

THE **U** N I T E R

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The slow movement



CULTURAL SHIFT PICKS UP SPEED



The Uniter is seeking a city reporter

The Uniter is seeking an individual who is passionate about our city, our communities and the many people who are working to make this a better place to live.

For more information, email
Thomas at editor@uniter.ca.



TIM SMITH (SUPPLIED)

Photographer Tim Smith's new exhibit at the MHC Gallery observes the lives of Hutterites at their colony in Deerboine, Man. Read more on page 4.

DIASPORIC RAGE

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR

THOMASPASHKO

On Wednesday of this week, Iranian students at the University of Manitoba (U of M) held a protest, a beautiful gesture of solidarity for Mahsa Amini. Amini, a 22-year-old woman in Tehran, died in custody after she was arrested by Iran's morality police for violating the country's mandatory hijab laws.

The last seven months have left me particularly sensitive to these kinds of expressions of pain and sorrow among local diasporic communities. Like many with family in Ukraine, my 2022 has been punctuated by fear and hurt with every brutal escalation of Russia's imperialist invasion.

Watching the news on CBC and seeing U of M student Saeideh Mirzaei cut off her own hair in rage and defiance hit me in a way I wasn't prepared for. In years past, I would have felt empathy. But this time, I knew that hurt and rage intimately.

It's the same rage I felt seeing the mass graves of Ukrainians tortured and murdered by Russian soldiers in Bucha, and again in Izium. It was the fear I felt when video emerged of Russian mercenary Igor Mangushev standing onstage at a nightclub in an occupied city, holding the skull of a dead Ukrainian, proclaiming that the aim of this war is "to kill everyone who considers himself Ukrainian."

It's the same rage I'm sure Palestinians in Winnipeg felt when an Israeli sniper murdered veteran Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. It's a rage felt by many from current and former subjects of the British Empire felt this week watching English-language news media fawn over Elizabeth II's funeral, without a critical word to the countless who died and were subjugated in Ireland, Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas to uphold the brutal institution she led, and her son now leads.

It's the rage I feel now as Vladimir Putin again endangers Ukraine and the world with nuclear destruction this week, through both the threat of atomic weapons and Russia's continued bombardment of nuclear power plants.

It's been a tough week for your diasporic friends. Be kind to us. When people like Saeideh Mirzaei speak up, listen.

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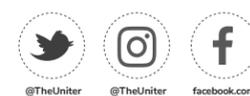
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Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however, all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of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

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

Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, transphobic, ableist, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 15 article "A quick fix?" we included the quote "(Alcohol) can reduce how well you know the alcohol is working." The quote should read "(Stimulants) can reduce how well you know the alcohol is working."

The Uniter regrets the error.



ARTS



ALLY GONZALO (SUPPLIED)

Local art-rock stalwarts Yes We Mystic are calling it quits with their final album, *Trust Fall*, which they're promoting with a bizarre surrealist toll-free hotline.

THE MYSTIQUE LIVES ON

Yes We Mystic launches third and decidedly final album

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TWITTER](#) MATTEKLE

In a music industry preoccupied with self-perpetuation, Yes We Mystic bucks the trend with decisive finality. *Trust Fall*, their third full-length project, launches next month.

Then the group will simply cease to exist. "When we began work on it, we really weren't sure what our future looked like. We were at a tough point, and we found ourselves drifting apart with different focuses in each of our lives," frontman and producer Adam Fuhr says.

From their inception woodshedding in basements as a high-school band to touring

internationally, the Winnipeg act has come a long way in their decade of existence. Citing irreconcilable scheduling conflicts and divergent career paths, the band made the tough decision to call it quits after one last effort.

With the end in sight, the indie-pop quintet was determined to end on a high note. They divorced from many of the distractions an album release typically begets: extensive touring, social-media promotion and looming deadlines.

"That was where the idea of this 'trust fall' came from. We had to take a leap of

faith on this record to make it happen, and we had to commit ourselves without knowing exactly what the end result would be," Fuhr says.

Violinist Jensen Fridfinnson also stresses the purity of the music this time around.

"We wanted to strip it back a little bit and go back to basics for more of a pure sound while still having some very different elements and having ... what I see as a classic Yes We Mystic sound," Fridfinnson says.

To accompany the new record, Yes We Mystic launched the "Trust Fall Hotline," a surrealist choose-your-own-adventure art piece.

"During the pandemic, we spent a lot of time on hold with the bank and with the (Canada Revenue Agency), and turning that type of experience into something surreal and something meaningful when it felt so cold and useless was something intriguing to us," Fuhr says.

The uncanny nature of the piece plays into the LP's themes of trust and blind faith.

"We really wanted the art piece that accompanied it to get people to take a chance on something that has no obvious return or reward," Fridfinnson says.

The band is no stranger to performance-art antics. For promotion of their last album released in 2019, *Ten Seated Figures*, the band had actors impersonate them in interviews and at live shows.

Unable to host one last live concert, the ensemble hopes to satisfy fans with *Showroom*, a concert short film reuniting Yes We Mystic with ex-members Solana Johannson and Eric Ross. The film will have a one-time showing on Oct. 17 at Cinematheque before being distributed online.

"It's an iteration of the band that has never been seen before. We were never on the same timeline with each other, so it was really nice to get all together," Fridfinnson says.

For the members of Yes We Mystic, parting is a bittersweet sorrow. Given the nature of performance artists and their adurance about their finality, it begs the question: how can we trust them?

"I guess you kind of can't," Fridfinnson says.

***Trust Fall* releases Oct. 21 on vinyl and streaming services. Supposedly, Yes We Mystic disbands Oct. 22. Call the Trust Fall Hotline at 1 (877) 347-5231 to question your own reality toll-free.**

AN OUTSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE INSIDE

MHC Gallery exhibit explores the life of Hutterites

MALAIKA COSTA-GITHONGO | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [TWITTER](#) MALAIKACOSTAA [INSTAGRAM](#) MALAIKA.COSTA

After years of newspaper and magazine stints that were beginning to feel too transient, photographer Tim Smith longed for a sense of intimacy with his subjects.

In 2009, he stumbled upon the Deerboine Hutterite colony in western Manitoba. Soon, capturing the daily lives of the Hutterites turned into the long-term project Smith had been searching for.

"It clicked that this would be a project that I could spend six months to a year on. I didn't think I would spend 13 years on it," Smith says.

Now, Smith's multi-year project, *In the world, but not of it*, will be showcased at the MHC Gallery at the Canadian Mennonite University from Sept. 16 to Nov. 12. The exhibition provides snapshots that display a deeper look into Hutterite colonies in the province.

According to director and curator Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, the MHC Gallery is committed to understanding, respecting and caring for each other through artistic expression. This mandate made Smith's project one they couldn't refuse.

"Tim's commitment to building that relationship and representing his subjects with care really stood out to us. It seemed like a good fit for the gallery," Hodges-Kolisnyk says.

According to Smith, Hutterites are either romanticized or denigrated as traditional, when, in reality, their communities are much more intricate. His intention is to display the nuance and complexity of the communities.

"As human beings, the way our brains filter information that we don't understand is to find the simplest explanations," Smith says. "This causes problems that could lead to a rejectionist view of people, cultures and issues that we don't understand."

Hodges-Kolisnyk points out that Hutterite groups are often "othered" in Manitoba due to misconceptions and prejudices. Despite this, she says "Hutterite colonies are very welcoming and very open to building relationships with people and with groups outside of the colony."

"It's important to give a voice to these communities, so that they can tell their stories in a way that they want them to be told and how



TIM SMITH (SUPPLIED)

Photographer Tim Smith spent 13 years photographing the residents of the Deerboine Hutterite Colony in western Manitoba.

they want to be seen," Hodges-Kolisnyk says. "Tim does a great job of capturing this negotiated place of tradition and modern, connected lives."

Smith adds that Hutterite communities do not typically partake in mainstream society.

Hutterites "are not attached to the elements of the outside world that are seen as either corrupt or against the values of their communities," Smith says. "The opposite side of this, of course, is that they're constantly negotiating how much of the outside world they're willing to let in, in order to remain prosperous."

Smith clarifies that he does not speak for the Hutterite colonies and people he photographed. He simply shares his perspective

based on his experience while spending time with the colonies over the years.

He shares a quote written by Hutterite author Paul S. Gross from his book *The Hutterite Way* that Smith says highlights how Hutterites believe their lifestyle is best for them.

"We cannot please the world and God at the same time ... Either we take this world with all it offers, including trouble, mental stress, sorrow and death at the end, or else we take a better way."

For more information about the exhibition, visit cmu.ca/gallery/exhibits.



ARTS



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Live Mixtape, which invites Winnipeg rappers and poets to present works based on a theme, is back after a four-year hiatus.

'LOVE OF THE COMMUNITY'

The Live Mixtape returns to the WECC after a multi-year hiatus

MALAIKA COSTA-GITHONGO | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [MALAIKACOSTAA](#) [MALAIKA.COSTA](#)

When The Live Mixtape, an event associated with the Wall-To-Wall Mural and Culture Festival, took the stage at the West End Cultural Centre, 15 artists highlighted their interpretations of love.

"Love is an ethic," Elliott Walsh, the event curator, says. "It's something that compels, but (it's) not just romantic love. It's love of the community, love of the neighbour, love for yourself. It's all the actions involved in love:

showing and accepting it."

Walsh, who performs under the name Nestor Wynrush, says the event was originally set to be discontinued in 2018. However, after two years of isolation due to the pandemic, he felt compelled to bring it back.

The Live Mixtape "was just an experiment at first," Walsh says. "I assembled a few friends from the Winnipeg rap and poetry community and tried to do something ephemeral."

The 2018 show's theme was "home" and people's ideas surrounding the concept. This year's showcase, which took place on Sept. 16, centred on love.

During rehearsals at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG), Walsh and the performing artists (who included Anthony OKS, BBS Steve, Marisol Negash, The O.B. and Andrew Sannie) spent time sitting and discussing ideas of love. Walsh says his goal was to have the artists feel like they were working toward producing a show that had a cohesive sound.

He selected performers who fit in with that hip-hop and R&B sound. "I didn't want sounds that were too varying," he says. "It's a matter of what feeling I wanted to leave inside the belly of the listener. I wanted people to leave with good feelings (while) thinking about love."

The Live Mixtape brings together performance and mentorship, according to Walsh. Along with the mentees he worked with at GerryFest and Studio393, Walsh will work

with schools and different communities across the country to create workshops on music and music history.

"We're in conversation with Gordon Bell (High School) to go to their classrooms and talk about music history and songwriting," Walsh says. "(We'll be) doing a workshop on Oct. 9 at the WAG, free of cost, where we'll be discussing the same things, followed by a small live performance."

According to Walsh, the communities he plans to partner with have stories that need to be shared.

As a touring musician, as well as someone who has worked in many different communities, Walsh says one of the greatest joys was being able to live among the individuals within those communities and speak to them.

"It's important to bring those stories and those experiences back home and to share them," he says. "Hearing the different wants and needs and the different approaches taken provides a sense of empathy."

DON'T ROLL OVER JUST YET, BEETHOVEN

Bruno sisters kick off MCO's 50th season

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [MATTEKLE](#)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO), and they're partying like it's 1799.

The MCO will offer free fiddler concerts this September and welcome Canadian classical-music act of violinist Yolanda Bruno and cellist Carmen Bruno to launch the 2022-23 season on Sept. 28.

Joining the esteemed company of sibling talents like the Williams sisters and the Wright brothers, the Bruno sisters had auspicious origins growing up in a supremely musical household in Ottawa.

"My mum is a violin teacher, and I was hearing music as a child right from the beginning. I think (at) around three or four, I asked Mum if I could play. I wanted to learn to play the violin. At age five, I was given my first instrument," Yolanda says in an email.

"I was never interested in the violin, probably because every musician I'd ever met was a violinist, but wanted to play the cello from the start," Carmen writes to *The Uniter*. I don't remember how I even knew about the cello, but I had already made up my mind that it was the superior instrument."

"My parents used to see her sitting on the couch, and she would put the violin between her legs like a cello," Yolanda adds.

On Sept. 28, the pair will perform music from classical composers such as Bach and Stravinsky, as well as more modern compositions from Charles Cozens and Ju-

lian Grant. Most notably, the Bruno sisters will perform a concerto for violin and cello by Antonio Vivaldi, whose music has a special connection for the sisters, who have Italian heritage through their father.

"One of my earliest memories of a big piece that I learned as a kid was Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons,'" Yolanda says. "I play on a Venetian violin made in 1737 by Domenico Montagnana. It's very possible that Vivaldi played my instrument, because all the luthiers who made instruments in Venice, their shops were located literally across the street from one another."

"It's nice for me to romanticize about," she says. "Did Vivaldi ever hear my violin? Did he ever play it? Did his colleague play it?"

While studying in London, Yolanda played for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai in attendance.

While Carmen has yet to perform for a monarch, she's played for Canadian author Margaret Atwood, who she believes is a "kind of royal in her own right."

In early 2021, Yolanda began a volunteer performance series called Music for Your Blues that was conducted via Zoom. It included live musical performances and a multidisciplinary approach to art appreciation, blending storytelling with live music and poetry readings.

"I did it after the (January 2021) insurrection in the United States at the Capitol. I just felt so traumatized by that," Yolanda



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Bruno sisters will open the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra's 50th season on Sept. 28.

says. "We were in complete lockdown in Toronto, and it was incredibly depressing, and then you're just watching this traumatic thing happen."

Feelings of alienation encouraged Yolanda to reach out to her community and forge connections with others.

"I love teaching and meeting people. I feel a responsibility to maintain music edu-

cation," Yolanda says. "I feel a responsibility to share that great art, and the rewards are just infinite."

The Bruno sisters perform in collaboration with the MCO on Sept. 28 at Westminster United Church. In-person and online-only tickets are available for the 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

IDENTIKIT (THE DRIVER'S SEAT)

Plays at Cinematheque Sept. 21, 24 and 25

★★☆☆☆

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER | [MATTTEKLE](#)

Celebrating the 10th anniversary and latest expanded edition of Kier-La Janisse's book *House of Psychotic Women*, Cinematheque will show a series of films showcasing starlets at their most neurotic, the first of which is Giuseppe Patroni Griffi's *Identikit* (1974), or *The Driver's Seat* for North American audiences.

In it, Lise (Elizabeth Taylor), a mercurial dame, decides to decompress following an alluded-to breakdown and leaves London for Rome. That she never returns from this trip is made clear through the non-linear narrative, which alternates between her sabbatical and an INTER-

POL squad interrogating those she meets along the way.

Like many psychological thrillers of this ilk, something is wrong, and the characters in the film aren't afraid to pointedly observe that. Initially, it's hard to tell if the sense of apprehension is a product of Lise's unstable condition, but her gaudy dress and movie-star looks are a clean metaphor for the incongruity she has with her environment.

Taylor maintains some of the grace and air of nobility responsible for her cinematic apotheosis long before *Cleopatra* made it

clear, but she clings to it desperately. With no clever lighting doing her favours, her famous amethyst eyes dull into a cloudy murk. At times, her performance vacillates from invoking genuine pathos to a self-consciousness inevitable for a fallen star in a European arthouse production. She doesn't fit in, but it's likely a deliberate aim of the picture.

The film benefits from some inspired shot composition, and the sparse, discordant piano score bolsters the film's uncanny atmosphere. But moments of genuine tension in this psychological drama are few. Their even dispersion throughout the 100-minute runtime staves off abject tedium. Mostly, the film ambles between quotidian scenes.

The direction barely outstrips the scripting. *Identikit* becomes less convincing as the characters make obvious assertions moments after viewers figure things out for themselves. Vacuous dialogue pads the runtime where a shrewder picture would explore Lise's neurosis.

Instead, scenes show her expressions of mild consternation toward the motley

crew of characters that share the screen with her, including Bill (Ian Bannen), a lecherous businessman. Her static character arc makes for flat viewing. Throughout the film, she searches for someone, presumably a lover. Why? By film's end, her singular motivation proves unsatisfying in its tautology.

The film makes suggestions of political relevance with scenes of urban unrest as a backdrop. Produced during Italy's terroristic Years of Lead, bombs go off and assassinations are attempted, although it never coalesces thematically with the plot.

The Italian hallmark of poor dubbing is excusable here, even when it exacerbates the bizarreness of Andy Warhol's few scenes in the film. He is as glassy eyed and stiff as archival photos of him betray.

Mrs. Fiedke (Mona Washbourne), one of Lise's companions, inquires: how will she sense the presence of the one she's looking for?

"Not really a presence," she retorts. "The lack of absence, that's what it is."

A very tidy summation indeed.

ARTS BRIEFS

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

Digital double feature à la PTE

Alongside in-person performances, the Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE) has announced the return of select digital programming for those wanting to bring the theatre home. Two free digital works (Yvette Nolan's *Katharsis* and *Andraea Sartison's*) will be available from Sept. 22 to Oct. 2 and Oct. 6 to 16, respectively.

Lennard Taylor reopening soirée

Champagne, live art and fall fashions are on the menu at Lennard Taylor's grand opening event this Thursday, Sept. 22. Head up to the fifth floor of 290 McDermot St. at 7 p.m. to join designer Lennard Taylor and company to learn more about the boutique and design studio's sustainable vision. Entry is free.

The city won't sleep tonight

It's a classic event with an interactive twist. This Saturday, Sept. 24, downtown Winnipeg will be lit up for another edition of Nuit Blanche. This year, the Winnipeg Trolley Company will offer free rides from the WAG to The Forks to the Exchange. Plan your route and circle your must-sees by visiting [nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca](#).

Bringing African cinema to the Prairies

Running from Sept. 23 to 24 at the Gas Station Theatre, the African Movie Festival in Manitoba will screen 18 films by African directors. A symposium on the theme of African Films and the City: Space-making, Place-making, Filmmaking will take place on Sept. 24 at 8:30 a.m. with a keynote address by Tunde Kelani.

Music aboard the Nonsuch

On Oct. 1, Winnipeg-based songwriter Daniel Jordan will launch his latest album in an unusual location: the Nonsuch at the Manitoba Museum. Inspired by Manitoba's Interlake, Jordan's album *Songs from the Inland Sea* was birthed out of research, interviews and lived experience in the region during the artist series he took part in. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased via [bit.ly/3Bu5haZ](#).

Reigniting Indigenous languages

Experience a myriad of Indigenous languages through the arts at the Indigenous Languages Festival this Saturday, Sept. 25. Michif fiddlers, Cree comedians and Ojibwe singers are among the acts that will take the stage at Tec Vocational High School (1555 Wall St.). General tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in person at 119 Sutherland Ave. or by calling Meranda McLeod at 204-990-6309. The event takes place from noon to 5 p.m.

The slow movement

Cultural shift picks up speed



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Kitchen Garden, part of The Leaf at Assiniboine Park, produces all sorts of edible plants.

A cultural shift is slowly working its way into society. Promoting connection to people, community, oneself and food, followers of the slow movement advocate for a deliberate and unhurried way of life.

The start of this movement is credited to Carlo Petrini, a journalist from Rome. In 1986, Petrini joined protesters who objected to the opening of a McDonald's restaurant in the heart of their city.

The Italians handed out bowls of pasta to passersby while shouting, "We don't want fast food. We want slow food."

Thus was created the slow food movement, which morphed into a subculture. Eventually, the slow slogan was applied to other spheres of life and activities, including the concepts of slow cities, slow travel and slow living.

The idea is not new. It is a reversion to a less hurried, pre-industrial time. The technological age has revved up the speed at which people and communities do things.

Canadian journalist Carl Honoré, a proponent of this quiet revolution, has published books in 35 languages on the topic. His book *In Praise of Slow* is considered the bible of the slow movement.

In a TED talk, Honoré refers to modern "Road Runner culture" as a world addicted to speed. "When we want to make things better, we speed them up. We used to dial, now we speed dial. We used to walk, now we speed walk. We used to read, now we speed read. We used to date, now we speed date," he says.

Downshifting in life, slow-movement followers take the time to enjoy simple pleasures: tasting the texture of food and

connecting to people and places. The slowed-down attitude is less preoccupied with moving fast and with the unnecessary. Generally, when people move through life quickly, they feel less emotion and are more superficial.

Citizens living in the world's longest-living cultures, called Blue Zones, espouse the same way of life as slow-movement adherents.

Healthy, older citizens in Blue Zone countries take the time to eat a home-grown, vegetarian-based diet, sleep well and build and maintain lifelong connections.

Some have engineered slow as an acronym for Sustainable, Local, Organic and Whole.

It may not be applicable to all aspects of the slow lifestyle, but it definitely pertains to the slow-food movement.

Feature continues on next page.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Canadian journalist Carl Honoré is a proponent of slow living and its related movements.

Slow food

Although protesters were not successful in stopping the mammoth McDonald's food chain from setting up shop in Rome, their slow-food movement caught on.

Three years later, Petrini signed a slow-food manifesto in Paris that was considered a rebuffing, a rejection of the fast life.

Followers of the slow-food movement encourage connection between people while partaking in the preparation and eating of healthy food. It is not about eating in order to live but relishing all the joys associated with the breaking of bread with another or in community.

Closer to home, the concept is burgeoning. The Kitchen Garden at The Leaf in Assiniboine Park is home to a variety of vegetables, fruits, herbs and other edible plants. Assiniboine Park spokesperson Laura Cabak says "The design of the Kitchen Garden was

meant to connect visitors to where our food comes from and how it's grown."

The Farmer's Kitchen (FK) is a grocery store situated in The Village, a new development at Pineridge Hollow. The Village website refers to FK as passionate about providing high-quality, nutrient-dense food, moving away from the McDonald's-like style of fast food.

Slow cities

Italians, encouraged by the success of the slow-food movement, founded Cittaslow (meaning "slow city" in Italian) in 1999. The organization builds on the health benefits associated with slow food, championing high-quality, local foodfare.

Cittaslow believes that the slower pace of life is conducive to a better quality of life. It stands up for less traffic, less noise and general well-being.

Cittaslow leads a global slow-city move-

ment. In fact, it is more than a movement, since the organization holds the power to assess whether other towns or cities meet the criteria to be considered a slow city.

The group expanded beyond Italy, and the first slow city in the English speaking world is Ludlow, England. Today, Cittaslow is an international network of towns and cities.

A Canadian city was the first North American city to be officially deemed a slow community. Cowichan Bay in British Columbia received the designation in 2014.

In 2019, the city was in danger of losing their coveted label. It appears fewer businesses were involved, and the feeling of community was being lost. However, they are still listed on Cittaslow's directory of slow cities.

Currently, four Canadian cities hold the official slow-city designation. The others are Lac-Mégantic in Quebec, Naramata

in the Okanagan and Wolfville in Nova Scotia.

Slow Canadian cities have their own Cittaslow network complete with a website and newsletter.

When *The Uniter* reached out to the Canadian branch of Cittaslow for comment before deadline, they replied "We don't like to do things fast."

Slow travel/tourism

While travelling, many people fill their itineraries with as many activities in as many locations as possible. They spend time and energy taking the perfect photos to post and gain followers on social-media accounts. Often, it's exhausting.

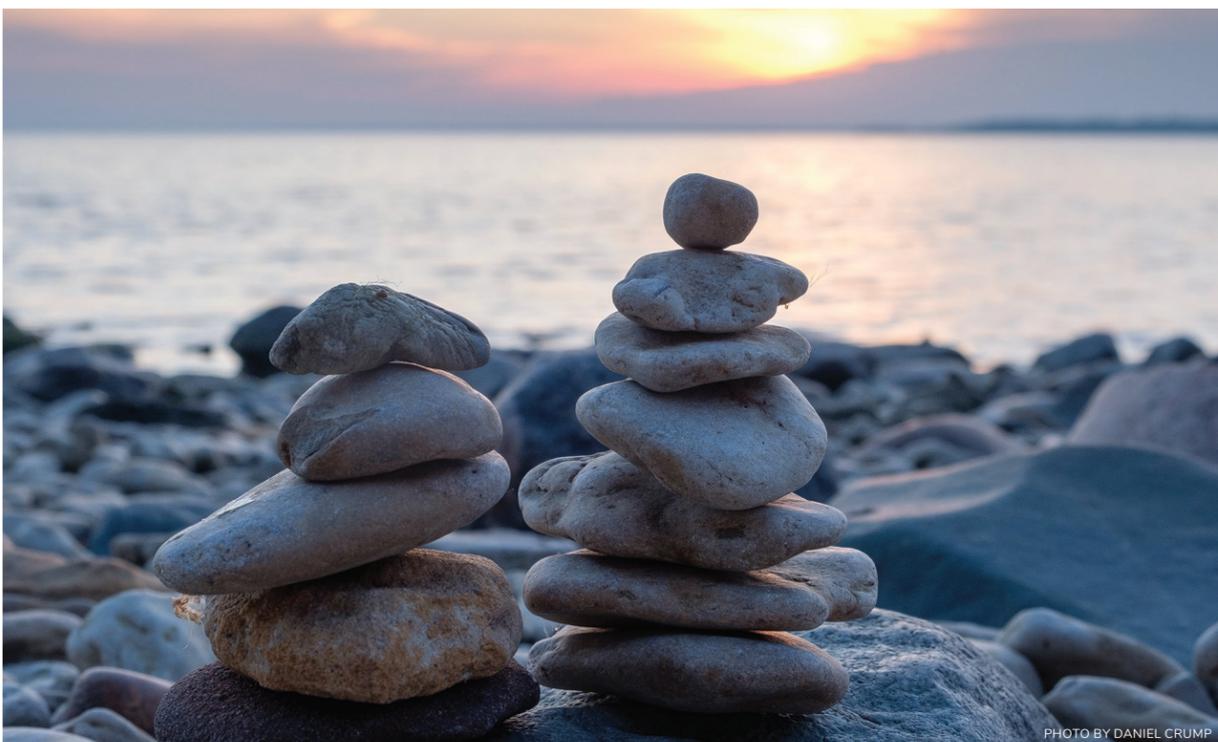
Some people feel the need for a vacation after taking a vacation. Slowing down a bit can help people truly rest, relax and return home restored and recharged.



“What sets Winnipeg apart is its wide-open spaces that offer nature inside city limits.” - Tyler Walsh, Tourism Winnipeg



“The design of the Kitchen Garden was meant to connect visitors to where our food comes from and how it’s grown.” - Laura Cabak, Assiniboine Park



Slow travel emphasizes quality time in locations, even local ones, rather than long distances and busy itineraries.

The simpler, more connected way of life has penetrated into the travel industry, including locally.

Tyler Walsh, spokesperson for Tourism Winnipeg, says “As one of Canada’s best-kept secrets, Winnipeg is the perfect destination for slow travellers. What sets Winnipeg apart is its wide-open spaces that offer nature inside city limits like Fort-Whyte Alive with its urban bison herd and plentiful walking trails, as well as the upcoming Leaf at the Diversity Gardens, which will house four worlds under one biome at Assiniboine Park.”

Increasingly, travellers stay away from tourist traps or destination choices based on crossing off an item from their bucket list.

It’s about disconnecting from devices and savouring the moment. It is taking the path less trodden, meandering down that path, exploring its nooks and corners along the way. It is travelling more deeply, making a connection to a locale and its surroundings.

**DOWNSHIFTING
IN LIFE, SLOW-MOVE-
MENT FOLLOWERS
TAKE THE TIME
TO ENJOY SIMPLE
PLEASURES: TASTING
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OF FOOD AND
CONNECTING TO
PEOPLE AND PLACES.**

This approach to travel is more economical and environmentally friendly, as one journeys at their own pace. Instead of hopping on a train or a plane every three days, slow travellers stay in place, immersing themselves in the culture.

Slow tourism is the sustainable aspect of travel, also referred to as eco-tourism. Increasingly, travellers opt for modes of travel and destinations that minimize harm to the environment.

By “living” rather than *staying* at a travel destination, people experience a locale more intimately. A genuine connection to surroundings can create an emotional impact.

This approach can be applied to local travel. Taking the time to explore during a day trip or afternoon outing can help someone experience travel more deeply.

One of the best ways to slow travel is to use slow transportation. Nature enthusiasts ditch the speedboat and opt for kayaks and canoes, appreciating the sights and sounds of wildlife on shore and in the sky. Cycling or renting a bike is also an excellent way to experience the journey en route.

Slow living

Challenging the hurried pace in life, slow living is a mindful and focused approach. It is akin to the spiritual philosophy of Buddhism, the fourth-largest religion in the world. Buddhism, with its mindful principles, continues to gain popularity in North America.

Busyness is sometimes described as nothing but misplaced priorities. Followers of slow living believe busyness is a choice. Why not enjoy the entire day, not just a portion of it, by connecting to the moment fully?

Employees have recently popularized “quiet quitting,” which is basically the refusal to work after hours without pay. The work masses are saying no to employers who keep employees metaphorically chained to work desks or connected to work devices. Employees are expected to keep toiling past quitting time and are not allowed to punch the clock.

Employees (and possibly many employers, too) want a better work-life balance and insist on prioritizing life over work.

A general awakening is occurring. Proponents expound on living mindfully with a focused purpose.

More information about the Farmer’s Kitchen can be found at thefarmerskitchengrocery.com. The gardens at Assiniboine Park, including the Kitchen Garden, can be found at The Leaf or online at bit.ly/3qW2PoU. For more information on slow communities, visit slowfood.com, cittaslow.org, slowmoney.org and slowmovement.com.

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WINNIPEG'S MOST TERRIFYING HALLOWEEN EVENT

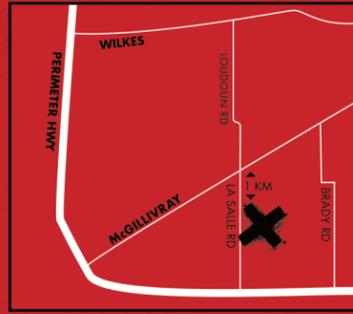
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TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK

U of W removes its face-mask mandate

MEGAN RONALD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MEGANLYNNRONALD

Face masks are no longer required on the University of Winnipeg (U of W) campus. As of Aug. 17, students and staff members may choose whether to wear a mask – but the decision may not be that simple.

Caleb Zimmerman, the executive director of marketing and communications at the U of W, says lifting the mask mandate was the result of serious thought and deliberation.

“Many different COVID-19 committees contributed to our ongoing response throughout the pandemic. The committees consulted within internal and external stakeholders and monitored public-health orders,” he says.

“The health and safety of our community and the commitment to provide an exceptional student experience was considered first and foremost.”

However, masks are required when indoors at the University of Manitoba. Specifically, students, staff members and visitors are instructed to wear KN95 or three-ply medical masks when in campus buildings.

This mandate doesn’t reflect the situation at most Canadian universities, Zimmerman says. According to a Canadian Press survey, only 14 out of 83 universities across the country require mask use on campus.

At Red River College, mask use is optional but supported. Staff and students are required to complete the self-screening survey provided by Shared Health prior to

arriving on campus.

At Brandon University, vaccinations and masks are recommended but not required. Students and staff are asked to carry masks to wear when entering confined spaces, such as offices.

Zimmerman says that the decision to make masks optional was prompted by respect for others. “Our community was asked to respect an individual’s choice regarding masking.”

Scott Forbes, president of the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations and a U of W biology professor, emphasizes the critical nature of the COVID-19 pathogen. He stresses that the lasting side effects of COVID-19 remain unknown, but evidence shows that there are serious long-term consequences.

“Neurological damage is associated with COVID-19 infection, (as well as) cardiovascular damage,” he says. “We know that, somewhere, one in five and one in 12 people are likely to develop long COVID.”

While attitudes toward the virus may have softened over time, COVID-19 still poses a serious risk, especially to people who are immunocompromised.

“It’s not a cold or flu virus. It’s much more serious than that,” Forbes says.

COVID-19 is considered a level-three pathogen, which, according to lab-safety standards, means people coming into contact with the virus should use a respirator and protective garments. Essentially, “we are ignoring a level-three pathogen in our

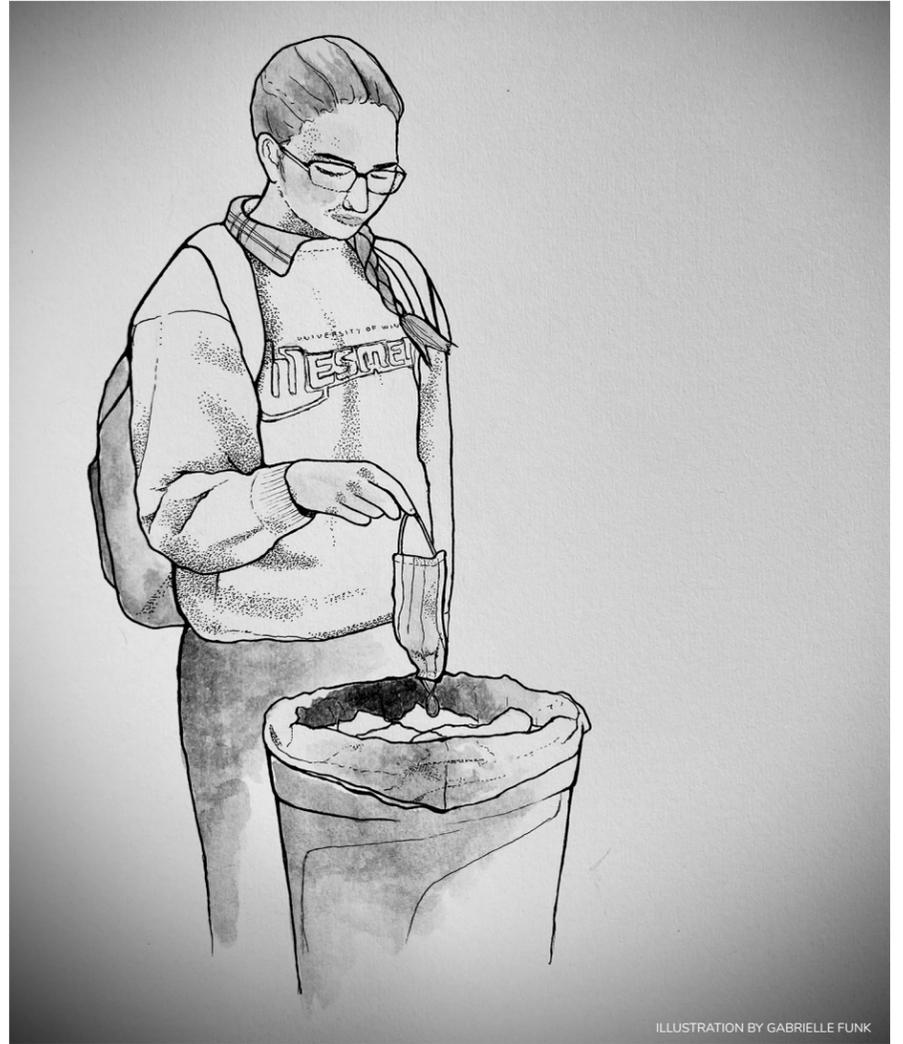


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

midst,” Forbes says.

For Forbes, the choice is simple. “Wearing masks is a simple and mildly inconvenient preventative measure,” he says.

When asked to comment on the campus’ mask policy, University of Winnipeg Students’ Association president Kirt Hayer

aligned the UWSA with current government directives.

“The UWSA will always support public-health guidelines that ensure the safety of students, especially those with specific challenges that compromise their health,” he says.

THE RETURN OF THE U-PASS

Students welcome the subsidy program back with ‘open arms’

MEGAN RONALD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MEGANLYNNRONALD

The U-Pass is back at the University of Winnipeg (U of W) after a pandemic-induced hiatus. This universal transit pass is available to full-time students at the U of W and University of Manitoba.

The student-led initiative began in 2014, when 81.7 per cent of U of W students voted to establish a U-Pass. According to a Winnipeg Transit review in 2017 and 2018, about 6,000 passes were activated at the U of W.

During that time period, about 90 per cent of students used a U-Pass, and 53 per cent of these students relied on theirs every day. With rising gas prices and limited parking spaces near the U of W campus, these percentages may increase.

Emmanuel Iwuoha, the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) corporate account manager, says the association saw high demand for the U-Pass at the beginning of this fall term.

“The U-Pass program was welcomed with open arms by students this year. I can sense the excitement to be back on campus,” Iwuoha says.

The U-Pass program was suspended for the 2021-22 school year, but students kicked off this fall term by once again lining up outside the UWSA Info

Booth for their passes.

Allana Entrada, a full-time student at the U of W, feels relieved. Entrada doesn’t have a car, and their bus commute from Transcona to downtown takes anywhere from 50 minutes to an hour every day.

Last year, Entrada had to pay for bus passes out of pocket to attend in-person classes. She struggled to justify paying for something they believe the U of W should always include in tuition fees. A monthly bus pass from Winnipeg Transit costs \$84.80 at the student rate. That’s a total of \$678.40 for the academic year, which runs from September to April. A U-Pass covering that same period of time costs \$424.

Entrada had to look critically at their daily life and decide which trips were worth the bus fare to travel downtown.

“The university has become my community over the years that I’ve been here, (and the U-Pass allows me) to attend events without having to worry about how much is left on my Peggio card,” she says.

For Entrada, the U-Pass is more than simply access to transit. The subsidy program allows them to connect with the people in their life.

“It’s nice to be able to not worry about how I can stay connected to my



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

The U-Pass is back, bringing transit discounts for University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba students.

community (or) stay connected to my workplace and my community there,” she says.

With the City of Winnipeg proposing to cancel the U-Pass just two years ago, the future of the transit program is uncertain. In 2020, Mayor Brian Bowman referred to the current U-Pass subsidy as inequitable.

“There is something inherently wrong when you are saying to all students: All students, regardless of their financial means, that they should have a deeper discount than someone living in low income, including students,

non-students.”

Two years ago the WINNpass was launched, a low-income program offering eligible adults a 30 per cent discount, which has now been adjusted to a 50 per cent discount. While students would still have the option to pursue other discounted passes, these options aren’t as incentivized or accessible. But for now, the U-Pass and all it entails are safe.

For more information about the U-Pass program, visit theuwsa.ca/u-pass.



SERVING FACE THIS FALL

Drag comes to the University of Winnipeg

MEGAN RONALD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MEGANLYNNRONALD

While the University of Winnipeg (U of W) is home to a number of diverse groups and clubs, there has never been one specifically devoted to drag. Aldin Sabic, founder of the Drag Student Association, hopes to change that.

For Sabic, drag is more than makeup or clothing. It's a process of self-exploration and a chance to move outside of the socially mandated gender expectations. Drag first allowed Sabic to explore and celebrate their femininity – something they previously hid.

"Drag allows you to see a side of yourself that you can embrace and be proud of," he says.

Kris, another group member who wishes to remain anonymous (referred to here by a pseudonym), describes drag as more than just "an opportunity for self-expression, (as it) allows individuals from across the gender spectrum to share a moment of fun and entertainment," they say. "Drag isn't just lip-syncing and death drops, but it's also understanding the struggles of the 2SLGBTQIA+ (and) challenging the cis-hetero norms and oppressive systems that are still in place."

When Sabic started doing drag in February, they soon realized the U of W had

no student groups that focused on gender performance. Now, the Drag Student Association aims to connect people involved with the drag world and bring drag events to campus.

Kris says they joined the Drag Student Association to learn more about themselves and the drag community.

"I (hope) to get a better understanding of the history of drag in Winnipeg and really get to know the different types of drag we have here," they say. "The evolution of drag has changed, and I am eager to learn and hear everyone's perspectives."

Sabic hopes that the campus group will become an inclusive space for growth and self-discovery. "I want to offer a space for people who might be interested in performing drag for the first time," he says.

Sabic recognizes that the world of drag can be intimidating to navigate at first. They hope to alleviate this by offering workshops and classes focused on supporting performers to learn new skills and be successful.

Sabic hopes to bring in experienced local drag performers. "We see so much support for mainstream drag, but sometimes people forget about supporting their local drag



Aldin Sabic is the founder of the University of Winnipeg Drag Student Association.

queens," they note.

For many, *RuPaul's Drag Race* was their first introduction to the art of drag. For Kris, the show was an introduction to a community they were always curious about.

"I (would) watch legendary performances from iconic drag queen and kings across the media and want to explore queer history and (its) impact on our society," they say.

Sabic emphasizes that the club is open to all. "Our group is not an exclusive group

for people with an abundance of drag knowledge, but it's a safe space to learn and ask questions of all matters relating to drag," he says.

The Drag Students Association is hosting a drag brunch at Elements on Oct. 23. Tickets for the 12:30 p.m. event are \$15 and available at linktr.ee/uwdrag. Find more information about future events on Instagram @uwdrag.



PROFile

'I'M CONSTANTLY LEARNING FROM STUDENTS'

Dr. Serena Keshavjee, professor, Department of History

SYLVIE CÔTÉ | FEATURES EDITOR | @SYLV.STR

"I can do varied research here, but I also still get to teach, which is a real pleasure," Dr. Serena Keshavjee says.

She teaches modern art and architectural history in the history department at the University of Winnipeg (U of W).

"I teach everywhere from the enlightenment to the contemporary period, but I publish on late-19th century French art," she says. "I've also published on Winnipeg art and architecture, and I have moved into 20th century visual culture that involves art and science, especially the way that artists looked at science and the way that scientists looked at art."

Currently, Keshavjee is working on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded project with a working title of Photographing Ghosts. The University of Manitoba has an archive, the Hamilton Family fonds, with hundreds of photos by Winnipeg spiritualists Thomas and Margaret Hamilton, who controversially claimed they captured images of spirits and ectoplasmic excretions. "We might understand (each of these) as a ghost or a transpersonality."

"I work now with some really smart (research assistants). They are supporting my research, helping me, and we're talking together, and figuring things out together," Keshavjee says.

Keshavjee also coordinates the curatorial practices master's stream of the U of W cultur-

al-studies program. "Students take both practical and theoretical classes," she says. "We're attracting superstars."

For the practicum, students work with local institutions. "I always say to students, you can put in six to eight hours a week, but if there's an exhibition coming and they need you to work 15 hours, you don't just leave. It's hands on deck, and you get it up there. That's what a hard deadline is like in the real world."

What was your worst grade in university?

"I think it has to be stats. I just got a terrible grade. I realize now that I probably should have found a better way to conquer that and not let it ruin the entire (psychology) undergraduate degree for me."

What do you like most about Winnipeg?

"There's a huge intellectual life. I can't keep up with all the lectures that are going on. But we also have all the arts. This is a big art centre."

What do you do in your spare time?

"I do things with my hands that involve crafting, and it's very refreshing. It's very satisfying. It's very nice to produce something ... even if it's not very good."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6AM	MORNING BREATH	The Sentinel's Marvellous Kaleidoscope	Worldbeat Canada Radio	FLY TRAVEL RADIO	FANTASTIC FRIDAY World - Island Music	THE SATURDAY MORNING SHOW	CKU-SPEAKS
7AM		Folk Roots Radio	FRAÑOL	CANQUEER			
8AM	Shortwave Report	Talking Radical Radio	Making Contact	OutSpoken	Wooden Spoons	DEAD MEDIUM	SHADES OF CLASSICS Classical and New Age
9AM	CounterSpin	FREE CITY RADIO	After Thought	Truth Before Reconciliation			
10AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!			DEMOCRACY NOW!			MUD PUDDLE RADIO For Kids (Adults too)
11AM	DEPARTMENT 13 POP/ROCK	This Way Out WINGS	VOYAGE (Jazz)	After Thought BRIDGING THE GAP	SUNNY ROAD Roots Music		Medicine Wheel of Music
NOON	COMEDIOLOGICAL REPORT	BOOTS & SADDLE COUNTRY		ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS HEARSHOT DAILY	NO FIXED ADDRESS LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS	THE ELECTRIC CHAIR	TEMPLE TENT REVIVAL
1PM	outSPOKEd Truth Before Reconciliation	THE GREEN MAJORITY	ALTERNATIVE RADIO	BINKY PINDER'S PUBHOUSE	HOW TO SURVIVE A TORNADO		NEON BEIGE SOUND EXCHANGE
2PM	GROUNDWELL New Classical	The Stuph File	The Phil-In Show	TICKLE MY FANCY Blues	GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR	THE IVORY TOWER Eclectic Mix	YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD Gospel
3PM	SEAN SHOW (Local music)	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire	The Meta World STOOPALOOP SHOW	BARKING DOG Past 'n Present Folk 'n Roots	CKUW Album Feature		Active Voice*
4PM	Radio Eco Shock		SPACE CADET MUSIC, OUT OF THIS WORLD	STARROAD JUNCTION	DEEP THREES Electronic/Expository	THE TRIP PSYCHEDELIC ROCK	BOOTS & SADDLE BARKING DOG
5PM	Journey Into Sound (Music History)	SQUARE WAVE Video music and history	AMATEUR HOUR So Bad, It's Good	PAGES	Behind the News with Doug Henwood		
6PM	THE WORLD World	Lost Chunes	TWANG TRUST Country/Roots/Big, Dumb Rock 'n' Roll	TAWNY, THE BRAVE Pop/Rock	THE HOW DO YOU DO REVUE	WE BUILD HITS Hip-Hop	THE C.A.R.P. The Completely Asinine Radio Program
7PM	THE TONIC Garage, Punk, Surf, and R&R	On My Way Home (Local Indie)	S.A.N.E. * RADIO Local Experimental Music	Adult Kindergarten	CHECK CA Funky	RED BOX Hip-Hop	SOUNDS LIKE MUSIC
8PM	DESTINATION MOON Sock-Hop-A-Go-Go	Indigenous in Music	Radio Art Hour	Dub City Steppers	QUADRAFUNK Electric Dance Party		THE GASHLYCRUMB TINIES
9PM	BREAK NORTH RADIO	HEARSHOT DAILY	HEARSHOT DAILY	PHASE ONE Electronic	StreetKilliaz Generation (Local Hip Hop)	DANCE HALL FEVER Dancehall and Reggae	ISLAND VIBES Caribbean
10PM		MONKEY SPARROW	Two Princes				
11PM	METAL MONDAY	NIGHT DANGER RADIO	WINNIPEG ARENA IS ON FIRE	THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN	MANITOBA MOON	Your Show Here	Rainbow Country
MIDNIGHT	MODERN JAZZ TODAY	The Motherland Influence	The Meta World STOOPALOOP SHOW				REVOLUTION ROCK
1AM	AMPLIFIED RADIO	BACKBEAT	Hurlements Sur La Youndra				GIRLIE SO GROOVIE
2AM							
3AM							
4AM							
5AM							
6AM							



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

New shows are marked with a star ★

Live shows are marked with a lightning bolt ⚡



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

Study Skills Workshops: Advice & Tips for Academic Success

Study Skills Workshops are designed to improve your learning skills and help you achieve your academic goals.

Workshops run Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:20 pm, in-person and via Zoom. Upcoming topics are:

- Writing in Style: Tips for Writing Academic Essays Mon., Sept. 26
- Acing your Exams: Memory and Test-taking Strategies Wed., Sept. 28
- Secrets to Success: Goal Setting & Time Management
- RESCHEDULED to Mon., Oct 3 (was originally Mon., Sept. 19)

For details and to register, please see: www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html

Career Chats on Instagram

Drop in for Career Chats - live sessions on Instagram that feature advice from an employer or other

career-related expert. Hosted by the Academic and Career Services Dept., these live sessions take place every other Thursday at 11:00 am on UWinnipeg Instagram. Upcoming speakers:

- Sep 29 at 11:00 am with Gloria Dovah from Volunteer Manitoba
- Oct 13 at 11:00 am with Ali Raza from UWinnipeg's International, Immigrant and Refugee Student Services (IIRSS)
- Oct 27 at 11:00 am guest TBD
- Nov 10 at 11:00 am with Alisha Nickel from enVision

Apply Now for Fall/Winter Awards

The online application for Fall/Winter 2022-23 In-Course Awards, Bursaries, and Scholarships (for current students) is now open.

Deadline: **Oct. 1, 2022**

Apply now! Go to: www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards

Volunteer Fair

Join us for the in-person Volunteer

Fair on Oct. 5 & 6 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Riddell Hall Atrium. This two-day event is your opportunity to meet with a wide variety of charities and non-profit organizations. Volunteering is a great way to gain work experience and develop useful contacts; it's also a way to try new things, have fun and give back!

Webinar Wednesdays

Webinar Wednesdays is back this fall with valuable strategies and tips to help you succeed at UWinnipeg.

Student Services staff cover a wide variety of topics - see below - in weekly lunch-hour sessions (12:30 to 1:00 pm). And this year you get to choose whether to attend the sessions via Zoom or in-person!

Topics/Dates for Webinar Wednesdays - Fall Term 2022:

- Seeking Academic Accommodations and Registering with Accessibility Services - Oct. 5
- The Work-Study Program - Oct. 19
- How to Choose and Declare (or Change) Your Major - Oct. 26
- Travel the World: Undergraduate

- Exchange Opportunities - Nov. 2
- To Drop or Not to Drop - Nov. 9
- Enhance your Resume - Become a Volunteer Note-taker with Accessibility Services - Nov. 16
- Finding a Balance: Using "Wise Mind" to Help You Thrive - Nov. 23
- Expand Your Career Potential with a Master's Degree - Nov. 30
- Preparing for Winter Term - Dec. 7

Find out more and sign up here: www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html

Use the myVisit App

Need some help from staff in Student Central and/or Academic & Career Services? Download the myVisit app today. The myVisit app enables students to add themselves to a virtual line for drop-in Zoom sessions at Student Central. The app can also be used to book appointments for a Zoom or in-person meeting with a student central staff member or an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can also be booked through the website: www.myvisit.com.



COLUMN

ONE GREEN CITY

Winnipeg's next mayor

ALLYN LYONS | COLUMNIST | @ALLYNLYONS

Municipal elections may seem like small potatoes in the looming climate crisis, but their results significantly impact how people live day to day. A city with bike lanes, reliable public transportation, an urban forest and adequate garbage and recycling services can both reduce carbon emissions and give citizens the resources to become environmentalists.

At press time, of the 15 mayoral candidates Winnipeggers have to choose from on Oct. 26, only two have included detailed environmental policies in their platforms that go beyond vague promises to incentivize electric cars or simply plant more trees.

Glen Murray, Winnipeg's mayor from 1998 to 2004, and Shaun Loney, Manitoba's former director of energy policy, have strong environmental platforms and backgrounds championing clean energy.

One of Murray's campaign priorities is for Winnipeg to become "Canada's leading green, innovation economy." This promise hinges mainly on his transit plan. Like many of Winnipeg's mayoral candidates, Murray promises to switch to an electric bus system.

Winnipeg Transit buses currently account for about one per cent of the city's greenhouse-gas emissions, while the percentage attributed to personal vehicles is much higher. Realistically, Winnipeg can only reduce its

carbon footprint if more people ditch their cars in favour of functional transit systems.

Murray is also promising more frequent buses along 13 key transit routes. Under his plan, buses on these routes would arrive every 10 minutes, hopefully encouraging more Winnipeggers to catch the bus instead of driving. He intends to finish the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan in the next 13 years and establish walkable small-business clusters.

A former leadership candidate for the federal Green Party, Murray has a strong, detailed plan that targets Winnipeg's reliance on personal vehicles. However, his campaign promises don't yet mention protecting urban forests or implementing a formal compost system.

Loney has a robust plan for the city's environmental policies that includes requiring new civic buildings to use solar panels. He has plans to establish a Winnipeg tree trust to "reverse the decline of Winnipeg's urban forest," which would help Winnipeggers keep their homes and streets cooler as temperatures rise.

Loney envisions Winnipeg as a city still dominated by cars – but of the electric variety. He's promising 500 vehicle-charging stations and preferential parking spaces for electric vehicles (EVs).



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winnipeggers have a big choice ahead of them when they cast their ballots for mayor on Oct. 26. Columnist Allyn Lyons hopes voters will pay attention to candidates' environmental stances.

Since EVs tend to be more expensive and Winnipeggers love a deal, I'm skeptical that either incentive would push people to buy an EV.

He's also promising to accelerate the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan so that a majority is completed within 10 years instead of 25. Loney plans to introduce on-demand electric vans that would act as publicly funded rideshare services. Think Transit on Request but electric.

Loney's plan would definitely make Winnipeg a greener city. But with so many promises, a cynic has to wonder what would be prioritized and what would be left on the back burner.

Winnipeg has a long way to go to become a greener city, but electing candidates committed to the environment could be a step in the right direction.



COMMENTS

HOUSE OF THE DRAGON'S MORALIZING DISCOURSE

Critics ought to remember they aren't smarter than audiences

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | @THOMASPASHKO

Since its premier in August, *House of the Dragon*, HBO's prequel series to its controversial fantasy blockbuster *Game of Thrones*, has already slotted itself into its predecessor's position in the weekly think-piece factory.

Those who follow the major entertainment news outlets and blogs have likely seen their social media feeds overrun with every outlet weighing in on the show's merits and political implications as if it carried all the weight of a new constitution.

I understand that this is part of the deal of online pop-culture commentary. Articles, tweets and podcasts weigh in on the big films and shows of the day, and we read and listen to them because we enjoy watching this stuff, too.

Now that the monoculture of three TV networks has been overtaken by the fractured streaming media landscape, these thinkpieces have replaced the "water-cooler chat" that existed when everyone was mostly watching the same thing.

But there's a moralizing tenor to the commentary on *House of the Dragon* that highlights how little respect many critics have for the intelligence of the audiences who watch it.

In a *Globe and Mail* article titled "Is House of the Dragon fascist fantasy escapism?" John Doyle writes of the character Daemon Targaryen (Matt Smith), a prince whose superficial charm fails to conceal his brutal authoritarianism. In the show, Daemon uses his position as the leader of the show's de facto police force to wage violent purges of what he deems a criminal element. He uses his sense of entitlement to absolute power as a cudgel against his enemies.

The metaphor for fascism, both historical and contemporary, is clear to anyone looking for it. But to Doyle, this isn't enough. "The thing about *House of the Dragon*," he writes, "is that it doesn't take a moral stance on the actions or conduct of Daemon. It doesn't seem to take a moral stance on anything ... so far Matt Smith's



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Some TV critics seem to think audiences aren't smart enough to recognize that the authoritarianism and violence on display in HBO's *House of the Dragon* are meant to be bad.

smirking delight in what his character does is dangerously alluring to the impressionable."

In *National Review*, frequent contrarian Armond White also claimed the series "revives fascist art," a bold move for a critic and publication that frequently goes to bat for actual, real-life fascism.

Another frequent and often contradictory charge is the show's allegorical relationship to medieval Europe. Many rightly criticized *Game of Thrones* for its lack of BIPOC actors, pointing out that a fantasy setting isn't beholden to historical demographics (and that most medieval societies were intensely multicultural).

But *IndieWire* and *The New York Times* have criticized the show's violence (including a graphic scene of a fatal C-section performed against the patient's will) as historically inaccurate. Never mind what the

show might be trying to say about physical autonomy and reproductive rights in our own era.

What really chafes about these criticisms is the notion that viewers aren't intelligent enough to make these moral inferences themselves. The showrunners clearly trust audiences to view the show through our current lens, to hold up a mirror to our own world.

This is what good art does. It doesn't tell the viewer what to think, leaving them smug and satisfied about their own moral superiority. It asks provocative questions, forcing us to examine uncomfortable truths about our own world and our own complicity in it.

Thomas Pashko is the managing editor of *The Uniter*. He got his start doing arts criticism, so he's got opinions about it.



Crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for clues. The grid is 13 columns wide and 14 rows high. Black squares indicate non-letter positions.

- ACROSS**
- 1. MEDIOCRE GRADES
 - 5. URGENT ABBR.
 - 9. WRANGLER
 - 14. KIND OF EXAM
 - 15. ENGRAVE
 - 16. TYPE OF GLUE
 - 17. MICKEY AND MINNIE
 - 18. COOKING DEVICE
 - 20. LEVELS OF AUTHORITY
 - 22. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS
 - 23. FLOWER HOLDER
 - 24. MAKE A DOILY
 - 25. OHIO PORT
 - 28. BASHFUL
 - 29. WALK NERVOUSLY
 - 33. "___ CLEAR DAY..." (2 WDS.)
 - 34. LIST OF CANDIDATES
 - 36. EDEN RESIDENT
 - 37. FAMOUS LOCH
 - 39. NASAL SOUND
 - 41. FIDDLING EMPEROR
 - 42. SOOTHE
 - 43. NIGHTTIME VISION
 - 45. PLANT HOLDER
 - 46. GRADUAL
 - 47. FORMERLY NAMED
 - 48. LADYBUG, E.G.
 - 50. VAPOR
 - 51. PLOT
 - 52. ACTRESS MERYL ___
 - 56. SUGARLESS SOFT DRINK (2 WDS.)
 - 60. COMPETITION
 - 62. "ONCE ___ A TIME..."
 - 63. PASSION
 - 64. PALO ___
 - 65. RAVE'S PARTNER
 - 66. ___ WITHERSPOON OF "PLEASANTVILLE"
 - 67. FALLING SOUND
 - 68. ADDITIONAL

- DOWN**
- 1. SHOW UP
 - 2. SINGER ___ CLAPTON
 - 3. PER PERSON
 - 4. GARMENT PART
 - 5. SPRAY CANS
 - 6. BOULDER
 - 7. PERFORMS ONSTAGE
 - 8. GREEK LETTER
 - 9. BOWLER'S BUTTON
 - 10. STORE SIGN
 - 11. SKIN OPENING
 - 12. OUTLET
 - 13. HEARTY BREADS
 - 19. STICK AROUND
 - 21. BOYS
 - 24. NOT HERE
 - 25. HUES
 - 26. LAKER SHAQUILLE ___
 - 27. COWBOY'S ROPE
 - 28. BOUTIQUE
 - 29. FRYING ___
 - 30. PROFICIENT
 - 31. CHRISTMAS SONG
 - 32. ACT THE HAM
 - 35. PERUVIAN RANGE
 - 38. EMBROIDER
 - 40. FURNITURE SURFACE
 - 44. PORK OR BEEF
 - 47. CALIFORNIA WINE VALLEY
 - 49. MAKE CERTAIN
 - 50. SORT
 - 51. TYPE OF BEAN
 - 52. HEADLINER
 - 53. SHREDDED
 - 54. ILL-MANNERED
 - 55. GREEK GOD OF LOVE
 - 56. WOODED VALLEY
 - 57. SEMIPRECIOUS STONE
 - 58. PUTS ON
 - 59. POKER TERM
 - 61. ATLAS CHART

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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P	A	S	T		T	E	A	M		M	C	C	O	Y		
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The Uniter is seeking a volunteer coordinator

The Uniter is seeking an outgoing and organized individual to intake, mentor and train volunteer contributors.

For more information, email Thomas at editor@uniter.ca.