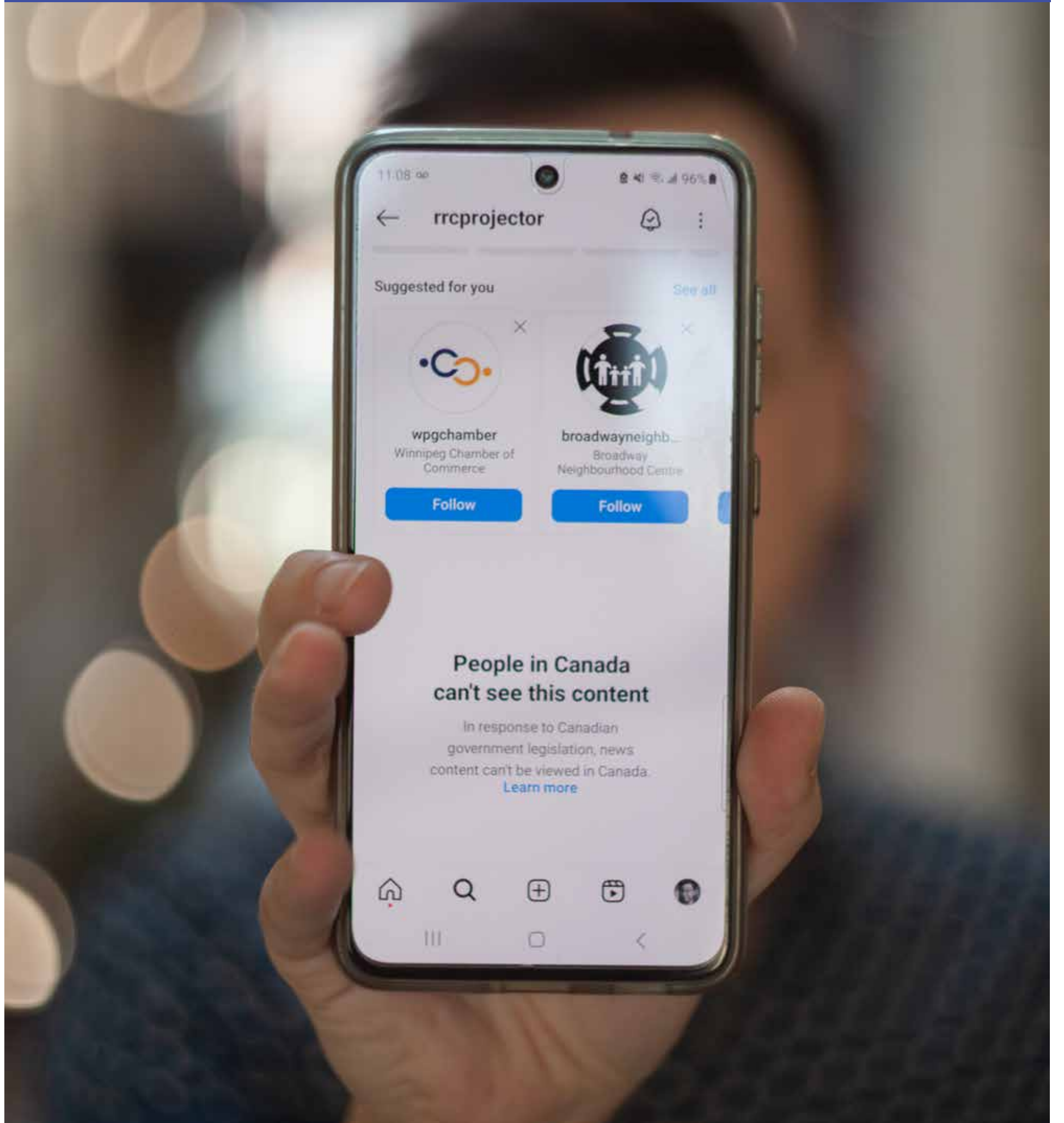


THE **U** N I T E R

THE RETURN OF WHOSE HOUSE!—P4 | QUEER RIGHTS ON THE BALLOT—P5 | A NEW AGENDA FOR THE UWSA—P12

BLOCKED OUT



SOCIAL-MEDIA NEWS SHUTOUT IS A MAJOR BARRIER FOR READERSHIP



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PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Regular Sized Rudy, the beloved cat of comedian Jimmy Skinner, flexes her feline biceps. Read more on page 4.

SOCIAL-MEDIA MUZZLE

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR

THOMASPASHKO

It's the first week of September. Classes are back in session at the University of Winnipeg. That can only mean one thing: it's the start of a new publishing year at *The Uniter*! Actually, that's only one of many things it can mean. But as managing editor of this newspaper, it's probably the only one that I would reasonably be writing about.

To those of you who are new to our little community and campus newspaper: pleased to meet you. To our returning readers: welcome back. We missed you.

And you may have missed us, especially if you primarily consume *Uniter* content through social media. You may have noticed that things have been a little quiet on our end. That's because, like all other Canadian news outlets, we've been locked out of sharing any of our work on social media. Tech companies have responded to the Online News Act, which requires them to pay news organizations for their work, by erasing us from their platforms entirely.

It's a huge problem, not just for us but for all Canadian newsmakers and newsreaders. Local news in particular is being hit the hardest by this move. Fortunately, our features editor Matthew Frank's robust cover feature this week will fill you in on the situation and how it's affecting the newspapers you know and love.

In the meantime, you'll need to find our work by going directly to uniter.ca, or by picking up a physical copy of *The Uniter* in sweet, sweet newsprint. Go ahead, smudge some ink on your fingers.

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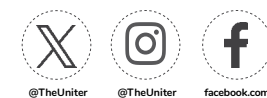
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SUBMISSIONS

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 will be commencing shortly. For more information, please email editor@uniter.ca

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.



PHOTOS BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

WHOSE HOUSE? JIMMY'S HOUSE

Hilarity, hockey and hot dogs

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | X @THOMASPASHKO

If readers recognize Jimmy Skinner's name, it's probably from his work performing standup comedy in Winnipeg and across the country for the past five years. Perhaps they've heard his voice on the podcast *The Reel Debaters*, which he co-hosts.

But if you grew up in the Interlake, you might also recognize his surname from Skinner's hot-dog restaurant, which his family founded in 1929.

"I say I'm the heir to the Skinner's hot-dog fortune," he says, "which isn't really something that exists."

Even though the storied food spot has passed to other owners over the years, Skinner's West Broadway home is still peppered with little reminders of family history. Among the many images evoking *Seinfeld* and *The Simpsons*, the eagle-eyed visitor can spot memorabilia from the restaurant or from Skinner's grandfather and namesake, the legendary general manager and Stanley Cup-winning head coach for the Detroit Red Wings.

"It's weird for me, because the most interesting things about me are things that are about my family," Skinner says with a smile. "And I can live with that."

Aside from the family heirlooms and pop-culture ephemera, the home Skinner shares with partner Zoe Wittmann is a cozy space with a DIY art atmosphere, featuring plenty of original wall-paint designs created by Wittmann herself.

"Zoe felt the beige (wall paint) was a little plain, so we went for something a little more fun," Skinner says. "Don't tell our landlord."

1. Daytime gallery

"We've got my grandfather's Cup-winning team at the top. Also his induction into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame. My great-grandfather is down at the bottom. A wood-burned Blinky by Zoe. She's very proud of that, and rightly so."

2. 'A blast from the past'

"When I go (to Skinner's), I get to have dinner with pictures of my dead family members on the wall. For other people to have that, they have to go home."

3. Regular Sized Rudy

"Her front legs are a lot smaller than her back legs, so it looks like she's flexing one."

4. Spooky breakfast nook

"We picked (the painting) up at Value Village, and then we sent it to local comedian and artist Jesse Bercier. He added the Mothman and the tombstones."

5. Custom paint job

"I just think it makes the apartment nicer and easier to spend time in. I can't imagine whoever moves in after us will want to paint it over."



6. Bedroom MC

"I have to have a TV in my bedroom, or I can't fall asleep. I need my white noise. And obviously I can't sleep without my MF Doom gladiator mask."

7. Night gallery

"We try to support local artists as much as possible. Zoe painted the Moe Szyzlak on the wall. The 'Stay sexy & don't get murdered' is by J.D. Renaud."



ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | X FICTIONALCIERRA @CIERRABETTENS

Le Burger Week returns

Dozens of Winnipeg restaurants will present their meaty (and plant-based) creations to compete for the best-burger-in-town crown. Le Burger Week runs from Sept. 1 to 14. A list of participating restaurants can be found at leburgerweek.com.

Shakespeare bites back

It's a drag performance, lecture and anthropomorphic magic trick all in one. *i am your spaniel, or, A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare by Gislina Patterson is We Quit Theatre's take on the Shakespearean classic. The 90-minute performance plays at Video Pool's Output Space (100 Arthur St.) from Sept. 9 to 17. Grab your tickets at bit.ly/3Lb4AZE.

A CHAPEL for the arts

From Sept. 7 to 9, Winnipeg-born artist M3 Dudeck will welcome patrons to a makeshift church of performance art at Graffiti Gallery (109 Higgins Ave.). CHAPEL combines augmented reality, sound and visual arts to illuminate queer spirituality. Winnipeg is the first stop in a multi-year global tour of the show. The opening reception takes place on Sept. 7 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Presenting Planet Love

Gallerie Buhler Gallery's forthcoming exhibition tackles the planet's most pressing injustices – the climate crisis, colonialism, imperialism and capitalism – and meditates on the countering force of love. An opening reception on Sept. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. will welcome a roster of contributing Winnipeg artists to the project, curated by hannah_g. The works will be free to view at the Gallerie Buhler Gallery at St. Boniface Hospital until Nov. 19.

In conversation with Moneca Sinclair

Drop by the Millenium Library's Reading Garden on Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. for an exhilarating conversation with artist Moneca Sinclair. Sinclair is a mixed Cree, Scottish and English multimedia artist who transforms recycled materials and found objects into works of art. During the free talk, she'll discuss her installation displayed on the first floor of the library.

Andino Suns take the WECC

On Saturday, Sept. 9, a musical performance by Regina-based, South American folk-rock band Andino Suns will mark the 50th year since Augusto Pinochet's US-backed Chilean coup d'état. The show will feature the music of the late activist Victor Jara and an opening speech by Giselle Argel. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m.. Tickets are \$20 before fees and can be purchased online at wecc.eventbrite.ca.



NOT ALL SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS

Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in an era of hostility

RIEL LYNCH | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @BADGALGOODBOOKS

On Aug. 29, the Canadian government issued a travel advisory for 2SLGBTQI+ Canadians entering the United States. The move comes in response to a slew of recent anti-2SLGBTQIA+ state legislation across the US. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, at least 496 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in state legislatures in 2023 alone.

Texas is one of the hardest-hit states, with 54 discriminatory bills introduced this year.

"It's been a rough few years for trans and LGBTQIA+ people in Texas," Johnathan Gooch says in an email to *The Uniter*. Gooch is the communications director for Equality Texas, an organization that "works to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Texans through political action, education, community organizing and collaboration."

"Right now, it's illegal for trans youth to access healthcare in this state, so it makes sense for people traveling to Texas to be fully aware of the risks," Gooch says. He notes that despite the hateful agenda pursued by lawmakers, 75 per cent of Texans believe that the law should protect these communities.

While violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ people has risen alongside the number of hate groups in Texas, Gooch says "that does not reflect the whole state. We have the second-largest LGBTQIA+ population in the country. Queer people live in every corner of this state, and if you come

here, you're bound to meet us."

"In the midst of all this rising anti-queer rhetoric, it can be very easy to feel alone," Ashley Smith, director of advocacy at Winnipeg's Rainbow Resource Centre (RRC), says.

Many queer people and allies turn to each other amid challenges, and advocates stress the need for community. There are many ways to build and strengthen supportive communities. With the next Manitoba provincial election scheduled for Oct. 3, Smith encourages people to reach out to candidates with their concerns.

That includes "appealing to our political leadership to make serious decisions about standing for rights of this community" and codifying language in the provincial human-rights code that protects queer communities, Smith says. "Combating hate has to be a top priority for any incoming government."

Premier Heather Stefanson's incumbent Progressive Conservative government has already made this an issue in the election. Stefanson has pledged to expand "parental rights" in schools if re-elected. "Parental rights" has become a popular dog-whistle for anti-2SLGBTQIA+ policies in Canada and the US, giving bigots leverage to erase queer-inclusive material and policies from classrooms.

Saskatchewan and New Brunswick both recently introduced anti-trans school policies under the guise of "parental rights." These policies remove protections



SUPPLIED PHOTO

2SLGBTQIA+ communities across Canada and the US are rallying together after provincial and state legislatures in both countries have introduced a slew of anti-queer and anti-trans bills.

for students who wish to go by their chosen names and pronouns. They also force schools to inform the parents of any child wishing to be referred to by a different name or pronouns, potentially outing transgender students to unsafe families.

While exercising one's right to vote in itself does not build community, the upcoming election does give reason for individuals to share relevant information as to whether candidates are allies to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

RRC offers a range of programs including those for youth, seniors and events like New Pride, which provides support for newcomers to Canada.

Gooch says it's "painful" to hear of Canada's travel advisory, "but I understand it. We wouldn't wish this on anyone, but we're also not leaving. Our state is worth every drop of sweat that we've shed staying up late at committee hearings, organizing the community and rallying together on the steps of the capitol. We're going to keep fighting, because Texans deserve better. If you do find yourself traveling to Texas, I'd recommend reaching out to groups like the Transgender Education Network of Texas.

"In spite of our lawmakers, queer people in Texas are persevering."

CLASSICALLY ACCESSIBLE

Chamber-music organizations usher in budget-friendly experiences

RIEL LYNCH | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @BADGALGOODBOOKS

Is classical music accessible? Historically speaking, no. The genre has an exclusive reputation, likely due to high ticket prices for operas and other concerts. Until the construction of buildings that are barrier-free, access to these venues is limited. Some people may also find classical music out of date and, quite frankly, not relevant to most modern audiences.

Several chamber-music, opera and orchestra organizations across Winnipeg are trying to change that. Virtuosi Concerts Inc. (VCI), in particular, offers student discounts and a pay-it-forward program, where season ticket holders can offer up their seats to others.

Jennifer Thiessen, a violinist and VCI's artistic director, understands that classical-music concerts aren't always accessible.

While VCI offers \$10 student tickets at the door and \$30 tickets for attendees under 30, other full-price single tickets are \$48, "which is not possible for everyone and not for a lot of people," she says. "It's something I relate to. I'm a working musician."

While the pay it forward program is not advertised or marketed on their website, Thiessen expanded on a phone call that the organization strives to prioritize more inclusive opportunities for the general community.

The upcoming VCI season will not take place on the University of Winnipeg campus, as it had in previous years, but the or-

ganization has opted for alternate venues, like St. Andrew's River Heights United Church.

Their season-opener event, *Voice of the Cello*, on Oct. 13 features Stéphane Tétreault on cello and Sandra Murray playing piano. The venue has a cement ramp at its entrance and is just a few metres away from a public street.

However, classical performances aren't confined to traditional venues and concert halls.

The Manitoba Museum is locally renowned for the *Nonsuch*, a replica ship built in 1968 and retired in 1974 from its seafaring days. From Sept. 20 to 23, it will transform into a stage for a Manitoba Underground Opera (MUO) production of composer Giuseppe Verdi's *The Corsair*.

The show features queer historical pirates, and remaining tickets start at \$22 for students, seniors and arts workers.

Janice Marple, administrative director of the MUO, admits that opera traditionally "does have a bit of a reputation for being a little bit stuffy."

However, "one of our big mandates is updating these classic works so that they are relevant for people today and just showing people that ... opera is just storytelling, which is probably the oldest, most universal art form that we have."

Other classical music is accessible just about anywhere at any time. Listeners can tune in to Classic 107.1 FM to hear the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The classical-music quartet Ensemble Made in Canada performs as part of last year's Virtuosi Concerts Inc. season

genre for 20 hours each day (and jazz for the other four). Station hosts often share facts about original composers and modern performers, including Manitoba locals like violinist James Ehnes.

The station also runs giveaways for free tickets to classical-music performances. Listeners can visit the Ticket Window at classic107.com for a chance to win a pair of MCO season passes.

Concert-goers can purchase \$10 student tickets for VC shows at the door. Other tickets are available at virtuosiconcerts.ca/tickets. Visit the MUO website at bit.ly/3r5tAus to buy advance tickets for *The Corsair*.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

JUST ANOTHER GIRL ON THE I.R.T.

Plays at the Dave Barber Cinematheque from Sept. 7 to 10

★★★★☆

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | ✕ MATTEKLE

Among the diverse slate of films screening this weekend at the Dave Barber Cinematheque is *Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.* (1992), director Leslie Harris' only feature film to date.

The film is presented as part of the Memories of Girlhood series at the Cinematheque, curated by Mahlet Cuff, which aims to explore "the vulnerabilities and intricacies of what it means to be a Black girl" with a

blend of fiction and documentary pictures. *Just Another Girl* lies somewhere in between truth and fiction, with a *cinéma vérité* style that eschews loftier independent filmmaking ambition for something real. The film is a story told by 17-year-old Chantel, a feisty Brooklynite with dreams of medical school and a penchant for addressing the audience directly.

Determined to transcend her pover-

ty-stricken trappings, the mostly straight-A student juggles school, romance and her overbearing family with plenty of spunk. But in spite of her fierce convictions and more timid compunctions, Chantel finds herself facing issues of life or death, all before her senior year.

This is a spirited motion picture, with direction just slick enough to keep up with Ariyan Johnson's standout turn as a brash and fervent self-appointed Big Apple teen queen. The young ladies who lead the film are believably affable. They berate and jostle each other endlessly like all true friends do.

Scenes are separated by transitions overlaid with buoyant hip-hop tunes. The era is instantly recognizable. It can be hard to tell if the movie brushes with contrivance, or if it's simply the product of a more genuine era – but either way, it's a mostly joyous urban foray.

The back half of the film aims for the en vogue '90s social consciousness with a sombre tone as the film addresses the confounding agony of teen pregnancy, and Chantel must reluctantly confront her own immaturity. The film falters a bit on this end, as the stilted supporting performances and

occasionally awkward staging veer the picture from slice-of-life sitcom to overwrought afterschool special like the click of a remote.

But 31 years later, it can be easy to underestimate the importance of *Just Another Girl*. Filmed in just over two weeks on a shoestring budget and devoid of many of the alluring eccentricities of, say, a Spike Lee joint, this was only the second feature film directed by an African-American woman to receive theatrical distribution – ever.

Intended to provide a feminine angle on the then-burgeoning genre of hood dramas, there is legitimate credibility lent to Harris' pre-credits declaration that this was "A Film Hollywood Dared Not Do." It's comparatively tame by modern standards but still uncompromising (stow the popcorn during the queasy climax of the film).

Just Another Girl on the I.R.T. can be tidily likened to the conscious hip-hop songs of its era. Kinda cool, sorta clumsy and more poignant than it has any right to be. At the end of the day, it's a gentle reminder to those in need: keep ya head up.

WALK THE GROUND, SHARE THE LAND

Young Lungs and Jaime Black-Morsette endeavour to spiritualize movement

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | ✕ MATTEKLE

The body, movement, the earth: seemingly disparate elements, to those not in the know.

Visual artist Jaime Black-Morsette and the Young Lungs Dance Exchange (YLDE), a non-profit dance organization, are collaborating in an attempt to strengthen the connections between people's bodies and the land.

Home/Body, Home/Land is a four-day performance workshop running throughout September in urban and rural locales. The project is led and masterminded by Black-Morsette, who is a long-time collaborator and former participant in the YLDE residency program.

The program "was a really cool way of exploring my performance practice with a trained dancer and getting into that realm," Black-Morsette says. "Last year, I did a workshop with some dancers, as well ... (YLDE) just wanted to keep that going and keep the momentum going."

The YLDE website invites dancers of all ages and experience levels to "explore the interconnections between our bodies and the land" through the pay-by-donation Home/Body, Home/Land workshop series.

"My practice has really been centered around thinking about the interconnection between ourselves and the land that

we're on and really exploring identity through that," Black-Morsette says.

They hope to shift the perspective of the land as a simple commodity on which people dwell.

"Over the course of colonization, land has become a sellable resource. I don't think about the land that way. It's really an understanding of the land as a living being. I think of myself in relationship to the land like I'm actually building a relationship with someone," she says.

Zorya Arrow, an artist and project manager/administrator at YLDE, says the workshop series also focuses on accessibility.

"Everyone has a body. Everyone can move. Everyone can dance ... I think it's important to remember that," they say. "This workshop really fits in with expanding the idea of dance in terms of thinking about embodiment in different ways and how we use our bodies and space."

The workshop begins on Sept. 9 with a meeting at the Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail, a locale that has personal significance for Black-Morsette.

"My grandfather spent time there. That bog is full of medicine. It's all cedar, and a lot of people go out there to harvest cedar for traditional ceremony," they say. "I



MEGAN MOUSSEAU (SUPPLIED)

Artist Jaime Black-Morsette performs her piece *They Tried to Bury Us*.

want to pull the dancers into that space and allow them that connection to that space and have that become, in some way, a part of their practice."

On Sept. 10, the workshop moves to The Forks, where participants will visit Camp Marcedes, intended to honour murder victim Marcedes Myran and spread awareness for the ongoing calls to search a landfill near Winnipeg for more victims of alleged serial killer Jeremy Skibicki. The workshop will then move to in-studio work on Sept. 23 and 24.

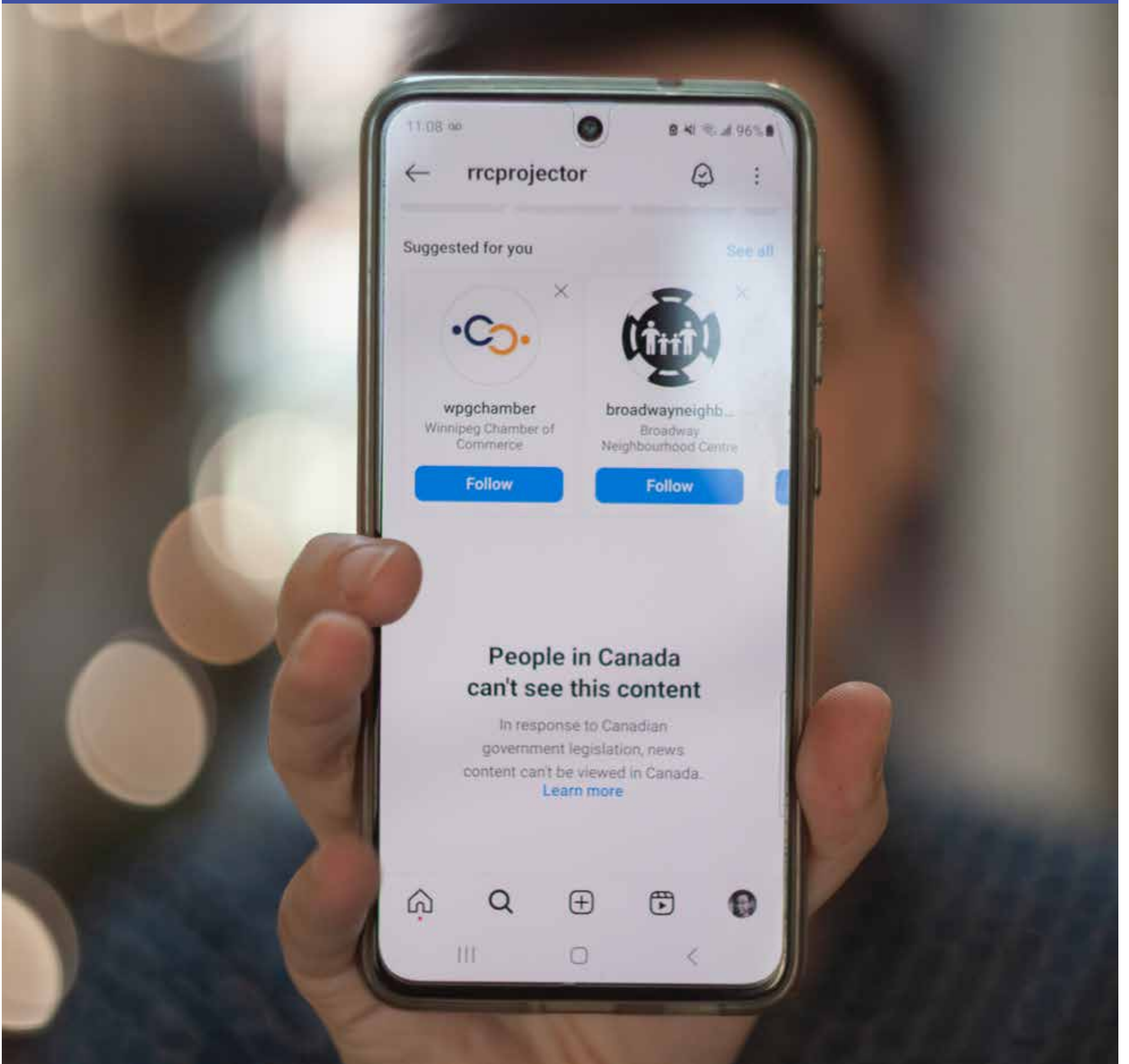
Home/Body, Home/Land wraps up

with a special performance on Sept. 30 from Black-Morsette to commemorate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. And while reticent on details, she says it's for good reason.

"The performance is going to be informed by the work we do together in the workshop. I want the people I'm working with to have a voice in how we pull things together for that," they say. "But it's really thinking about those same themes of what does it mean to be on this land and the responsibility and the fraught history."

BLOCKED OUT

Social-media news shutout is a major barrier for readership



Marshal Hodgins, editor-in-chief of *The Projector* newspaper at Red River College Polytechnic, holds up his phone showing the newspaper's blocked Instagram page.

When users open Instagram on any device, search the name of any Canadian news organization and pull up the related account page, they're met with a blank screen and the statement "People in Canada can't see this content. In response to Canadian government legislation, news content can't be viewed in Canada."

Millions of Canadians rely on local news coverage for information about the weather, sports scores, traffic updates and student events. These networks and newspapers discuss and provide accountability for issues that national coverage often overlooks. Community and campus journalism help people access information about things that matter on a local level.

But on June 22, Meta, the parent company of Face-

book, Instagram, Threads and WhatsApp, announced plans to remove access to this kind of information on its platforms in response to the Online News Act, which sets up a bargaining framework that requires online platforms like Meta and Google to compensate news organizations for use of their content. Canadians have since lost access to news organizations' social-media pages across Meta's platforms.

Denis Dorge, a student at Red River College Polytechnic, uses social media as his main source for news.

"I feel like, especially for the younger generation, nobody watches TV news. We all get it through social media," Dorge says. "So if (Meta is) blocking the news through social media, how else are younger people go-

ing to stay informed?"

Dorge is not alone in relying on and trusting social media for news. According to an Ipsos study, Gen Z Canadians (68 per cent) were more trusting of information on social media than Millennials (55 per cent), Gen X (56 per cent) and Baby Boomers (45 per cent).

A Statista study found that, in 2021, Canadians spent an average of more than five hours with digital media each day.

With so many Canadians using social media as their main source for information, news organizations have been utilizing and, in some cases, working directly with tech platforms like Google and Meta to share their journalism with the public.



Gillian Brown is the editor-in-chief for *The Manitoban* student newspaper at the University of Manitoba.

Local impact

Student newspapers often rely on social media to connect with new readers on campus and engage with their existing audiences.

Gillian Brown is the editor-in-chief of *The Manitoban*, the student newspaper for the University of Manitoba. She says student papers play a special role on campuses in reaching the student body that's rarely done elsewhere.

"At the U of M, there's no journalism program, so student papers give students the opportunity to learn about journalism, to learn about how to write, to gain leadership experiences," Brown says.

"I think that we're a bridge between students because we're students, and we're communicating with students, and students are communicating with us."

Brown says Meta's block has caused *The Manitoban* to lose its most popular ways to share stories, get engagement and generate awareness of its print versions.

"We can post, but readers can't access our stuff on Facebook and Instagram, and you can't share links, either," Brown says. She mentions that the paper is hiring a copy editor, but she can't share a link to the job posting, even on her personal social-media accounts.

Marshal Hodgins, editor-in-chief for RRC Polytech's student newspaper, *The Projector*, says past teams used to post content on Twitter (now X) and the paper's website, but their biggest draw was Instagram.

He says the *Projector* team is trying to find new ways to connect with readers. This includes sharing content on TikTok and eventually launching an app that's in development.

Hodgins says it's going to be a challenging publishing year, because *The Projector* doesn't have a large audience outside of Instagram.

"I'm hopeful that we can take our readership and connect with them elsewhere and still have them be engaged. But it's hard to say what that's gonna look like," he says.

Papers and politics

Meta's decision to block news content on its platforms can be traced back to the Online News Act, previously known as Bill C-18. First read in Parliament on April 5, 2023, the act is significantly influenced by the Australian government legislation called the News Media Bargaining Code. The act received royal assent on June 22 and will come into effect on Dec. 19.

The Online News Act's main purpose is to ensure that news companies are fairly compensated for use of their content by tech platforms such as Google and Meta, according to a statement from the Canadian government.

According to the Local News Research Project, between 2008 and June 1, 2023, 474 local news operations closed in 335 communities across Canada. In Manitoba alone, 30 news organizations have shuttered since 2008.

Brent Jolly, president of the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ), says Canadian news organizations are in a precarious financial state, with Meta and Google increasingly attracting more advertising revenue that would've gone to news organizations.

"This legislation is an opportunity to reset that relationship or at least rebalance it in a way that would allow news organizations to negotiate collectively for a much more fair deal with tech platforms than the one-off or asymmetrical arrangements that they've been seeking or signing and agreeing with news organizations for the better part of the last decade and a half," he says.

Jolly says the fact that Meta has placed clauses in existing agreements so they



Brent Jolly is the president of the Canadian Association of Journalists.



The Manitoban published a large QR code on its front page to direct readers to their website as a measure to counteract Meta's blackout of Canadian news.

can end the contract if any governments pass laws that regulate Meta, shows that they have thought about this before and feel threatened by any form of regulation.

"Why do we invest so much belief in, so much trust and so much time into these organizations and their products if they might not necessarily have the best interests of our society at heart?" Jolly says.

Paul Samyn, editor for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, bristles at the suggestion that Facebook hasn't benefited from newspapers in the same way that newspapers have benefited from Facebook.

"A lot of people, it kills me when people say this, but they will argue that they get their news from Facebook. Facebook doesn't create news. It doesn't have any reporters, and it doesn't have a single newsroom, but it's a place where those who create news have stories available," he says.

Facebook has faced criticism and concern over the platform's content and pervasive "fake news," and Samyn says having trusted journalistic organizations like the *Free Press* posting helps Meta.

"A key thing here is anytime anyone goes onto Facebook, their data goes with them. That data informs Facebook and allows it to make decisions about content that advertisers can use."

Samyn says if Google follows through on its threat to remove news from its search, there could be a situation where two of the largest social-media and tech plat-

forms would prevent Canadians from accessing news.

"From any credible news organization, that just doesn't hurt the *Free Press*. It hurts everyone, and, in doing so, I think undermines what a modern society needs to be informed on what's happening."

Caught in the crossfire

Shannon Sampert, part-time professor at the University of Manitoba and *Winnipeg Free Press* columnist, says Meta's actions disrupt democracy, even at the university level.

"You have to remember that universities (and) student unions have remarkably large budgets and are responsible for the governance of remarkably large numbers of students," Sampert says. "There's also election campaigns that are coming up for student unions that you expect student newspapers to cover ... in a way that would allow the students' information."

She says Meta blocking news may impact voter turnout in the upcoming Manitoba general election.

"When you look at the lack of news availability in certain spots, you'll also see there's a corresponding lower electoral turnout," Sampert says. "So it'll be interesting to see, with the lack of news coverage available on Facebook, whether or not we're going to see an even lower voter turnout in the next Manitoba election."

Brown says the Online News Act has no consideration for student news organizations.



Paul Samyn is the editor for the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

“As students, I feel like we’re left out of the conversation a lot, and that’s something that we kind of saw with the bill. We’re not part of the bill, but we’re still being treated as if we are.”

The Canadian University Press (CUP) represents student journalism on a national level. Andrew Mrozowski, the organization’s president, says most CUP member papers prioritize posting things online to websites and social media, rather than printing. He says because social media has been the easiest way to connect with students, it’s going to be an uphill battle to try to figure out equally successful alternatives.

“It’s extremely important to note that under the current wording of Bill C-18, student journalists and student journalism are not captured under the legislation. Yet we are blocked by Meta,” Mrozowski says in an email to *The Uniter*.

“We are caught in the crossfire, a fight between tech giants and the government.”

With the uncertainty of what the Canadian news landscape holds for *The Manitoban* and other organizations, Brown sees print newspapers as more important than ever before.

“We’re relying really heavily on print right now, and there’s been some discussions behind the scenes and among student papers generally about a move to online only the past few years. I know a lot of student papers have moved totally online, and I’m really hoping to make sure that that does not happen” at *The Manitoban*, Brown says.

“We’ve been around for 110 years. We’ve been through world wars and the Great Depression and the pandemic, and we’re still here. Students need us, and as long as students need us, we’ll be here.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Shannon Sampert is a part-time professor at the University of Manitoba and a *Winnipeg Free Press* columnist.



Marshal Hodgins, editor-in-chief of *The Projector*

CITY BRIEFS

TESSA ADAMSKI | CITY EDITOR | X TESSA_ADAMSKI @TESSA.ADAMSKI

A series of strikes

As the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries workers’ five-week strike ends, two new strikes begin. On Aug. 28, more than 1,700 MPI workers under the Manitoba Government Employment Union (MGEU) Locals 62-68 began walking the picket line to demand wage increases to keep up with the cost of living. The United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 832 representing 30 staff members at Celebrations Dinner Theatre began picketing on Sept. 6.

Food-bank supports return

Students are back on campus, and the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association food bank is once again open. Students and community members can sign up for the food bank by calling Harvest Manitoba at 204-982-3660 or emailing appointments@harvestmanitoba.ca. Folks can pick up their food hamper every Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Bulman Student Centre. Walk-in clients will be entered into a lottery system for food distribution at 3:30 p.m.

NDP healthcare campaign pledges

Manitoba NDP Leader Wab Kinew has pledged to rebuild three Winnipeg emergency rooms as part of his strategy to allocate \$500 million toward a healthcare recruitment plan. If Kinew is elected on Oct. 3, he plans to hire 300 nurses, 400 physicians and 200 paramedics. He also pledges to build a new ER at Victoria Hospital and restore emergency services at the Concordia and Seven Oaks hospitals over a five-year period to address the healthcare staffing crisis.

Family resource centre celebrating 25 years

Acorn Family Place, a multi-service resource centre dedicated to supporting families, is hosting a week-long celebration for their 25th anniversary from Sept. 11 to 15. The centre offers free licensed childcare and respite, counselling services, wrap-around support for families involved with Child and Family Services, work-experience training and access to food hampers, clothing and more. The celebration includes family-friendly activities and a community event on Friday.

Compost program awaiting council approval

Winnipeg is one of the few large cities in Canada that does not yet offer a curbside compost collection program. The City of Winnipeg is waiting for full-council approval on the proposed service, which is expected to begin in 2030. If the program is approved, single-family households would pay an annual fee of \$8 to save money for green carts and kitchen pails. Each household’s waste-diversion fee would increase by \$96 in 2030, in addition to the existing \$69.46 annual charge.

U of W to host Building Trans Solidarity series

The new Building Trans Solidarity event series at the University of Winnipeg will bring academics, educators, students and artists together to learn about issues Two-Spirit, transgender and non-binary communities face, while celebrating their resiliency and work toward a more inclusive future. Organizers hope this series will strengthen trans rights and help facilitate conversations on campus. The first event is on Sept. 23, and the series will include roundtable discussions, keynote lectures and an art and performance showcase.

A LASTING IMPACT

The West Broadway Bear Clan turns five

AVA FEARN | CITY REPORTER | ✕ AVAWRITRESS

Community members held a powwow at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre green space to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Bear Clan Patrol's West Broadway chapter this summer.

Volunteers first formed the Indigenous-led patrol in the North End in 1992 to provide a community-based alternative approach to crime prevention, safety and conflict resolution while embracing relationship building and reconciliation philosophies.

The organization practises the traditional responsibility of offering security to the Indigenous community, which was estimated to encompass 102,000 people in Winnipeg as of 2021, and focuses on maintaining cultural values.

"Bear Clan is non-judgmental, non-violent and non-confrontational," Angela Klassen, West Broadway Bear Clan Patrol coordinator, says. "The West Broadway community welcomed us right from day one, and they've never really stopped."

More than 1,500 volunteers work to build meaningful relationships and trust with community members in the West Broadway, Elmwood and North End neighbourhoods.

"When you're in the Bear Clan, it's

more like a family," Klassen says. When her husband died four years ago, Bear Clan volunteers provided encouragement and support.

"They really surrounded us with love, and that's what Bear Clan is about: taking care of the community and surrounding each other with love," she says.

Founded in March 2018, Klassen says the West Broadway chapter has become a pillar in the neighbourhood, addressing gaps in social services.

They have since taken on the responsibility of community ambassadors, representing West Broadway at various events. The Winnipeg Bear Clan is locally known for their efforts to pick up discarded needles, and Klassen hopes to expand access to safe-injection sites and addiction treatment programs.

From September 2022 to January 2023, the three Bear Clan chapters picked up a combined 11,000 needles in West Broadway, Elmwood and the North End.

"Five years from now, I hope that we're going to be doing the same thing on a (larger) scale," Klassen says. "We do have some chapters in other parts of the country, but we'd like to have one in every major city."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Bear Clan Patrol's West Broadway chapter celebrated its fifth anniversary in June.

Volunteer Michael Thiessen says there's still work to be done in West Broadway. Patrols regularly help unhoused people with issues involving food insecurity and immediate first aid. He says many of these people resort to sleeping in tents or under bridges because they have nowhere else to go. Many have no place to safely store food, and some lack health cards, which makes accessing medical care difficult.

Thiessen patrols, participates in needle pickup and hands out food, clothing and

water. "My goal is to see everyone have a roof over their head, food in their stomach and clothes on their back," he says.

The West Broadway Bear Clan patrols Thursdays and Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Broadway Neighborhood Centre located at 185 Young St. 30 minutes before the scheduled start time.

'CONNECT WITH SOME COMMUNITY AND SOME HOPE'

Winnipeg Suicide Prevention Network to host community gathering

AVA FEARN | CITY REPORTER | ✕ AVAWRITRESS

The Winnipeg Suicide Prevention Network (WSPN) hopes to raise suicide awareness through a community gathering on Sept. 8 at the Norwood Community Centre. The event is scheduled to coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day on Sept. 10.

Approximately 215 people in Manitoba died by suicide between 2015 and 2021, according to provincial health data. The WSPN is among local organizations hoping to help people contemplating suicide and educate about suicide warning signs.

The network includes professionals who work in fields related to suicide prevention, as well as other people who share this goal.

WSPN helps fund organizations that directly support people at risk for suicide or host events helping people talk about suicide, Curt Sparkes, co-chair of the WSPN and volunteer coordinator at Klinik Community Health, says.

This year, the community event's theme is Life Promotion Through Hope and Renewal Through Nature. Organizers hope this event, which incorporates activities involving trees, will encourage participants to connect with nature.

Sparkes says he hopes the event will help people find strength when dealing with any overwhelming feelings. He also hopes the event can be a source of com-

munity support for people who have been affected by suicide.

For many people, seeking community can be tough. Conversations surrounding mental health have shifted over the years, Vycki Atallah, a public-education coordinator at Klinik, says. However, stigma surrounding suicide, depression and self-harming behaviours may prevent some people from reaching out.

"We want to normalize seeking help, (and) we also want folks to see warning signs as invitations to ask without judgement and try to link folks to ongoing support," she says. Warning signs of suicide can include withdrawal from family or friends, excessive drinking or drug use and giving away formerly treasured possessions.

Klinik offers ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) programming, a two-day course that helps participants practise suicide-prevention strategies. Atallah is one of the two ASIST trainers.

"I think having a World Suicide Prevention Day is important to mark that occasion, and I ... feel that we should be able to talk about this all year-round as much as we can," she says.

Although the topics of suicide and prevention can feel intense for people, Sparkes urges those struggling to consider at-



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

tending the community event.

"I would really invite folks to maybe take a bit of a risk and come on down and join us and fight through any of those feelings ... and to connect with some community and some hope," he says.

The event takes place at 87 Walmer St. and begins at 9:30 a.m. It will include light refreshments, mental-health speakers, a tree-potting station, an art station and an opportunity to try tonglen, a Buddhist meditation practice.

Anyone struggling with suicidal thoughts can call the Manitoba Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-877-435-7170 or the Klinik Crisis Line at 1-888-322-3019. The Crisis Response Centre at 817 Bannatyne Ave. accepts walk-ins and is open 24/7.

U of W students who need non-emergency mental-health supports can contact Student Wellness at 204-258-3809 to schedule a counselling appointment.



REBUILDING BRIDGES WITH STUDENTS

Cheaper campus food, free menstrual products among recent UWSA wins

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER | X MIEKERUTH

Tomiris Kaliyeva, president of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA), and Christine Quiah, vice-president of student affairs, hope to demonstrate to students that the UWSA is there to help.

"By the end of our term, I would like to see a positive impact ... between the UWSA and students," Kaliyeva says.

"A lot of people really don't know what the UWSA is or they don't really view us as their friends. That's one thing we're desperately trying to change with the departments and the students."

The new UWSA executive team has a lot of work to do to rebuild those bridges. The last several executives have been riddled with scandal and dysfunction.

On June 5, 2020, outgoing UWSA vice-president external affairs Mahlet Cuff accused the incoming Envision 2020 executive slate of being complicit in a campaign of racist and misogynist harassment carried out against Cuff and their colleagues during the election.

The harassment was allegedly carried out by David Teffaine and Sam Cohn, associates of the Envision slate. Envision and Teffaine quickly released a video denying the allegations and defending Teffaine, but, by June 8, photos of Teffaine in blackface resurfaced on social media.

The video was deleted, an investigation ensued, and president Jibril Hussein and vice-president external affairs Breanna Belisle promptly resigned. Hussein accused the UWSA of being the "most toxic environment" he had ever experienced which "perpetuate(d) the same pervasive racism and prejudice they claim to actively be against."

In April 2022, then-president Kirt Hayer was the subject of three separate complaints from UWSA executives, candidates and student groups alleging various forms of misconduct. Hayer denied the allegations and was sidelined from his duties during a lengthy investigation.

On Jan. 31, 2023, the UWSA released the results of the investigation, which cleared Hayer of wrongdoing, freeing Hayer to return to his duties. On March 15, he was defeated in the election by Kaliyeva.

Quiah, Kaliyeva and Jonathan Henderson, vice-president external affairs, stepped into their executive roles with a roster of ideas to improve the student experience, and they've been working to launch different initiatives for the start of the school year.

Kaliyeva's excitement is palpable as she describes how they're already on track to deliver on one of her biggest personal priorities: free menstrual products. The UWSA has approved funding to install and continually stock dispensers in eight washrooms across campus.

"I think that's something that had to be done a long time ago," she says, mentioning that accessible period-care products are necessities, since "we don't have a choice to bleed or not, right?"

The UWSA is also advocating for other campus quality-of-life improvements, including extended library hours during exam periods and expanded weekend hours at the Bill Wedlake Fitness Centre to better accommodate international students' typical work schedules.

The UWSA also worked with Todd Mondor, U of W president and vice-chancellor, and



PHOTO BY ISIAH SANCHEZ

The "student saver menu" at Diversity Foods, which added \$6 and \$7 menu items for student diners, is a recent initiative led by the University of Winnipeg Students' Association's executive.

Ian Vickers, chief operating officer for Diversity Foods, to roll out a "student saver menu" of \$6 and \$7 items for campus cafeterias on Sept. 5. The menu's items are light lunch fare: a two-egg omelette, half-sized versions of existing Pangaea's Kitchen items and two protein-heavy bowls.

Quiah is focused on improving collaboration between the university's Wellness Centre and the UWSA.

She wants to ensure students are regularly reminded of the centre's services, including REES (which stands for Respect Educate Empower Survivors), a trauma-informed online reporting tool that the university partnered with as part of its Sexual Violence Prevention Policy and Procedures.

"We want REES and the Wellness Centre

in all of our activities or events that UWSA hosts," Quiah says.

She hopes to improve service accessibility through Wellness Centre booths at campus events and the addition of QR codes linking to REES on promotional materials.

Looking forward, Kaliyeva and Quiah have their sights set on the upcoming provincial election. The pair hope that foregrounding their experiences as international students can help make a lasting impression in meetings with candidates.

"When we talk about housing, we talk about how international students have to compromise food to afford rent," Kaliyeva says. "I think that really helps in the meetings ... when they really feel (that) emotionally ... that's what leads people to sometimes make decisions."

1C03 EXHIBIT EXPLORES SPIRITUALISM, GHOSTS, PANDEMICS

The Undead Archive reimagines 1930s supernatural photographs

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER | X MIEKERUTH

A spectre is haunting Centennial Hall.

The Undead Archive: 100 Years of Photographing Ghosts, a multi-site exhibition curated by University of Winnipeg art-history professor Dr. Serena Keshavjee, opens in Gallery 1C03 on Sept. 7.

It features 25 artists' photography, textiles and works in other mediums. *The Undead Archive* is anchored by extensive material from the Hamilton Family Fonds at the University of Manitoba Archives. This material documents Winnipeg couple Dr. Thomas Glendenning (T.G.) and Lillian Hamilton's obsession with spiritualism in the 1920s and '30s.

Many contemporary works in the exhibit directly reference or recreate material from the Hamilton archive, whose crown jewel is a series of striking portraits where a thick "ectoplasm" appears to be bursting forth from female subjects' mouths.

"My theory is that part of the reason that contemporary artists and people like Guy Maddin are interested in these photos is because of (their) modern look," Keshavjee says.

Maddin, who is featured in the exhibit,

included the Hamiltons' photographs in his 2007 film *My Winnipeg*.

"Modernist art has clean lines, contrasts and has a scientific look," Keshavjee says. "Modernist art and science grew up together, and I think there's an appeal in these photographs because of that semi-minimalist aesthetic."

She explains that while Lillian first took interest in séances as a parlour game, by 1922 her deepening fascination with spiritualism eventually drew in her husband's zeal for scientific experimentation.

T.G. then set up the "séance laboratory" where the exhibition's archival material was produced. The next year, *Sherlock Holmes* author and psychical researcher Sir Arthur Conan Doyle came to Winnipeg to give a talk titled "Proofs of Immortality," which the Hamiltons attended.

"Before he gave the talk, Conan Doyle came to Hamilton's laboratory and sat in it," Keshavjee says. "There's paragraphs in (Doyle's memoirs) about the table charging through the air, flying. He couldn't contain it. It was so powerful. It was like a restless dog."



PHOTO BY ISIAH SANCHEZ

The Undead Archive, which runs until Nov. 10 at Gallery 1C03, features new works inspired by the allegedly paranormal photos of T.G. and Lillian Hamilton.

The Undead Archive foregrounds the personal and collective historical contexts in which both the archival material and the contemporary works were produced. The Hamiltons' son died in the 1919 influenza pandemic, as did many of T.G.'s patients.

Many of the exhibitions' contemporary pieces call direct attention to the parallels between that pandemic and the collective experience of COVID-19.

Northern Manitoban artist teresa burrows produced her extensive contributions to *The Undead Archive* during lockdowns in 2020 and 2021.

"I was lucky, because I was locked in the north, and I had nothing but my wild

senses to just go at it," burrows says.

She hopes that her work, which includes a mixed-media piece depicting Canada's chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam, can help challenge the devaluation of craft as a legitimate art form.

"When I tell people I do beadwork, they simply assume I'm either doing jewelry or moccasins. I'm not doing a beadwork that would necessarily be a comment on the past and a voice for the future," burrows says.

***The Undead Archive* runs in Gallery 1C03 until Nov. 10. There will be a three-part opening reception at 1C03 on Sept. 21, including a bus tour shuttling guests to the exhibition's other two sites at the University of Manitoba.**



'SHARING LIFE STORIES'

Dr. Eunhee Buettner, instructor and Tutoring Centre acting coordinator

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER | @THANDIVERA

Dr. Eunhee Buettner's journey into academia began with her earliest memories of growing up in a small fishing village in Namhae, South Korea. Close-knit relationships between teachers and students influenced her views on education.

"Because the school was very small, teachers and students were very close together," she says. "After school, we went swimming with the teacher, and sometimes we went to the teacher's house and played games together."

These cherished memories continue to shape Buettner's teaching philosophy as an acting coordinator of the Tutoring Centre and an academic-writing instructor at the University of Winnipeg.

"I really value the relationship with the students and each student, no matter how many I have," she says. "I try my best to get to know each student individually. It's not just about teaching. It's about sharing life stories together."

Buettner's journey toward becoming an educator started during her college years, when she pursued a degree in English research and linguistics. Her fascination with language and desire to share the beauty of English with others fueled her aspiration to

become an English teacher.

"I wanted to teach English to those who were eager to learn," she says.

In 2008, she moved to Winnipeg to pursue a PhD in Teaching English as an Additional Language (TEAL) education at the University of Manitoba. Buettner says her dedication to students, coupled with her own experiences as an international student, has molded her into an empathetic and compassionate educator.

"I hold a special place in my heart for immigrants and refugees, particularly the younger ones," she says. "Their stories are deeply moving, and I am committed to supporting them in their educational journey."

Beyond the classroom, Buettner finds solace in nature, often taking serene walks in Kings Park and at FortWhyte Alive. "Being around nature really brings a healing to me. It just makes me happy," she says.

What was your favorite toy growing up?

"I grew up in a small town, so I didn't have a toy when I was young, but when I was in Grade 5, I got a Barbie doll. I



SUPPLIED PHOTO

loved the doll so much I actually treated it like a human."

What was your worst grade in school?

"Well, I was a little bit (of a) nerd actually, but my worst grade was a C-plus. That was really (my) first time and last time getting a C-plus."

What is one of your favorite hobbies?

"I love gardening. In fact, this summer, I

planted a sunflower seed, and it grew to almost 10 feet!"

What's something people don't know about you?

"I collect small rocks, and some people think that it's weird, but no, I used to do that as well when I was back home. So I have a collection of pebbles and rocks."



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

UNDERGRADUATE ADD/DROP PERIOD – MAKE YOUR CHANGES!

Course changes (adds and drops) can be made **Sept. 5-18**.

The final day to drop a regularly-scheduled U2023F or U2023FW course for full refund is **Sept. 18**.

Find more information at: uwinnipeg.ca/registration

STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The Study Skills series kicks off this year with two new topics: How to Learn Math (**Sept 11/13**) and Dealing with School-related Stress (**Sept 15**). The series continues with sessions on note-taking, how to use the library, time management, and more. For details and to register, please go to: uwinnipeg.ca/study-skills

MONEY TALKS

The Awards and Financial Aid Office is launching a new series "Money Talks." The series will cover topics such as applying for awards and managing student finances. Starting **Tues., Sept. 12**, sessions will run Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom.

To register, please visit: uwinnipeg.ca/awards

CAREER CHATS ON INSTAGRAM

Career Chats are live sessions on Instagram that feature advice from

an employer or career-related expert. Hosted by Career Services, these live sessions take place every other Thursday at 11:00 am on UWinnipeg Instagram.

September sessions feature Career Advisor Deanna England (**Thurs., Sept. 14**) and Kamillah El-Giadaa from Volunteer Manitoba (**Thurs., Sept. 28**).

STUDENT ID CARDS

If you haven't got your Student ID Card yet, you can still order it. (Returning students: Continue to use your same card.) For instructions, please go to: uwinnipeg.ca/student-id-cards

WANTED: VOLUNTEER NOTE-TAKERS

Are you interested in doing some volunteer work while you are attending classes this fall?

There may be students in your classes who need access to quality notes for reasons related to a disability or medical condition. Accessibility Services is seeking volunteer notetakers to fill this need.

If your instructor makes a request for a volunteer notetaker in one of your classes, please consider signing up! It's a great way to sharpen your own note-taking skills and help out another student at the same time. Contact vnt@uwinnipeg.ca for more information.

ON A WAITLIST? CHECK YOUR WEBMAIL EVERY DAY

After classes have started, if you are

still on a waitlist for your preferred course section, you should continue to check your webmail account daily for permission to register off of the waitlist.

If a space becomes available for you during the Course Add/Drop Period, you will receive an email letting you know that you can register through WebAdvisor. Register immediately!

For Fall Term, the waitlist will run for the last time on **Mon., Sept. 18** which is the last day to register for a Fall or Fall/Winter Term course.

Find more information at: uwinnipeg.ca/registration

UWSA'S HEALTH PLAN AND U-PASS

The deadline to opt out of the Greenshield health plan is **Mon., Sept. 18**.

U-Passes are available at the Info Booth in Centennial Hall. (New students: You will need to get your Student ID Card first.)

For details, please see: theuwsa.ca/healthplan

PAY TUITION THE EASY WAY

Fall (U2023F) and Fall/Winter Term (U2023FW) fees are due **Thurs., Sept. 21**. Note that this is NOT the same date as the last day to be eligible for refund (see Add/Drop period above).

Pay tuition the easy way - through your bank or credit union! Students can pay for Fall and Fall/Winter Term

undergraduate courses as a bill payment through their financial institution (online, telephone, or in-person at a branch) using their seven-digit student number as the account number.

International students should use Flywire.com.

More information is here: uwinnipeg.ca/fees

UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Are you a UWinnipeg student who wants to study abroad and explore the world? Studying in another country offers students the unique opportunity to attend a university for one or two terms in another part of the world, while retaining UWinnipeg student status. The first Information Session on the Exchange Program will be held in-person on **Thurs., Sept. 21, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**, in Room 2M70.

Details here: uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad

NEED A SPOT TO STORE YOUR STUFF? RENT A LOCKER!

Locker rentals are available in various locations. Find details and cost, along with an online form, here: uwinnipeg.ca/lockers



ONE GREEN CITY

Unclear critical-minerals strategy sparks demand for answers

ALLYN LYONS | COLUMNIST | @ALLYNLYONS

While navigating the climate crisis, governments have to balance people's needs with the planet's health. Switching to wind turbines and electric cars obviously helps wean communities off coal and oil. However, renewable energy systems come with their own environmental risks.

Critical minerals are components used to power green energy technology. The magnets that turn wind turbines are powered by neodymium, among other rare earth elements.

Twenty-nine of the 31 minerals on Canada's 2021 critical-minerals list can be found in Manitoba, including lithium, graphite, silica, nickel, cobalt and copper. The Manitoba government recently released their new Critical Minerals Strategy, a declaration to potential extraction companies "that Manitoba is open for business."

Seven organizations, including Mining-Watch Canada, the Wilderness Committee and Camp Morning Star have penned an open letter recommending the PC government delay implementing this new strategy.

One of their main criticisms is that they believe the government's policy was unnecessarily rushed, unclear and developed without public consultation.

It's unclear who the Province *did* consult. While they claim to have spoken to Indigenous groups, the government has not specified which groups they spoke to. It's irresponsible for a government to be secretive regarding who they consult with and seemingly uninterested in hearing from the potentially affected public.

Without knowing who the Province con-

sulted while creating this and other policies, people can't know whose interests the government prioritizes.

"Manitoba can be a leader in the most sustainable mining practices in the world. We do not need to repeat the mistakes made in the past. This requires collaboration and meaningful consideration of all voices, not just the voices of those who will benefit financially," the open letter reads.

Camp Morning Star, located about two hours north of Winnipeg, is already protesting a silica mine established near Hollow Water First Nation.

Silica mining can cause silicosis, a long-term lung disease caused by breathing in silica dust, and the drainage of acidic water into surrounding waterways, which can harm wildlife.

The risk of acidic water draining is highly likely in open-pit mining and can have lasting effects. A British Columbia mine that was shut down 60 years ago still leaks acid runoff into Alaska's Taku River, which supports five salmon species and is important for both the seafood and sport-fishing industries.

"It is unclear how the strategy is going to improve consultation opportunities and ensure Indigenous communities are able to give, or withhold, their free, prior and informed consent to mining developments," Mary Jane McCarron from Camp Morning Star says.

"Manitoba's strategy does not address the need to mitigate and regulate the negative environmental impacts of mining activities," Jamie Kneen, a MiningWatch Canada spokesperson, says. "Measures need to be included to prevent



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

mining disasters and better protect the health of communities and the environment."

The organizations behind the letter would like to see a future mining strategy that incorporates consideration of cumulative impacts into the provincial environmental policy; prioritizing positive relationships with mining workers, unions and impacted communities; and financial sureties to ensure cleanup costs mining activities are not paid for by citizens.

While switching to greener energy alternatives is a step in the right direction, it

shouldn't be rushed. Mining presents health and environmental challenges that Manitoba shouldn't barrel toward without due care and attention to the potential negative effects of "solutions."

Allyn Lyons is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and Red River College's Creative Communications joint-degree program. It's pronounced uh-lyn.

UNIVERSITY CULTURE IN FLUX

Why come to the U of W?

PATRICK HARNEY | COMMENTS EDITOR

As a smaller institution, fostering an internal culture is integral to attracting students to the University of Winnipeg (U of W). When I weighed my options, my perception of the university's culture brought me in.

When entering my final year of high school, I was presented with the same question as many other university-bound students in Manitoba: the U of W or the University of Manitoba (U of M)?

On the one hand, the U of M represents a traditional university offering options at all levels of study, from undergraduate to doctoral. It boasts big class sizes, a large campus and a robust series of on-campus amenities.

Conversely, the U of W is primarily an undergraduate institution with few graduate programs. The school has compact class sizes and a smaller campus nestled in the city's downtown.

What drew me to the school was the U of W's culture as a liberal-arts university with progressive values and an active student body. University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) initiatives, such as the Indigenous course requirement and divestment, emphasized that the U of W was the school for those seeking a critical and engaged education.

When I started classes, the school lived up to my expectations. Student organizing seemed like it was everywhere when you walked through Centennial Hall.

Small class sizes meant professors were often willing to engage with students. The campus' location granted students access to a thriving downtown.

The U of W has experienced a series of shake-ups in recent years. A UWSA executive resigned after allegations of racism. A recent talk at the U of W sparked outrage from many due to its transphobic themes, and the U of W administration experienced several departures of senior staffers, many of whom were women.

In a CBC article referencing the controversial talk and its transphobic themes, one student expressed, "The university is a historical place of student activism and human rights, so it seems very bizarre to me why they would promote this talk that is specifically singling out trans people."

The repeated controversies seem to imply that the U of W is struggling with its position as a progressive institution. In light of these recent events at the university, my first reaction was to declare that the experience at the U of W is changing for the worse.

There is still a strong student and faculty component who remain dedicated to an activist approach. The UWSA quickly reacted to last year's transphobic talk controversy by organizing an on-campus protest, and students often hold rallies for Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ rights. But the U of W's administration seems to want the school to change.

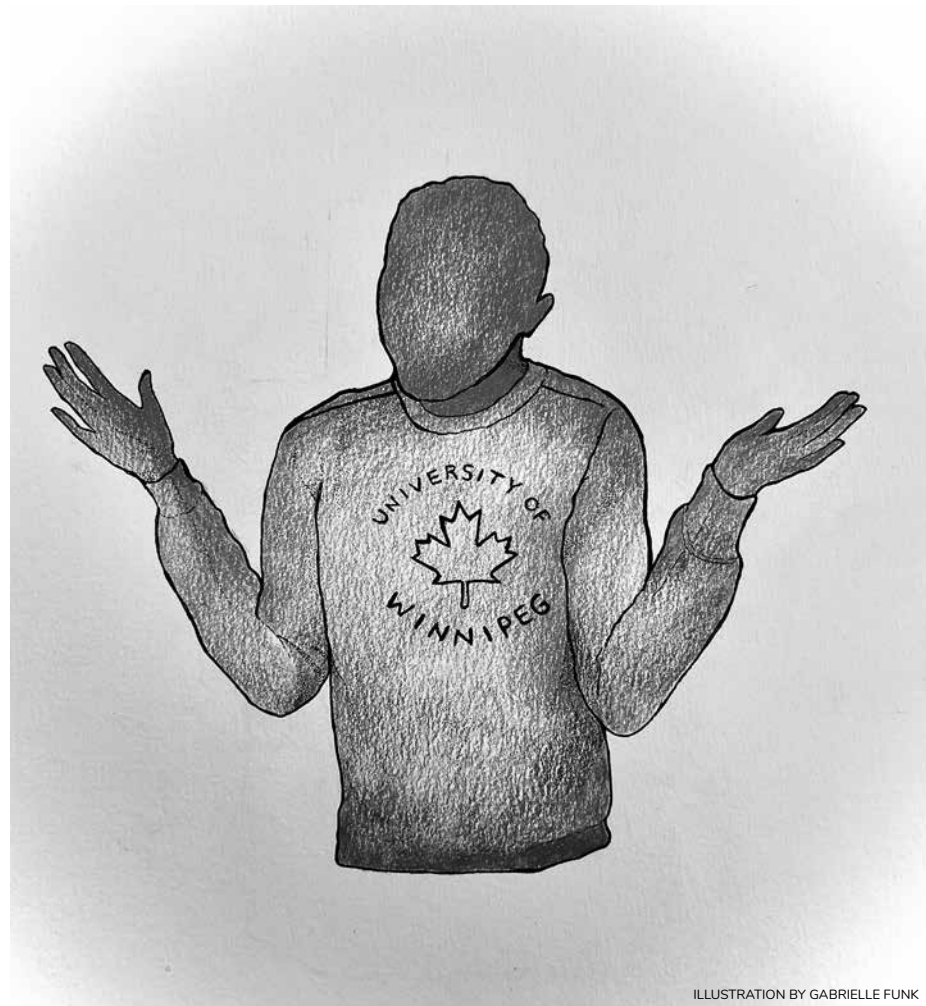


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

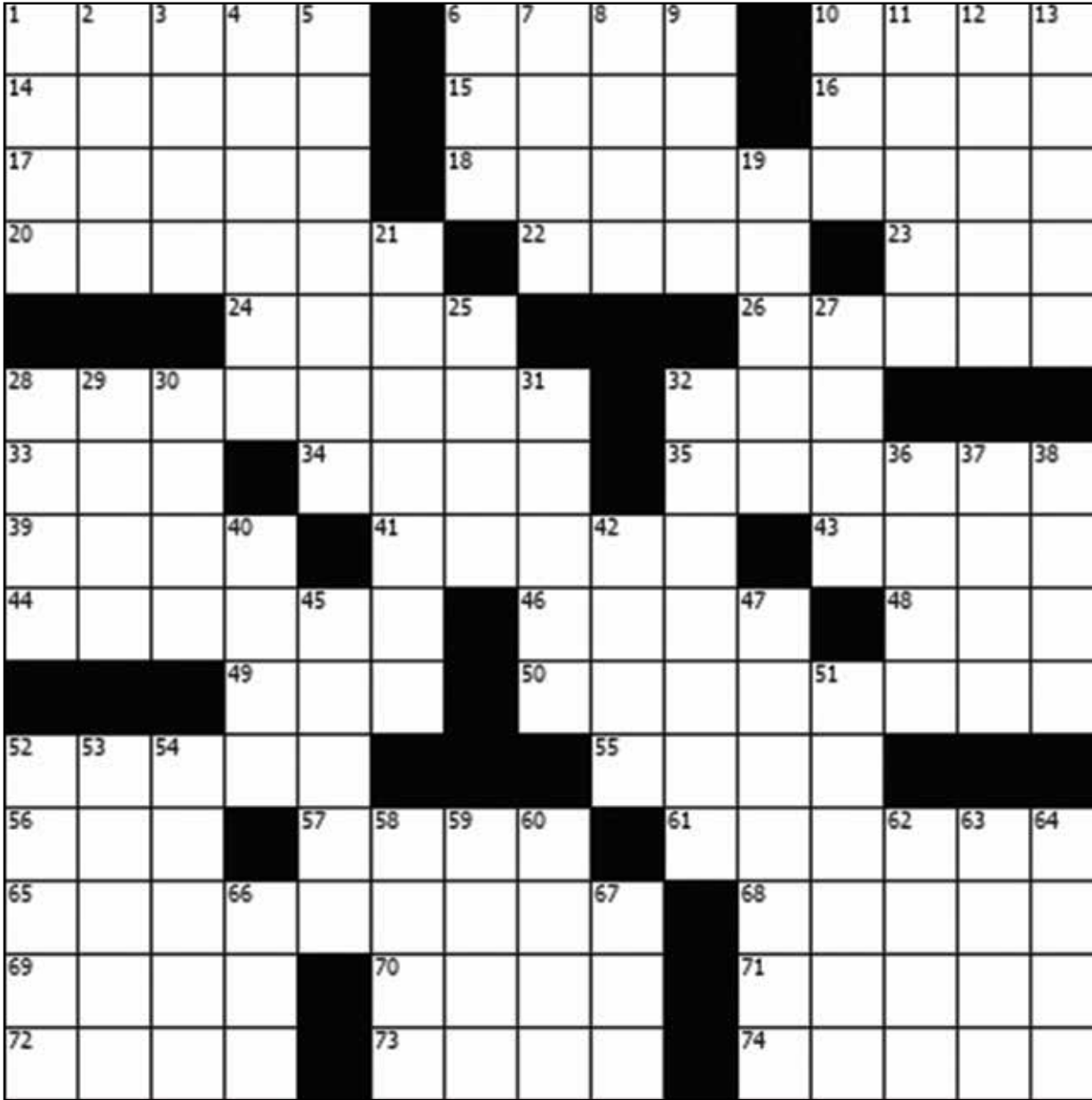
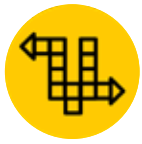
Maclean's rates the U of W as the 12th of 19 primarily undergraduate universities. The repeated blunders might be a part of failed attempts to shake things up or generate more attention.

I do not know what these changes do for the U of W's reputation among university rankings, but they do hurt the U of W's reputation as a progressive institution.

As an undergraduate university, carv-

ing out an identity for the U of W is vital for attracting new students. But the question is, who defines this identity? Is it the administration, the students' association, the professors or the student body?

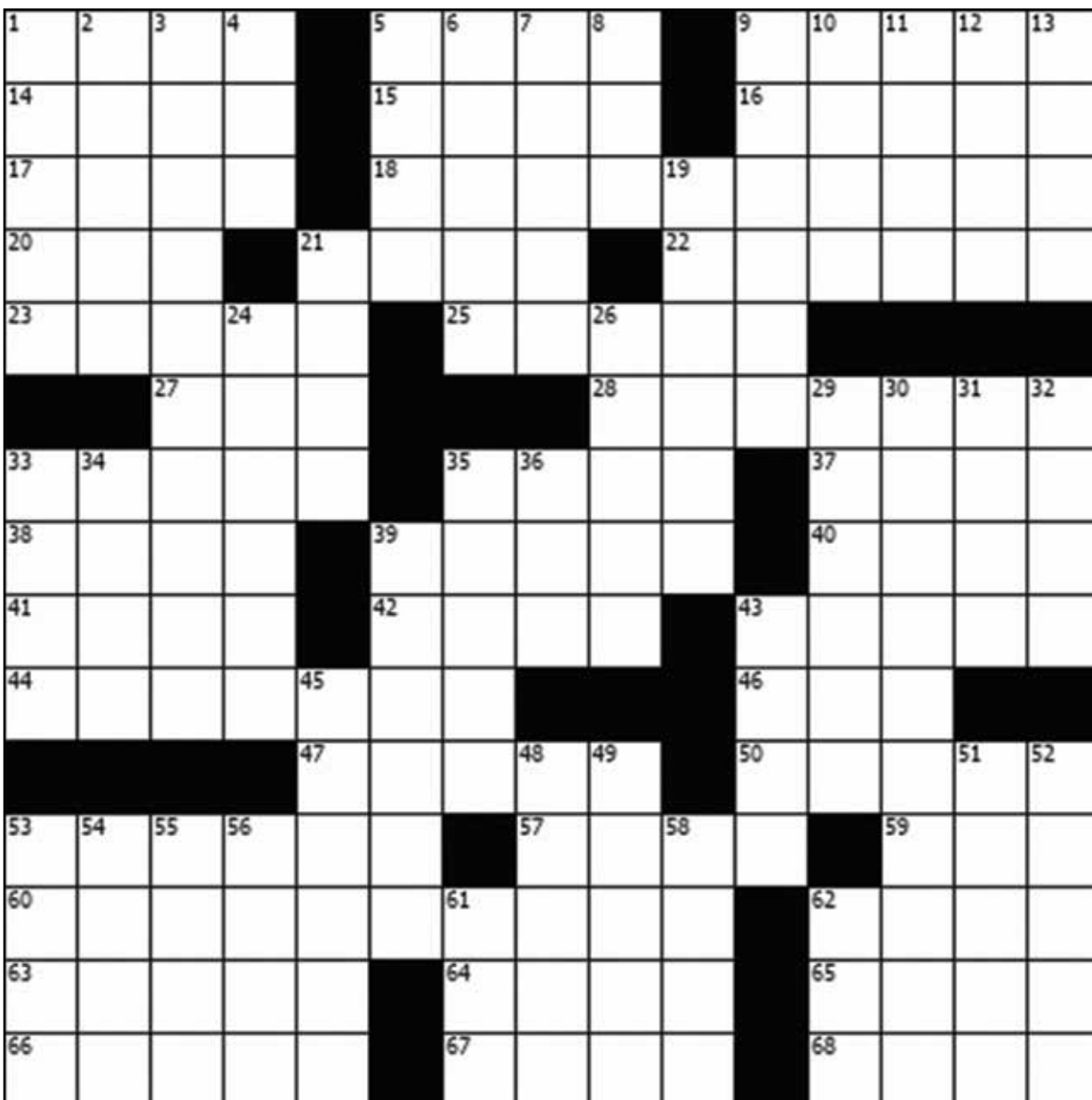
Patrick Harney is the comments editor at *The Uiter*. He is a graduate student at the University of Winnipeg.

**ACROSS**

- 1. SINGING VOICES
- 6. ARMY DIVISION
- 10. MINED MINERALS
- 14. ACTOR ROGER ____
- 15. NEVADA CITY
- 16. OLD WEST LAWMAN
- 17. HEAVENLY FOOD
- 18. PEACH VARIETY
- 20. MARKED DOWN IN PRICE (2 WDS.)
- 22. IMPETUOUS
- 23. ZERO
- 24. SPEAK
- 26. ARTIST'S STAND
- 28. AUDIENCE MEMBER
- 32. DEFUNCT USAF BRANCH
- 33. BRING TO COURT
- 34. HAMILTON BILLS
- 35. PHONOGRAPH INVENTOR
- 39. DIARIST ____ FRANK
- 41. FRAGRANT FLOWERS
- 43. GUY
- 44. GASOLINE, IN ENGLAND
- 46. LIGHTEN
- 48. USE OARS
- 49. WHICHEVER
- 50. WASP WEAPONS
- 52. ENTERTAIN
- 55. FLY ALONE
- 56. RATHER OR AYKROYD
- 57. EDEN RESIDENT
- 61. CERTAIN VITAMIN
- 65. MOVING STAIRCASE
- 68. LIST OF CANDIDATES
- 69. SCH. GROUPS
- 70. DUMMY
- 71. BECOMES WEARY
- 72. RECIPE MEASURES (ABBR.)
- 73. ZIPPED
- 74. GIVES THE IMPRESSION

DOWN

- 1. MUNITIONS, FOR SHORT
- 2. BORROWED MONEY
- 3. COAL MEASURES
- 4. SHOWY
- 5. WATERTIGHT COATING
- 6. COFFEE SERVER
- 7. AT NO TIME, IN VERSE
- 8. INDIAN OF PERU
- 9. LITTLE CHILDREN
- 10. ATOP, POETICALLY
- 11. DRIZZLES
- 12. BERT'S BUDDY
- 13. INCANTATION
- 19. IN FRONT
- 21. NOT YOUTHFUL
- 25. GAMBLING GAME
- 27. BORIC ____
- 28. OFFICE ACRONYM
- 29. MELODY
- 30. CAMPING NEED
- 31. CURVED LETTERS
- 32. LEGISLATIVE MEETING
- 36. CERTAIN
- 37. PERFUME
- 38. CURRENT EVENTS
- 40. EPOCHS
- 42. DEVOURS
- 45. BASKETBALL'S SHAQUILLE ____
- 47. REGISTERS
- 51. CERTAIN HOCKEY PLAYER
- 52. HIGHLY SKILLED
- 53. SAIL SUPPORTS
- 54. OPEN SODA
- 58. POPS
- 59. ON
- 60. POUT
- 62. CONCERN
- 63. ARTICLE
- 64. LOCH ____ MONSTER
- 66. BRAYING BEAST
- 67. MAROON

**ACROSS**

- 1. STICK AROUND
- 5. SCHOOL SUBJECT
- 9. RUB OUT
- 14. LAWN TUNNELER
- 15. BAND INSTRUMENT
- 16. FRAY
- 17. CRAFTS
- 18. LIKE HEAVY RAINS
- 20. WIND DIRECTION (ABBR.)
- 21. CLOSE
- 22. SEWING ITEM
- 23. RACETRACK ANIMAL
- 25. EXAMS
- 27. ZERO
- 28. DOOMED SHIP
- 33. TANGLE
- 35. SCORCH
- 37. FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD
- 38. DELAYED
- 39. BEACH
- 40. DEBTOR'S BURDEN
- 41. "ONCE ____ A TIME..."
- 42. LAYER
- 43. LEASED AGAIN
- 44. FIRE ____ (FIRE CHIEF)
- 46. TELEPATHY (ABBR.)
- 47. CLAPTON AND ROBERTS
- 50. CORAL ISLAND
- 53. MOUSE ____ LITTLE
- 57. CITRIC ____
- 59. GRANT'S OPPONENT
- 60. ADMISSION
- 62. DONATE
- 63. ZODIAC SIGN
- 64. REMOVE WRINKLES
- 65. CONSUMER
- 66. FLAG-MAKER ____ ROSS
- 67. TODDLERS
- 68. THOSE PEOPLE

DOWN

- 1. HIT SHOW
- 2. TRUNK
- 3. CAR GENERATOR
- 4. AGREEMENT WORD
- 5. BUTTERFLY'S KIN
- 6. CONCERNING
- 7. PASTRY
- 8. THAT WOMAN
- 9. AUTHOR ____ HEMINGWAY
- 10. EVALUATE
- 11. GREEDY
- 12. OFFICIAL STAMP
- 13. SHE, IN PARIS
- 19. COMPLETE
- 21. AUCTION OFF
- 24. FIRE TRUCK ALARMS
- 26. DRUMMER RINGO ____
- 29. MOST SKILLFUL
- 30. MANICURIST'S PAINT (2 WDS.)
- 31. UNDERSTOOD! (2 WDS.)
- 32. LINCOLN'S COIN
- 33. TENEMENT LOCALE
- 34. WINE-PRODUCING VALLEY
- 35. HOT PEPPER
- 36. GARDENING IMPLEMENT
- 39. BEGINS
- 43. ____ BETWEEN THE LINES
- 45. RELIGIOUS DISSENT
- 48. NILE CITY
- 49. HURRY
- 51. RIVER EMBANKMENT
- 52. WARY
- 53. WOUND COVERING
- 54. RIPPED
- 55. ARMY DIVISION
- 56. FIGHTER PILOTS
- 58. SMALL HOTELS
- 61. POSE
- 62. STOMACH

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