

THE **U**NITER

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Up in flames



THE HUMAN IMPACT OF FIRES IN WINNIPEG

THE 2023 ROBERT AND ELIZABETH

Knight Distinguished Lecture



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**University
of Manitoba**



Mapping Un/Safer Spaces on University Campuses

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The Uniter is seeking a features reporter

The Uniter is seeking an individual who is passionate about interviewing and showcasing interesting individuals in Winnipeg to fill the position of features reporter. This person should be comfortable speaking to people from a wide range of backgrounds and building trust within communities both on and off campus.

For more information, visit
uniter.ca/jobs or email
Thomas at editor@uniter.ca.



Hoagie Boyz is offering old-school Italian subs with a meme-heavy flair. Read more on page 4.

ADDICTED TO SUBS

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



This deep into Winnipeg's winters, I typically go into what I call "hibernation mode." I don't really have the motivation to leave home for anything other than work. The prospect of waiting for a bus in the bitter cold to maintain something of a social life often seems less appealing than staying in with a book, a movie or just an unnecessary weekend nap.

But this year in particular, I'm having a hard time motivating myself to do one specific, important task: cooking.

Maybe it's a lingering effect from the early days of the pandemic, when food and grocery delivery became such a necessity. But 2023 is marked by an almost daily battle within my own psyche: "Should I spend 45 minutes making a chickpea curry or red beans and rice? Or should I just get delivery?"

Food delivery is expensive. But we also live in a city full of delicious restaurants, many of which are just a few clicks away on Skip the Dishes or DoorDash. Working at *The Uniter* doesn't help either. Editing this issue, reading about Hoagie Boyz and skimming through photos of their wares, I became unable to think of anything other than a delicious Italian submarine sandwich.

Winnipeg is a great food city. Its many independent restaurants deserve our patronage. My pantry, however, deserves my attention. This week, grab a delicious meal at a local restaurant. That way, I won't have to.

PHOTO BY ISAIAH SANCHEZ

UNITER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR
Thomas Pashko — editor@uniter.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Valerie Chelangat — businessmgr@uniter.ca

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Talia Steele — creative@uniter.ca

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

FEATURES EDITOR
Sylvie Côté — featureseditor@uniter.ca

CITY EDITOR
Tessa Adamski — city@uniter.ca

COMMENTS EDITOR
Haley Pauls — comments@uniter.ca

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

PHOTO EDITOR
Daniel Crump — photoeditor@uniter.ca

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

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Isaiah Sanchez — isaiah@uniter.ca

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR
Gabrielle Funk — gabrielle@uniter.ca

FEATURES REPORTER
Vacant

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
Patrick Harney — patrick@uniter.ca

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
Matthew Teklemariam — matthew@uniter.ca

CITY REPORTER
Vacant

CAMPUS REPORTER
Megan Ronald — campus@uniter.ca

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Carla Dawn Von — volunteer@uniter.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS
Haley Charney
Evawn Michaleski
Scott Price

MOUSELAND PRESS

MOUSELAND PRESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Kristin Annable (chair)**, **Anifat Olawoyin**, **Andrew Tod** and **Jack Walker**

For inquiries, email: board@uniter.ca

CONTACT US

GENERAL INQUIRIES
editor@uniter.ca
(204) 988-7579

ADVERTISING
businessmgr@uniter.ca
(204) 786-9790

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



SUBMISSIONS

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

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 Feb. 16 article "Little ephemeral gems," we misidentified the subject of the photo as Karen Schlichting. The photo is actually of Christel Lanthier.

The Uniter regrets this error.



(left to right) Nyk Bielak, Jesse Angers, Stefan Lytwyn and Mischa Decter are part of the team behind South Osborne's Hoagie Boyz restaurant.

'WOULDN'T IT BE FUNNY IF WE' STARTED A RESTAURANT?

Hoagie Boyz are a couple of 'local idiots' serving 'dank-ass subs'

PATRICK HARNEY | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Despite its meme-laden aesthetic, South Osborne's Hoagie Boyz restaurant creates unironically delicious classic Italian subs that are simultaneously approachable and extravagant.

The restaurant's foundation was laid in 2020 when cousins Nyk Bielak and Stefan Lytwyn uttered the phrase: 'wouldn't it be funny if we ...'

From there, the two started Kosmo's Space Cowboy Food Cantina, a ghost kitchen that served comfort foods like burgers, fried chick-

en and mac and cheese. As a ghost kitchen, Kosmo's focused on online orders, which were prepared in the German Society of Winnipeg's North End kitchen.

"We started making burgers because there was nothing else to do," Bielak says.

It was while making burgers in the basement of the German club that Bielak and Lytwyn brought in Jesse Angers to cook alongside them. Lytwyn and Angers had previously worked together at Deer + Almond. Through Kosmo's, the team developed their definitive,

bordering-on-absurd approach to food.

"It's like an inside joke that everyone is on the inside of ... is that how it works?" Angers says. "It's how we act around each other. It comes really naturally."

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kosmo's built up a following, but the challenges of having to work with food-delivery apps left the trio looking for a physical storefront.

In early 2022, they found a building. By the summer, they opened as Hoagie Boyz, reorienting their cooking away from burgers and toward Italian submarine sandwiches.

"We always dreamed of being able to see faces and see those people we were chatting with online," Bielak says.

From the building's exterior depicting a donkey dragging a sub to the interior filled with art seemingly pulled straight from Shutterstock, Bielak says the storefront at 513 Osborne St. is an opportunity to see the team's "personalities manifest."

"For the longest time, we didn't have a sign. It was just a donkey carrying a sandwich," he says.

"We got a great view of the cemetery," Lytwyn jokes.

Hoagie Boyz's ironic, chronically online presentation is an ideal gateway into

their down-to-earth food with unconventional twists.

"We wanted a place where the food is taken very seriously, but it's approachable for my dad to come," Bielak says.

The food at Hoagie Boyz fits a niche between the comfort of chain restaurants and the bold choices of higher-end dining.

"Winnipeg will always be a blue-collar town, and that's how we see ourselves — as a blue-collar restaurant that's a little off the beaten path," Lytwyn says.

The menu at Hoagie Boyz reads like it was written by a stoner with descriptions such as "good-ass ham," "\$69 bong water" and "an insane amount of iceberg lettuce." This approach lends to the core of the restaurant, creating a space for sharing quality food anyone can enjoy.

"We wanted to make a restaurant we would want to go to. It's kinda like Cheers, where everybody knows your name," Lytwyn says.

Hoagie Boyz' abrasive presentation may initially turn some away, but when combined with an inviting atmosphere and inventive takes on classic Italian subs, it makes a restaurant worth a look.

As Lytwyn says, "We were never really afraid to take risks. The whole thing was born out of one big risk."

TURNING AN OLD TROPE ON ITS HEAD

Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes reframes teacher-student romance

PATRICK HARNEY | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

In 2021, Hannah Moscovitch's *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* won the Governor General's Literary Award for English-language drama. The play examines the predatory nature of the archetypal teacher-student relationship.

The show depicts Annie, a new, 19-year-old university student and Jon, a 41-year-old professor in the low of his career and life, who enter a brief sexual relationship. Years later, Annie and Jon reexamine their relationship following the explosion of the Me Too movement, and in their discussion reveal the insidious nature of student-teacher relationships.

From March 1 to 18, Winnipeggers will have the chance to see *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's Tom Hendry Warehouse.

Director Kelly Thornton, who has known Moscovitch since the mid-2000s, says the play revisits a classic teacher-student relationship trope in an intimate way that reveals the realities behind it.

Moscovitch "takes this object of fiction, and she turns it on its head," Thornton says.

Thornton praises the play for posing important questions: "Why does she get in-

involved in this relationship? What kind of approval is she looking for? Why does his gaze make her feel important, and who gets to tell the story?"

She says Moscovitch's humanizing portrait of the characters gives the play its power.

"It's not an easy black-and-white play, because there is consent, but through the Me Too era, everyone's perspective has shifted," Thornton says. "However consensual it would have felt at the time, the fact of the matter is that she was a kid, and he should have known better."

She interprets the play through two analogies: a puzzle the audience has to solve and a maze the characters must navigate. This directly influences the play's set design, featuring stairs and doors to nowhere, which is reminiscent of M. C. Escher's maze-like work.

Thornton was attracted to the play's two actors, Kevin Aichele and Bailey Chin, for their theatrical prowess and identifiable chemistry on stage.

"Kevin comes from musical theatre ... seeing him in a straight play is really exciting," Thornton says. "Bailey really nails the awkward girl still inside of (the protagonist)



Actors Kevin Aichele (left) and Bailey Chin star in Royal MTC's production of Hannah Moscovitch's *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*.

who is trying to understand how to be in this world."

Thornton says the play is directed toward university students and young-adult audiences. "I hope a lot of young people come, because it is a very contemporary story," she says. "I think it's about their lives."

She says she hopes that *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* will start conversations about the relationship viewers see in the play, as well as the power dynamics that are part of

all sexual relationships.

"This play really stimulates a dialogue," Thornton says. "Hannah calls on us to really drill in and think about how power works ... This play is about an imbalance of power, and when you are in a place of power, you have a responsibility to not use power inappropriately."

Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes plays at the Royal MTC's Tom Hendry Warehouse from March 1 to 18.



FRETS IN HIGH PLACES

Argyle Studio on their new, eclectic live-music video series

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

There are more than just termites and cobwebs thriving in a certain Winnipeg attic. Now, local musicians can make their mark up top in a new video series.

Winnipeg-based Argyle Studio has launched *From the Attic*, a series of live, in-studio musical performances from an eclectic list of local and national talent. The first season consists of performances from the Greg MacPherson Band, Fold Paper, Age of Self, Claire Thérèse, Bloc Parents and Anthony OKS, who perform released and previously unreleased tracks in the video series.

Cam Loeppky, Argyle Studio's founder and owner, also works as the recording space's audio engineer. He established the studio during the COVID-19 pandemic. After a shuffling of living accommodations among relatives forced him to work in his own home, Loeppky spent some time looking for a new space to host recordings.

"I found a space after months and months of looking and found this place," Loeppky says.

"It was a dirty old warehouse in the North End that used to be a bowler factory. We just put up some walls and carved a tiny chunk of it into a really nice studio," production team member Mike Requeima, whom Loeppky describes as the

"Swiss Army knife" of the studio, says.

"It needed to be painted, so we traded painting for studio time. One of the painters that helped us was a set designer in the movies. We would have a weekly painting night. It was fun," Loeppky says.

With the space established and furnished, Loeppky drew inspiration for *From the Attic* from a similar British internet series, *From the Basement*, which has featured artists such as PJ Harvey and The White Stripes.

"I thought, if I ever want to do something, I want to do that. This grant came about for keeping your studio relevant once the pandemic ended. I applied and got a little bit of funding, and here we go," Loeppky says.

The pair admits the name of their series is a misnomer in homage to *From the Basement*.

"When I thought of it originally, my studio was in the attic of my house. Argyle Studio now is not in an attic. It's on a main level," Loeppky says.

Loeppky and Requeima are co-owners of the Good Will Social Club, and many acts featured in the series are involved in the local music scene.

"These are all bands that have played here and do play here and even work here. We're all part of the same kind of commu-



Local group Fold Paper performed in Argyle Studios' new video series, *From the Attic*.

nity," Requeima says.

Ultimately, as the staff works on a volunteer basis, they seek to promote both Argyle Studio as well as new and veteran local musical talent. Loeppky notes that the bands own their recordings done in the studio.

"We want to help the bands promote their material or get recordings of some

songs that don't make it onto the albums. Hopefully, it's exposure for bands, the studio, the videography, the audio production, all that stuff," Loeppky says.

To watch episodes of *From the Attic* or learn more about Argyle Studio, visit argylestudio.ca.

MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Artist Lori Ferguson explores what it means to be in latest cre8ery exhibition

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

For some, questions of creation and what lies beyond can be a legitimate source of stress and anguish. For local artist Lori Ferguson, it's just fuel for the fire.

"When you leave behind a whole belief system, you start to think a lot about what (you) believe and what is out there," Ferguson says.

Before settling into the role of a full-time artist, she was once a Christian and served a brief stint in ministry, among other things.

"I started off working in marketing in an office. I was a harpist and played weddings and funerals, and after that, I got into the church world. I fell away. I no longer believe any of that, so I left the church," Ferguson says.

This existential quandary birthed *Ethereal*, her newest exhibition at local gallery cre8ery. On display from March 2 to 14, the series of oil paintings are meant to "express humanity's ongoing search for something beyond the ordinary struggle and grit of everyday life."

"Right now, I'm in a period of wonder. I'm looking at humanity and the things I experience around me," Ferguson says.

"There's just this thing within us that's always searching for something beyond ourselves and something greater and more

beautiful, and I think that's just a question for me. Why as humans do we need something greater than ourselves? We look around at reality, and it's lacking, the brokenness."

Ferguson characterizes *Ethereal's* oil paintings as "angelic" and notes the evolution of her own style.

"In this exhibition, my work is much larger. Previously, my art was very dark in colour. Dark and, at times, angry. I think I really let that go. For the first time, my work right now is very light and airy and more beautiful than it used to be. That's part of the title I came up with in *Ethereal*," she says.

Jordan Miller, cre8ery's owner and executive director, notes Ferguson's immense progress since the pair first collaborated in 2017.

"I've never seen such growth. This show *Ethereal* is a lot of really vibrant, floral pieces. I love her style because it's so free-flowing, and it has great spirit and energy behind it. There's something just exciting about her brushstrokes and how she manipulates the paint on the canvas. It's so incredibly playful," Miller says.

Like most modern artists, Ferguson hopes aesthetes will each derive their own interpretations and appreciations of her pieces.

But she emphasizes the engaging element of visiting the art gallery in person that



Artist Lori Ferguson's painting "Celestial" is one of the works featured in her show, *Ethereal*, at cre8ery.

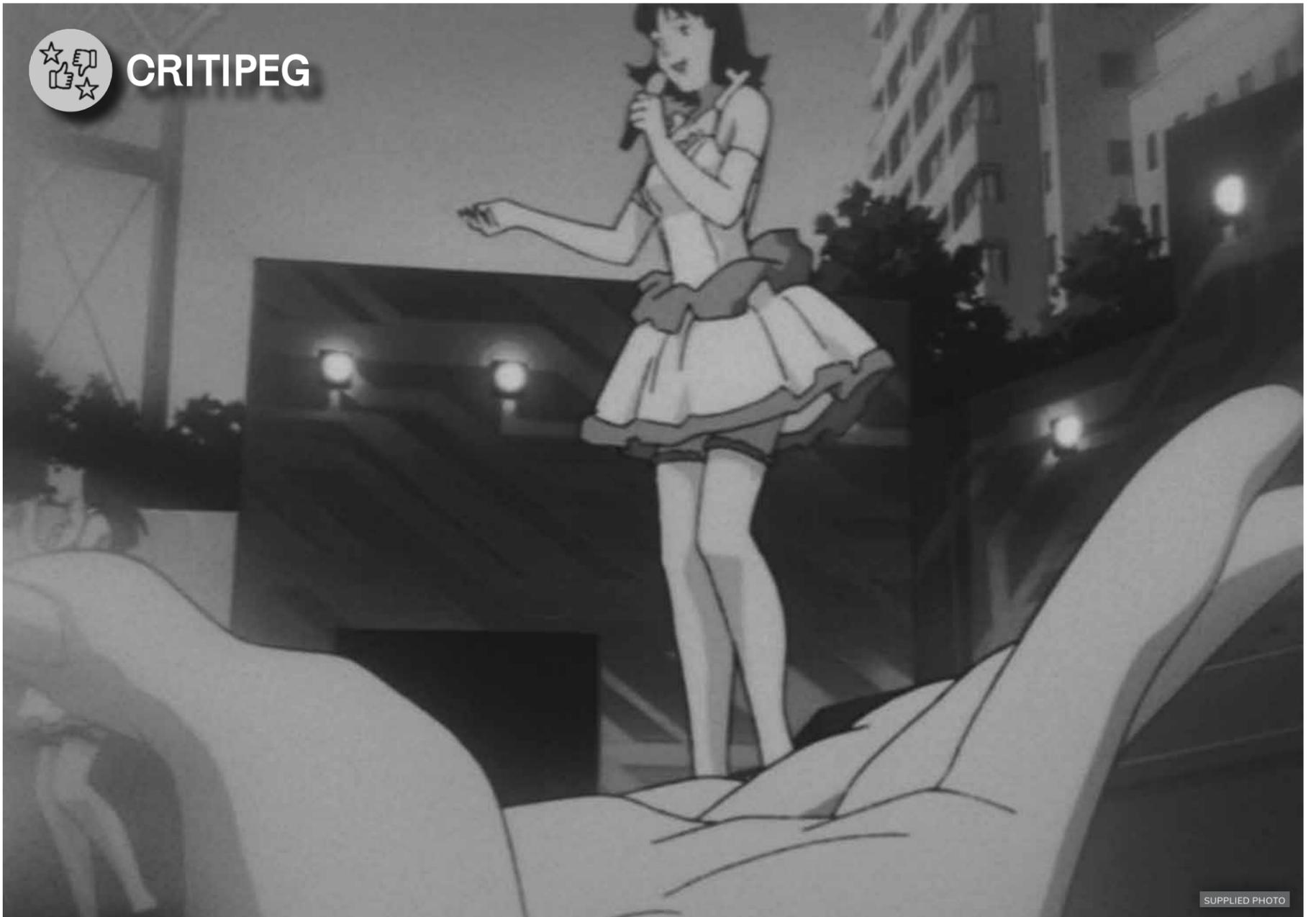
makes the work that much more personal.

"What I really love and always hope for is when people come in person and experience an exhibition and art. There's a lot of emotion and almost a spiritual connection that you can make with a piece of art," Ferguson says.

"I just hope they connect emotionally

with the art, and it moves them in whatever way is good for them and works right for them. I think good art will do that."

Ethereal is on from now until March 14 at cre8ery (125 Adelaide St.). For hours of operation, visit bit.ly/3kuK4Jv.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

PERFECT BLUE

Plays at Cinematheque on March 4



MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER | MATTEKLE

This month, the Dave Barber Cinematheque screens *Perfect Blue* (1997), a Japanese animated psychological thriller. This screening is presented by Bikini Drive-in, a semi-monthly screening and discussion of pivotal horror films viewed with a feminist eye.

Perfect Blue tells the story of Mima Kirigoe (Junko Iwao), a young starlet who resigns from the J-pop girl group CHAM! (pronounced “sham”) and attempts to launch a career as a full-fledged actress. It doesn’t turn out as well as she’d hoped.

What starts out as a typical showbiz tale of dissatisfaction and subsequent mis-

placed ambition soon devolves into a hysterical and tenuously glued-together collage of interrelated events and episodes.

She’s stalked by stone-faced creeper Me-Mania (Masaaki Okura), a superfan continuously lurking in the foreground. The uber-fan becomes enraged at her turn from wholesome peddler of perfumery pop confections to a scream queen in TV series *Double Bind*, which places the young woman in compromising fictional scenarios.

Over the course of the film, the line between character, actress and self is blurred through Mima’s unreliable perspective.

Professionals associated with Mima are killed in a series of brutal murders, and Mima begins to doubt her own innocence as she hallucinates an alternate identity based on her prior CHAM! (pun probably intended) persona.

During a particularly revered era in Japanese animation, *Perfect Blue* eschews overt Western homage and mecha (robot) anime trope subversion for a sharp look into the voyeuristic nature of existing in the spotlight. As a young actress, Mima struggles with the increasingly exploitative roles she is forced to accept in her pursuit of stardom and the mental toll they take.

Her stalker, viewers and fans all blend together as indistinguishable prying eyes. The picture deftly reminds viewers that the mere feeling of being watched can be chalked up to paranoia, while the certainty of being watched is the plight of the celebrity.

That the film is animated is an astute choice. The additional barrier between reality serves as an easy means of obfus-

cating viewers’ understanding of a given scene’s context and reality in general.

A Greek chorus-like troupe of sniveling fanboys serve as clever commentary throughout the film, providing a dash of humour to a desolate tale. This same inspired storytelling convention also highlights a slight problem for the film. Like a blackhead, it can be on the nose. The picture mostly makes up for it, especially when the feverish editing style and slick animation, along with a striking, foreboding score, are more than enough to distract from an aversion to nuance.

The ending in particular is a bit too conventional and tidy for my liking, even if it does bolster some of the film’s themes and provides resolution to its key mystery. But at an economical 81 minutes, this film delivers its core thesis with style and genuine thrills. The apprehension at being overly scrutinized is universal, regardless of fame or social status. However, it may be best to live and let leer. If the film espouses any lesson, it’s that it’s best to leave that stone unturned.

ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | FICTIONALCIERRA CIERRABETTENS

Jazz @ the Fort Garry

The Fort Garry Hotel has a new guest checking in this Sunday, March 5: jazz. At 7 p.m. in the lower-level club suite, award-winning vocalist Jennifer Hanson will perform a repertoire of ballads and standards. The show is part of a new series presented by Jazz Winnipeg – and more are to come. Tickets are \$18 in advance and can be purchased at bit.ly/3SziYsB.

Freeze Frame returns

The filmmakers of the future will convene at the Freeze Frame International Film Festival for Kids of All Ages. From March 5 to 12, participants will be immersed in animation, video-production and media-literacy workshops, complete with a video contest made and judged by youth. Tickets and passes to the film screenings can be purchased via bit.ly/3kzccen.

Writing on joy

This year, the Winnipeg International Writers Festival welcomes the coming season with optimism. The chosen theme for the annual Writes of Spring contest is JOY. From now until March 22, writers can submit up to five poems for a chance to be one of 12 poets featured in the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Selected poets will receive a \$75 honorarium for their work. Submit your best work here: bit.ly/3EL0lkg.

Lizzy Hoyt x MCO

On Thursday, March 2, enjoy an evening with mezzo-soprano and Celtic songwriter extraordinaire Lizzy Hoyt. The concert, accompanied by the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO), takes place at 7:30 p.m. at the Crescent Fort Rouge United Church (525 Wardlaw Ave.). Adult tickets are \$36 – but if you’re under 30, they’re only \$15. Purchase them at bit.ly/3mj3FwQ.

Nickybaby releases debut EP

Nicholas Goszer picked up a guitar in his early 20s and never put it down. Now going under the pseudonym Nickybaby, he released his debut, self-titled EP on Feb. 24. Produced by J. Riley Hill of No Fun Club, the album features a fine roster of local musicians on various instruments. Listen to it on Bandcamp at bit.ly/3J6AeXP or on major streaming services.

Apply to Plug-In ICA’s summer institute

The application portal for the Plug-In Institute for Contemporary Art has officially opened. Each year, the program welcomes artists from around the world to create, participate in and share ideas. This year’s institute, running from Aug. 7 to 19, will be led by artist Maggie Groat and curator Crystal Mowry. The deadline to apply is March 16. Apply at bit.ly/3ZfvQvg.

Up in flames

The human impact of fires in Winnipeg



In the middle of the night on Saturday, Feb. 11, Point Douglas resident Candace-Rae Hamilton awoke to the sound of sirens.

“My room was filled with smoke,” she says. “I live alone with my cats. My neighbour across the hall has a heart condition.”

Residents of 15 homes along Austin Street and an apartment block on the corner of Jarvis and Main Street were promptly evacuated. A business in the 800 block of Main Street had gone up in flames, and the surrounding buildings were in danger of following suit.

The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS)

was on the scene just after 2 a.m., working through the night and into the morning with a crew of 50 personnel to extinguish the fire.

The fire started in Surplus Direct, a liquidation store on Main Street and soon spread to the neighbouring businesses: Lord Selkirk Furniture and Top Pro Roofing Ltd. Though the WFPS’s goal was to contain the fire, Assistant Chief Scott Wilkinson says the interconnected businesses and combustible materials inside made this challenging, as crews couldn’t enter the buildings.

“Our goal was to keep it out of the neighbouring properties, but that proved impossible, and

we did see fires spread to both of those buildings,” he explains.

The crews approached the fire from outside and stopped the flames from reaching the adjacent apartment block on the corner of Jarvis and Main Street.

They “did a tremendous amount of work,” Wilkinson says, noting that three firefighters went to the hospital with minor injuries but were all released the same day.



Firefighters battle a major fire in the 400 block of Maryland Street on Jan. 8, 2020.

It's more than the buildings lost

Catastrophic fires mark pivotal moments in the city's history. In 1904, the basement of the Bulman Block erupted in flames, causing an infamous fire in the Exchange District, spreading to the Ashdown Hardware Store and the Woodbine Hotel. In 1954, the Times Building burned. In 1968, the Saint Boniface Cathedral. In 1999, the Leland Hotel. The list goes on.

But conversations about heritage buildings lost to fires sometimes disregard the systemic issues that can cause them and the devastating human impact they leave in their wake.

There were no fatalities in the recent fire on Main Street, nor were any notable architectural staples of the neighbourhood lost, but the community has sustained substantial damage.

Surplus Direct, Lord Selkirk Furniture and Top Pro Roofing are expected to be a total loss. All three businesses have been in the community for years (Lord Selkirk opened in 1976, Surplus Direct in 1991 and Top Pro in 2012). Residents of the Enright Block on Jarvis Avenue have been supported by social services to find temporary housing. At press time, they are unable to return to their homes due to significant water and smoke damage in the building.

Hamilton says the Austin Street residents are also struggling to deal with the fallout from that night. When the houses were deemed safe to return to around 7 a.m., there was still smoke in her halls.

"It lingers to this day," Hamilton says, explaining that while the smoke itself is gone, the smell has permeated her bedding and clothes.

Hera Nalam, a St. Boniface resident, experienced a fire in her building a few weeks ago and knows firsthand about the anxiety these events can cause. Although she lives on an upper floor and this fire happened in the basement, fire personnel evacuated the entire house in the middle of the night.

Nalam remembers the basement tenant

"coming in and out ... trying to move everything as far from the fire as possible. I'm pretty sure he inhaled a bunch of toxic fumes in there."

When she later entered the basement suite, she noticed that some of the walls were "significantly different" due to smoke damage, and the linoleum in the bathroom where the fire had occurred had completely melted.

The night of the fire, Nalam and her roommate discussed renter's insurance. She says the tangible threat fires pose to peoples' belongings and sense of safety and stability is substantial.

Hamilton says that, at this time, she isn't receiving any financial support to help with cleaning, as she tries to rid her belongings of the smell of smoke. She hoped to receive support from the Employment and Income Assistance program or the Red Cross but so far has been unsuccessful. Her neighbour who has a heart condition has been relocated to a hotel.

Evidently, fires touch more than those directly affected by them, damaging buildings and surrounding communities as a whole. In addition to physical damage and the loss of belongings, many people are forced to reckon with their pre-existing health and financial issues. Without familial support some savings or access to money, and the ability to advocate for oneself within the system, navigating the fallout of a fire can be incredibly challenging, frustrating and complicated.

Fires are on the rise

Though Winnipeg hasn't seen a catastrophe like the Bulman Block fire for many years, fires are actually on the rise across the city.

A report from the City of Winnipeg showed a 4.4 per cent increase in building fires between January 2019 and January 2022 and a 58 per cent rise in all fires, the majority of which fell into the "non-structure" category, including grass and trash fires. Though part of this upswing could be attributed to drought



This historic building at the corner of Portage Avenue and Langside Street was completely destroyed by fire in February 2022.

and extreme cold, experts have connected fires to socioeconomic issues such as poor housing conditions and vacant buildings.

The city has not provided updated data this year, but Wilkinson confirms that Winnipeg "tends to have quite a high number of fires per capita in comparison to other jurisdictions."

Fires are a consistent problem across the city, he says, but the WFPS responds to "a higher number of fire incidents in certain neighbourhoods, including the North End."

West Broadway Community Organi-

zation (WBCO) executive director Kelly Frazer says buildings that are inadequately heated, especially rooming houses, are more likely to experience fires. The West Broadway community has lost several rooming houses to fires over the past number of years.

"If there is no heating in a house, the government will step in and it gets emergency status, and it is dealt with rather quickly," she explains. However, when heat is present but insufficient, tenants often resort to measures like turning on the stove or using electrical space heaters to stay warm.



Surplus Direct is one of the three businesses in the 800 block of Main Street destroyed by a fire on Feb. 11.



This home in the 400 block of Victor Street is another building demolished following a recent fire.



Neighbourhoods like the North End and West End are disproportionately impacted by fires when compared to more affluent parts of Winnipeg.



The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service says drought and extreme cold are exacerbating factors for many of Winnipeg's fires.

Especially in older homes, “if the owner hasn’t taken steps to upgrade the insulation, it can be really uncomfortably cold, even if you are spending a lot on heat,” Frazer says.

“The properties I can think of in this neighbourhood that have had significant fires were those where the rent was very low, but the owners were not necessarily reinvesting into the property ... You don’t see them in well-run rooming houses.”

Vacant buildings are at risk

Frazer points out that when buildings become so run down that no one wants to invest in them at all, they become vacant, which poses other risks. This isn’t necessarily an issue in West Broadway, but it’s common in the West and North Ends, which see a significant number of fires in vacant buildings, usually during illegal entry.

Just two days after the fire on Main Street, on the morning of Feb. 13, firefighters responded to a call about a vacant-building fire in a previously burnt property on Victor Street in the West End. On the scene, the house was deemed structurally unstable and was partially demolished to extinguish the remaining fires inside.

Wilkinson explains that the WFPS often opts to demolish partially burned va-

cant buildings so they no longer cause a threat to surrounding homes. The WFPS responds to calls about vacant buildings in certain areas, including the North End, “on a very regular basis,” he says.

Cindy Tugwell, executive director of Heritage Winnipeg has also identified a trend of vacant buildings burning in the North End. She says the homes that are demolished as a result of these fires are “typically older homes ... and I would argue that many are built very well.”

Tugwell agrees that if a structure is a fire hazard, demolition is necessary to keep the surrounding houses and communities safe. Ideally, though, she’d like to see more preventative measures to reduce fire risk factors in the first place.

Some changes are already underway. To encourage property development and dissuade owners from sitting on vacant properties, the City of Winnipeg has recently amended the vacant-buildings bylaw, introducing a clause that says property owners could be charged upwards of \$12,000 whenever emergency crews respond to a fire in a vacant building.

However, this might not be enough. The City has reported monitoring 666 vacant buildings, but only 63 of them have active permits. To effectively dissuade people from failing to maintain and secure vacant

properties, the City needs to enforce all parts of the bylaw.

Tugwell says Heritage Winnipeg would like to get down to the “nitty gritty” of which buildings are vacant and why.

But, according to a City representative, this information cannot be released for security reasons. Though Tugwell understands why it is not available to the general public, she wants the City to release the list to community partners and stakeholders.

“We need to know why these properties are vacant” before solutions can be reached, she says.

Preventing fires and rebuilding communities

Wilkinson says the WFPS continues to reassess “standards for building, boarding and securement, because that’s a key issue in preventing fires.”

Tugwell would like to see the City collaborate with community partners to incentivize owners to rehabilitate older homes, possibly working with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to get unsecured, vacant properties out of the hands of disinterested owners.

Rather than letting buildings reach vacant status, Tugwell says the properties should be repurposed as affordable hous-

ing. “I would love to see those properties reused, not sitting ducks for a fire and then eventually demolished.”

That said, the WFPS will continue to address fire hazards on a case-by-case basis. As Wilkinson points out, fires are not contingent on any one specific risk factor, but a vast array of contributing factors at any given time.

Accidental fires caused by electrical failures, smoking and unattended cooking tend to be their “top three,” he says, closely followed incendiary fires. Though these problems can certainly occur in higher-income areas, the relationship between fire risks and poor socioeconomic conditions is undeniable.

It’s a problem, Tugwell says, that is intimately related with housing insecurity that disproportionately affects residents of certain Winnipeg neighbourhoods, including the North End.

“If you had as many fires as are happening in the north happening in the south, how many would burn before people would be outraged?” she asks. “I think we just accept that properties in the North End should be vacant, and they should be boarded up. And my question to the City is why?”

AN IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE AT HSC

Threat to call CFS a red flag for patient

HALEY CHARNEY | VOLUNTEER |  HALEYJCHARNEY

When Kakeka ThunderSky walked into the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) emergency department on Feb. 9, she never imagined the hospital would ask her to choose between receiving medical care and keeping her daughter out of the Child and Family Services (CFS) system.

“They told me children weren’t allowed in the waiting room. I told them I didn’t have anyone that could take her, and that I really needed to be seen,” ThunderSky says.

Lack of available childcare that day meant she had taken her two-year-old daughter, Tokala, to work with her. Then, ThunderSky’s painful health issue that cannot be treated at walk-in clinics flared up. She and Tokala went to the hospital directly after work at around 4:15 p.m.

This wasn’t the first time ThunderSky had visited an adult emergency department with her toddler. Once, when Tokala was nursing, staff at Victoria General Hospital allowed ThunderSky to feed her daughter during their eight-hour stay in the waiting room.

At HSC, however, ThunderSky says a staff person “told us that if I wanted to stay there with her, they would have to call Child and Family Services, and a social worker would come to pick her up.”

Facing a long wait, ThunderSky asked if Tokala could stay with her in the waiting

room for a few hours, as family could possibly pick her up later that evening.

The hospital did not waver. ThunderSky then walked away and weighed her options. “It was really hard to try and balance out the pros and cons of if I stay and get treatment or just go home,” she says.

As an Anishinaabkwe mother and former youth in care, ThunderSky wants to prevent her daughter from interacting with CFS.

“I just don’t have trust in that system at all ... it’s just something I’m not comfortable with my daughter being a part of,” she says.

The Government of Canada reports that while Indigenous children account for only 7.7 per cent of the child population in Canada, they make up 53 per cent of all children in foster care. In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that Canada’s child-welfare services discriminated against First Nations children and families.

ThunderSky worries that even one interaction with CFS could lead to them apprehending her daughter. “I think any Indigenous parent would have that concern,” she says.

In an email statement to *The Uniter*, a Shared Health spokesperson says it is not unusual for HSC social workers to help sort out viable childcare options.

“When someone seeking care at our adult emergency department requires a



PHOTO BY ISAIAH SANCHEZ

A trip to the emergency room is typically initiated by a threat to one’s health. But when Kakeka ThunderSky visited Health Sciences Centre’s emergency department with her daughter, staff threatened to call Child and Family Services rather than offering childcare.

medical procedure while caring for a child, staff work with that individual to find an alternate care provider, such as family or a friend, who can help. In rare instances where this is not possible, staff onsite are instructed to remain with the child until other arrangements can be made.”

This policy is not mentioned on HSC’s

website, and it’s not clear how strictly staff members follow this procedure.

ThunderSky doesn’t think hospital staff collaborated to find an appropriate solution in her situation. She says she will likely avoid seeking care at HSC in the future.

“I’ve never heard of that, like ever,” she says.

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



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REFORMS TO UWSA ELECTION RULES AHEAD OF VOTE

Slates restored, but not everyone is happy

MEGAN RONALD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MEGANLYNNRONALD

On Jan. 18, the University of Winnipeg Students' Association's (UWSA) board of directors approved a swath of reforms to the organization's election rules.

The reforms address many aspects of the process by which University of Winnipeg (U of W) students elect their representatives in the UWSA executive. These include the return of slates, which means a group of two or more students who are members of a single campaign each run for a different position.

The reforms were proposed in response to "several periods of conflict" during previous UWSA elections, according to the UWSA's package outlining the reforms. The conflicts in question go back to February 2020, when a slate of candidates was allegedly subjected to a campaign of racist harassment by David Teffaine and Sam Cohn, associates of Envision, a rival slate, which eventually won the election.

The Envision slate initially defended Teffaine, but when photos of him in blackface surfaced online, the Envision candidates resigned, with outgoing president Jibril Hussein calling the UWSA a "toxic environment ... (that) perpetuates the same pervasive racism and prejudice they claim to actively be against."

Later, during the 2022-2023 election year, there were three different complaints made to the Election Accountability Board against current president Kirt Hayer. This included allegations from within the UWSA that Hayer had made racist

comments. The UWSA engaged outside legal counsel to investigate the claims. On Jan. 31, the UWSA released the findings of the investigation, proclaiming that Hayer is "fully exonerated of these allegations."

Thomas Hanan, the UWSA acting general manager, says initial changes to the election process first took place while classes were online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, returning to campus illustrated that "some of those things that worked okay virtually started to not work."

Hanan says a majority of the changes were influenced by both candidate and staff complaints about the previous election. He says the reforms were created to improve the experience of candidates and to create a positive experience for all those involved in the election process.

"After the byelection, my predecessor compiled all the comments from the candidates, as well as from the staff, and everything that happened and came up with a proposal."

While online voting was introduced during lockdown, Hanan notes the inaccessibility issues built into the previous election process.

"Students could only vote during certain times when the polls were open in certain locations, and if their schedules didn't always align right, or if they were online students, they couldn't really vote at all."

Shawna Pélouquin, who served as presi-



The University of Winnipeg Students' Association recently reformed their election rules, which will impact how students elect their representatives in March.

dent of the UWSA for the 2020-2021 academic year, is unhappy with the reforms, particularly the reintroduction of slates.

"(During my election cycle) we had three slates that just went at each other's throats, and it turns out that a lot of people were harmed emotionally in that election process," she says.

Pélouquin says the previous electoral system wrongly mimicked the colonial system, partly by the creation of slates, in which students were placed in competition against each other. She also believes the clashes involving Envision affected the UWSA's functionality.

"So with my board, we made a promise that this would not happen again," Pélouquin says. "When you are elected as an executive, you're supposed to represent all the students and not just the ones that agree."

Although slates have been reinstated, Hanan says it is only for executive positions. Due to the managerial role of exec-

utives, he says "starting off having some sort of connection can be beneficial."

The 2022 byelection saw an 11 per cent voter turnout, the highest byelection engagement since 2014, when the U-Pass vote was decided.

Hanan and Khushneet Kaur, the chief election commissioner, both encourage students to run for office.

"Each and every student at the University of Winnipeg is involved in making changes to the UWSA, which is really great," Kaur says.

The UWSA general election campaign period runs from March 6 to 15, with voting open from March 13 to 15. For more information, visit theuwsa.ca/elections. For a complete list of election reforms, visit bit.ly/3mgQZpX. Read the final report on the investigation into allegations against president Kirt Hayer at bit.ly/3IGCu6E.

WE ALL PAY A PRICE

Calls for a living wage in Manitoba

MEGAN RONALD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MEGANLYNNRONALD

Sayings like "the bigger the dream, the harder the grind" and "hustle, don't sleep" echo the toxic productivity ingrained in Canada's cultural consciousness. Late-stage capitalism has further advanced the idea that people must constantly work to achieve success and stability.

But romanticizing a gruelling work schedule at the expense of physical and mental health takes the focus away from the reality that many workers, despite their heavy workload, still don't make enough money to survive.

Kevin Rebeck, president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour, defines a living wage "as the minimum someone needs to get by, so that they're able to have a roof over their head, that they can eat a decent meal every day and have a little bit of discretionary money beyond that."

In 2022, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives calculated that a family of four, with two working adults, would each require a wage of \$18.24 per hour. The report specifies that younger adults in particular need a living wage, so they are able to start and care for their own families.

The "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" mentality is ludicrous, Rebeck says. If someone doesn't "make enough to exist, how are they supposed to conjure up more money to go get an education or conjure up more money to better themselves if they can't make basic ends meet?"

He says full-time work was once considered a path out of poverty but it is no longer a reality for thousands of workers in Manitoba.

"How can we expect people to participate in the workforce and then not have a home to go to, not have a decent meal

to eat or be stressed about being able to pay their hydro bill or their heat bill this month?" Rebeck says.

Without a living wage, people must often rely on different social safety nets, such as rent-assistance programs and food banks.

"We can either let employers pay their fair share, or we can all pay in a dozen different ways that are less effective than making sure people who work full-time can make basic ends meet," Rebeck says.

A living wage can drive the economy, he says, as "low-wage workers spend every penny they earn right back in the local economy."

Shauna MacKinnon, an associate professor with the University of Winnipeg's urban and inner-city studies department, says a reluctance to pay employees a living wage is tied to a fear of cutting into business profits and a belief that a person's value is equivalent to their job position.

"The jobs that we need are there for a reason, and somebody's going to have to do them," MacKinnon says. "Why is it that we don't see those jobs as valuable, and why do we not pay people better?"

She also says many people misunderstand what a living wage actually means. For instance, the right-wing Fraser Institute has claimed that living-wages laws would hurt unskilled workers because such laws would incentivize employers to hire more experienced candidates.

"People tend to distort that from what it actually is. So, quickly, it just becomes drawn out of proportion, and that's the way to dismiss it, by turning it into something that it's not."

MacKinnon also says the potential to move



Kevin Rebeck, president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour

up in jobs is less common than it once was.

"There's fewer unionized jobs. We've seen the implications for people who've tried to unionize some of these factory floors, like Amazon, and they ended up suffering pretty serious consequences," she says.

According to information from the Canadian Rental Housing Index, those living in Manitoba without children spend anywhere from 40 to 49 per cent of their income on rent and utilities.

"The issue around housing has a huge impact on, obviously, what would be an acceptable living wage. It's one thing to increase the living wage, but people can't afford to live anywhere," MacKinnon says.

Jerry Buckland, an international development studies professor at Menno Simons College, says the rise in conflicting cultural

signals contributes to the connection between hard work and success.

"We're presented with this notion that if we just work harder and we're more innovative, we could all become these billionaires," he says.

Buckland says wage rates for those at the lower end of the employment spectrum have stagnated.

According to 2021 data from Statistics Canada, the wealthiest households by quintile, or the top 20 per cent, held more than two-thirds of all net worth in Canada, while the lowest two quintiles, the bottom 40 per cent, held 2.8 per cent.

"This heavy value placed on these billionaires and this hypereconomy idea is really taking us away from what really does bring us meaning."



THE LANGUAGE OF MATHEMATICS

Ilan Smythe, assistant professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

SYLVIE CÔTÉ | FEATURES EDITOR

Dr. Ilan Smythe grew up in Winnipeg and earned a bachelor of mathematics from the University of Manitoba with a minor in philosophy.

“Then I moved to the United States and did a master’s and PhD in mathematics at Cornell University,” Smythe says. “It was very intimidating before it started. There was certainly a level of imposter syndrome, of not thinking I was cut out to be there or that I just got lucky.”

“But when I got there, and I met my fellow incoming class of graduate students, and I started taking classes, I actually felt very prepared ... I was doing basically as well as everyone else,” he says.

Before coming to work at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), Smythe worked as a postdoc for five years: he spent three years at Rutgers University in New Jersey and two years at the University of Michigan. He learned more about teaching during this time.

“I wanted to tell the students everything. I wanted to give them everything I knew ... And that’s really too much. What I’ve learned over time talking to

students and seeing what they absorb and what they didn’t absorb is you have to pare away the inessential things,” Smythe says. “I actually say a lot less in class than I used to.”

Watching his students learn, he says, “is a real miracle.”

Now, Smythe works at the U of W as an assistant professor with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. “I work in mathematical logic.”

“Mathematical logic is all about language and how language is used in mathematics. The big takeaway of the whole field, or the driving impetus of the field, is that the language we use in mathematics, all the symbols we write, the structure of that, in turn, tells us a lot about the mathematics we do, and especially and most interestingly about the mathematics we can’t do. Much of the field is defined by looking at the limits of what’s possible.”

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

“Probably the most cliché answer: flight



SUPPLIED PHOTO

... In an airplane, I always take the window seat.”

What do you do in your spare time?

“Music takes up a lot of my spare time. I don’t play anymore, but I listen to a lot of music. I go to shows as much as I can ... and I collect records.”

Where do you see yourself in five years?

“I left Winnipeg when I was 22, and I moved back at 33. And I really hope that in five years I’m more a part of Winnipeg than I was when I left.”

CITY BRIEFS

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

#EmbraceEquity this March

This year’s theme for International Women’s Day, held on March 8, recognizes that equal opportunities aren’t enough. Instead, the official IWD organization asks people to #EmbraceEquity, recognize people’s intersectional identities and work to remove barriers that prevent people from accessing certain jobs, experiences, opportunities and treatment.

Preventing sexual violence on campus

On Wednesday, March 8 from 12:30 to 1 p.m., the University of Winnipeg will host a webinar about consent and healthy relationships through Zoom. Hema Krueger Vyas, the campus’ human-rights and sexual-violence advisor, will speak about consent, sexual violence, witnessing and responding to disclosures and specific policies at the U of W.

Fridays for Future Global Climate Strike

Fridays for Future Manitoba is hosting a global climate action strike on March 3 from noon to 1 p.m. The entire event will take place on the north steps of the Manitoba Legislative Building, and there will not be a march through downtown. Fridays for Future Manitoba is calling on governments and companies to limit global warming to 1.5°C and promote Indigenous solidarity.

Wesmen off to national championships

It’s been almost 30 years since the University of Winnipeg Wesmen men’s basketball team last qualified for the national championship. The Wesmen advanced to the USports Final 8 with a 73-70 win over the University of Manitoba Bisons on Feb. 25. The U of W will play the Victoria Vikes on March 3 for the Canada West championship. The Final 8 playoffs take place in Halifax from March 10 to 12.

Affordable housing suites ready

On March 1, the Manitoba Métis Federation started moving Métis citizens experiencing homelessness into a newly refurbished 20-unit residential facility on 670 Main St. The three-story building offers affordable housing and services to support mental-health needs, addiction issues and rooms for cultural and spiritual practices. A 2018 census revealed that there are approximately 234 Métis people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg – a rate that has likely worsened throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community schools programming under review

The Province is reviewing its breakfast and lunch programs, developing an anti-racism policy and increasing the number of community schools, which address the effects of poverty on student learning. The provincial government has budgeted \$595,000 to provide five more schools with the programming, increasing the total number of community schools to 41 provincially. These recommendations come from the final report of the poverty and education task force, which researches barriers to accessing food, technology and transportation.

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A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF WINNIPEG

The political evolution of Edith Hancox

SCOTT PRICE | COLUMNIST

In last month's "A people's history of Winnipeg" column, I introduced Edith Hancox, a socialist and feminist organizer involved in the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike and activism throughout the 1920s. In this column, I will take a closer look at Hancox's political evolution and unemployment organizing in Winnipeg.

Historians have documented Hancox's involvement in the Winnipeg General Strike, although documentation of her involvement is scarce.

Hancox addressed pro-strike crowds at Victoria Park several times throughout the summer of 1919, but besides those speeches, the extent of her involvement remains unknown. The same applies to around 35,000 Winnipeggers who went on strike in 1919, whose sacrifices and confrontations during that time largely remain anonymous.

During the general strike, Hancox was involved in the Labour Church, headed by renegade Methodist preachers J. S. Woodsworth and William Ivens. Their sermons on gender equality and labour rights struck a chord with Hancox, who was growing tired of the Salvation Army.

She spoke at numerous Labour Church meetings and for the church at Victoria Park during the strike. By 1922, Hancox had abandoned Christianity and joined the Communist Party.

Hancox was most politically active in the 1920s. The end of the strike, though it did not achieve its goal of workers rights, re-incited her determination for revolutionary change.

Hancox was instrumental in forming the Women's Labour League branch in the working-class communities of Weston and Brooklands in the summer of 1919. The following November, she ran for city councillor in a municipal election that saw an unprecedented left-leaning coalition try to wrestle control from the conservative Citizens Committee. As a part of her platform, Hancox campaigned for free textbooks for children and better wages for teachers, receiving 40 per cent of the vote in Weston.

But while Hancox participated in electoral politics, she was most active in organizing and advocating for the unemployed.

In 1921, mayor Edward Parnell offered her a seat on the Winnipeg Joint Committee on Unemployment. In the 1920s, unemployment relief was a civic responsibility. City hall's attempt to co-opt Hancox backfired, as she used the position to gain insider information so she could more effectively criticize Winnipeg's relief practices.

In the winter of 1923, Hancox led a group of unemployed men into Winnipeg's city hall to demand better relief rations. She also pioneered anti-poverty case work, where she



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

brought forward cases of those who were unfairly treated by the system, a tactic later used during the Great Depression.

The Winnipeg General Strike was ultimately crushed by the power of the government and employers, but Hancox's political evolution during the following decade exemplifies the relentless energy it had incited in activists.

Rather than give up, Hancox and her contemporaries were resolute in their fight for workers' rights, diversifying their tactics and searching for answers, even amid political defeats.

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



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

The Spring Term 2023 timetable is now available. Students will be sent their registration start date/time to their University webmail account by **March 6**. Tiered registration for Spring Term will begin **March 17**. Open registration will begin **March 31**.

More information here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/registration/spring-process-and-procedures.html>

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

The series continues with a wide range of sessions geared to helping you succeed at UWinnipeg and beyond!

Upcoming sessions:

March 8 – Consent and Healthy Relationships

March 15 – Interview Skills

March 22 – What can I do with my Degree?

March 29 – Overcoming Test Anxiety

For details and to register, please go to:

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html>

CAREER CHATS ON INSTAGRAM

Drop in for Career Chats - live sessions on Instagram that feature advice from an employer or 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: **March 9, March 23**.

WINTER TERM WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

The final date to withdraw without academic penalty from Winter Term courses is **March 14**.

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:

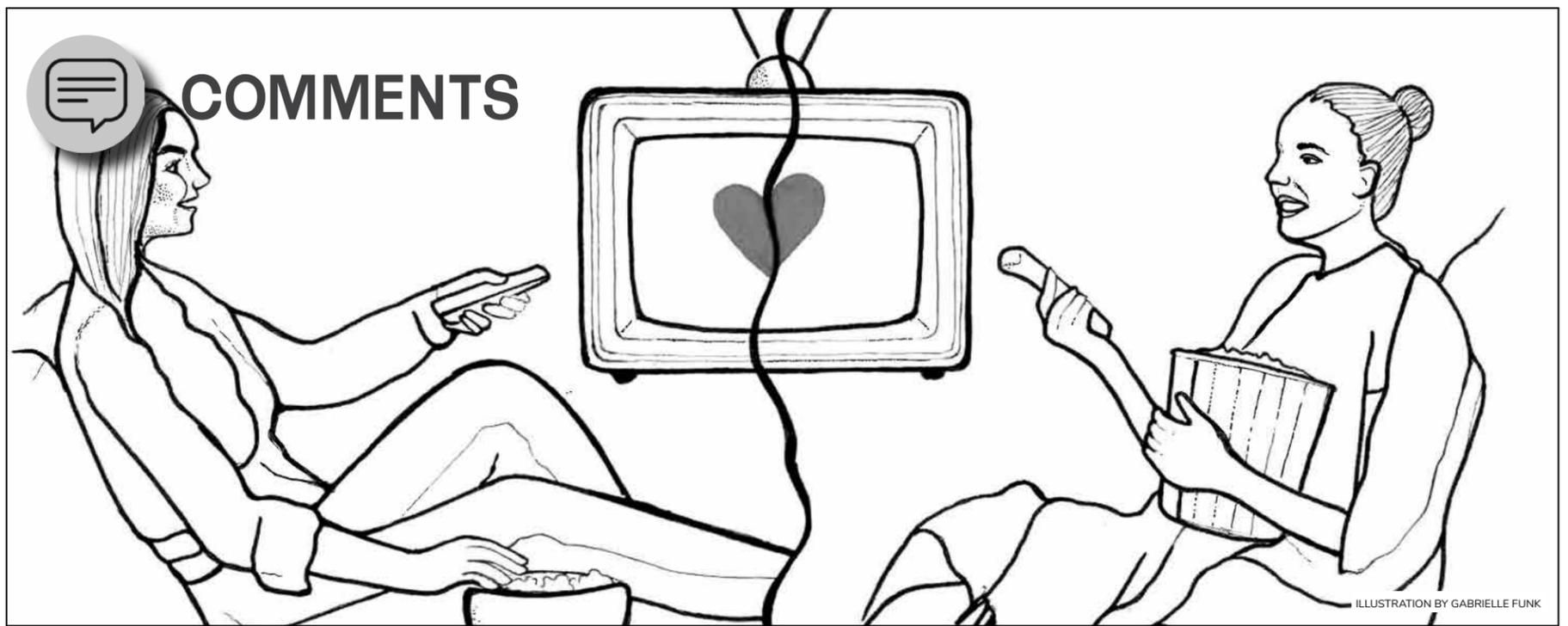
March 16 – Registration for Spring Term

March 30 – Exams and Student Wellness

GRADUATION POW WOW

Hosted by the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC), the Pow Wow will be held Sat., **March 18** at the Duckworth Centre. Everyone is invited to attend!

More information here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/assc/graduation-pow-wow.html>



A FAMILY LIKE MINE

Who Netflix's new password-sharing policy ignores

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | @DANIELLEDOIRON

It's nearly impossible to pin down what exactly constitutes a family. One United States government agency specifies it as "two or more persons related by birth, marriage or adoption who all live together."

But human relationships are complex and don't always fit into such tidy packages. I prefer Beverly McLoughlin's definition. Family is "people who take you in, no questions asked." It's the chosen families, stepparents, classmates, colleagues, friends and partners who listen and love, even if only over the phone or while across an ocean.

For census purposes, at least, a Canadian household consists of "a person or group of

persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere."

Netflix's new account policy adopts a similar definition. As of Feb. 8, users in Canada, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain must set a primary physical location, as each "Netflix account is intended for one household."

Under the streaming service's cheapest plans, each account is limited to one person on one device in a single location. The "standard" plan lets users watch on two devices at the same time in the same physical location.

As CBC explains, "If they want to watch in different locations – at a parent's home and a college-aged child's dorm room, for example,

or between two members of a couple who live apart – there will be an extra fee of \$7.99 a month." Want to share an account with more than one other person? There's a fee for that, too.

"Besides being, in reality, more an *anti*-password-sharing policy, this revised version comes with two very large assumptions: that there is a commonly understood, universal meaning of *household*, and that software can determine who is and is not a member of your household," Cory Doctorow writes for *The Atlantic*.

However, "categories such as 'household' and 'family' are such intuitive touchstones in our everyday life that we think we know what they mean in a commonsense way – even if, in fact, their definitions are fuzzy to the point of being fractal."

My family is no exception. I have a habit of calling anywhere I spend more than a night or two "home." My partner and I maintain primary residences more than 2,600 km apart, in different countries. He spends half the year travelling for work, and I often tag along.

"Home" is my apartment, his parents' house, the condo his employer provides and so many hotel rooms in between. "Home" is multiple spaces, spread across the continent, with

or without roommates.

And we're not the only ones. Last December, the *New York Times* documented stories of couples who chose to live apart but stay together during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a *Vogue* essay published that same month, Vrutika Shah explained what it's like to be "in a six-year long-distance relationship that culminated in marriage."

My partner and I have, similarly, spent most of our six-year relationship apart. Still, people question our commitment and wonder how (or why) we do it. TurboTax sends me an error message every April. Its algorithm can't comprehend that I'm married to someone (who doesn't live with me) who makes an income (but not in Manitoba).

Official forms, social attitudes and company policies aren't built around family structures like mine. Maybe it's finally time they – and the definitions of "family" and "household" – change.

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

BEYOND THE CLUBS

Queer spaces for recreation change the game

EVAWN MICHALESKI | VOLUNTEER

Months ago, I nervously showed up to an Out There Winnipeg (OTW) queer volleyball practice for the first time. Awkwardly, I made conversation with the others. The vibes changed quickly.

Making queer friends can be hard, but it doesn't have to be. Many folks around the city would like to forge lasting communities that promote growth, experimentation and fun.

Now, at Out There Winnipeg's volleyball league, we laugh, cheer and live what feels like an IRL episode of *Haikyuu*. It's fun. It has deepened my perspective of and connection with queer communities in Winnipeg. There are such wonderful people in this city, but the trick is finding them.

OTW hosts sports and activity groups for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks to help create safer queer spaces in Winnipeg. Their events are typically free or open to participants at a low cost.

It feels good to get involved in daytime spaces for queer folks. It's important for queer people to have opportunities to get together outside of the nightclub scene, which tends to be centred around alcohol and hookups.

These things aren't inherently bad. Safe-consumption sites and communicative hookups are great, but I've always found that daytime connections tend to be more supportive and longstanding. Relationships that integrate into pre-existing routines have less resistance and therefore more opportunities to blossom.

It seems the world lacks community in many ways. Distance feels ever-increasing, along with ideals of individualism promoted by social media and capitalism.

In my experience, finding community authentically allows for increased stability in social life based on communal support rather than my own bootstrapping abilities.

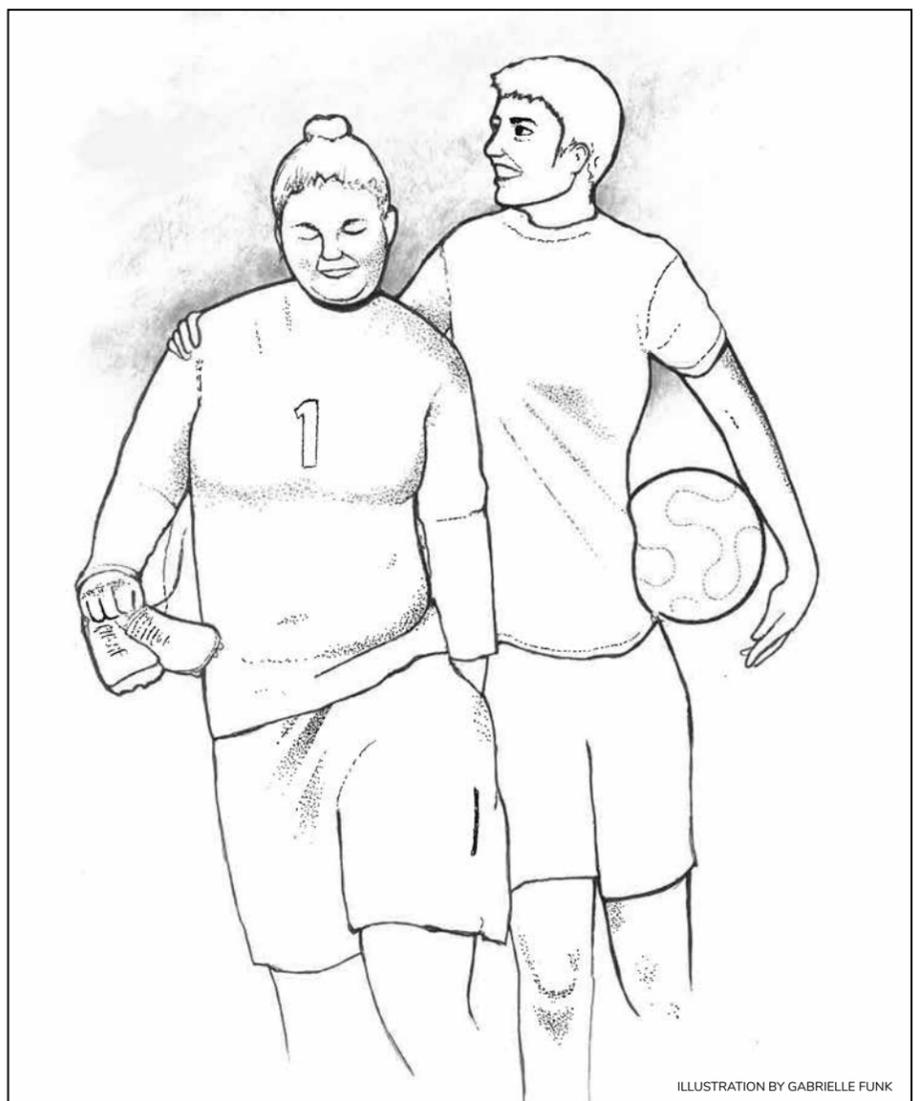
The cooperative nature of hobby groups work as continual icebreakers that aid in community building. In volleyball, people are in constant communication, yelling "mine!" or "here!" and making silly comments to keep the vibes up. Also, the ritual of going to activities once a week gives participants more chances to foster and stabilize connections. It's truly a beautiful process.

Lots of queer people have uncomfortable experiences with sports. Thomas Novak, OTW's secretary, pointed out that "many queer kids remember taunts and (homophobic) slurs that are still common in locker rooms."

He's right. Sports don't typically foster accepting environments for queer youth. In many cases, these spaces make people feel exposed when they are already in a vulnerable position. In grade school, it is common for queer kids to have anxiety-inducing experiences, leading them to believe that they don't enjoy sports and physical activity – or feeling like they aren't allowed to.

A queer space for recreation changes the game. We're reclaiming it, re-imagining it and having fun with it. These leagues and groups are spaces where perceived heterosexuality, conformity and advanced skills aren't prerequisites for participation.

Creating a comfortable, community-oriented environment allows us to have experiences and opportunities we



were previously denied. It seems everyone is always laughing and having fun. This is how it should be!

Find more information at outtherewinnipeg.ca.

Evawn Michaleski (they/them) is a University of Winnipeg sociology and psychology student who loves seeing queer people happy.



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ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET

ACROSS

- 1. DOES SUMS
- 5. BREAK
- 10. EMERALD ____
- 14. DIETARY FIBER
- 15. FLORIDA SEAPORT
- 16. SLUGGISH
- 17. ANGEL'S HEADWEAR
- 18. DIVA'S OFFERINGS
- 19. COUNTRY ROAD
- 20. MUSICAL COMEDY
- 22. WOBBLE
- 24. TAKES IT EASY
- 25. SHEEP'S CRY
- 27. WATERTIGHT COATING
- 30. CHEF'S UNIT (ABBR.)
- 33. RUN FOR IT
- 37. MINE PRODUCTS
- 38. OVERACT
- 40. PRETEND TO SING (2 WDS.)
- 42. SPANISH WOMEN
- 44. COME TOGETHER
- 45. INHERITOR
- 47. CHEEKY
- 48. AND SO ON (ABBR.)
- 49. THEATER BACKDROP
- 52. PURPLE ____
- 53. NOT APPROPRIATE
- 58. SCHOOL PLAYTIME
- 61. REPLY
- 64. TOOTH DISCOMFORT
- 65. COMMERCE
- 67. THE ____ OFFICE
- 68. CROSSWORD DIAGRAM
- 69. COOKSTOVE
- 70. WINDOW LEDGE
- 71. WORKS ON A TAN
- 72. SELECTED
- 73. SHADE PROVIDERS

DOWN

- 1. DESPISE
- 2. CURTAIN
- 3. GLENS
- 4. NASAL SOUND
- 5. MEDICAL "AT ONCE!"
- 6. STORE
- 7. FRIENDLY
- 8. EXERCISE CLUB
- 9. HURRY
- 10. SMALL LANDMASS
- 11. WOOD STRIP
- 12. THE ____ STAR STATE
- 13. WATER VESSEL
- 21. CURVY LETTER
- 23. DINED
- 26. TV POOCH
- 28. LONG PERIOD
- 29. ROBIN HOOD, E.G.
- 30. SHREDDED
- 31. HEAVENLY LIGHT
- 32. IRRITANT
- 33. CHIMNEY PART
- 34. FABRIC FUZZ
- 35. LONG, NARRATIVE POEM
- 36. RI TIME ZONE
- 39. BROOM'S KIN
- 41. POSITIVE REPLIES
- 43. BE MISTAKEN
- 46. CONTESTANT
- 50. FIDEL ____
- 51. PUPPY'S CRY
- 52. LISTENS
- 54. HANGMAN'S LOOP
- 55. BLACKSMITH'S TOOL
- 56. SACRED SONG
- 57. NARRATES
- 58. SCRAPS OF CLOTH
- 59. LIGHT BROWN
- 60. FACIAL FEATURE
- 62. OUTER LIMIT
- 63. ORIGIN
- 66. KNOCK

GAME SOLUTIONS

Crossword solutions 77-19

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This week's issue

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