

# THE **U**NITER

GRIEF AND GRIEVANCE—P4

YOU BURN IT, YOU BUY IT—P11

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF WINNIPEG—P13

## Out of the closet and into the streets



**'BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY' THROUGH QUEER SPACES**



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PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

# LINGERING SYMPTOMS

THOMAS PASHKO  
MANAGING EDITOR

  THOMASPASHKO

In December, after nearly three years of masking up, sanitizing my hands and limiting my social engagement, I finally caught COVID. In a lot of ways, I was lucky. By the time I came down with the virus, I'd received my two vaccine doses, my booster and my bivalent shot. My life was never in danger. However, it's true what they've been saying: having COVID really sucks. I spent the better part of two weeks in bed with the worst cold- and flu-like symptoms I've experienced before I recovered.

But, the truth is, I haven't really recovered.

As my cough and fever ebbed away, nagging symptoms lingered and new ones emerged. Some were minor. Respiratory irritations that I experienced years ago returned. The annoying wheezing and itch in my chest that perplexed my doctors five years ago, which I eventually addressed through lifestyle changes, came back overnight.

But others have been genuinely life-altering. My already-disordered sleep has been turned completely upside down. A night with more than two hours of sleep is a good one. The cumulative effect of that lack of sleep wears on me, as do the ensuing migraines and brain fog. The fatigue is constant and often all-consuming.

I don't know what the solution is. I'm not sure if or when I'll get better. But I am sure that this pandemic isn't over, no matter how much we pretend it is.

Pending legislation at city hall could force owners of vacant buildings to foot the bill for fire crews. Read more on page 10.

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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](mailto:editor@uniter.ca) for more details.**

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## CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 19 article "Winnipeg lesbians and their 'ring of keys,'" *Shawna Dempsey* mentions a novel about the life of Virginia Woolf, which we misidentified as Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*. *Dempsey* was referencing a different, earlier book, the title of which is unknown.

*The Uniter* regrets this error.



# LIVE BAND KARAOKE RETURNS

Another night of 'total rockstar performances'

PATRICK HARNEY | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Karaoke, derived from the Japanese words for "empty orchestra," is a staple of bars in East Asia. In the last five years, karaoke's popularity has skyrocketed around the world for people who want to show off their vocal chops – or lack thereof – in front of friends and strangers alike.

On Feb. 4, the Good Will Social Club will put a twist on the classic event, trading in the jukebox for a group of live musicians. Dubbed Live Band Karaoke, the event lets people live their rockstar dreams and perform karaoke live for the Good Will audience.

The first Live Band Karaoke was put together in 2015. Host and guitarist Rory Ellis' (Hut Hut) sister asked him to play a fundraising gig in support of The WRENCH at the Good Will.

"I used to do a party trick where I'd grab a guitar or sit at a piano and get people to call out pop songs," Ellis says. "Eventually, I realized that people playing guitar at parties is really annoying, so I stopped, but I had developed a fun but useless kind of mental database of pop music that was always expanding."

Shortly after being asked to do the fundraiser, Ellis reached out to drummer

Rob Gardiner (Kandekt, Fold Paper and Figure Walking) to perform with him. The two were later set up with bassist Justin Alcock (Foxwell) to form the band.

Since their first performance in 2015, Live Band Karaoke has become a massive hit. The Good Will has repeatedly asked them to come back and put on the event for new audiences.

"The Live Band Karaoke following has certainly grown. When we started, I was worried that nobody would sign up, and we'd just stand there embarrassed on stage," Ellis says. "These days at our Good Will shows, there's usually a bit of a mad rush to sign up and people begging me to squeeze them into a full set."

The performers of Live Band Karaoke limit the setlist to around 100 potential songs ranging from pop tracks like "Since U Been Gone" by Kelly Clarkson to heavier songs such as "Search and Destroy" by The Stooges – one of Ellis' favourites.

Although the band is limited to what a three-piece ensemble can produce, Ellis tries to make the mix as eclectic as possible to cover more of what people might want to perform.

In general, that's a mix. "Some of the



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Rory Ellis is a guitarist providing the music for amateur vocalists at Live Band Karaoke.

singers deliver total rockstar performances, but mostly it's enthusiastic amateurs," he says.

Without a machine to display the lyrics, singers can often get lost. Ellis says he's happy to lend a hand and help them along.

"Even if the singers are seasoned karaoke pros, a lot of the time it's their first time singing with a band, so I end up doing quite a bit of support," he says. "I

love karaoke, and I'm not a great singer, so I identify the most with people who are kinda trying something new by coming up and singing."

**The next Live Band Karaoke show is on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave.). The event is free. Sign-up starts at 8 p.m. Singing starts at 9.**

# LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

MHC Gallery exhibition explores grief through art

PATRICK HARNEY | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Barb Bottle and Briony Haig aren't afraid to ask the big questions. In their latest exhibition, the artists will explore one of the most universal, albeit difficult experiences: grief both personal and political.

From Jan. 20 to March 4, the MHC Gallery, located on the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) campus, will show *Grief and Grievance: Sites of Change*. The exhibition's works centre on themes of loss, grief, struggle and how these experiences can alter perceptions.

Bottle and Haig spent their lives as creatives but took a break and have only recently begun showing their art again in the last five years.

Haig is a sculptor and painter who has also shown her work through the Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) after working as an art teacher at Elmwood High School for 14 years.

Haig's work deals with grievance, told through paintings exploring her experience at protests.

"I went to an anti-fascist protest at the U of W a couple of years ago, and there were these four young women, and they dressed up as clowns. They had this little whiteboard sign that said 'clowns against fascism,' Haig says. "It just tickled me. It was brilliant. It was such a subtle eff you."

Haig paints interesting and heroic figures found at protests, as well as other works depicting issues and grievances in their own right. Her later pieces include paintings of overcrowded buses and minimum-wage diets.

She says art and politics are intimately connected, mentioning how artists have historically had a vital voice in protest movements.

"You know who's the first person fascist regimes shut down?" Haig says. "Artists, musicians and those that think for themselves."

Bottle is an interdisciplinary artist, teacher and choreographer who received a BFA from the University of Manitoba and returned to the practice through MAWA's mentorship program, working with mentor Sarah Crawley.

Bottle's contribution to *Grief and Grievance* explores the former part of the title: grief. Bottle's work on the subject began when she first used art to process feelings surrounding her mother's death.

"Growing up, I was taught when you are crying go into your bedroom and don't come out until you have stopped, which I have since learned is not a great thing," Bottle says.

In *Grief and Grievance*, she showcases a series of multimedia photographs that incorporate textiles and painting. With the encouragement of her mentor at MAWA, she began integrating elements of performance and dance into her work.

Inspired, Bottle reached out to different dancers, who also had intimate experiences with grief, who then became the subjects of much of her work alongside self-portraits.

Above all, Bottle feels that art plays a vital role in assisting with the process of



SUPPLIED PHOTO

"Residential school grave memorial, Victoria" is one of the artworks featured in *Grief and Grievance: Sites of Change* at MHC Gallery.

grieving for both artists and audiences.

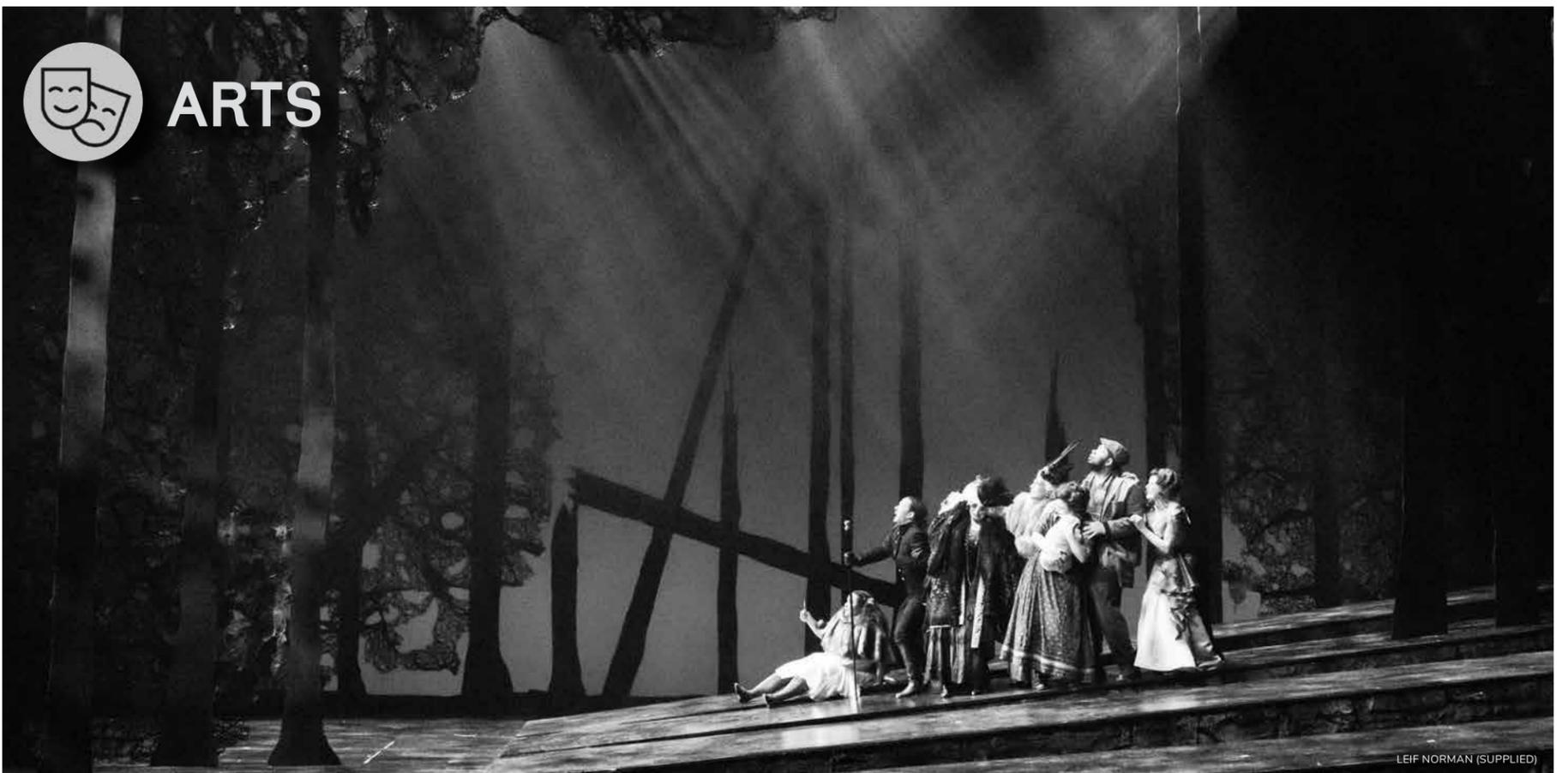
"I personally like to see an option for a variety of interpretations, because everyone's experience with grief and loss is different," Bottle says. "I do like when people stop and spend time with the piece and have their own stories to tell. It's a catalyst

for a conversation."

**The MHC Gallery is located at 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. on the Canadian Mennonite University campus.**



## ARTS



LEIF NORMAN (SUPPLIED)

Royal MTC is staging their production of Stephen Sondheim's classic *Into the Woods*.

# WHEN FAIRYTALES COLLIDE

## Royal MTC retells the timeless teachings of *Into the Woods*

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

Cinderella meets Little Red Riding Hood meets a baker's wife meets Jack and his beanstalk. Rapunzel does more than just let down her hair.

In *Into the Woods*, Stephen Sondheim's musical with a book by James Lapine, characters from the world's most-loved fairytales cross paths in an unlikely setting: the woods.

Running now until Feb. 4, it's the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's (Royal MTC) first musical since 2020, director Kelly Thornton tells *The Uniter* – and the timing couldn't be better.

"This musical is so much about selfish pursuits versus communal responsibility," Thornton says. "It's totally a musical for our time."

In the months leading up to opening night, Thornton knew the woods could not be stagnant. They had to be ever-changing. Luckily, Gillian Gallows, the show's set and costume designer, went above and beyond to align with that vision.

"I never want to be in the same place in the forest for very long. I want to go deeper and deeper into the woods," Thornton says. "The woods is our journey into facing ourselves, which is really what they do."

In the first act, the musical shifts in and out of several traditional characters'

worlds – Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Rapunzel – until the narratives mingle in the woods. Familiar Brothers Grimm-style morals are affirmed, until they aren't.

Sondheim had many inspirations, but a rather unconventional one was psychoanalyst Carl Jung. Throughout the play, the narrative fumbles with the fragile wires of the brains viewing the stage.

"It's about moral responsibility – the responsibility you have in getting your wish not to cheat and step on other people's toes, because it rebounds," Sondheim said in a 1997 *Paris Review* interview with James Lipton. "The second act is about the consequences of not only the wishes themselves but of the methods by which the characters achieve their wishes, which are not always proper and moral."

In the intermission, the audience wonders if the story will continue, as the emerald projection on the curtain proclaims. Fearing that audiences would accidentally flee, Thornton hoped the projection would convince viewers to stay the full three hours.

"I put 'intermission,' because I swore some people would just get up and think it was done," Thornton says. "We're so programmed. The two things that influence us are fairytales themselves, that happily

ever after thing, but also the Hollywood movie structure where everything is tied up in a bow."

Thornton argues the second half is where Sondheim's tale truly gets its teeth. Soon after the 30-minute pause, chaos ensues. The happy-ending promise of childhood fairytales is shattered when a giant arrives on the scene, partially destroying the musical's artfully-crafted sets.

Sondheim's belief in the primitive power of fairytales is expertly readapted in MTC's portrayal of the Giant, mastered by sound designer Chris Coyne. Never do we see the materialized Giant. It's the existential threat that brings the characters closer together, testing the bounds of their solidarity.

"I know some other productions actually show manifestations of the Giant," Thornton says. "But I don't want to see it. I just want to hear it and imagine how scary that Giant really is."

"I think (Coyne) did a great job. He certainly scares people, I think, with his sound."

In addition to the Giant, the Royal MTC's version of the musical has many elements that render it unique. Jillian Willems, the show's choreographer, sought to develop an intricate movement language each character could use to carry the narrative.

"In my preparation, I developed some motifs that would repeat throughout the show," Willems says. "They could be danced in different ways depending on where the characters were at on their respective journeys."

Developing a visual language for the musical forced Willems to think a lot about space. During rehearsals, she and the cast pondered how to bring the more pedestrian scenes to life through movement. Actors were given a baseline number to work with but were free to add their personal flare.

While Willems says she enjoyed choreo-

graphing every step, slide and twirl along the way, the second act's grand finale is a standout favourite for her.

"It's the moment where they really connect with one another and truly acknowledge that together is the way to get through the woods," Willems says. "It was kind of wonderful to be able to explore proximity to one another in that scene that we didn't get to explore in the other numbers."

In the intermingling of narratives in the woods, it's the little things that count. Musically, Thornton says audiences will hear cues that reveal the show's themes and motifs, even if they don't realize it.

"The 'bean theme' is layered throughout the show," she says, humming the tune. "Then (Sondheim) reverses the bean theme later in the show."

When it comes down to it, the musical is a game of subconscious cues and endless fun. As a choreographer, Willems feels her job is to be as discreet as possible. That, however, doesn't mean sacrificing technical prowess.

"I love when the dancing feels very organic and it feels like it's coming from a really authentic and connected place," Willems says. "My hope when people watch the show is that they won't be able to tell where my work began and where Kelly's work ended."

*Into the Woods* has no shortage of lessons, but it strays from being preachy. In the building up and tearing down of happily ever after, audiences are given the autonomy to interpret their own ending.

"The best that theatre can do is leave us with a question, not an answer," Thornton says.

**The Royal MTC's production of *Into the Woods* runs from now until Feb. 4. Tickets can be purchased via [bit.ly/3Dgrmv9](https://bit.ly/3Dgrmv9).**

## ARTS BRIEFS

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

### Snowe-d in and Warming up

This Friday, Jan. 27, head to The Forks to celebrate the finale of Warming Huts v. 2023 Build Week. Musical performances by Warming and Lev Snowe will commence at Festival du Voyageur's Boîte à chansons, located on the lower patio by the Canopy Rink. The event is free and begins at 7:30 p.m.

### Capturing domesticity

An upcoming exhibition at the Buhler Gallery (located in the St. Boniface Hospital) looks at how ideas of home frame personal identities. *Home from Home* features photographic works by artists Tayler Buss and Larry Glawson. The show is free to access from Feb. 2 to April 14. Hours of operation are posted at [bit.ly/3wwLZ2E](https://bit.ly/3wwLZ2E).

### Dancers wanted

It's officially recruitment season at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The ballet company will commence their North American audition tour to scout dancers into one of three of their professional division programs: Ballet Academic, the Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program and the Teacher Training Programs. Virtual auditions take place on the afternoon of Jan. 27. Register at [bit.ly/3j1wxbj](https://bit.ly/3j1wxbj).

### Introducing Game-itoba

Winnipeg's newest game society is hosting its first convention this weekend. From Jan. 27 to 29 at the Bronx Park Community Centre (720 Henderson Hwy.), participants will have the chance to try their hand at a variety of board games, card games, role-playing games and miniature games. Tickets are \$40 for a weekend pass or \$20 for a day pass on Friday or Sunday and can be purchased via [game-itoba.ca](https://game-itoba.ca).

### Lighting up the Exchange

Last weekend, Lights on the Exchange kicked off the release of several new public artworks in Winnipeg's Exchange District. From now until March, a swath of local artists will display illuminated works for passersby and art enthusiasts alike. The excitement doesn't end there. More artworks are set to be released on Feb. 3 to welcome the second First Fridays in the Exchange event of 2023. Catch the full program at [bit.ly/3j4FOj0](https://bit.ly/3j4FOj0).

### Dine with your palentines

Love, food and friends will be in the air at the Tallest Poppy (103 Sherbrook St.) on Feb. 10. In support of Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA), the West Broadway food joint will serve a three-course "Palentine's Dinner" starting at 8 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.). Tickets are \$60 without wine and \$75 with an Elements Wine + Spirits pairing. Purchase them via [bit.ly/3XvQCFX](https://bit.ly/3XvQCFX).



SUPPLIED PHOTO

# SAINT OMER

Plays at Cinematheque until Feb. 2

★★★★☆

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER | MATTEKLE

From the murky waters of Saint-Omer, France, comes documentarian Alice Diop's first fiction feature film. *Saint Omer* is based heavily upon the real-life court proceedings of Fabienne Kabou, who was tried in 2016 for the murder of her infant daughter, leaving her on the shore of Saint-Omer to be carried out by the tide.

A courtroom drama in the strictest sense, the film presents a perplexing case of infanticide that sits at the intersection of mysticism, mental illness and the human compulsion to rationalize it all.

*Saint Omer* demands rapt attention.

Rama (Kayije Kagame), the film's protagonist, is a young novelist and university lecturer who draws disquieting parallels between her own experiences and that of Laurence Coly (Gulslagie Malanda).

Laurence is a young Senegalese immigrant accused of killing her 15-month-old daughter in the vein of Euripides' *Medea*, whose trial Rama hopes to turn into a novel. Essentially a *film à clef*, Rama is a stand-in for Diop, who attended Kabou's murder trial and even uses the actual court transcripts for the screenplay.

The film is nothing if not consistent-

ly sombre and almost reverent in its restraint. The uncharacteristically muted production-company logos and heavy breathing that open the picture help establish a sense of foreboding pervading the rest of the film.

To Diop's credit, this is a stark, measured direction. The clarity of the film is almost disarming, with documentary-like shooting of the court scenes that take up the bulk of the picture. No misplaced artistic ambition is allowed to obfuscate the gravity of the events depicted, even at the expense of dynamism.

Rama becomes more and more distressed as the case develops, which is fitting given the undeniable parallels between her own strained relationship with her mother and nascent pregnancy that threaten her journalistic objectivity. She hopes to spin the events as allegory.

The greater social implications are not lost on Diop. What this has to say about interracial relations in post-colonial France eludes me, but it's easy to see

the glass ceilings yet to be broken. The crotchety, old white prosecuting attorney's leering eye and undisguised contempt for Laurence, her white partner's absolution of his own culpability in the tragedy and honest-to-goodness casual racism when Laurence's professor expresses confusion as to her interest in Wittgenstein instead of "someone closer to her own culture."

What's most compelling about the picture is the conflict viewers will likely feel at its closure.

Though no verdict is shown (Kabou was given 20 years), it feels beside the point. No judgment or justice can really quiet the unease instilled by the circumstances.

A masterful single shot toward the end of the film, a glance shared between Rama and Coly, can tear audiences' convictions up to that point asunder. These are the facts of life, naked, like the Drummonds never had the balls to show. No, escapism be damned. This is as sobering as cinema gets.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

# HEADLINES

Shows until May at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | DANIELLEDOIRON

A reporter's notebook crammed in my back pocket. A rapidly dying phone in my hand. All too much caffeine in my system. Sensationally, at least, entering the *Headlines* exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery brought me back to the first time I walked up the escalator and into the *Winnipeg Free Press* newsroom. I even took a wrong turn and got lost along the way.

That feeling is intentional. The exhibition design "mimics a newsroom," and installations devoted to front-page news,

advertisers, obituaries and comics each occupy their own corner of the space.

Produced in partnership with the *Winnipeg Free Press* for the paper's 150th anniversary, the show intersperses multimedia artwork with *Freep* memorabilia, antique reporting equipment and a station where visitors can map out their own newspaper front pages.

For me, though, *Headlines: The Art of the News Cycle* was even more immersive. The exhibit's lights were dimmed in certain areas and jarringly bright in others.

An ever-present buzzing sound reverberated through the rooms. I had a writing-induced hand cramp. It was all eerily similar to the Saturdays I once spent working alone in the *Free Press* newsroom.

Missing in both cases? Other reporters. "What is considered news, who reports it and where it will be consumed has become the steady buzz in the backdrop of each of our daily lives," curator Riva Symko's statement displayed at the entrance to the exhibit reads.

"Most of the time, it goes unnoticed, or remains vaguely audible, but every so often, there is something – a particularly outrageous headline, an unexpected image, an unusual delivery – that causes a sharp glitch in the buzz."

For me, that disruption was a collection of four Myriam Dion collages, each painstakingly handcrafted and ornately cut from physical newspaper pages. "Even if you cannot fully distinguish the precise headline, the full image or the individual words on the original newsprint used in

these mosaics, you cannot help but see the time and manual labour that must have been involved in their production," an installation description reads.

This attention to detail mirrors the often-unseen journalistic process, especially for storytellers who spend hours, days, months, years crafting narratives out of raw source material – only for audiences to glance at a fragment of the final product and move along.

The show as a whole explores news outlets' simultaneous but contradictory roles as recorders of history, storytellers and consumer-driven businesses. I felt a spark whenever I recognized an acquaintance's byline amid the displayed articles or examined a piece of local media history.

Mostly, I left the exhibit feeling disillusioned, which may have been Symko's intent all along, or at least a reflection of my own relationship to the news. After all, "the lines between the media, the community and the individual are becoming blurred."

# Out of the closet and into the streets

‘Building resilience in our community’ through queer spaces



The term “safe space” can be traced back to lesbian and gay bars in the 1960s. It referred to a place where one could connect with the queer community, without fear of judgment or violence.

Winnipeg’s queer communities have seen their share of victories and

losses. From the outcry over Scout Coffee’s drag storytime to Youth for Christ Winnipeg’s discriminatory policies, a rise in extremism has both isolated and targeted these communities. With this in mind, it is important to look at, celebrate and reflect on queer spaces and the strides that

the general 2SLGBTQIA+ community has made toward equality.

In the last year, local spaces that prioritize inclusivity and queer safety have been attacked. It can be easy for people to feel alone, unsafe and insecure.

### A place to feel safe

Max Snidal is the programming coordinator at ArtsJunktion, a community space that tries to prioritize queer safety. This requires a certain degree of intentionality, Snidal says, mentioning that workshop participants are encouraged to share their pronouns, if comfortable, and wear name tags.

“I think that with the increase of harassment and conservative, heteronormative beliefs ... it’s really important for spaces to be taking it seriously if they want queer and trans people to be attending their events,” they say.

Levi Foy, the executive director of Sunshine House, agrees and says some of the people who frequent the community harm-reduction centre “are seeing a bit of a regression to days past when it was openly acceptable to say ... queer-phobic slurs to people.”

Foy is also one of the city’s most well-known drag queens and performs under the name Prairie Sky. While standing outside the Fort Garry Hotel in drag this past November, someone “drove by, rolled down his window and called me a bunch of slurs.”

“That’s not unheard of, but it happened with more frequency when I first started drag eight years ago, and I hadn’t experienced that in a while,” Foy says.

He mentions Sunshine House’s Like That program, which specifically fosters a safer space and environment for people exploring their gender identities. This drop-in program, as well as Sunshine House’s other initiatives, are informal and can help members of queer communities exist without the oppressive identifiers required by cisgender heterosexual (cis het) society.

“Our drop-in programs are modeled off of an auntie’s house, so they’re very familiar,” Foy says. There aren’t many rules or clear people who are “in charge” of the participant groups.

Sunshine House also runs the Gizhiwenimin initiative that supports queer people experiencing houselessness or who need to find safer, more stable living arrangements. The centre also helps people legally change their names and gender-identity markers.

Foy previously worked as a Like That program facilitator and says that it was founded as a reprieve, “a space outside of bars and clinics and in our neighbourhoods for people to come together and be queer together.”

“Through that and through those spaces, you learn history. You learn culture. You learn. You get to just be free to be yourself,” he says. “We often don’t have that ability ... even in spaces that are somewhat deemed safe.”

**“Queer people, particularly trans people and gender-non-conforming people, are at risk of street harassment and other forms of violence and discrimination. Having a place where you know you can feel safe and be yourself is vitally important. I think this is true across the age spectrum but maybe especially true for queer youth.”**

### Platforms for extremism

The increase in public anti-queer sentiment is a global problem with local reverberations.

Dr. Heather Milne, an English professor at the University of Winnipeg who specializes in queer theory, says the recent rise in 2SLGBTQ+ discrimination does not necessarily signal a shift to the political far-right.

They say that online spaces, including social-media platforms and chat groups, “have become a breeding ground for conspiracy theories and for like-minded people to find each other and to mobilize.”

Milne says that while the internet can give extreme opinions a platform, these hard stances do not reflect most people’s views. She refer-



PHOTO BY LEIGH LUGOSI

Levi Foy, executive director of Sunshine House





“A key driver that I often go back to as kind of a touchstone is ‘be the queer person that your 10 year old, 12 year old teenage self needed to see.’”

ences the “the Elon Musk movement of Twitter” and its claims to embrace free speech.

“It’s not really free speech that he’s embracing,” Milne says. “It’s about providing a platform for a particular kind of extreme views.”

They name a recent attempt in North Dakota to pass a bill to fine people who chose to use different gender pronouns than the ones they were assigned at birth. The states’ senators voted overwhelmingly to reject the bill, the stated purpose of which was, according to Republican sponsor David Clemens, to discourage “education that would promote, allow or support the ideology of transgenderism.”

“We have to really think about ways as a society to combat that rise of misinformation before it spreads further, because the implications for those ideologies taking hold are dire,” Milne says.

Queer people face the threat of violence and discrimination every day. In this light, queer safer spaces take on an even greater importance as they become refuges from the larger world.

“Queer people, particularly trans people and gender-nonconforming people, are at risk of street harassment and other forms of violence and discrimination. Having a place where you know you can feel safe and be yourself is vitally important. I think this is true across the age spectrum but maybe especially true for queer youth,” Milne says.

### ‘Be the queer person that your teenage self needed to see’

Bryce Byron is the information and intake coordinator at Rainbow Resource Centre. While talking about the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ violence, ze names the November 2022 shootings at Club Q in Colorado Springs. Five people were killed and at least 17 injured toward the end of the club’s weekly drag show.

When it comes to discrimination within Winnipeg, Byron adds that the centre received a pamphlet “about detransition fears from a couple of organizations trying to promote the LGB Alliance here in Canada,” an offset of a larger British group that opposes trans rights.

“We’re starting to see a climate where people are starting to think twice about what additional precautions they might need to take if they’re doing a drag-queen story hour,” Byron says.

Ze acknowledges a growing level of concern in Winnipeg’s queer community but mentions that events such as the protest against Scout’s drag-queen storytime are often sensationalized.

“There were 20 or so people who showed up to protest, and they were vastly outnumbered by members of the community, but then the story was protesters were there.” Instead, Byron hopes people focus on coming together and fostering community.

Ze mentions a vigil Club 200 held following the Club Q shootings. “Should anything terrible happen ... the stronger our community’s social connections are prior to that happening, the more that we’re gonna be able to take action, to counter any unfortunate things that might happen in the future.”

“So creating places for queer joy, for trans joy, for everyone within our community to connect with, to find connections, to make friends, to build networks like that is good in and of itself, but it has the byproduct of building resilience in our community and an ability to respond in the case that we are attacked.”

Those attacks come in many forms. In response to recent news coverage surrounding Youth for Christ’s anti-2SLGBTQ+ policies at The Edge skatepark, Byron says “spaces that are based in religion are not safe spaces for us because of the amount of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia that is wrapped up in religious language.”

“That creates a sense of trauma within our community that makes it very hard to access organizations that are explicitly faith-based. Youth for Christ explicitly talks about what they’re doing as missionary work.”

Ze notes that while the definition of “community” in Winnipeg has historically been tied to faith-based organizations, there is a “dire need for spaces that are specifically by and for queer folks, and it is absolutely critical that we create those spaces.”

Rainbow Resource Centre is currently constructing a 55+ housing complex that will also

serve as the organization's headquarters. Byron hopes this move will help the group "create those safer spaces where there can be spaces of queer cultural generation and queer cultural production, where we can really have people building community (and) telling their own stories."

Ze stresses the importance of conversations that can take place in "the absence of people from outside the community."

"It's a space where people can escape from that dominant culture of cis-heteropatriarchy and really focus on 'What do I actually need? What do I think my friends need? How can I support other people who are experiencing the same things I have gone through?'"

"A key driver that I often go back to as kind of a touchstone is 'be the queer person that your 10-year-old, 12-year-old teenage self needed to see.'"

Ze notes that queer people, identities and communities have become increasingly visible. This has produced younger generations who have had a wealth of role models and who don't have to wonder what their adult lives may look like.

Instead, "they have these ideas of 'Oh, I can grow up and I can thrive. I can be the gay uncle. I can be the non-binary artist.'"

The centre is celebrating its 50th year. Founded in 1973, it has undergone many evolutions since that time, and Byron encourages anyone interested in this history to check out the Manitoba Gay and Lesbian Archives collection.

"That sort of retrospection on where we have come from and all of the amazing work that our predecessors did to fight and achieve the level of kind of legal equality that we have and legal representation that we have is a great inspiration for what we can do now in order to move us into a future that's gonna have more space for ... members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community."





# VACANT-BUILDING PROPERTY OWNERS MAY PAY COST OF FIRE RESPONSES

New bylaw addresses administrative costs, vacancy rates

MATTHEW FRANK | VOLUNTEER | [TWITTER](#) MATDFRANK [INSTAGRAM](#) MATT\_FRANK

The owners of vacant buildings in Winnipeg may now pay in the event of a fire. City council will vote to charge building owners thousands of dollars if firefighters are sent to their properties.

This new bylaw amendment could see property owners charged upwards of \$12,000 whenever emergency crews respond to a fire. This total includes firefighters' wages, as well as the operating costs for certain equipment.

Coun. Sherri Rollins, chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, says the City is "trying a tough-as-nails deterrence, because the problem of vacancy is growing."

The number of monitored vacant buildings has decreased, with 683 in 2021 and 666 in 2022. However the issue of fires has increased.

"This is not only a blight in our communities," Rollins says. "It's also a tremendous administrative burden for the City."

In 2021, vacant-building fires cost the City \$502,845. The City recorded 74 vacant-building fires between April 5 and Dec. 29, 2022, which is nearly double the previous year's total.

This proposed policy change adds to existing bylaws. The Vacant Buildings By-law

was passed more than a decade ago to reduce fire risk, safety hazards and illegal activities, while encouraging owners to renew and secure their properties.

Under this bylaw, residential building owners are charged \$2,600 for a one-year permit to board up buildings. It also introduced more frequent building inspections.

The City added an empty-building fee in 2020, which charges property owners 1 per cent of a building's value if it remains vacant. This fee is applied when five or more inspections take place for a given building. It can be partially refunded if the building is properly secured and occupied.

To encourage property development, Rollins says the money from fines and fees goes to the City's Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve, which provides grants for residential renovations and maintenance.

Despite the pending amendment to existing policy, Shauna MacKinnon, associate professor and chair for the Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg, says more still needs to be done.

"This isn't a new problem for us," she says. "The issue of vacant buildings is growing in many urban centres, and the challenge is how do you regulate it."



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

With fires in vacant buildings on the rise, a proposed bylaw amendment could force property owners to foot the bill for fire crews.

The City is currently monitoring 666 vacant buildings, only 63 of which have active boarded-building permits. The City has five designated bylaw officers for vacant-building inspections.

"It's good to have this new addition to the bylaw, but the City needs to scale up its work, enforcing the entire vacant-buildings bylaw," MacKinnon says. "We wouldn't be having the problem of fires if we were properly enforcing the bylaws."

She says the City needs to be more proactive in acquiring vacant and non-compliant buildings. In 2007, for example, the City acquired 20 vacant and derelict buildings.

Under the current bylaw, if a vacant-building owner is non-compliant and

convicted, they will be fined \$100,000 and the City will take possession of the vacant building under the "Taking Title Without Compensation" process. However, it is unclear how long the process is.

"We wouldn't put up with this if it was in the south end of the city. We are putting up with it because it is in the North End and in the core area, where many people live in poverty and where we can close our eyes more easily," MacKinnon says.

**City council will consider the amendment on Thursday, Jan. 26. The motion was previously approved by the property and development and executive policy committees.**

# U

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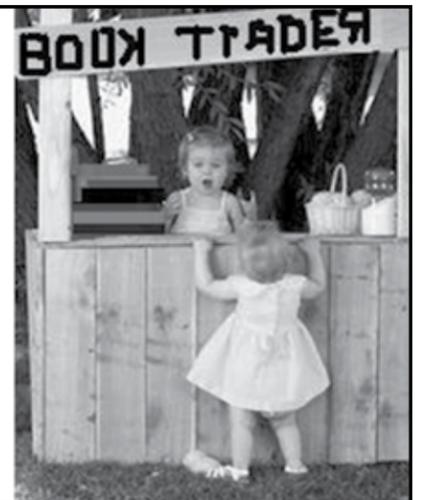
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## CITY BRIEFS

TESSA ADAMSKI | CITY EDITOR | [TWITTER](#) TESSA\_ADAMSKI [INSTAGRAM](#) TESSA.ADAMSKI

### Pet fosters needed

Chelsea Kork, the director of K9 Advocates Manitoba, says the organization currently has 227 dogs and 140 cats in its care. Manitoba Underdogs Rescue, another pet-rescue nonprofit, has many animals in need of care. Both groups encourage Winnipeggers to consider adopting or fostering a pet.

### Lions Place residents protest pending sale

On Jan. 19, approximately 70 elderly residents and supporters protested the pending sale of the non-profit Lions Place building. The 287-unit complex, located on Portage Avenue between Furby and Langside, is allegedly being sold to an Alberta real-estate firm that would likely increase rents.

### Don't let it go to waste

Food waste is responsible for about 10 per cent of greenhouse-gas emissions. Too Good to Go, an anti-food waste app that launched in Winnipeg six months ago, has diverted more than 5,000 meals from landfills in that time. People who download the app can use it to buy restaurants' surplus food at a third of its usual cost.

### Fast-track recruitment plan for doctors

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba started a fast-track registration initiative for out-of-province doctors and nurses to begin working in Manitoba. Spokesperson Keir Johnson told the *Winnipeg Free Press* that speeding up the registration process could remove barriers to recruiting doctors from other provinces or countries.

### Clean Slate Program funding

The provincial government will give the Downtown Community Safety Partnership \$150,000 for its Clean Slate Program. The program will employ at-risk Manitobans to clean and maintain the Disraeli Freeway, Higgins Avenue and Main Street areas. Program workers currently focus on laundry services, as well as snow, garbage and graffiti removal. Members remain with the program for 12 months and are then connected with long-term job opportunities.

### Mobile drug testing

Sunshine House has funded \$65,000 for a mobile mass spectrometer that can test the safety of non-medical drug supplies. The machine can analyze thousands of chemical compounds while testing liquid and powder drugs without impacting the quality of the sample. Sunshine House's mobile overdose-prevention RV should receive the device in March. The RV is currently located in a parking lot at the corner of Main Street and Logan Avenue. It's open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.



## FISH BIOLOGY

**Caleb Hasler, associate professor, Department of Biology**

SYLVIE CÔTÉ | FEATURES EDITOR

Dr. Caleb Hasler grew up in a small town in Eastern Ontario. “I had no clue what a master’s was or no clue what a PhD was at the time.”

“I ended up doing a biology (undergraduate) degree, where it was a mix between biology classes and then geographic information systems, so GIS.” Hasler was hired for a summer research position because of his GIS training.

“I quickly realized, hey, I think I want to do research.” His focus on fish came from a lab assignment he did during his undergrad. “I learned a bunch about it, and so then I thought, well, I already know this much about it, I may as well start learning more about fish.”

Now, Hasler is a fish biologist, and in April 2021, he was awarded the Chancellor’s Research Chair, which is a three-year research appointment. “My lab does mostly whole-organism research. We’re looking at things like how do fish behave, what are their metabolic rates, which is a performance indicator. We also look at fish age and growth in the wild.” He also studies environmental change, like invasive species, climate change, hydropower and the Anthropocene.

“When I got into this position, I thought, oh, every student was probably like me, that they wanted to go to grad

school,” Hasler says. “One thing I’ve really noticed is that they’re not. There’s a huge variation in the students that I work with in terms of what they want to do.”

“I really enjoy working with students, particularly at the graduate level, and also at the undergraduate level with directed studies and honours where you can kind of work one-on-one with them. It’s really rewarding.”

### What do you do in your spare time?

“I have a toddler, so they take up a fair bit of time when I’m not working. In terms of pastimes, I do crosswords on the weekend ... and I have a Peloton bike that I try to ride every morning.”

### What is something you’ve learned from students?

“From an almost comedic point of view, they’ve taught me to speak in GIFs.”

### What is your favourite fish?

“Goldeye ... They have a really unique Winnipeg history.”



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Student Services

### STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

It’s the last week of Study Skills Workshops, designed to improve your learning skills and help you achieve your academic goals.

Topics will include writing academic essays (**Jan. 30**) and test-taking strategies (**Feb. 1**). Each session is held 12:30 to 1:20 pm, via Zoom or in-person - you choose!

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

### SPRING GRADUATION

Are you finishing your last courses in April? Want to graduate in June? The final date to apply to graduate in June 2023 is **Feb. 1**.

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

### WINTER 2023 IN-COURSE AWARDS

The online application for Winter 2023 In-Course Awards remains open until **Feb. 1, 2023**. Students who missed the Fall Oct. 1 deadline and those registered in Winter term only are encouraged to apply.

For details: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/index.html>

### WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

The series continues with a wide range of sessions geared to helping you succeed at UWinnipeg. A few upcoming sessions:

**Feb. 8** – Networking

**Feb. 15** – Resumes and Cover Letters

**March 1** – Preparing for Spring Term

For details and to register, please go to: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html>

### ASK AN ADVISOR ON INSTAGRAM

Academic & Career Services hosts a live take-over of the @UWinnipeg Instagram account every second Thursday from 11:00-11:15 am CDT.

At each session a guest from the UWinnipeg community talks about a timely topic, event, or service offered at the University. Students can use the chat feature to ask questions in real time.

Can’t make it? No problem! Each session is also viewable afterwards on IGTV.

Upcoming topics:

**Feb. 2** – Reading Week and Student Success

**March 2** – Tutoring (Math and Science)

**March 16** – Registration for Spring Term

### 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. The next sessions are: **Feb. 9** and **Feb. 23**.

### FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES – FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE

The final day to withdraw from a Fall/Winter Term (U2022FW) class is **Feb. 14**. No refund is applicable. Courses are dropped through WebAdvisor using the “Student Planning/Registration” link.

### READING WEEK

Winter Term Reading Week is **Feb. 19 – 25**. No classes all week. The University will be closed on Louis Riel Day, Feb. 20.



# A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF WINNIPEG

## Introducing Edith Hancox, socialist feminist

SCOTT PRICE | COLUMNIST

In early September 1919, thousands of Women's Labour League meeting attendees resolved to march to Manitoba's provincial legislature and demand that jailed strike leaders be released from prison. After the police threatened to intervene, Edith Hancox and her four-year-old daughter, Jeannie, delivered a petition instead.

That same evening, bail was granted to the strike leaders. Hancox and her daughter joined a procession of 1,500 people to greet the released leaders.

Hancox was one of the many socialist activists and organizers involved with the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. Her story is often left out of historical retellings, but, thanks to the work of historian David Thompson and local historians Nolan and Sharron Reilly, more is known about her than ever before.

For Hancox and many others, the Winnipeg General Strike wasn't the end of their struggle or organizing. Hancox specifically focused on issues other left-wing activists tended to dismiss. Unfortunately, her stances would see her pushed out of political life.

Hancox was an important political figure in Winnipeg's history. Over the next three columns, I will reflect on Hancox's life, her evolution as a political activist and organizer and her eventual retreat from political life.

Examining Hancox's life can help explain the interwar years in Canada and challenge assumptions about what first-wave fem-

inism looked like at that time. Feminist movements of the period are often depicted as purely maternal and middle-class. Hancox, however, championed feminist issues while also advocating for the poor and unemployed, demonstrating that first-wave feminism was far from homogenous.

Her politics also stood out at a time when much of the focus was on workers' rights, and feminist issues were either dismissed or met with outright hostility. Hancox's views and activism likely stemmed from her experiences as a woman and a domestic worker.

Hancox was born when her mother was 18 and working as a domestic servant in England. Hancox's father abandoned the family. With few economic options, Hancox worked as a child servant and later a general domestic servant. Hancox was only able to leave domestic servant life after she married. These experiences with the conservative and patriarchal order undoubtedly had a major effect on Hancox.

Hancox came to Canada in May 1904 as a soldier in the Salvation Army. Women regularly gave speeches on behalf of the Salvation Army in crowded halls, but Hancox reportedly tired of the task. In 1921, she organized a protest over living conditions in the Salvation Army's hostels and wrote scathing critiques of the organization's practices.

Hancox's politics were transformed by the Labour Church and William Ivens and



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

J.S Woodsworth, who spoke about gender equality and workers' rights. Her experience in the Labour Church set the scene for her involvement in the Winnipeg General Strike and her political organizing in the 1920s.

Scott Price is a labour historian based in Winnipeg, Man.

# THE COST OF COMMODYFING PLEASURE

## Sex toys are aesthetic, available and inaccessible

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | @DANIELLEDOIRON

It was blue, sparkly, worn like a Finger Monster and possibly bought at a gas station. The first vibrator I tried was a whining hum compared to the roar of the second.

Pastel purple, dual-motored, well out of my price range and incompatible with nearly every battery brand on the market, I soon replaced it with a garish, glittery neon wand somehow reminiscent of both a Bop It and Koosh balls. One arm was designed to look like a butterfly. Another segment spun.

I might have missed the memo by a few decades. "There was a time in the '90s and early aughts when the sex toy of choice was a plastic, brightly colored, battery-operated vibrator with rotating iridescent beads in the shape of a bunny, ears and all: the Rabbit," Fiorella Valdesolo writes for *The Wall Street Journal*. In general, "sex toys have gotten a lot sexier."

They're sleeker, like the curved, stainless-steel njoy Pure Wand. Flexible and waterproof, like the LELO Enigma. Décor worthy of display, like the Chakrubs crystal dildos.

"The fact that the new generation of sex toys ... look like design *objets* has also helped overhaul their image," Valdesolo explains. Hyper-realistic silicone phalluses still exist, but rarely amid the metallic accents and ergonomic handles found in boutique-style sex shops.

This marketing move away from the

overtly visceral and erotic costs consumers.

"Pick a word, any word, and it has probably been once tied to a wellness trend," Daisy Jones invites *Vogue* readers. "One of the more insidious cultural shifts, though, has been the repackaging of sex as 'sexual wellness.' In other words, the positioning of sexual pleasure (one of the last frontiers of filth) as a health-adjacent endeavour."

"When I use the term 'sexual wellness,' I'm not referring to the very basic practice of getting regular STI checks and learning about consent (which is what it should *really* mean), but a way of positioning sex as a vaguely medicalized form of self-care that, crucially, requires financial investment."

And it works. In 2020, the United States' sexual-wellness industry was valued at \$5.8 billion. In 2022, Sephora and Ulta Beauty launched "intimate-wellness" collections and began selling vibrators.

"People tend to be cooler about sex toys as tools for wellbeing over being tools for pure sexual pleasure, and selling wellbeing is more palatable for Sephora and other major retailers," Bethany Allard explains in a *Mashable* article.

They're peddled by social-media influencers, offered as giveaway items alongside promo codes and messages about self-care, connection, joy. Commenters speak about empowerment, ending stigma, closing the



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

famed pleasure gap.

"We're now being marketed sex – and sex products – as if having an orgasm were comparable to getting a dental check-up or going to therapy," Jones writes.

Like those medical appointments, boutique-style "wellness" toys are often expensive and not covered by healthcare plans. Pastel colours, silk accessories and airy storefronts don't change the fact that many people can't afford one designer dildo, let alone a nightstand full of play options.

Vibrators, harnesses, blindfolds and plugs

are assets but often inaccessible when sold as luxury items.

As Jones summarizes, "Sex is one of our last free pleasures. It can be a space to explore taboos, or to let loose, or to form connections – whatever sex means to you personally. But it has nothing to do with branding."

A former sports broadcaster, Danielle Doiron is now a writer, editor and educator. Find them in Winnipeg, Philadelphia and, occasionally, on the airwaves.



## DIVERSIONS

# HOROSCOPES

Venus enters Pisces at 9:33 P.M., inspiring a gentle and compassionate atmosphere.

It's a great time to make art, revel in fantasy, and connect with those we love most!

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

## ARIES

Watch out for sharp tongues, conflict, and miscommunications this morning, dear Aries, as the moon squares off with chatty Mercury. This cosmic climate could also present you with a few mental blocks, so you may want to keep a notepad handy to stay on track. You'll feel a shift this evening when harmonious Venus enters compassionate Pisces, activating the sector of your chart that governs the subconscious. This planetary placement will trigger major changes within your love life in the coming weeks as the universe pushes you to find closure with the past while forging more intimate bonds in the present.

## TAURUS

Make an effort to connect with your spiritual community this morning, dear Taurus, as the Pisces moon blows a kiss to profound Pluto. Feeling supported and seen by those with similar beliefs will bring healing and comfort, though a private meditation session or tarot pull can also conjure a sense of serenity. You'll feel a shift just before afternoon rolls around and Luna enters Aries, putting you in a more secretive and contemplative headspace. Consider devoting your evening to philosophical research or your favorite spiritual practices when the moon forms sweet connections with Jupiter and the Aquarius sun.

## GEMINI

The online realms may be a triggering place this morning, dear Gemini, as the Pisces moon squares off with Mercury, your planetary ruler. Try not to get sucked into doomsday news stories or social media conflicts, or you could end up souring your mood for the day. Luckily, you'll have a chance to find healing amongst like-minded individuals when Luna aligns with Chiron, marking the perfect occasion to catch up with your favorite colleagues. You'll notice a shift later tonight when Venus makes her debut in sensitive Pisces, elevating your manifestation skills when it comes to career goals and forming professional alliances.

## CANCER

You may feel temperamental and emotionally closed off this morning, dear Cancer, as the Aries moon forms a harsh square with Mercury. Try not to snap at others if tensions rise, though it may be wise to avoid socializing if you feel like you could use some space. Pressure at work could also interfere with your sense of balance, so be sure to plan some time for self-care if you're overdue for a bit of pampering. A sweet energy will find you later tonight when Venus makes her debut in compassionate Pisces, helping you strengthen your most important relationships on a soul level in the coming weeks.

## LEO

Your penchant for daydreaming will be amplified today, dear Leo, as the moon continues its journey through Aries and your solar ninth house. Unfortunately, a harsh connection between Luna and Mercury could burst your bubble, especially if you've put unrealistic expectations on yourself or others. A helping hand from Chiron suggests that leaning into your spirituality can help carry you through this cosmic terrain, so don't be afraid to ask the other side for support or guidance should you be in need. You'll notice a shift later in the evening when Venus enters Pisces, intensifying your romantic connections throughout the coming weeks.

## VIRGO

It'll be difficult to conceal your frustrations today, dear Virgo, as the Aries moon squares off with opinionated Mercury. This celestial exchange is sure to bring out some strong personalities and stubbornness, though it'll be important that you choose your battles wisely in order to avoid power struggles. Give yourself a moment of solitude when Luna cozies up to Chiron, providing you with an opportunity to shake off any funky vibes that found you earlier in the morning. A sweetness will surround you later in the evening when Venus makes her debut in compassionate Pisces, bringing an abundance of support to your love life and a sense of balance.

## LIBRA

Emotions will run high this morning, dear Libra, thanks to a harsh connection between the temperamental Aries moon and opinionated Mercury. This cosmic climate will be particularly unforgiving where domestic affairs and matters of the heart are concerned, but try not to lose your sense of grace and diplomacy if tensions rise. Luckily, a sweet alliance between Luna and Chiron can help you navigate this rocky terrain, though you'll need to take accountability for your actions. A sweetness will permeate the air this evening when Venus makes her debut in compassionate Pisces, asking you to prioritize wellness in the coming weeks.

## SCORPIO

There will be no shortage of distractions this morning, sweet Scorpion, as the Pisces moon squares off with cerebral Mercury. Do your best to stay on task right now, or your ego could end up taking a small hit. Luckily, a helping hand from Chiron will provide you with the motivation to get organized, though you'll want to make sure you're nurturing your body as you move through these busy vibes. A sweetness will surround you later in the evening when Venus makes her debut in Pisces, ushering in an era of creativity, fun, and love throughout the next several weeks.

## SAGITTARIUS

Don't let your ego talk you into overspending this morning, dear Archer, as the Aries moon squares off with Mercury. This celestial exchange could temporarily dull your wits, making it important that you stay grounded in logic. You'll feel a shift this evening when Venus migrates into Pisces, activating the sector of your chart that governs domestic bliss. Lean into these dreamy vibes by focusing on your space for the next several weeks, looking for opportunities to improve upon the sacred energy that flows between your four walls. Look for ways to boost your confidence before heading to bed, as Mercury and Chiron square off.

## CAPRICORN

Emotions you've been bottling up may overflow to the surface today, dear Capricorn, as the Aries moon squares off with chatty Mercury. There's a risk you'll fluctuate between sharing too much and not saying enough, though staying grounded can help you find clarity around what your message truly is. Try to do something to nurture yourself and your most valued relationships when Luna cozies up to Chiron, as doing so can help you find healing and inner peace. You'll sense a shift later in the evening when Venus drifts into compassionate Pisces, encouraging you to speak from the heart throughout the next several weeks.

## AQUARIUS

Intrusive thoughts, self-doubt, and succumbing to fears could hold you back this morning, dear Aquarius, as the Aries moon squares off with Mercury. You may also want to be mindful of who you trust and avoid believing everything you hear. Luckily, a supportive energy from Chiron can help you find clarity, as long as you focus on your needs and what makes the most logical sense. Just try not to speak impulsively, opting to sort out your disposition before sharing it with the world. A grounding and sweet energy will find you later in the evening when Venus enters Pisces, marking a period of luxury, prosperity, and harmony.

## PISCES

The digital realms could cause you to feel disconnected from your surroundings today, dear Fish, as the Aries moon squares off with Mercury. Though you may feel hungry for face-to-face interaction and real-world experiences, work-related demands may cause you to stay put at your desk. Try to get outside whenever the opportunity presents itself, as fresh air and natural surroundings will help balance and ground your energy. A harmonious energy will surround you later tonight when Venus makes her debut in your sign, bringing forth an era of grace, allure, and magnetism throughout the next several weeks.

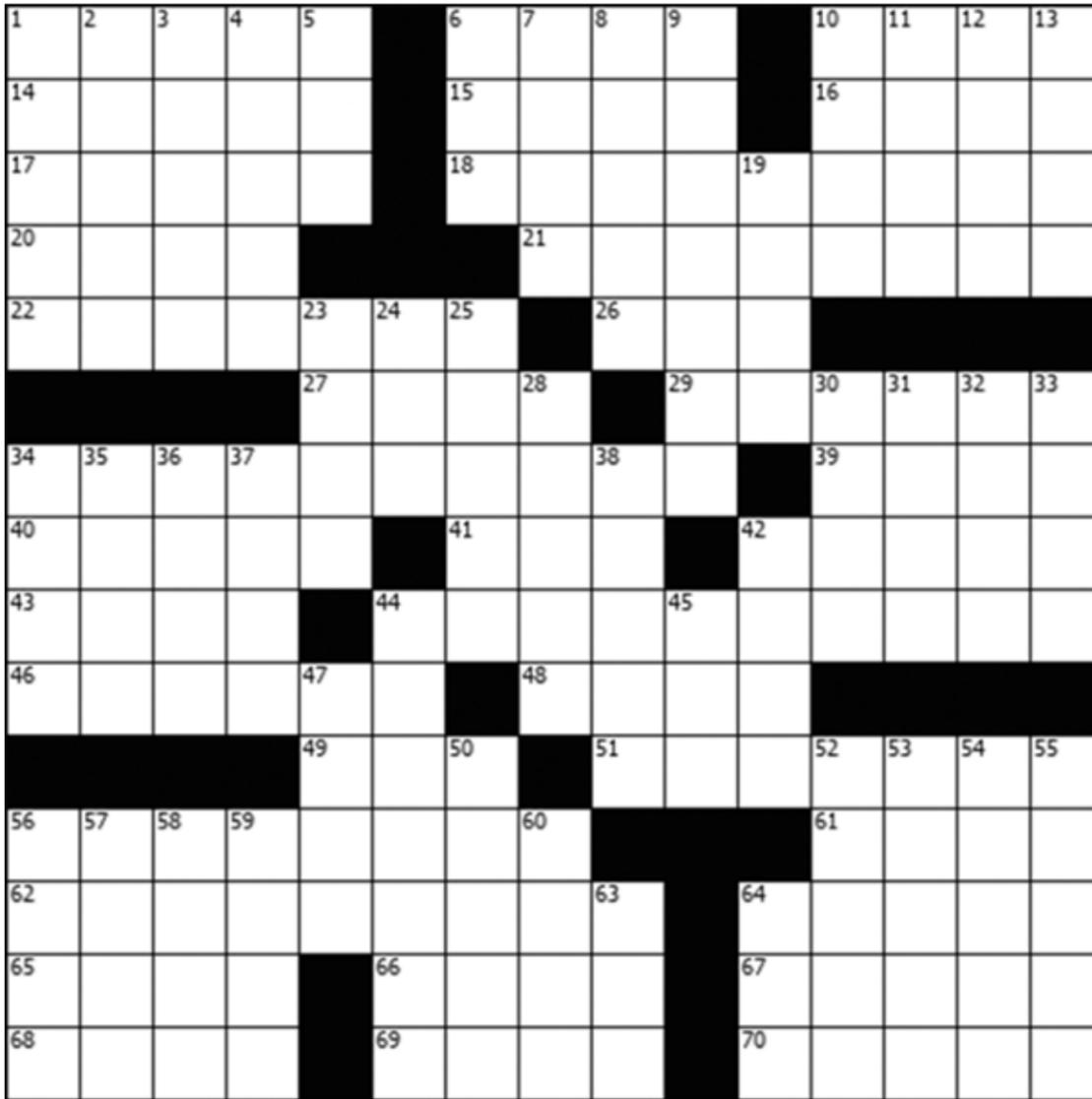
## It's Aquarius season!



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

As a fixed sign, The Water-Bearer holds the qualities of being a sustainer, making those with Aquarius prominent in their

charts great at dedicating themselves to projects, and tenaciously sticking to their social principals. Ruled by Saturn, Aquarians can be thought of as the "reformers" of the zodiac that challenge and test the societal conventions we have built to see if they are still relevant and inclusive.



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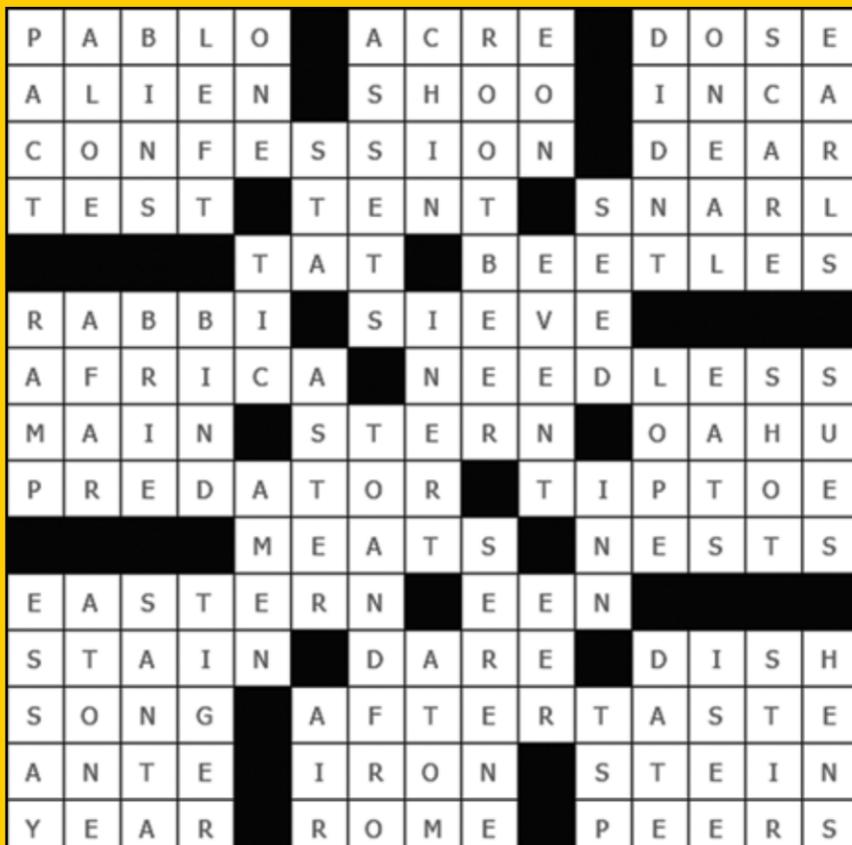
- 1. NATURE'S BANDAGES
- 6. ROMAN EMPEROR
- 10. GIFTS TO CHARITY
- 14. HOT PEPPER
- 15. COOKIE COOKER
- 16. RESOUND
- 17. SPEED TRAP DEVICE
- 18. DEEP RESPECT
- 20. OPERATOR
- 21. MADE A WITTY REPLY
- 22. BEG
- 26. POT COVER
- 27. WARM FABRIC
- 29. \_\_\_\_ SYSTEM
- 34. HAVING A BACKBONE
- 39. RABBIT'S KIN
- 40. DIVA'S OFFERINGS
- 41. PARCHED
- 42. SLUGGER HANK \_\_\_\_
- 43. CLOCK SOUND
- 44. TENACIOUS
- 46. PLOT
- 48. TIME PAST
- 49. HOW \_\_\_\_ YOU?
- 51. LEAST CLUTTERED
- 56. NO-SHOW
- 61. CAR PART
- 62. PIRATES' STASHES
- 64. PRIVATE TEACHER
- 65. GREASES
- 66. STIR UP
- 67. COOK'S WEAR
- 68. ANIMAL SKIN
- 69. MOST EXCELLENT
- 70. GATHERS

DOWN

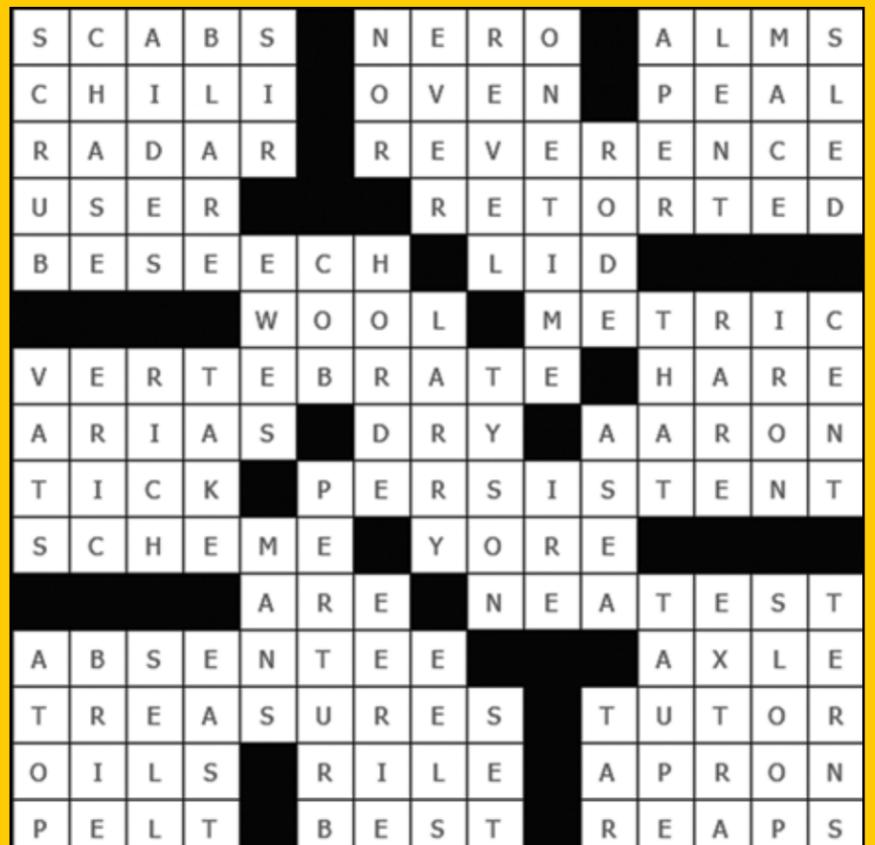
- 1. CLEAN THOROUGHLY
- 2. RUN AFTER
- 3. ASSISTANTS
- 4. TRUMPET'S SOUND
- 5. MISTER
- 6. AND NOT
- 7. PERPETUALLY
- 8. MAKE MERRY
- 9. FORMER (HYPH.)
- 10. COPYCAT
- 11. GAVE TEMPORARILY
- 12. NUTMEGLIKE SPICE
- 13. SLEIGH
- 19. WAS A PASSENGER
- 23. LAMBS' MOMS
- 24. CORN CORE
- 25. CROWD
- 28. MOE AND CURLY'S PAL
- 30. "ALL \_\_\_\_ JAZZ"
- 31. HARD TO FIND
- 32. STRONG METAL
- 33. COPPER COIN
- 34. TANKS
- 35. ROCK'S \_\_\_\_ CLAPTON
- 36. AFFLUENT
- 37. SWIPE
- 38. BOXER MIKE \_\_\_\_
- 42. ON AN OCEAN TRIP
- 44. BOTHER
- 45. RAGE
- 47. SUPPLIES WORKERS
- 50. MYSTERIOUS
- 52. BROWNISH GRAY
- 53. ADDITIONAL
- 54. CUTTER
- 55. COASTAL BIRDS
- 56. UPON
- 57. SOFT CHEESE
- 58. AUCTION OFF
- 59. "\_\_\_\_ OF EDEN"
- 60. SNAKY SWIMMERS
- 63. TENNIS UNIT
- 64. ROOFING GOO

# GAME SOLUTIONS

## Crossword solution 77-15



## This issue's solution





# *The Uniter* is seeking a city reporter

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Are you passionate about our city, our communities and the many people who are working to make it a better place to live? Come and write for *The Uniter*!

The successful candidate will be responsible for two 500-word stories per week and should possess strong writing and interviewing skills and a critical eye for news content.

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For more information, visit [uniter.ca/jobs](http://uniter.ca/jobs) or email Thomas at [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca).