RER

COFFEE, CULTURE & CATS—P5

ELECTION NIGHT IN MANITOBA—P11

A NIGHTMARE FOR ELM TREES—P13

BOUNDLESS CREATIVITY IN WINNIPEG



GET INSPIRED BY LOCAL BLACK ARTISTS



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITES



It's back! The Uniter 30 readers' poll aims to put the spotlight on your favourite local people, places and things of 2023 – and we do stress LOCAL. Anything non-local (or non-2023) will not be counted.

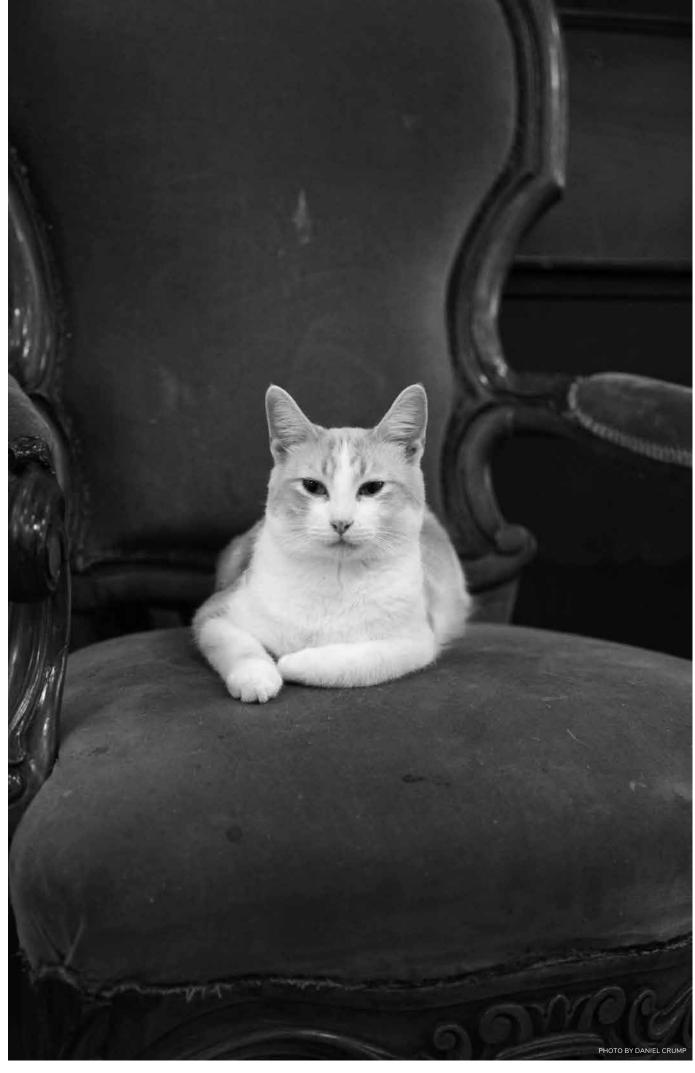
We want to make this list as inclusive as possible, just like the rest of the paper, so we ask that you please write an answer for each of the 30 categories – but if you don't have an answer, feel free to write "N/A" or "I dunno" to fill the spot.

Ballots will be considered spoiled if they contain blank spaces or if they contain any derogatory, homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous content. Let's keep it positive! Remember, you're voting for your favourites.

1. Favourite local achiever over 60	16. Favourite local performance
2. Favourite local achiever under 30	17. Favourite local photographer
3. Favourite local activist	18. Favourite local place that no longer exists
4. Favourite local album	19. Favourite local podcast
5. Favourite local athlete	20. Favourite political moment
6. Favourite local barber or hairstylist	21. Favourite local politician
7. Favourite local comedian	22. Favourite local public art piece
8. Favourite date activity	23. Favourite local publication (other than <i>The Uniter</i>)
9. Favourite local grassroots group	24. Favourite local restaurant
10. Favourite new local independent business	25. Favourite local social-media presence
11. Favourite local dancer	26. Favourite local music venue
12. Favourite local gallery or artist space	27. Favourite local visual artist
13. Favourite movie by a local filmmaker	28. Favourite Winnipeg neighbourhood
14. Favourite spot on campus	29. Favourite Winnipegger abroad
15. Favourite local outdoor gathering place	30. Favourite local writer
	<u> </u>

ON THE COVER

In this week's cover feature, staff photographer Isaiah Sanchez looks at a local collective elevating Winnipeg's Black artists. Read more on page 7.



THE UNITER 30 RETURNS!

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR

◯ X THOMASPASHKO

This week, Manitobans took to the polls to vote in a history-making provincial election. But that ballot is small potatoes compared to your next ballot – the Uniter 30!

The 30 is our annual readers' poll in which we ask you, our beloved patrons, to vote on your favourite stuff of the last year in 30 different categories. Do you have a favourite spot to grab a bite to eat? A park bench where you always take your sweetheart for an outdoor snuggle? A politician you were happy to see win (or lose) on Oct. 3? This is your chance to be heard.

It's also a chance for readers to participate in the creation of the paper, to dictate what we write about and to have your voices heard in the city. Also, it's just a lot of fun for us here at the editorial team.

To cast your votes, visit uniter.ca or fill out a physical ballot and drop it in the mail slot at our office, room ORM14 on the mezzanine level of the Bulman Centre.

I look forward to tallying your votes and seeing what music, movies and mayhem you rascals got up to this year.

The Cleocatra Café serves up coffee and culture in a cozy setting complete with cute, cuddly cats. Read more on page 5

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

In-person volunteer orientations 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.

In the Sept. 21 article "PROFile: Unveiling the universe through physics and curiosity," we identified Dr. Andrew Frey as an associate professor of physics. Frey is now a professor.

The Uniter regrets the error.



WHOSE HOUSE? OLIVIA'S HOUSE

Where art, cats and plants flourish

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER

Olivia Cassie, an artist and curator, has cultivated a home where art, creativity and a deep affection for feline companions converge seamlessly. The walls are adorned with an eclectic mix of artwork, some of her own creation and others from various artists.

"I'm the founder of Black Artists Winnipeg, so I have work from five different artists here right now," she says. "It's really important for me to create a platform where Black artists can showcase their talents and connect with the community."

One particularly captivating piece is a joint self-portrait by Cassie and fellow artist Kevin Manzi.

"It's like a dual self-portrait of Kevin and myself. So I painted him, and he's working on me, and then we're doing the background together," she says.

Cassie's apartment is also home to cats Winnie and Alfie. The feline companions have carved out their own niches, with Winnie typically lounging in one spot and Alfie exploring the depths of drawers or playfully hiding under the bed.

Alfie is "short for Alfredo, because he's kind of like a noodley boy. He's just kind of floppy and a little bit weird," she says. "And Winnie reminds me of Winnie the Pooh. We actually adopted them together from the same family."

Beyond her artwork and cats, Cassie's apartment offers a glimpse into her love for literature and plants.

Her commitment to diversity extends to her reading choices. "I made a conscious decision to only purchase books written by people of cultures other than mine," she says. Cassie's collection includes books on Chinese, Indian and Nigerian mythologies.

The corner of her apartment is a little plant haven. "I propagated most of the plants by myself from cuttings provided by friends and family," Cassie says. "I really love plants and want to add a lot more to my collection."

Cassie's bedroom is home to a captivating collection of crystals, intriguing tarot cards, a family portrait and a charming piano jewelry box. These cherished items contribute to the enchanting tapestry of her personal space.

Cassie's apartment is not just a physical space but a reflection of her journey as an artist, curator and lover of life's diverse joys.

1. Marvel fan

"I really like Marvel and Star Wars, so I have my Infinity Gauntlet. Sometimes I'll change the hand position, but usually it's just that."

2. Birthday gift

"My brother bought these for my birthday, and I absolutely love them."

3. Daily tracker

"I have this tracking chart that I use to help myself keep on track for self-accountability. I found it at Indigo."

4. Current project

"This one here is actually a joint project. It's a dual self-portrait of Kevin and myself. I've never actually worked on another canvas with someone else, so it's kind of interesting."

5. Family heirloom

"My sewing machine is actually my great-grandmother's sewing machine. She gave it to my grandma. My grandma gave it to me. Now it has its home here."











OF KITTENS AND COFFEE

Vietnamese café on Portage serves coffee, tea and adoption papers

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | MATTTEKLEMARIAM

The Cleocatra Café (Quán Cop Phê), opened at 859 Portage Ave. in May, is perhaps one of the most fascinating, fuzzy experiences one can have while sipping a cup of joe.

In a business model still novel in Winnipeg, the cozy coffee shop offers a more traditional, animal-allergy-friendly atmosphere in the front, but it's all party in the back.

"It's therapy ... we wanted to create a space that is special for people who live here. We want people to support the cats," Harry, the manager of Cleocatra, says. He refers to the playroom, sealed off with glass panelling, that allows customers to reserve an hour or two with a number of playful kittens.

"We create happy times for people, and we create memories," Harry says, using a pseudonym to preserve mystique. He explains that while this may be a relatively peculiar concept for Winnipeggers, overseas and closer to home, the cat café has become a profitable venture since they first began popping up at the turn of the century.

The business model "is from Asia, specifically from Taiwan. We're from Vietnam, and, back there, we see a lot of stray animals on the street. Cats, dogs, all kinds on the street, and they're not treated well," Harry says.

Partnered with local non-profit foster organization Tails of Freedom Rescue, Cleocatra allows the kittens in the playroom chances for stimulating activity – and a chance at finding a forever home.

"I came here as a university student, and I love animals. In general, it just begins with a love for cats. When we opened the cat café, it gave more space for the shelter so they can save more cats. All the cats here are under special care of people who are professionals."

"We hold the cats for the shelter. The application process and forms are done directly with the shelter. We're just here to help," Harry says.

Barista Sunny Huynh admits it can be hard not to get attached to the revolving door of critters, although it is a built-in stress reliever in the workplace.

"There are so many cats, but you're always going to pay attention to one or two favourites. When you hear they're going, you feel so happy," she says.

Cleocatra sources their opulent, vintage furniture from an unnamed local antique business and sports commissioned art on the walls.

"We have a whole team doing all the design and ideas for the café. For the prints on the wall, we have an artist in Poland, and she drew all that. We import them here, and we have a whole bunch for sale, as well," Harry says.

The café also boasts a carefully curated menu, which includes coffees, teas, espresso and smoothies. Sunny recommends the strawberry green tea, while Harry extols the rationale behind the coffee tradition in Vietnam.

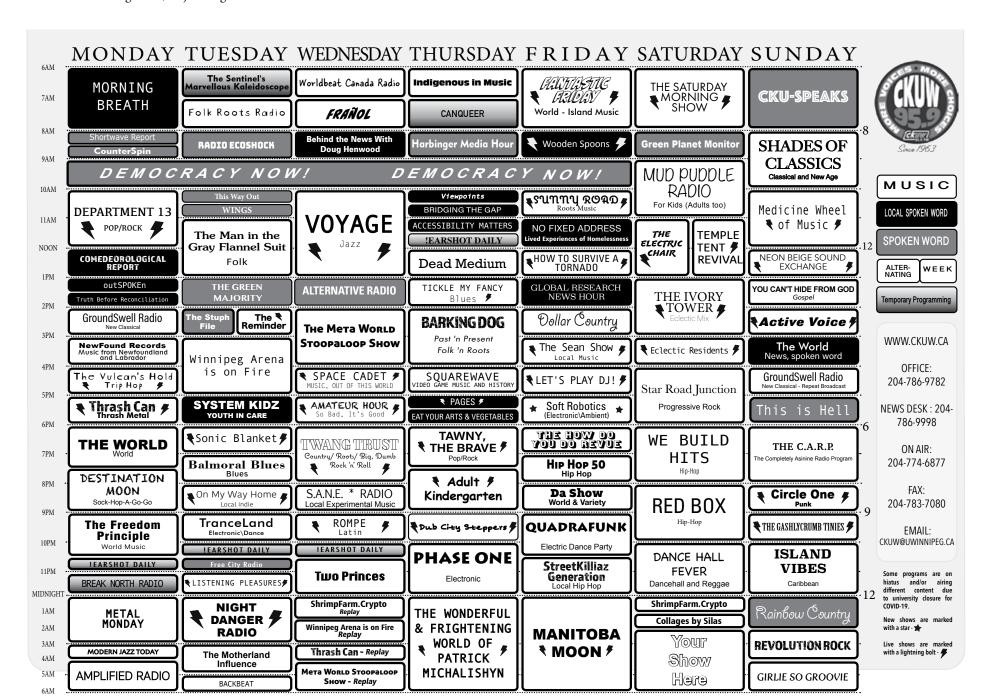
"When you order a Vietnamese coffee, you have a cup and then the filter on top. In my culture, people will start watching the coffee drip down, and while they watch, it's time for them to chat about whatever is happening in their lives, daily events, anything," Harry says.



Coffee flows and cats frolic at the Cleocatra Café.

"It's basically just time for you to communicate with the other person. It's not just basic coffee with cream or sugar.

We don't sell anything like that. We serve Vietnamese culture."





TETSUO: THE IRON MAN

Plays at Dave Barber Cinematheque on Oct. 24 and 31

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | ©MATTTEKLEMARIAM

TETSUOOOO! No, not the one from *Akira*, although the mutilation of young Japanese urbanites and telepathy do feature prominently in this film.

Tetsuo: The Iron Man (1989) is the latest Trash Cult Tuesday showing at the Dave Barber Cinematheque. The esteemed and affectionately named series serves cult-classic double features on a bloodstained platter for cinephiles and amateur thrill seekers alike.

The 67-minute film, presented in a disjointed and somewhat coherent narrative, occasionally flirts with the story of a young

Japanese couple who are involved in a hit and run. After discreetly disposing of the jaywalker's body (Shinya Tsukamoto), the so-called salaryman (Tomorowo Taguchi), begins sprouting increasingly larger scraps of metal all over his body, much to his girlfriend's (Kei Fujiwara) bewilderment.

There has been much said about the "vaunted" Japanese work culture, and it's hard to ignore the gleaming thematic coin at the bottom of the murky fountain. The whole film is shrouded in the shadow of industry, and not just because it's in black and

white. Just as David Lynch's *Eraserhead*'s air of industrial languor was used to communicate the anxieties of fatherhood, *Tetsuo* is preoccupied with the neuroses of the working man.

The first five minutes of the film shows the aforementioned jaywalker living in squalor in an industrial park. As he brutally inserts metal in his own body, and the salaryman protagonist later contracts this like a sickness, director/writer/producer Shinya Tsukamoto conveys the mechanization of the workforce quite literally.

But the non-linear storytelling and themes are, again, mostly tangential. Limited by budget, Tsukamoto used stop-motion technology to great effect here. Combined with the frenetic pacing and smash cuts galore, he ensures an active viewing experience, even if it's more unnerving than genuinely horrifying.

Special kudos to the prop and makeup crew for their work here. The gore may be the most authentic part of the picture. It takes a special touch to elevate the muddling of Spam and chocolate syrup into a crash course in anatomy.

Aside from that, the score can be heavy-handed and very typical of its decade. The direction is good but mostly trampled

by the editing. The erotic aspects of the film, well ...

Perhaps the comedic scene in the film comes at some point smackdab in the middle, as the protagonist becomes more and more machine-like. As he and his love endeavour to get it on, he finds his member has been transformed into a three-foot-long industrial drill. How the rest of that plays out may be worth the \$5 admission alone, but it does hit audiences with the grace of a Mack truck driven by Sigmund Freud.

So, where does it all coalesce? The back half of the film loses some of its gusto as it devolves into a stop-motion chase between the resurrected jaywalker and the salaryman. Their confrontations boil down to the hero stumbling around in what looks like a paper-mache Megatron costume, and it becomes harder to justify anything presented on screen as substance.

Ultimately, this is an intrepid, albeit proudly flawed cinematic experience. Tsukamoto is astute enough to stop his spiel before he overstays his welcome. It's a lovely morass of wet, squishy bits and wacky, wide-eyed expressions, along with the always-comforting reminder that, yes, work is billion all of the

ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS $\ |\$ ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR $\ |\$ $\$ FICTIONALCIERRA $\$ $\$ CIERRABETTS

FEAST @ PTE

Prairie Theatre Exchange's forth-coming play, *FEAST*, is a dark comedy-drama about M, a jet-setting consultant who feels he's going to slide off the face of the earth. Running from Oct. 10 to 22, the play, written by Guillermo Verdecchia and directed by Thomas Morgan Jones, asks all the important questions, like whether a character is having a hot flash – or if it's just global warming. Grab your tickets by visiting pte.mb.ca.

Location! Location! Location!

As part of the annual FLASH photographic festival, four Winnipeg photographers will participate in a panel on the meaning of home, domesticity and displacement. The event takes place on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Gas Station Theatre and features speakers Tayler Buss, Denis Prieur and Niki Saghari, as well as moderator Sarah Ciurysek.

Soul Gallery pop-up in the Exchange

Twenty-seven local, national and international artists will display works at Soul Gallery, the Exchange District's newest art pop-up. From Oct. 3 to 30, a space located in Suite C of 70 Albert St. will be home to the Soul Gallery, open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. An opening event takes place on Friday, Oct. 6 for First Fridays in the Exchange District.

Opening: Tim Gardner @ the WAG

Artist Tim Gardner is best known for his watercolour paintings capturing the everyday happenings of urban and natural landscapes. Starting Oct. 7, a 30-year retrospective of his work will be on display at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG). For more information, visit bit.ly/48FjP79.

Bonjour, je m'appelle...

A stay-at-home dad's journey is captured photographically in the latest exhibition at La maison des artistes visuels francophones (212 Provencher Blvd.). Bonjour, je m'appelle features works by photographer Denis Prieur, who documents the beauty in both the mundanity and excitement of caring for a family. The show runs from Oct. 5 to 21. For more information, visit maisondesartistes.mb.ca.

Trivia for a good cause

The Transcona Museum is hosting a trivia-night fundraiser on Oct. 13 to help preserve the neighbourhood institution. Individual tickets are \$25, and group tickets are \$180 for a team of eight. The event is hosted at the Transcona Legion and begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through transconamuseum.mb.ca.

2023 UWinnipeg Laird Lecture, Dr. Monnica Williams, Ph. D.

Dr. Monnica Williams, Ph.D., ABPP CRC at UOttawa

Psychedelic Medicine and Racial Justice: Past, Present, and Future



Oct. 26, 2023 Eckhardt Gramatté Hall

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

BOUNDLESS CREATIVITY IN WINNIPEG

Get inspired by local Black artists

Words and photos by Isaiah Sanchez



Digital prints by artist Efe Ogboru

In the words of famous American author Steven Pressfield: "Creative work is a gift to the world and every being in it. Don't cheat us of your contribution. Give us what you've got."

What started out as a few artists advertising their artwork on Instagram has manifested into an idea to create a safe space for Black Winnipeg-based artists to express themselves freely where the only limit is their imagination.

Founded in February 2023, Black Artists Winnipeg is an independently funded organization that gives Black artists of multidisciplinary backgrounds, such as music and artwork, opportunities to connect with the community, showcase their talents, network with new artists and collaborate on new projects.

The group connects artists with benefactors, chances

to produce commissioned work and volunteer opportunities. Black Artists Winnipeg currently works with more than 11 artists of different mediums.

Olivia Cassie founded the organization after participating in an art showcase at the University of Manitoba (U of M) last February. There, she met Efe Ogboru, a fellow artist who was part of the exhibition and is now Black Artists Winnipeg's artist director.



Local handmade jeweler Osachi Jewelry sells wares at the St. Norbert Centre during Afro Fall.

"I have a lot of artwork in case there needs to be more art in the event space," Ogboru says. "I am also in charge of organizing or setting up the interior design of the event space, wherever it may be."

Finally, Cassie takes notes of any new artists looking to join the group and how much artwork they plan on bringing with them.

Shortly after, they met up with Kevin Manzi, one of Cassie's classmates at the U of M. Manzi was already considering turning his artwork into a business, and he is now the Black Artists Winnipeg program director. He handles the business side of collaborating with other organizations to access gallery space.

Black Artists Winnipeg also gives local youth safer spaces to cultivate their creativity and develop artistic skills, along with guidance from more experienced artists. The organization hopes to set up workshops for different art styles in the future.

The group also uses makeshift gallery spaces and pop-ups at local events to connect with the community and help local artists gain exposure. Black Artists Winnipeg was involved with GerryFest in August and teamed up with YBK Entertainment for Afro Fall, a live-music, food and games event, in September.

The festival specifically celebrated excellence within the Black community. It featured an art gallery, vendor stands serving African food and selling homemade wares and a musical lineup of singers, rappers and DJs. More than 200 people attended, according to YBK Entertainment.

"Everything came out of pocket, and it has paid off so well," Cassie says.

Black Artists Winnipeg wants to be part of

more events like these, and a few are lined up for October. They will be a part of an R&B event at the Friskee Pearl on Oct. 21 and are looking into planning their first-ever paint workshop.

One of the organization's artists, Danai Musabayane, is a U of M student who says Black Artists Winnipeg has made her feel welcome and helped improve her artistic abilities.

"I thought Black Artists Winnipeg would be an opportunity to try and connect with other people in art," Musabayane says. "I didn't even know if there were any art clubs at the University of Manitoba. I'd never heard of any. I've learned tons of new things from these guys."

She says the group has taught her how to try "out different art techniques, how to properly price your artwork for the amount of time and equipment used to make it and where to buy high-quality canvases, paint and so on."

Many artists struggle to show their work and make money or an entire career off their art. This is often especially true for Black artists. Cassie, a more experienced artist, realized how hard it is for Black artists to show or gain recognition for their work and branch out to new opportunities.

Some of the barriers Black artists face include a lack of support from the community, cultural biases and systemic racism.

Cassie says supporting Black artists in Winnipeg is more crucial now than ever. "I think it's important, because art can contribute to changing minds," she says. "If Black art becomes commonplace, I think it would strongly help the city culture shift in a more accepting direction.





Artwork by Kevin Manzi and Efe Ogboro on display

"On top of that, it benefits the individual artists. The sale of artwork is affirming, and artists should be compensated for their work, especially in today's economy. At the end of the day, we are professionals trying to take up a space that predominantly consists of white people."

Cassie, Ogboru and Manzi shared the same idea to create a space for Black artists.

"I already had an idea of wanting to create a space for Black artists," Ogboru says, "because there are a lot of Black artists in Winnipeg, but they don't come out due to general shyness or limitations based on their background. Being an artist doesn't seem like a career you'll want to go for many people."

Mazi says some galleries aren't willing to take in artists' work when it's labelled as "Black art." Others claim this work is "just what people don't want to see."

Manzi says he didn't realize the difficulties of being an artist in Winnipeg when he first started and notes that there aren't many supports in place for Black artists. He says he went to three different galleries to submit his artwork and was told "'We're not looking for something like this right now,' or 'We don't have space right now,' even though they do."

"We're all just trying to be artists, successful artists. That's all I want my label to say: I just want to be an artist," Manzi says.

Musabayne says Black Artists Winnipeg helps bring people together and allows artists to net-



Olivia Cassie, founder of Black Artists Winnipeg

work when doing so isn't always easy.

"It was hard to connect with people and find people with similar interests," she says.

"When I came to Canada, I didn't know people, so I mostly did art in my room. It was tough to connect with people, because most buyers would rather buy art from someone who they know, someone they trust rather than some random person on the internet."

Because of Black Artists Winnipeg, she has connected with buyers and people outside the organization. She never realized how many Black artists truly needed a space to create until she attended Afro Fall, where she recognized many of her classmates collaborating.

Black Artists Winnipeg came from one typical thought the trio shared: more Black artists in Winnipeg deserved a space to create, collaborate and show off their talents. Even without a permanent space, they could still provide new creatives with the tools to pursue their passion further.

Cassie's main goals for the organization are to get enough funding to obtain a permanent gallery for all the artwork they currently have from other artists and host even more events for the community to attend.

Black Artists Winnipeg accept donations from the community, because "every little bit helps," Cassie says. They hope to inspire more Black artists to show off their talent, because everyone deserves recognition for their creativity.











Jana Jacobs performs at Afro Fall.



NDPs WIN PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Kinew elected premier, PCs and Liberals face losses

THOMAS PASHKO │ MANAGING EDITOR │ (Ō) ※ THOMASPASHKO

Manitoba voters cast their ballots on Tuesday, Oct. 3, initiating a wave of change in the provincial legislature. The Manitoba NDP, under the leadership of Fort Rouge MLA Wab Kinew, rode an orange wave to victory, ousting the Progressive Conservative (PC) incumbents and winning a majority.

Kinew makes history as the first First Nations person in Canadian history to be elected a provincial premier. He is also Manitoba's first Indigenous premier since Métis leader John Norquay left office in 1887.

The NDP have captured a confirmed 30 seats in the legislature, one more than the minimum 29 required to form a majority government, and are leading in a further four ridings which still haven't been called at press time. The PCs won 19 confirmed seats and lead in a further three still too close to call, including former premier Heather Stefanson's riding of Tuxedo. Some of the ridings still yet to be called include Dauphin, Waverley, Lagimodière and McPhillips, in which the NDP are currently leading, and Brandon West, Tuxedo and Selkirk, in which the PCs currently enjoy a lead.

Of the 30 confirmed NDP seats, 10 were in ridings previously held by the PCs (Assiniboia, Brandon East, Fort Richmond, Kildonan-River East, Kirkfield Park, Radisson, Riel, Rossmere, Seine River and Southdale).

The four yet-to-be-called seats with NDP leads (Dauphin, Lagimodiere, McPhillips and Waverley) were also previous PC seats. The PCs are the incumbents in all three of the uncalled ridings in which they are currently leading.

The results are a rebuke to Stefanson's PCs, who ran a campaign many saw as divisive. The party ran ads smearing rival NDP candidates, pandered to wedge issues and used language interpreted by some as racist and anti-2SLGBTQIA+ dog whistles. The party, under Stefanson and predecessor Brian Pallister, governed the province with rigid austerity, gutting the provincial healthcare system and leaving it woefully unprepared for the eventual COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebuilding the healthcare system was a key part of the NDP's campaign messaging, pledging to reopen emergency rooms that were shuttered by the PCs, and adding more beds to the hospitals that still remain open. The NDP have also pledged to search the Prairie Green landfill for the remains of Morgan Harris and Marcedes Myran, who are thought to be victims of alleged serial killer Jeremy Skibicki. The PCs campaigned on a promise that they would never search the landfill for the slain Indigenous women.

The night was also a major loss for the Manitoba Liberal Party, who held on to only



A sign outside the polling station at Holy Rosary Church on River Avenue

one seat (Cindy Lamoureux in Tyndall Park). Party leader Dougald Lamont, who lost his St. Boniface seat, gave an emotional speech as he conceded to the NDP's Robert Loiselle and stepped down as party leader. Another major loss for the Liberals was River Heights, held since 1999 by Jon Gerrard, which went

to NDP challenger Mike Moroz.

In addition to pledging to search the landfill and refund healthcare, Kinew has also said he will balance the budget, freeze Hydro rates for one year and create a \$700 renters' tax credit.

ON THE DARKER, SNARKY SIDE OF LIFE

Winnipeg Punk Rock Flea Market returns Oct. 14 and 15

PAUL HODGERT | BUSINESS MANAGER | @ PAULHODGERT

In a city awash with craft fairs and flea markets, someone new is trying something a little different.

"I went to some of the bigger craft shows and went to a few more community-based ones," Em Curry says. There, they saw "beautiful stuff, but just not on the darker side of life or that more snarky side that I was looking for. So I was like, 'You know what? Let's just try it."

Curry founded the Winnipeg Punk Rock Flea Market (WPRFM), which encourages visitors to "shop local, shop weird." The market features local vendors and, according to its website, has "more to do with the DIY spirit than it does with a particular music scene or lifestyle."

The first WPRFM in April was so successful that the next market is happening at a larger, more accessible venue.

"Right before we opened the doors, my mom and dad came, and they were like, 'Don't look outside," Curry says. "There was a little window I could see outside, and I was like, 'Oh my god! There is a lineup around the block!"

The next WPRFM is on Oct. 14 and 15 at the University of Manitoba's UMSU University Centre. If there's a line again, attendees can wait inside the building instead of outside, Curry says. There are free parking spaces and reduced parkade rates available during the event.

Curry says curating the right vibe for the market is essential. "I wanted it to feel like going to your first show. Like when you get in there, the music's playing. There (are) tons of people there, and you're like, 'Wow, this is something!"

Curry has been to their fair share of punk shows over the years. Growing up, the punk community became a lifeline, as it can be for many young people who don't feel like they fit in anywhere.

"When I was going into ninth grade, so about 12, 13 years old, I was kind of a nerdy kid. I didn't really fit in anywhere," Curry says. Their older cousin from Vancouver turned them on to the nascent punk scene.

They mention the first time this cousin played them "actual punk" like Black Flag or Circle Jerks. "I was like, 'whoa, this is something that needs to be part of my life." This led to their involvement in the Winnipeg punk scene.

"I just started skateboarding, and then I was going to shows," Curry says. "I would go to the West End all the time and just (be) around a bunch of people that just accepted me for who I was. We were all a little bit weird, you know, and just there's something about seeing live music."

The upcoming WPRFM will feature more than 90 vendors split over the two days, and Curry has a hard time narrowing down who they are most excited to host.



Witchy candles from Lucy and Lilith Co. are just some of the goods for sale at the Winnipeg Punk Rock Flea Market.

"We have a couple of really cool ceramics people, Oil & Birch. They're coming all the way from Edmonton, and they do all kinds of cool stuff. And then Dirt Forms. They were a previous vendor, and they do some amazing ceramics, as well."

"And yeah, there's going to be a lot of DJs."

The next Winnipeg Punk Rock Flea Market takes place on Oct. 14 and 15 at the UMSU University Centre at the University of Manitoba. Admission is free. For more information, visit winnipegpunkrockfleamarket.com.



A TAPESTRY OF **LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE**

Heather Souter, anthropology professor

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER | THANDI.VERA

Heather Souter's journey unfolds like a tapestry, intricately woven with her dedication to preserving her Michif heritage and Indigenous languages. Born in British Columbia with deep Métis roots, she eventually settled in Camperville, an Indigenous community in Manitoba.

"As a professor at the University of Winnipeg, my commitment to Indigenous languages runs deep. I teach remotely to stay in my community with my people," Souter says. Her devotion to languages transcends her Métis background. She's also fluent in Japanese.

After earning a Japanese language degree from the University of British Columbia, Souter moved to Japan, working in interpretation and translation while connecting with the environment and Indigenous communities.

Her deep affection for languages and her desire to delve into her heritage eventually guided her to Camperville, where she's lived for 20 years. "I came out here because I wanted to learn Michif or Southern Michif through a master-apprentice program," Souter says.

She sought to immerse herself in the language, and the community welcomed her with open arms. "I had some wonderful aunties who adopted me basically as their own," she says.

As her language journey deepened, so did her connections. "I also fell in love with someone from the community," Souter

"Not only was it because I wanted to be involved in language revitalization, but I also realized that the only way to do this is to be embedded in a community where the language is spoken."

She recognizes that language is a social practice, not a commodity. "I knew that I had to be around the Michif speakers and do things with them in the context of our culture and with our people," she says. "If I was going to learn and honour what they were going to share with me, I had to be here."

Souter's deep connection to Camperville is evident as she speaks of her adopted family. "It's my home," she says.

Outside her academic endeavors, Souter enjoys spending time with her husband, engaging in traditional activities like ice fishing and berry picking that help her stay connected to her community and deepen her love for the land.

What was your worst grade in university?

"I failed a number of courses. It took me



20 years to finish my undergraduate degree, because, at the time, we didn't know that I had some difficulties that are now accommodated at universities. But I didn't let it stop me, so there's hope for all of us!"

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

"I would want a superpower where I could touch the hearts and minds of politicians, whether they be federal, provincial or local politicians, so that they understand how important it is to give space to cultural revitalization

and to fund it adequately."

What did you want to be when you were

"I had always loved languages and wanted to become a simultaneous interpreter. Also, I wanted to become a paramedic or a doctor, a ballerina and a few other things."

What do you do in your spare time?

"I love to be out on the lake in the summer and fish or just (be) outside."



Student Services

THE WELLNESS HUB

Check out the Wellness Hub, a confidential digital platform on the UWinnipeg website, to learn about and understand your mental health and wellbeing, and access resources on campus, in the community, and online.

The Wellness Hub includes links to:

- crisis and counselling services
- informational websites about mental health
- tools to track how you are feeling and learn coping skills
- connections to specialized re-

You choose what links to access each time you enter the Wellness Hub.

Visit the hub any time at uwinnipeg.ca/wellnesshub

FALL READING WEEK

The University of Winnipeg's annual Fall Term Reading Week will take place from Oct. 8 - 14. There will be no classes, except for Education students taking 4000-level certification courses who are required to attend class and practicum during this period. Please consult your course outline for more information. The University will

be closed for Thanksgiving Day on

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

Next session: International, Immigrant and Refugee students (Thurs., Oct. 12)

MONEY TALKS

The Money Talks series resumes in mid-October with more webinars related to student finances. All talks are from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom.

Next session: Manitoba Student Aid (Tues., Oct. 17)

To register, please visit: uwinnipeg.ca/ awards

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

The Webinar Wednesdays series starts again after the fall reading week with a wide range of topics:

Next session: Test Anxiety (Wed.,

All sessions will be held 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Pre-registration is required.

For more info, see: uwinnipeg.ca/webinar-wednesdays

UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Are you a UWinnipeg student who 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 next Information Session on the Exchange Program will be held via Zoom on Wed., Oct. 18, 12:30 – 1:30 **p.m.** Email exchange@uwinnipeg.ca for the link. For more info, see: uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad

ASK AN ADVISOR

This is your opportunity to find out more about different services at the University in live sessions on UWinnipeg Instagram. These are the topics for October:

Next topic: Library (Thurs., Oct. 19)

Hosted by Academic and Career Services, these "Ask an Advisor" sessions run every other Thursday at 11:00 am.

FEBRUARY GRADUATION (IN ABSENTIA)

Are you finishing your last courses this December? You may choose to graduate in February 2024 (in absentia). The deadline to apply for February graduation is Wed., Nov. 1, 2023. Students need to apply through WebAdvisor. For more information, see uwinnipeg.ca/student-records

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

EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca PHONE: 204.779.8946



Winnipeg's urban canopy is under attack – not from Freddy Kreuger, but Dutch elm disease

ONE GREEN CITY

A nightmare for elm trees

ALLYN LYONS | COLUMNIST | O ALLYNLYONS

In front of Kilter Brewing Co. stands a beautiful elm tree. It's taller than the building, and its branches spread out to shade nearly all of the patio. Right now, it's covered in artwork from visitors during Nuit Blanche. Initials within hearts, smiley faces and abstract squiggles decorate the trunk and limbs, but, unfortunately, so does a stark, orange spray-painted dot in the middle of the trunk.

Like the laser sight of a sniper the orange dot marks a tree with a death sentence.

The orange dot marks trees that have contracted Dutch elm disease (DED) and are set to be taken down at the end of the season to prevent the fungus from spreading to other trees. DED kills trees by clogging their water and nutrient system, choking them from the

inside.

The City estimates that DED has killed 33,000 trees since 2016.

Besides being beautiful, an urban canopy helps keep the city cooler, filter air pollution and reduce stormwater runoff. As the effects of the climate crisis become more noticeable, an urban forest can help make living in cities more manageable.

Lately, both the municipal and federal government have made efforts to prioritize urban forests. On Sept. 26, Mayor Scott Gillingham announced the Home Grown Grant, an initiative offering \$20,000 for large-scale planting projects on public land funded by the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees program.

According to Gillingham, the City is on track to plant 15,000 trees in 2023, compared to an annual average of about 3,500 a few years ago.

Replacing fallen trees from the canopy as quickly as possible is a great step, but it's also important to plant the right kinds of trees.

One of the reasons DED has become such a problem is due to the practice of monoculture, planting a single species in an area. Had the City originally planted different species, fewer trees would be at risk, and the urban forest would be more resilient to potential threats.

"The best way to make our canopy resilient is to plant a diverse range of species, specifically species that are resilient to forest pests and diseases: native tree species such as the Manitoba maple (boxelder), American linden and hackberry," Patrick Carty, program coordinator and arborist on staff at Trees Winnipeg, says.

The solution isn't as simple as replacing every tree felled by DED. A tall tree in front of a house can provide enough shade that residents inside don't always need to turn on the air conditioning. A mature live tree can

absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide in a year. A newly planted sapling can't.

"It is extremely important that we protect our mature forests before focusing on planting new trees. It's great that there is so much funding for planting new trees, mostly from the federal government's 2 Billion Tree program, but focus still needs to be on retaining old growth," Carty says.

One way the City can prevent the spread of DED is regular pruning. Ideally, this is done every seven years but, right now, the City is pruning trees every 31 years, leaving mature trees susceptible to disease.

While the planting grants are promising, the City needs to recognize that it cannot simply replace mature trees with new saplings or plant another monoculture that will be susceptible to other threats. We should be fostering a strong and resilient urban forest that will be able to last.

Allyn grew up on Treaty 1 territory. It's pronounced uh-lyn lions.

CITY BRIEFS

TESSA ADAMSKI | CITY EDITOR | χ TESSA_ADAMSKI \odot TESSA.ADAMSKI

Upcoming Wesmen women's soccer games

There are two University of Winnipeg Wesmen women's soccer games this weekend. The women's team will play against the University of Manitoba Bisons on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the U of M Turf Field at noon. The teams face off again on Sunday, Oct. 3 at the Ralph Cantafio Soccer Complex at 3 p.m. Any U of W students can show their student cards to watch the games for free.

Thousands commemorate Orange Shirt Day

It is the third year the Wa-Say Healing Centre has organized a healing walk and powwow for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30. More than 10,000 people wore an orange shirt to honour residential-school and Sixties Scoop survivors, starting with a pipe ceremony at Oodena Circle at The Forks, followed by a march down Main Street and Portage Avenue to the Canada Life Centre

A boost in Manitoba's minimum wage

The Province increased the minimum wage from \$14.15 to \$15.30 on Sunday, Oct. 1, becoming the third-highest-paying province behind B.C. and Ontario, according to the Retail Council of Canada. Workers in B.C. are paid a minimum of \$16.75 per hour, while those in Ontario receive a minimum wage of \$16.55 per hour. As the Province contends with inflation, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reported in 2022 that a living wage in Winnipeg would be \$18.34.

Advocates standing up for social housing

More than 1,200 people in Winnipeg are experiencing homelessness and almost one in four renters are unable to find safe, affordable housing to accommodate the needs of their household, according to the Right to Housing Coalition. This organization advocates for social housing. They will host a protest on Thursday, Oct. 5 at MP Dan Vandal's office at 213 St. Mary's Rd. from noon to 12:30 p.m. to encourage the federal government to prioritize funding social housing.

A new Manitoba premier

New Democratic Party Leader Wab Kinew was elected as the first First Nations premier of Manitoba, and Manitoba became the first Canadian province to elect a First Nations premier. The NDP won the majority vote, winning a confirmed 30 seats at the Manitoba Legislature and leading in a further four yet to be called. After conceding defeat to the Manitoba NDP, former premier Heather Stefanson stepped down as the Progressive Conservative Party Leader with 22 seats. Manitoba Liberal Party Leader Dougald Lamont also stepped down, conceding defeat with one seat.

More research needed for landfill search

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree said the federal government will allocate \$740,000 to further assess the feasibility of searching the Prairie Green landfill, according to the Canadian Press. The work is expected to be completed within the next 90 days to find out whether the search is possible after the first feasibility study found "there are considerable risks due to exposure to toxic chemicals and asbestos." Anandasangaree said he will work with new Manitoba NDP Premier Wab Kinew on the Province's next steps.

AI: TOOL OR THREAT TO CREATIVITY?

Does an algorithm pose a danger to expression? Probably.

A recent lawsuit filed by 17 authors, including renowned fantasy novelist George R. R. Martin (the author behind *Game of Thrones*), against OpenAI has sparked a heated debate on the ethics of AI (artificial intelligence) and its relationship with copyright infringement in the digital age.

These writers claim that OpenAI, the tech company behind the language-processing tool ChatGPT has stolen their work without permission, raising the question of whether AI-generated works are just inspired by these authors or blatant theft.

AI systems are educated on massive databases of text and code, which include the works of innumerable humans. As a result, it is unavoidable that AI-generated material will resemble prior works.

The authors involved in the lawsuit claim that AI violates copyrights in ways that go beyond simple inspiration.

They say the writing generated by AI is similar enough to their own that it could be mistaken for their original work. They further claim that OpenAI makes money from this purportedly stolen work without paying the original authors.

OpenAI, on the other hand, justifies its stance by claiming that AI draws inspiration from preexisting created material and that the lawsuit "misconceive(s) the scope of copyright" and fails "to take into account the limitations and exceptions (including fair use) that properly leave room for innovations like the large language models now at the forefront of artificial intelligence."

This case is a crucial battleground for deciding the moral limits of AI's creative contributions.

Creatives worry about their future. Protecting original creators' rights is critical in artistic endeavours like music, literature and visual arts.

Protecting creators' exclusive rights to their work encourages them to invest time and resources into producing original content, whether it's art, literature, music or software.

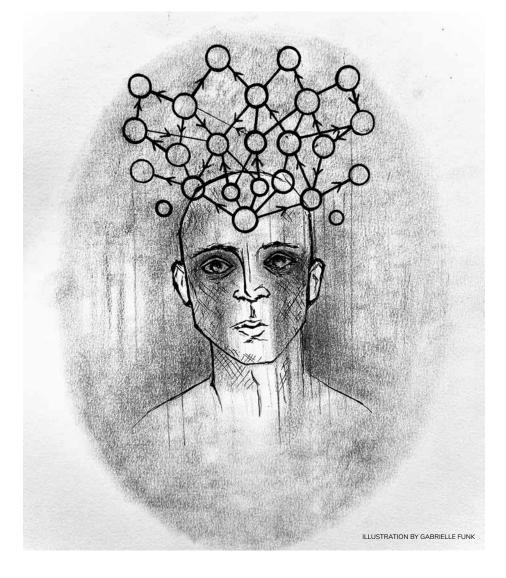
This protection ensures that creators can benefit financially from their creations and have control over how they are used and distributed. In turn, this can foster a vibrant creative ecosystem, driving further innovation and cultural enrichment while respecting the rights of those who contribute to it.

However, copyright concerns may take a back seat when AI merely automates human-performed duties, such as technical documentation or customer-service scripts.

AI is a versatile tool, rather than a replacement for genuine creativity and should only be treated as such. In some cases, it helps spark new ideas, explore different styles, aid translation and even serves as a secondary source of inspiration when authors have writer's block.

This technology is seamlessly integrated into people's daily lives. AI-powered systems can assist in composing emails, identify fraudulent transactions and enhance the precision of self-driving cars, among numerous other applications.

The challenge lies in distinguishing between creative and non-creative AI content



and promoting ethical use. To ensure a harmonious coexistence between human creativity and AI's transformative potential, programmers must implement systems to safeguard artists' and creatives' rights.

It's a puzzle, but the only way forward is to work with the individuals who create the technology instead of aggressively antagonizing them.

Dara Babatope is an English major at the University of Winnipeg. In his free time, he writes or watches films.

CYCLING SAFETY

A work in progress

ADAM JOHNSTON | VOLUNTEER | X ADAMJOHNSTONWPG

As summer winds down, Winnipeg's cycling safety remains in question. Despite some progress with various speed reductions in neighbourhood zones, poor city planning and toxic car culture still make Winnipeg's biking community feel unsafe.

Winnipeg city council proceeded with four one-year speed-reduction projects. Speed limits were lowered from 50 km/h to 40 km/h in Worthington and Richmond West and from 50 km/h to 30 km/h in Bourkevale and Tyndall Park.

Meanwhile, the City targeted 27 speed-reduced streets to prevent risks to cyclists. These progressive and cost-efficient measures are a step forward in building up an active transportation network.

These measures are compatible with a World Health Organization suggestion to implement 30 km/h roads, as reduced speeds can protect cyclists from injuries.

However, some key intersections, like Assiniboine Avenue and Main Street, remain dangerous. There are frequent near-misses when drivers neglect to see cyclists go down the Assiniboine bike lane.

Negligent driving is a persistent problem for cyclists' nerves as they attempt to reach their destinations safely.

In June, a 63-year-old male cyclist was involved in a hit and run at Isabel Street and Notre Dame Avenue. The cyclist was sent to the hospital in unstable condition that eventually upgraded to stable. The driver and accomplices fled the vehicle, and the case remains unsolved.

Hit-and-run incidents involving cyclists add to the layers of anger we feel when we

see riders attacked by cars – and further disregarded by drivers who don't attend to victims.

But while hit and runs are extreme safety problems for cyclists, another increased issue is cars parking in bicycle lanes.

Automobiles parked in bike lanes might seem harmless to drivers, but they cause frustration and increased vulnerability to cyclists.

Frequently, cyclists are jockeying for position for whatever limited space we have to ride around this city. We have to swerve around cars to either go on the road or sidewalk, increasing the risk of being hit by a car or perhaps just missing a pedestrian.

This summer alone, I could easily count almost 10 times when cars would park in bike lanes, putting cyclists at risk.

Seventy-nine per cent of Winnipeg commutes are by automobile, which adds to the problem of cyclist safety.

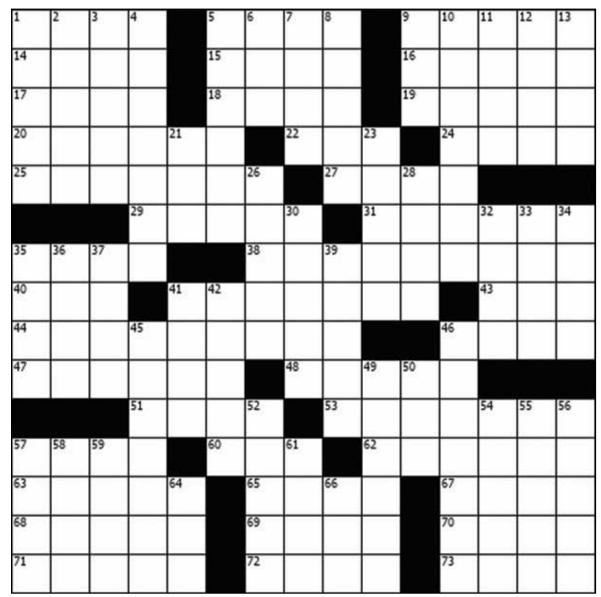
Poorly planned intersections, negligent hit and runs, automobiles parked in bike lanes and a road-rage incident where a cyclist was injured (and their bike damaged) all add to the toxic car culture in our city.

Cyclists' constant worry about being hit at major intersections, hit and runs and swerving around parked cars in bike lanes are clear indications we still have ways to go to ensure Winnipeg cyclists feel safe at all times, despite some progress made.

Adam Johnston is a Winnipeg active- and public-transportation advocate.







ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET

ACROSS

- 1. SHIP'S POLE
- 5. BREAD GRAINS
- 9. GARRET
- 14. NOT THERE 15. SOS!
- 16. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
- 17. WATERLESS
- 18. OF MAN
- 19. SENDS FORTH
- 20. ENGINE PART
- 22. TIME UNIT (ABBR.)
- 24. PLAN
- 25. FDR'S WIFE
- 27. COMPUTER INPUT 29. COINS FROM MEXICO
- 31. REMOVES SUDS 35. A FEW
- 38. ____ GARDEN
- 40. BUDDY (FR.)
- **41. QUARANTINE**
- 43. WIDE STREET (ABBR.) 44. ELECTRICITY SOURCE
- 46. NOT UP YET
- 47. "____ HOUSE" 48. RANCH ANIMAL
- _ DEAD PEOPLE!" (2 WDS.)
- 53. STRICTER
- 57. HYMNAL WORD
- 60. ATLAS CHART
- 62. SPLIT
- 63. WARNING ALARM
- 65. RECKLESS
- 67. ENGLISH RIVER
- 68. UNATTENDED 69. FIR OR POPLAR
- 70. GARDEN TOOL
- 71. BASIL SAUCE
- 72. LISTEN
- 73. LARGE AMOUNT

DOWN

- 1. FIGURE
- 2. DANGER 3. ASCEND
- 4. BUREAUCRATIC DELAY (2 WDS.)
- 5. HORNED ANIMALS, FOR SHORT 6. OKAY!
- 7. BUILDING WINGS
- 8. VELOCITY
- 9. IMITATE
- 10. BIG DRUMS
- 11. KITE PART
- 12. DIVISION TERM 13. PRICE
- 21. FIRST NUMBER
- 23. GEM WEIGHT
- 26. AUTOMATON
- 28. FORK PRONG 30. FLIES ALONE
- 32. WOUND COVERING
- 33. ROOF EDGE
- 34. ARCTIC TRANSPORT
- 35. NORSE TALE
- 36. FUTURE SIGN
- 37. SKIRT LENGTH 39. SMALL PIES
- 41. RETIREES' ACCTS.
- 42. CAPITAL OF OREGON
- 45. DISTINGUISHED 46. IN ____ (LATE WITH PAYMENT)
- 49. ENGRAVER
- 50. ELECTRIC FISH
- 52. OUR PLANET 54. NAUTICAL
- 55. BRING TO MIND
- 56. REFRESH
- 57. KIN OF PDO 58. HIGHWAY MEASURE
- 59. GOD OF LOVE
- 61. WHITTLE DOWN 64. "THE MATRIX" HERO
- 66. DEAD ____ SCROLLS

GAME SOLUTIONS

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This issue's solution (flip to view)

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