside his soul, pulling him to Europe, making him abandon North America.

Melnyk has family in Ukraine. He was recently asked to play at a benefit concert for Ukraine in Cologne, Germany and has been approached to participate in other such endeavours to raise funds to help the Ukrainian people.

“There’s another project in the works to take a truck with a built-in stage for me to travel to various cities. I know that all Ukrainian artists are deeply engaged in trying to help our people,” Melnyk says.

“I’m hoping that one good thing that comes out of (the Russian invasion) is that people realize that Ukrainians are (a) separate people. We’re a separate nation. We’re different from the Russians the way the Finnish are different from Estonians. It’s a different language, a different people. This has not been clear to the world,” Melnyk says.

ARTS BRIEFS

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

Soul Club at the Good Will

Add some soul to your Thursday at the Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave.) with the Red River City Soul Club. On March 24 from 9 p.m. to late, DJ Mod Marty will be spinning vinyl at this no-cover event.

Stone Soup for a good cause

From March 14 to 20, dozens of Winnipeg restaurants are participating in the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba’s annual Stone Soup Week to support food and nutrition programs across the province. To take part, visit any of the participating restaurants and vote for your favourite soup via childnutritioncouncil.com/stone-soup-2022.

An Evening for Peace

On March 18, musicians Sierra Noble, Zrada, Sofia Bilozor and Jorge Requena will perform at Evening for Peace, a humanitarian benefit concert for Ukraine. Advance tickets are \$15 and can be purchased via bit.ly/3tZHTYO. All proceeds will be donated to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts an hour later.

Show support at the SHINE-A-THON

The Sunshine House’s second annual SHINE-A-THON promises an evening of music, drag shows, comedy and more to support the operations of the organization. The virtual event will be streamed live on Sunshine House’s Facebook and YouTube channels on March 19 from 5 to 9 p.m. To RSVP and pledge a donation, visit bit.ly/3JiEG3b.

Book launch: *Still Living the Edges*

Still Living the Edges, a collection of narratives shedding light on the ongoing challenges disabled women face, is the subject of a launch event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (85 Israel Asper Way). The event will take place in person and online on March 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. To reserve a spot and learn more, visit aanm.ca/still-living-the-edges.

There’s Something in the Water for World Water Day

To commemorate World Water Day (March 22), the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation will host a screening of *There’s Something in the Water*, a film on water pollution and environmental racism by Canadian social scientist Ingrid Waldron. The screening takes place at The Park Theatre (698 Osborne St.) at 7 p.m. and requires proof of vaccination. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased via bit.ly/3w4SdYu.

A city for all



Putting accessibility at the centre of active transportation

Kirby Cote, from Accessible Sport Manitoba and Winnipeg Trails, cross-country skis at Whittier Park.

Winnipeg has set a goal of cutting greenhouse-gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2030. Given that residential and commercial vehicles are currently Winnipeg's largest sources of emissions, making the city less car-centric will play a big role in meeting climate goals.

Active transportation (including cycling, walking and skiing) is an ecologically friendly way to get around that allows people to

stay active and be outside in their communities. Bike lanes, the Open Streets initiative and the river trail are all part of Winnipeg's existing active-transportation networks. As this infrastructure is further developed and Winnipeg reimagines how residents exist in a city together, advocates say accessibility must be at the heart of design processes.



Brian Szklarczuk from Prairie Velo in his shop in Wolseley

Infrastructure troubles

Brian Szklarczuk co-founded the cycle and ski shop Prairie Velo in order to provide more options for adaptive bicycles to meet people’s different mobility needs.

Adaptive features can take many forms. Hand-powered bicycles change the source of propulsion, three-wheeled bikes (or trikes) add stability, and bikes that ride side-by-side allow two people to ride together, each pedalling as much or as little as they want. Even smaller things like finding a more comfortable seat are considered part of adaptivity.

However, the city’s cycling infrastructure isn’t always built with different needs in mind.

“With my hearing disability, I have no hearing on my right side when I ride,” Szklarczuk says. This becomes a major problem on sections of Winnipeg’s bike-lane network such as the Wolseley loop, which includes a sharp 90-degree turn in front of Balmoral Hall.

“I physically can’t turn my neck to see the cars the way they’ve done the cut out. It (frustrates) me that nobody actually thought, ‘is this a safe corner?’”

Protected bike lanes are important for making all forms of active transportation safer. Without them, cyclists either pedal alongside fast-moving car traffic or opt to cycle on sidewalks, putting pedestrians and people using mobility aids in danger.

Sometimes, however, protected bike lanes make the city more difficult to navigate when using Winnipeg Transit Plus, a door-to-door transit service offered to those whose physical disabilities mean the fixed-route transit system is inaccessible.

Karina Cardona Claros is the fundraising manager for Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and a disability justice advocate.

“Protected bike lanes actually create barriers for people using Transit Plus. (The placement of these lanes mean) you can’t get

“It’s about creating continuity for people ... we can’t just have some aspects of it be accessible, and then it drops off, and the last two kilometres aren’t, because then the whole route is inaccessible.”

dropped off in front of the building or space that you’re supposed to get dropped off in front of,” she says.

There are also problems with connecting Winnipeg’s active-transportation routes. With Winnipeg’s current bike infrastructure, many routes abruptly end or lose their protective lanes.

“It’s about creating continuity for people,” Cardona Claros says. “We can’t just have some aspects of it be accessible, and then it drops off, and the last two kilometres aren’t, because then the whole route is inaccessible.”

Winnipeg has a long way to go before active transportation is a viable option for many people. For Mark Cohoe, executive director of Bike Winnipeg, the goal is that “as soon as you head out the door, you’re on a roadway or a pathway that’s comfortable for you and that provides you access all the way to your destination.”

Once infrastructure is created, it must also be maintained with repairs and snow removal in the winter in order to remain functional year-round.



Kirby Cote from Accessible Sport Manitoba and Winnipeg Trails

Overlapping needs

While many may assume active transportation is limited to self-propelled options, Cardona Claros takes a more expansive view.

“For the most part, we talk about bicycles and commuters, and we don’t talk about what it means for people to use (lanes with) a scooter, in a walker – all the things we could be using these lanes for,” she says.

Often, active-transportation lanes are made with fast-riding cyclists in mind. This leaves out many people who use mobility aids, parents with kids in tow and those who just want to go at a slower pace.

Kirby Cote is a disabled active-transportation advocate who works as the vice-president of the board at Accessible Sport Connection Manitoba and as the active aging coordinator for Winnipeg Trails. She says her guiding approach to accessibility is that “if you make something functional for our most vulnerable population, it improves every single person’s life in that area.”

“There’s often this thing where people think if it’s accessible, it’s not going to be fun,” Cote says. “I think that’s just a misconception of what a person with a disability wants when they say they want more accessible spaces.”

In Manitoba, one in six people are disabled. Accessibility can take many forms to meet different people’s needs.

“Accessibility might mean clearer transit planning for one person. For another person, it might mean a certain kind of friendliness from the bus driver, or it might mean a certain kind of seating arrangement,” Cardona Claros says.

There are many different ways of moving oneself around the city, and people have different transportation needs. Accessibility should not be relegated to the end of a design process as an afterthought. A just transition to a more ecologically friendly city needs to embrace the many ways people get around at the core of its vision.

Slowing down, reaching out

Transportation doesn’t just mean people getting across the city as fast as possible from point A to point B. People go out for leisure or to meet up with friends. For many, a slower pace makes the city safer and creates more opportunities for people to build community with one another.

For Szklarczuk, this all starts with noticing others around you.

“Taking the time to say hi on a regular ride, taking the time to slow down and wave – that’s a big part of it,” he says.

While planning a city for people’s leisure rather than work might sound idealistic to some, Cardona Claros points out that “it’s actually how people live when we have different options and know that we aren’t just expected to keep up a certain pace.”

Cardona Claros says the stakes of accessible design go beyond inclusion.

“We can develop a sense of ownership of those spaces, but if they’re built with these other ideas in mind that exclude disabled people, then there’s already a barrier to accepting any community ownership of that space, because it’s not for us,” she says.

One active-transportation program that received



The interior of Prairie Velo bike shop in Wolseley



An array of ski boots available for rent at Winnipeg Trails' ski library



Kirby Cote surveys the available ski boots at Whittier Park



A group of cross country skiers at Whittier Park

widespread enthusiasm is Winnipeg's Open Streets initiative. Starting in the summer of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Winnipeg limited daytime motor-vehicle traffic to one block on 10 routes throughout the city. This gave pedestrians, cyclists and people using mobility aids places to be active and socially distanced with only limited interactions with cars.

For Szklarczuk, Open Streets was very positive, as it "gives the perception that I'm in a safe area with no cars or limited vehicles."

The speed of cars is a major risk factor for those trying to share the road using active transportation. One proposal put forward by groups like the Green Action Centre is to lower the speed limit of all residential streets to 30 km/h.

"If we can get the speed down to 30 km/h, a lot of our streets are pretty good at that point," Cohoe says.

But major challenges remain for orienting the city toward communities that are accessible to all. For one thing, Winnipeg is marked by geographic divides, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway marshalling yards, which divide the North End from the rest of the city. Cohoe explains that "there's essentially one safe crossing on your bike at Higgins and Annabella. Really, it's not the greatest crossing at that."

Cote also notes that there are few accessible entryways to Winnipeg's river trails in the winter.

"It's such a valuable piece of our city as far as creating community and movement, and it basically doesn't serve any person with a disability. So figuring out a way to

utilize that space would be pretty fantastic," she says.

The cost of justice

Conversations about accessible design are sometimes stifled when the cost of implementing policy is brought up.

"We're so used to saying disability is too expensive," Cardona Claros says. "Sometimes, we don't consider what the cost of inaction is on people's lives, and we just expect people to be okay with exclusion."

Cohoe is optimistic about the financial benefits of prioritizing active transportation.

"The city is going to benefit, because we can't really afford the way we've built out our city. It's just too little infrastructure for too few people, and it hasn't proved sustainable," he says.

Cost isn't something that can just be quantified in a dollar amount. This way of measuring the value of an infrastructure project misses the impacts on the environment, as well as individual and community wellbeing.

From a purely financial perspective, consultation and accessible design always show up in the negative as additional "costs" to a project. For Cardona Claros, this way of thinking misses the responsibility of prioritizing accessibility and limits the possibilities for what a city can be.

"We created cities that blocked people from being a part of them, and if we want disabled people to be a part of the city and not be so excluded and marginalized in so many ways, we need to stop thinking of disability as an extra cost. It's the cost of justice."

CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

Rally For a Better Manitoba

Communities Not Cuts is holding a Rally For a Better Manitoba at the Legislature on March 24 at 12:30 p.m. The rally aims to draw attention to harms caused by the provincial government's COVID-19 policies and austerity approach to program funding.

Survivors legacy conference

From March 29 to 31, Wa-Say Healing Centre will hold We Are Still Here, a free conference focused on survivors of the Residential Schools, Indian Day Schools and the 60s Scoop, as well as the family members of survivors. The conference will be held at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre. Registration is free at wa-say.com.

The high cost of cutting healthcare

Tevin Obiga, a Kenyan international student at the University of Manitoba, died of blastomycosis on March 3. On March 10, his family received a \$517,764 medical bill for his hospital stay. There is a fundraiser for the funeral and repatriation costs on GoFundMe, and advocates are calling on the provincial government to reinstate universal healthcare for international students.

New resource for Indigenous students

On March 17, a new initiative to provide academic support for Indigenous students was launched by the Manitoba Industry-Academia Partnership. The Horizon Ecosystem Map provides a comprehensive asset map of programs and services for Indigenous students in Manitoba and will be available at miap.ca.

Understanding performance-based funding

On March 23 and 24, the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations will host two seminars on performance-based funding, a model of university funding based on post-graduation earnings and which tends to restrict access to post-secondary education for marginalized populations. The seminars are free, and registration is available at mofa-fapum.mb.ca.

All health orders lifted

As of March 15, there are no public-health orders in effect from the Government of Manitoba. The mask mandate, the mandate for those with COVID-19 to isolate and orders restricting travel to Manitoba have been lifted, and the province will no longer generate key codes for the federal COVID Alert app. Masks will only be required for individuals entering a healthcare facility. The University of Winnipeg has announced it will lift its vaccine and mask mandates for the spring term, beginning on May 1.

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Members of diaspora urge Manitobans to help

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which started on Feb. 24, has sparked international condemnation as people around the world witness the atrocities being committed. This invasion is particularly jarring for Manitobans, given the province's strong ties to Ukraine.

As a recent CBC article pointed out, Canada "has the second-largest Ukrainian diaspora group in the world after Russia" prior to the invasion. Manitoba is the province with the highest proportion of Ukrainians, with more than 180,000 people identifying as such. This group, which has been present in Manitoba for more than 100 years, has profoundly impacted the province.

Mariia Klimovska, who hails from Ukraine and lives in Manitoba, says the best way to help Ukrainians is to donate money.

"They are getting a lot of things (in care packages) from Europe, and it's actually so much faster, so all they need are funds," she says.

Klimovska also says she is "really hopeful" that Manitoba will welcome Ukrainian refugees.

"People are running from their homes, leaving behind so much," she says.

Klimovska says her family, from central Ukraine, has decided to leave, but it was a difficult decision.

"My dad stayed in the town because he is helping to fix cars, helping with whatever he can," she says. Her paternal grandmother's decision to stay also contributed

to her father's decision.

"A lot of families are leaving behind their grandparents, because they just don't want to leave, and it's really hard," Klimovska says.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that more than 3 million people have fled Ukraine since the invasion began on Feb. 24.

Anna Shypilova, a second-year University of Manitoba (U of M) student from Ukraine, is involved with the U of M Ukrainian Student Association.

"We're organizing fundraising events to support students ... and to help Ukraine," she says. Shypilova is currently an event manager with the group.

"We are also focusing on using social media," she says, adding that they aim to share information about the crisis from trustworthy sources, as well as information about mental-health support for affected students.

"I know there are a lot of (Ukrainian) students who are so distracted, so it's really hard to study right now," Shypilova says.

"I've been telling everyone over the past few weeks that my parents who are in Ukraine and myself have been trying to stay optimistic, because we do believe that everything is going to be fine, but we will need a lot of strength afterwards to rebuild our culture and our cities."

"I'm trying to cheer up my parents and be optimistic," Shypilova says.

Klimovska shares this optimism.

"(Russian president Vladimir) Putin was



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Mariia Tovpa holds a sign protesting Russia's war on Ukraine at the Manitoba Legislature on March 13.

giving Ukraine three days to give up, but we're still standing," she says.

Many organizations have been collecting funds for Ukraine and Ukrainians. The Canadian Red Cross' donation page can be accessed at donate.redcross.ca/page/100227.

PINOYS ON PARLIAMENT

Conference captures diversity of Filipino-Canadian experience

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

Organizers of Pinoys on Parliament, a national youth-led leadership conference by and for Filipino-Canadians, are busy preparing for this year's event, which will take place at the end of May. This annual conference features workshops, panel discussions, talks and other events covering a wide range of topics.

Axella Apostol, workshop director for Pinoys on Parliament 2022, says one of the conference's goals is to increase Filipino-Canadian representation in "leadership positions in a variety of fields, especially in spaces where decisions that impact our community are being made."

"As we're one of the largest ethnocultural groups in Canada, it's imperative that our voices and unique perspectives are being heard and represented," she says in an email to *The Uniter*.

According to the 2016 census, more than 800,000 Canadians are Filipino. Winnipeg has a significant Filipino community, which comprises more than 10 per cent of its population.

Only two Filipinos have ever been elected as Members of Parliament in Canada: Manitoban Rey Pagtakhan, who served from 1988 to 2004, and Ontarian Rechie Valdez, who was first elected in 2021.

Manitoba has also had Filipino representation in its legislature. Flor Marcelino, Jon Reyes, Malaya Marcelino, Conrad Santos and Ted Marcelino have all served as MLAs.

Nikki Vinzon, who has been a conference delegate for the last few years, believes Pinoys on Parliament's mandate is important.

"From my experience as a public servant, it excites me when I see other Filipinos in the public service ... because I don't see that many, but I hope that's changing," she says.

Vinzon says she loves the conference because "it allows us to share our Filipino-Canadian story."

"It's not just (recently immigrated) Filipinos that have come here. It's also Filipinos that were born in Canada who have a totally different experience," she says. "That diversity of stories is a wonderful way to share and empower us."

Pinoys on Parliament was founded in 2018, with the first conference taking place in 2019.

"It's the first and largest Filipino youth conference in Canada," Apostol says.

The Edmonton-based non-profit worker first participated in 2020 and says she is especially looking forward to this year.

"Our theme this year is 'Pagitan,' a Tagalog word describing a 'space in between,'"



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Nikki Vinzon is a conference delegate at Pinoys on Parliament, a political youth leadership event for Filipino-Canadians.

Apostol says.

"We want to create a welcoming space to explore who we have been, who we are now, who we can be and all of the spaces in between," she explains.

"We hope that by developing leadership opportunities for our youth, we're able to inspire generations to build strong leadership in our community, bring people together

and achieve the positive change we'd like to see," Apostol says.

This year, Pinoys on Parliament will be held virtually over two weekends: May 20 to 21 and May 27 to 28. The conference is open to anyone who registers. Further information can be found at pinoysonparliament.com.

NEW BILL WEDLAKE FITNESS CENTRE POLICY

How the on-campus gym considers provincial health orders

GRIFFIN PARAGAS | CAMPUS REPORTER

After closing down for several months in response to provincial public-health orders, the staff of the Bill Wedlake Fitness Centre reopened the gym in August of last year. The fitness centre, which sits in the middle of the U of W campus in the Axworthy Health & RecPlex building, lets students, staff and community members improve and sustain their fitness and wellbeing while cooped up in the middle of the pandemic.

On Feb. 25, the Recreation Services website announced plans to follow the Shared Health Manitoba public-health orders. These orders no longer require people to show proof of vaccination in public places starting March 1. As of March 15, people are no longer required to wear masks in indoor public spaces.

Since March 1, as per provincial guidelines, Bill Wedlake gym-goers no longer need to flash their student ID or vaccination cards to the security guard that sits beyond the doors of the Ellice Street entrance. However, the rest of the University of Winnipeg still requires students and staff to show proof of vaccination if they wish to access campus buildings.

Some are unaware that the gym has had a different vaccine policy since the beginning of the month.

Ziqi Yin, a student of the university working out at the gym, says she didn't

really know about the gym's new policy but agreed with the university's choice to have students and staff prove their vaccination status before entering campus buildings.

Another student lifting weights, Jem Bruno, did not know about the new policy either before speaking to *The Uniter*.

"I think honestly everyone has their own opinion on things," Bruno says. "But as long as you're staying safe by yourself, you should be fine."

Daniel Matthes, a staff member of the university's library, didn't know the full vaccine policy of the fitness centre.

However, some were aware of the new policy. "I guess it was in line with the provincial regulations (and) what was already going on, so it was probably the sensible move by the university," Bhavneet Singh Kalsi, a third-year science and biology student, says.

In an email interview with *The Uniter*, Dean Melvie, the director of recreational facilities and services at the University of Winnipeg, describes the thought process behind the decision for the fitness centre to follow public-health orders.

"Since we operate a fitness centre and indoor recreation facilities, we will follow applicable health orders, just like any other similar facility," Melvie says. "The main campus and other buildings are different, because although the university works



PHOTO BY LEIGH LUGOSI

Unlike most of the University of Winnipeg campus, the Bill Wedlake Fitness Centre no longer requires masks or proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

closely with public health, the regulation of its operations is not the same as recreation and athletic facilities."

He also brought insight on how Recreational Services discussed the province's new orders. Recreational Services was in dialogue with the Operations Recovery Team, a university committee that made the recommendation to follow public-health regulations.

Melvie is uncertain as to whether or not the new Manitoba COVID-19 public policy will help bring members – old

and new – to gyms across the province. However, he is positive about the possible return of capacity restrictions if another wave of the virus hits Canada.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've had to adjust our policies based on changes to mandates and to safeguard the health of our community," he says. "If the mandate is re-enacted, we will move to enforce protocols as required. We've done this before and can do it again."

SWARM ONLINE EXHIBITION AT GALLERY 1C03

An archived digital space of environmental art pieces

GRIFFIN PARAGAS | CAMPUS REPORTER

Although many venues and events are currently closed to the public, there are still ways to enjoy events occurring live or on the internet. Gallery 1C03 on the University of Winnipeg campus has been holding *Eruption*, an art exhibit by Grace Nickel, but they have also recently helped host the SWARM art exhibit online.

SWARM is a collection of art from various LGBTQ+ and Indigenous peoples surrounding the themes of environmentalism, feminism and insects. The exhibit was created and organized by the University of Winnipeg greenhouse artlab, a plant-based art space located on the top floor of the library. The artlab gathered eight contributors to create poems, videos, essays, photos and other artistic pieces all on the swarm.greenhouseartlab.com website.

The site itself contributes to the exhibit. Viewers engage with a honeycomb structure of buttons to navigate SWARM's content, presenting the art experience in a uniquely digital medium. Audiences must explore by clicking on the different images, not knowing what the website will show them next.

Although the art pieces are abstract, they are all held together by cohesive themes. *hum of the blue hive*, a video by Roewan Crowe,

depicts a gardener's interactions with their garden. Audree Espada's essay on Valérie Chartrand describes Chartrand's artistic work with bees and how Chartrand's work reflects on humanity's impact on insect pollination. *UnRavel* by Willow Rector is a series of images intended to show what it would look like if bees could use humans and human materials as they do flowers.

In a Q-and-A session during the artists' talk held on March 10, Maram Rocha, one of the exhibit artists, spoke about fellow artist Franchesca Herbert-Spence and how she spoke in a class he was in about the importance of community within artistic spaces. He also said that he felt no difference between working for a physical space and working for a digital space and that the existence of SWARM's digital space was essential for artists to stay connected.

Dallas Cant, one of the co-curators of SWARM, said the art exhibit's digital "arc.hive" was a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a way in which audiences could get intimate with the art virtually. They also said that the SWARM website's hexagon-based layout was inspired by bees and bee bodies in order to capture the presence of bees in a digital space. Cant was in close contact



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Roewan Crowe is a co-curator of SWARM, a digital exhibition presented by Gallery 1C03.

with their web designers to make the website exactly in their vision.

"Moving from the idea of ... exhibiting in person to sharing art digitally was a challenging pivot," Cant says in an email to *The Uniter*. "But the site turned out to be a highly engaging space of collective making-with that holds the art well. And as life is, right now at least, I think the arc.hive will reach more folks than an in-person exhibit could have. And that's really exciting, to have that kind of reach."

The SWARM exhibit is a reminder of

the human effects on nature, but it also is a representation of how humans as a species connect to nature in various ways. The exhibit artistically proposes different methods on how to improve human engagement with plants and insects. Through art, the university's greenhouse artlab shows how beautiful the world is and motivates its audience to keep it that way.

To view the SWARM exhibit, visit swarm.greenhouseartlab.com.



FORMING SOCIAL COHESION FROM DIVERSITY

Félix Mathieu, assistant professor, Department of Political Science

ARMANDE MARTINE | FEATURES REPORTER | [1MANDE7](#)

As a Quebec native, Félix Mathieu has firsthand experience being part of a minority population within a country. This perspective helped pique his interest in researching pluralism policies.

“Pluralism,” Mathieu explains, “is the political theory of how to best manage and achieve unity within a diverse society.”

Mathieu was born in Sherbrooke, Que. but grew up in a Montreal suburb. He attended Laval University in Quebec City before returning to Montreal for his PhD in political science.

While working on his undergraduate studies, Mathieu began following the Bouchard-Taylor Commission, created in 2007 by Quebec premier Jean Charest.

The commission debated the principle of reasonable accommodation, which dealt with the homogeneous majority population in Quebec’s lack of openness toward religious and cultural minorities.

Mathieu’s research on pluralism informed his master’s thesis, which was published as a book. Printed in French, the book was awarded the 2018 National

Book Prize by the National Assembly of Québec. A revised and updated English version is coming in July 2022.

Having researched other countries’ management of inter- and multiculturalism, including the United Kingdom, Mathieu came to a conclusion.

“When possible, you need to empower these differences to build up a form of togetherness that is open to diversity but also to favour some form of social cohesion,” Mathieu says.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

“I have been skateboarding for 20-plus years now. During summertime, I can be found at the skatepark several times a week.”

What was your worst grade in University?

“B- in my Advanced English III course while completing my undergraduate



SUPPLIED PHOTO

studies at the Université Laval.”

What do you like most about Winnipeg?

“The arts and cultural scene. I love how many galleries, cafés, museums and co-ops there are in Winnipeg that promote local artists and artisans. I recently

bought a stunning piece at the Pulse Gallery from local artist Kathleen Crosby, and I am looking forward to discovering more and more similar artists.”



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

Spring Term Registration

Students should have received their assigned registration start date/time for Spring Term 2022 in their University webmail account earlier this week on **March 15 or 16**. If you have not received your appointment time by March 18, please contact Student Central at studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca

Tiered registration will begin on **March 28**. Open registration starts on April 11.

The Spring Term begins on Mon., May 2, with courses scheduled to start/end on various dates throughout the term. See www.uwinnipeg.ca/registration/spring-process-and-procedures.html

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 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

End of Winter Term + Make-up Days

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**

Winter Term Exams

The examination period is **April 12 - 26**. For more information, please see: www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/index.html

Study Skills Workshops – Spring Term

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 will be held on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from May 9 – 20**. Each session is held 9:00 to 9:50 am via Zoom.

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

Student Services Continues Remote Service

Departments in Student Services are continuing to offer their services remotely. No appointments for in-person meetings are available at this time. Please see this webpage for details about each department: www.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.

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

MOTHER OF GOO

Subspace

MADLINE RAE | COLUMNIST |  MOTHEROFGOO

In Hitoshi Matsumoto's 2013 *R100*, a Japanese BDSM action comedy, protagonist Takafumi Katayama is eating his sushi dinner in a quiet restaurant, when a latex-clad dominatrix appears beside him. He looks up at her nervously, with reverence. She smacks her hand violently upon his sushi roll while staring at him. When she removes her hand, Takafumi hurriedly eats up the destroyed roll. She does this for the duration of his meal while the other guests watch in stunned silence.

With this humiliation climaxing, Takafumi's face begins to change. The camera zooms in on him as the air around him begins to vibrate and warp. His cheeks expand like a chipmunk. The whites of his eyes turn black to match his pupils, and his head falls back in ecstasy.

This is subspace.

Healthline describes subspace as the trancelike rush of euphoria that submissives can experience when being dominated in a BDSM (Bondage, Discipline/Domination, Submission/Sadism, Masochism) scene. This feeling is caused by an increase in biological chemicals like cortisol (stress hormone), adrenaline (stress response hormone) and endorphins (feel-good painkillers).

Although I consider myself a switch (someone who enjoys both being dominated and dominating), I do tend to connect deeper with my body as a submissive. My memories of reaching subspace are somewhat foggy because the moment, in my

experience, is one of release. There are a number of factors at play here.

Subspace isn't inherently sexual. But it is about heightened sensation, stimulation, release and connection, all of which are parts of good sex.

My attraction to submission has deep roots in my psyche around childhood shame, body dysmorphia and trauma. Trusting in a dominant during a scene is trusting them with these roots. In the pain and humiliation the dominant offers me, they are subverting some of the painful triggers caused by these roots, and my body responds. But this time, the person causing the triggers is showing me utter acceptance and love. In this space that is simultaneously radically vulnerable and safe, I feel able to release completely.

In a scene (the term for a session of BDSM), the dominant is utterly present with the submissive. To be done properly, they must be attentive to each sensation their sub feels, no matter how miniscule. Checking in beforehand, communicating during play and debriefing or aftercare post-session are essential.

With these practical measures in place, I trust my dominant when they tie up my entire body while I lie on my stomach. I trust my dominant when they bind my wrists behind my back to my ankles and begin whipping my exposed ass with their leather flail.

It is with this trust that I can close my



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

eyes and fully accept my body's inability to move. I can pay full attention to the sensation of pain on my skin, the rush of blood and adrenaline making me dizzy. The intensity of my flesh and impact brings me entirely into my body, yet out of mind as time stops.

I become entirely encompassed by my

dominant in time and space.

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 is beginning her master's in social work this fall, working toward a career as a sex therapist.

OVERREACHING AND UNDERMINING

Bill 33 threatens university autonomy, accessibility

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR |  FICTIONALCIERRA  CIERRABETTENS

Last year, student and faculty unions joined forces to fight against the Manitoba government's overreach on post-secondary institutions through Bill 33.

Now, it seems the provincial government is attempting to undermine the independence of post-secondary education again.

The Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration recently began a series of consultations on post-secondary tuition fees. The proposed changes could lead to differential tuition fees across university departments as early as 2023-24.

Already, dissenting faculty voices have been excluded from these consultations, including the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations.

Bill 33, or the Advanced Education Administration Act, passed into law in late 2021 despite immense opposition from student groups and faculty associations. The legislation gives the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration the power to issue guidelines for tuition, limit compulsory fees and claw back public funding.

Performance-based funding (PBF), a model the Manitoba government follows, refers to the allocation of post-secondary

funding based on metrics such as completion rates and graduate earnings.

In other jurisdictions, PBF has resulted in drastic cuts to the public funding of post-secondary institutions. It almost always results in disproportionate funding cuts to the arts and humanities. Students pay more, and governments dictate what programs are worthy of funding.

During my tenure as a city reporter at *The Uniter*, I became privy to the many ways that Bill 33 would negatively impact students if passed into law. At the time, a clause in the legislation allowing students to opt out of student-union fees threatened a host of programs students rely on, including food banks, health plans and childcare services.

Manitoba isn't the only province facing these obstacles. Last week, the University of Alberta announced steep tuition hikes — in some cases double — as a result of the Kenney government's defunding of post-secondary education. With the talk of differential tuition, Manitoba could easily fall into the same trap.

The value of a university degree cannot be measured in arbitrary economic terms. It cannot be measured in six-figure salaries



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

or its economic benefit to the private sector. PBF doesn't account for the compassion of faculty members, nor the work of undergraduate researchers preserving Indigenous languages, finding solutions to climate change and making Manitoba a more equitable place.

A good university education equips students to be socially conscious human beings. It also encourages students to think critically and to question structures of power — something the Stefanson government clearly does not want students to do.

The Manitoba government cannot claim to support diversity, equity and inclusion while at the same time creating legislation that would make post-secondary increasingly inaccessible for marginalized students.

Students already face significant barriers

in obtaining post-secondary education. With rising housing costs, inflation and now tuition, these changes would lead to fewer students graduating on time, if at all.

Manitoba universities have produced top-notch scholars, lawyers, politicians, scientists and community leaders. They did so without the overreach of the government.

Ultimately, I ask Jon Reyes, the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration: who do these proposed changes benefit? Who do they serve?

The answer certainly isn't students.

Cierra Bettens is *The Uniter's* arts and culture editor. She is currently completing her BAH in political science at the University of Winnipeg.



STUDENTS WHO COME TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER

Making connections through Zoom

KIM UDUMAN | VOLUNTEER | @ SHINGEKI_NO_KIM

I'm one of many who experienced a majority of my university life on campus before the COVID-19 shutdown forced classes online.

The University of Winnipeg (U of W) would be bustling with people trying to get to their classes or trying to claim a spot at Stella's across the street. The university held events, like Roll Call or the UWpg Film Festival, for students to connect with one another.

It was easy to bump into someone you knew and connect with them.

I found it much harder to make these connections once classes moved onto Zoom.

I was already stressing about what was going on in the world and needing to isolate myself from my friends and family. Hours spent looking at a screen only added to my exhaustion.

Once class was over, I would log out immediately, because I didn't have energy to reach out to my classmates.

It also didn't help that, during classes, you couldn't see anyone's face. Once class started, all I would see were numerous black screens with first and last names and no faces to connect to them.

However, the longer the pandemic dragged on, the U of W's student groups were able to stay intact and adapt, connect-

ing to a wide audience of students despite only a few being on campus.

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA), has a long list of student groups which have found ways to connect with people online. These groups are still able to hold events and gain more members, helping those who started university online find people to connect with.

But not all student groups could make the transition to the internet, since their activities have in-person requirements.

Back in 2020, the University of Manitoba announced plans to repurpose the student group offices as bookable study spaces.

This outraged many student-group executives who felt that their safe spaces were being taken away. Some clubs also argued that they must have an office space to continue to function, since it is a vital part of their club activities.

The UM Photo Club and University of Manitoba Ski and Snowboard (UMSNOW) are two groups that need an office space to function. The Photo Club needs a darkroom for staple activities like film and photo development and other workshops. After losing the darkroom to a fire back in 2020, the club was told that they were not able to move back in due



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

to the University of Manitoba Students' Union converting the room for different purposes, which placed the club's future in jeopardy.

UMSNOW was unable to secure office space, which it requires to keep information about students going on their annual reading week trip and to securely hold thousands of dollars of club funds. UMSNOW was forced to cancel its annual trip to British Columbia.

Whether it was in person or online, student groups made it easier to connect with others and make memories.

Going from in-person to online classes made it difficult for me to connect with my peers, because I didn't want to sit in front of a screen all day. I craved face-to-face connection. As things seem to be going back to "pre-COVID" times, I hope to connect with more people, maybe even on campus!

Kim Uduman is a recent graduate from the theatre and film and rhetoric, writing and communications programs at the University of Winnipeg. In her downtime, she loves caring for her plants, cuddling her orange-tabby cat and attempting latte art.

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



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

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OFFICE: 204-786-9782

NEWS DESK: 204-786-9998

ON AIR: 204-774-6877

FAX: 204-783-7080

EMAIL: CKUW@UWINNipeg.CA

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



HOROSCOPES

There is a full moon in Virgo on Friday, March 18

The full moon in Virgo allows us to find the right place for our big ideas. There are beliefs, and then there's the practice of those beliefs in the material world. This full moon materializes our ideas.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM



ARIES

Your to-do list could feel a little overwhelming this morning, dear Aries, as the Virgo moon faces off with expansive Jupiter. Do your best to stay on task, but don't put too much pressure on yourself to handle any chores that don't have to be completed before the end of the day. A hazy vibe will manifest this evening when Luna forms a harsh opposition to misty Neptune, which could leave you feeling out of sorts or emotionally confused. Luckily, you'll have a chance to shed any weight that's holding you down later tonight when the full moon rises in the sky.



TAURUS

Your social media pages could become too much of a distraction today, dear Taurus, as the Virgo moon faces off with expansive Jupiter. While you may be getting plenty of attention in the digital world, try not to let it take away from your ability to complete important tasks that must be handled today. An organizational energy will take hold of you as the witching hour nears and the full moon manifests above. These vibes will also fill your brain with a plethora of creative ideas, making it vital that you take notes on any moments of brilliance that crawl into your psyche.



GEMINI

An overflowing workload could get in the way of your own needs today, dear Gemini, as the Virgo moon faces off with expansive Jupiter, activating your fourth and tenth houses. Try to break down your projects into small, manageable steps to help bring organization and stability to your day. You may feel a bit disconnected as evening rolls in, thanks to a harsh opposition between Luna and Neptune, making it important that you ground and center. Later this evening, the full moon manifests in the sky, bringing the focus to your home life. These vibes are perfect for cleaning up your space. A ritualistic smoke cleansing can also help you make the most of this cosmic climate.



CANCER

A burst of synchronicities, coincidences, and messages from beyond the veil will bless you this morning, dear Cancer, as the Virgo full moon aspects auspicious Jupiter, activating the sector of your chart that governs spirituality. Use this cosmic climate as an excuse to reconnect with the other side by communing with nature, practicing candle magick, or engaging in deep meditation. The vibe will feel particularly mystical as the witching hour nears when the full moon manifests in the sky. These vibes are perfect for playing in the divinatory realms, making it a good time to bust out your tarot cards or pendulum.



LEO

You'll feel inspired to invest in your personal transformation this morning, dear Lion, as the Virgo moon connects with optimistic Jupiter. However, you should think through your goals before sinking large amounts of cash into a dream, especially if such goals involve a business or romantic partner. Checking in with your finances should also play a huge role in any decisions you make around large purchases right now, or you could end up going over your budget. Luckily, the full moon this evening will shine a light on what you can and cannot afford, helping you make smart monetary choices.



VIRGO

You'll feel energized, optimistic, and full of love this morning, sweet Virgo, as the moon travels through your sign while aspecting glimmering Jupiter. Use this cosmic climate as an opportunity to lean into and spread positivity, as your good vibes and elevated aura will be contagious to the people around you. You may have trouble getting to sleep tonight, as the full moon manifests, bringing a rush of activity to your mind. If you find that catching some shut-eye becomes a hopeless dream, use the time to indulge in a little self-care by drawing a bath or giving yourself a manicure as the midnight oil burns.



LIBRA

Going about your daily routines can bring you a sense of stability and joy this morning, darling Libra, as the Virgo moon connects with optimistic Jupiter, activating your sixth house. These vibes can also help you see the beauty that surrounds you, giving you a chance to tap into your gratitude and inner peace. New information could come to light as the witching hour nears and the full moon manifests in the sky. This lunar event is also poised to increase your intuition, making it a good time to get a meditation session in, especially if you need some cosmic guidance.



SCORPIO

Your popularity could become a bit overwhelming this morning, sweet Scorpio, as the Virgo moon connects with expansive Jupiter. While you'll certainly be on the receiving end of some extra attention and adoration, try not to let it go to your head, or your ego could run off without you. If you're hoping to grow your social media following, you may want to plan a cute post for later in the evening, when the full moon manifests in the sky, activating your eleventh house. Just try not to fixate on how quickly your likes and follows come through, or you could end up throwing off your own mojo.



SAGITTARIUS

The vibe will be high at work today, dear Archer, as the Virgo moon aspects auspicious Jupiter. Unfortunately, with the full moon manifesting this evening, tensions will be high with some, while others will feel elated and full of cheer. While you certainly care for your colleagues, try not to take on any issues that don't belong to you, especially if someone in your sphere doesn't feel like being cheered up. Take some time to review your professional ambitions as the witching hour nears and the full moon rises, which can help you lay out a solid plan for your career path moving forward.



CAPRICORN

You'll speak with sage-like wisdom this morning, dear Capricorn, as the Virgo moon connects with philosophical Jupiter, activating your third and ninth houses. These vibes will also cause your intuition to spike, helping you impart profound advice to your family and friends. However, you should look for ways to go within while focusing on your soul as the witching hour nears and the full moon manifests in the sky. These vibes will help you tap into the life force that exists within and around you, giving you a chance to embrace your spiritual center and sense of connectivity.



AQUARIUS

Today could get a little intense for you, dear Aquarius, as the Virgo full moon builds, activating the sector of your chart that governs personal transformation and intense bonds. While you may be feeling optimistic, thanks to a connection between Luna and Jupiter, you'll need to stabilize your thoughts and emotions, or you could end up avoiding any serious discussions you need to have with yourself. As the witching hour nears, it will become more apparent what is and is not working in your life, as the universe pushes you to cut ties with any people or situations that are holding you back.



PISCES

You'll feel the love today, dear Fish, as the Virgo moon connects with auspicious Jupiter, activating your first and seventh houses. These vibes are perfect for getting a little flirting in, though you'll need to stay grounded and play it cool, as you could come across as a little high energy. Try not to get too swept away in a dream as evening rolls in and the moon faces off with misty Neptune, or you may be left with disappointment later. Luckily, the Virgo full moon tonight can help you see things for what they really are, though you'll need to lean into logic.

It's Pisces season!

Pisces is the twelfth sign of the zodiac, and it is also the final sign in the zodiacal cycle. Hence, this sign brings together many of the characteristics of the eleven signs that have come before it. Pisces, however, are happiest keeping many of these qualities under wraps. These folks are selfless, spiritual, and very focused on their inner journey.



They also place great weight on what they are feeling. Yes, feelings define the Pisces zodiac sign, and it's not uncommon for them to feel their own burdens (and joys) as well as those of others. The intuition of the Pisces-born is highly evolved. Many people associate Pisces with dreams and secrets, and it's a fair association, since those born under this sign feel comfortable in an illusory world.

Dates—

February 19 – March 20

Symbol—

The Water-Bearer

Mode + Element—

Mutable Water

Ruling Planet—

Jupiter & Neptune

House—

Twelfth

Mantra—

"I Believe."

Tarot Card—

The Moon

Colors—

Purple & White

Body Part—

The Shins

Those born with the Fishes as their rising, sun, or moon sign have a mystical, intuitive, and transcendental dynamic in the core of their personality, an echo of the seasonal awakening in late winter.

As a mutable sign, Pisces holds adaptive, fluid, and shape-shifting qualities. Those with the sign of the Two Fishes prominent in their charts are sensitive seekers who have the potential to bring a soulful, healing energy to their relationships and communities.

A Conversion with Christy Anderson

Unsettling the Criminalization of Indigenous Women

PhD Candidate Christy Anderson offers an Indigenous feminist critique of settler policing and legal systems while examining decolonial futurities that have emerged from grassroots activism.

FREE | THURSDAY, MARCH 31 / 6 P.M. | ROUGHAGE EATERY / 126 SHERBROOK STREET

LIVE ON THE UNITER'S FACEBOOK PAGE | PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED UPON ENTRY

RSVP TO:
JASMINETARA7@GMAIL.COM

