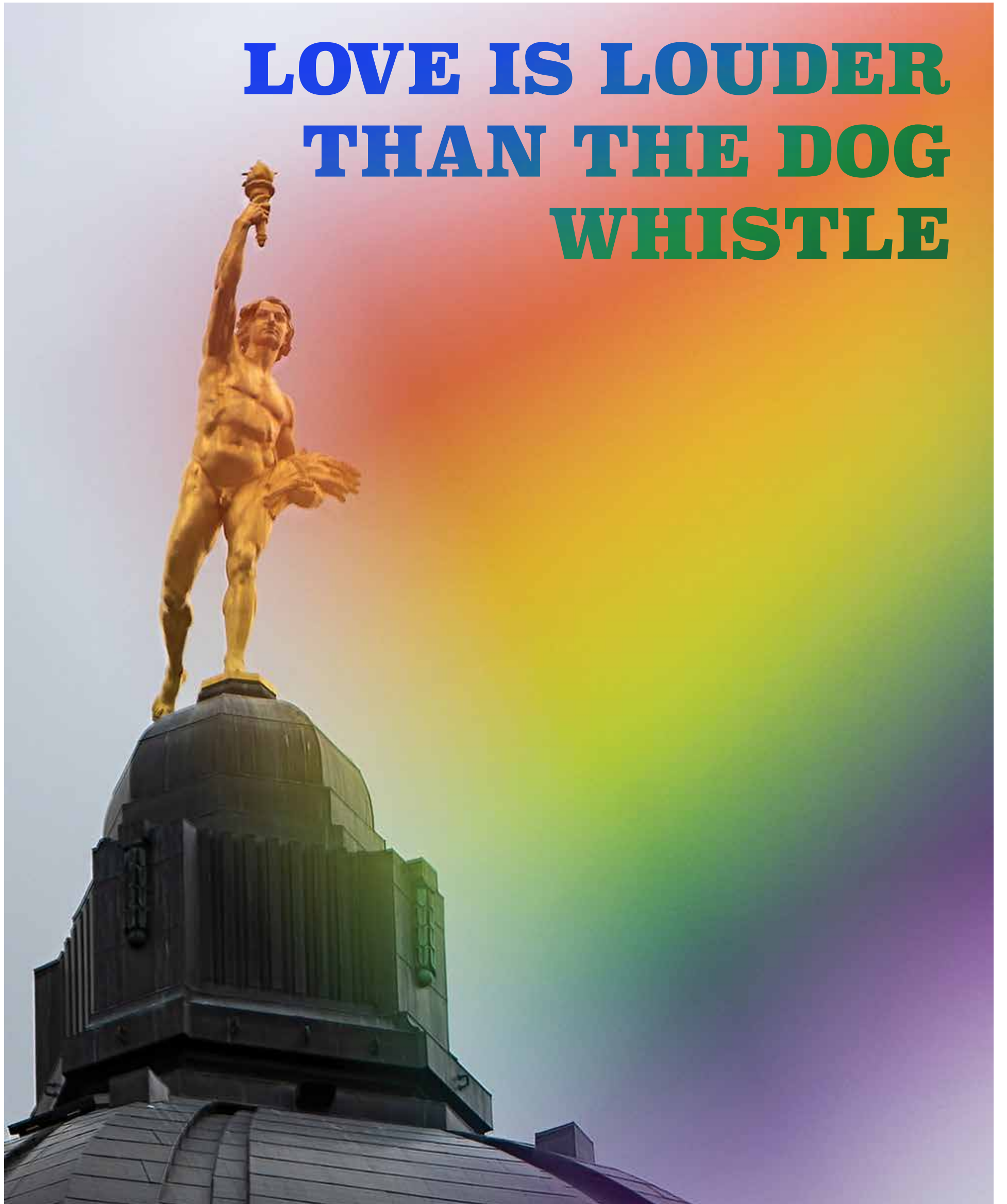


THE **U** N I T E R

CAPTAIN JACK SPARROW'S HOUSE?—P3 | TO DIVEST OR NOT TO DIVEST?—P12 | BREAKING AWAY FROM FAITH—P14



**LOVE IS LOUDER
THAN THE DOG
WHISTLE**

COMBATING ANTI-2SLGBTQ+ HATE IN MANITOBA AND BEYOND

A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



I am using my editorial note this week to offer a statement of solidarity with *The Manitoban*, the student newspaper of the University of Manitoba (U of M).

In its Oct. 17 issue, *The Manitoban* published a series of articles about the war in Gaza and its impacts on students at the U of M. News editor Kyra Campbell and writer Jessie Krahn shared commentary on Israel's brutal campaign in Gaza, which has killed thousands of Palestinians, while writer Colton McKillop reported on a memorial held on Oct. 13 for civilians killed in the conflict.

On Oct. 22, Honest Reporting Canada published a press release attacking *The Manitoban* and its writers. Honest Reporting Canada is "an independent grass-roots organization promoting fairness and accuracy in Canadian media coverage of Israel and the Middle East." While the group claims to aim to counter bias in media, they primarily work to combat any news coverage that presents Israel or the Israeli government in a critical light and to smear Palestinian activists as antisemitic.

Honest Reporting Canada claimed that, by covering these issues, *The Manitoban* is "spoonfeed(ing readers) hateful disinformation" and called their reporting "groundless propaganda."

Honest Reporting Canada's attack against *The Manitoban* isn't just inaccurate – it's dangerous. As journalists, we must be able to report independently on topics impacting the communities we serve. This includes the disturbing increase in antisemitism in Canada and abroad since Oct. 7.

But this also includes the violence inflicted on innocent Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli government – not just in the weeks since Hamas' horrific attack on Israel, but in its decades-long brutal occupation of Gaza and the system of apartheid that the far-right authoritarian government of Benjamin Netanyahu continues to subject Palestinians to.

The intimidation and smearing of student journalists as "sympath(izers) for Islamic terrorism" is inexcusable. I stand in solidarity with *The Manitoban* in the face of this intimidation.

Read next week's issue of *The Uniter* for our coverage of how the conflict is impacting Palestinian and Jewish students at the University of Winnipeg.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Christine Dobbs honours the memory of her son Adam Watson by fighting to end the stigma around drug addiction and overdoses. Read more on page 11.

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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.



WHOSE HOUSE? JACK IN THE PEG'S HOUSE

Captain Jack's enchanted lair

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER

Ever spotted the uncanny presence of Captain Jack Sparrow right here in Winnipeg? If you have, you've likely crossed paths with Todd Douglas.

The talented pirate for hire is an enthusiastic Jack Sparrow impersonator better known as Jack in the Peg. He sings, tells jokes and has amassed a small following on Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.

His transformation into the iconic pirate is more than a mere act. It's a vivid journey that radiates with passion, humour and, above all, a desire to spread joy. Douglas' introduction to the world of Jack Sparrow began with his wife Corinne's suggestion in 2014.

"She introduced me to Jack Sparrow, saying I should go as him for Halloween. I remember thinking, 'who the hell is Jack Sparrow?'" he says. Now, Douglas has become a local celebrity.

He says people of all different ages love and connect with his cosplay, because so many of them grew up watching or have fond memories of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies.

A captivating scene familiar to *Pirates* fans unfolds in Douglas' enchanting home. The living room boasts a whimsical Jack Sparrow-themed bar and a lifelike mannequin of the famed pirate himself.

"Strangely enough, I had him (the mannequin) in the storage room of the last place we lived. Corinne saw him and said, 'Why

don't you bring him in the apartment?'" Douglas says. "It took some getting used to, because, at first, we'd walk into the room and be startled, thinking there was somebody standing in our living room."

Captain Jack rules over a treasure trove of quirky finds: trinkets, pirate flags, a thrifted rum bottle, pirate rings and even the famed Black Pearl ship. Collected through thrifting, gifting, adventure and craftiness, these items make a playful homage to the beloved character who is now part of Douglas' life.

At the centre of the bar is a framed portrait of Johnny Depp. "My wife's ultimate Hollywood hunk is Johnny Depp. That was part of the reason why she wanted me to do Jack Sparrow," Douglas says, jokingly. "She wanted her very own Johnny Depp slash Jack Sparrow."

Their home is where the ordinary and the extraordinary coexist in harmony. It's a place where the couple proves that the spirit of adventure and a touch of fantasy can indeed find a home in the heart of the Canadian prairies.

1. Newest creation

"So I've been making this, and I plan to have it hanging outside the trunk of my car. The peg leg is actually just a toilet plunger."

2. Favourite portrait

"When I first hung the picture, I said, 'Oh Johnny, you're so gorgeous!' and planted a kiss right on his lips. Later, when (my wife) returned home, she ran over to the bar and said, 'Let me be the first to do this!' as she kissed him on the lips. I said, 'No, you're second.'"

3. Ring collection

"A lot of these rings are the ones I wear when I'm Jack. They're all from thrift stores or flea markets."

4. Scarlet's fit

"This is Corinne's outfit. She's put a lot of work into it. This is her purse, but she also carries her phone in it."

5. Treasure chest

"This is where I keep the real treasure. I made these myself, and that's actually my hair. I just stick it on with a liquid latex."

ARTS BRIEFS

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

Matt Foster album-release concert

Join local musician Matt Foster at the West End Cultural Centre (586 Ellice Ave.) on Oct. 28 to celebrate the release of his album *True Needs*. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/3Sdh9lh.

Chilling knowledge

Learn how to send a chill up your readers' spines at the Winnipeg Public Library's upcoming horror-writing workshop. On Oct. 28 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., writer-in-residence Susie Moloney will guide participants through the art of writing horror stories during a free event. Register through bit.ly/3SiQNVV.

Consent on set

On Nov. 1, On Screen Manitoba, in partnership with the Winnipeg Film Group, will host a workshop called Creating a Culture of Consent on Set. It will be facilitated by Lauren Barbara Checkley (SERC) and Richard McCrae (MFL Occupational Health Centre). The free event runs from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Winnipeg Film Group's Black Lodge (304-100 Arthur St.).

The art of time

Opening this Friday, Oct. 27, the Manitoba Museum's latest exhibition spotlights a series of Mennonite heritage clocks arranged by the Kroeger Clocks Heritage Foundation and the Mennonite Heritage Village. *Keeping Time: The Art and Heritage of Mennonite Clocks* features 15 clocks crafted between the late 1700s and early 1900s and brought to Manitoba by Mennonite immigrants.

Walking the WAG catwalk

To kick off the annual CRAFT-ED: Show + Sale, the Winnipeg Art Gallery will host a fashion show in their gallery. A collection of more than 200 looks from designers based in Manitoba, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut will be featured. The show starts at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1. Tickets are available via bit.ly/3MaG8by.

An esteemed, costume jubilee

You're invited to the Plug-In Institute for Contemporary Art's Costumed Dance Jubilee this Saturday, Oct. 28. Hosted at the South Sudanese Community Centre (129 Dagmar St.), the party features music by DJ Jared Star and a swath of exciting performances. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door. Reserve your spot via bit.ly/45K4Oyf.



THE BOOKMAN COMETH

Travelling purveyor of print John Thompson on being part of the local scenery

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @MATTEKLEMARIAM

He's everywhere: on a local university campus in the middle of the day, street festivals at night and online at all hours. Most don't know his name, but, if described, his image is ineffaceable from the mind. His birth name is John Thompson, but he was always destined to be the Bookman.

"It's always very nice to be recognized. A lot of people compliment me on what I do, and they're grateful that I'm there. I get a lot of that," Thompson says.

The soft-spoken, grey-haired book salesman, who has hauled loads of classic literature from campus to festival and back for nearly four decades, has cemented himself as a local fixture. He recounts his humble origins as a business-savvy undergraduate at the University of Manitoba in the late '80s.

"They used to have a student book exchange where you could bring your old textbooks and other texts and put them up for sale and sell them on consignment with the student union," Thompson says.

"Back in those days, and I still do, I was collecting vintage paperbacks, so I would go to garage sales and thrift shops looking for stuff. I thought, hey, I could try selling literature and classics, and maybe it would be viable. It worked out

pretty good."

Constrained by the technology of the time, Thompson's ambitious entrepreneurial efforts were thwarted, forcing him to strike out on his own.

"I got thrown out of (the student book exchange) because I was bringing in so many books. I was overwhelming their computer system," he says. "This was a long time ago, when the computers weren't what they are now. Near the end, they had quantity limits, and I was one of the reasons they instigated that."

Thus, the Bookman was born, after a few business seminars recommended he adopt a brand name.

"I never had a business name up until relatively recently. I didn't really see the need for one," he says.

A one-man operation, Thompson stores his wares in his own home and handles all the physical and logistical labour involved himself, incorporating a strict exercise regimen to keep up. He sources inventory from garage sales, flea markets and thrift shops, only occasionally buying books in bulk from private sellers.

"You have to have a good eye. It's a numbers game. I try to keep prices as low as I can, but it's getting more difficult to get stuff nowadays," he says. "Lately,



The Bookman's display of used books is a common sight on university campuses and street festivals all over Winnipeg.

demand for the books has been crazy. I've never seen it so nuts. I have trouble keeping up with it. Since the pandemic has ended, there has definitely been an upsurge."

Despite the challenges, Thompson is proud to continue a since-faded tradition of bringing quality reading material to the masses, wherever they may be.

"When I first started in the business,

there were two other people who used to sell books on campuses as well, but there's nobody that does this anymore. I'm the only guy."

Find Bookman's latest stock at the University of Manitoba from Nov. 20 to 23.

CELEBRATING JEWISH BRILL-IANCE

An educational and enchanting evening of song planned at the Rady JCC

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @MATTEKLEMARIAM

If Neil Diamond, Carole King, Paul Simon and Phil Spector were all in one building for an evening, the event would almost certainly be standing-room only. That is, if the building were a concert venue. But the illustrious artists listed above *did* coexist in the same space for years with each other.

The historic Brill Building, located at 1619 Broadway in Manhattan, was for years synonymous with American pop-music excellence. Housing many music labels and companies during the mid-20th century, many of the productions that resulted from creatives working there could fill up most of a sequel to *The Great American Songbook*.

That's exactly what's being celebrated this Oct. 28 at the Rady JCC's Tarbut: Festival of Jewish Culture's finale concert, called *Songs from the Brill Building: A Jewish Connection*.

"It was an amazing place, because on different floors of the building, you had people running on different floors, handing in music, handing in lyrics, handing in a combination of both," Karla Berbrayer, music producer for the Tarbut: Festival of Jewish Culture, says.

For the closing event of the Tarbut festival, an all-Manitoban band of musicians will take the audience through

some of pop's most enduring tunes – all of which have a Jewish connection.

"It's also an interesting fact that many of those composers, musicians and singers were Jewish. There's a strong Jewish connection to the Brill Building, so I thought it would be appropriate to feature this kind of a performance during the Tarbut festival," Berbrayer says.

The idea for the event evolved from a preview of sorts earlier this year after Berbrayer initially conceived of the idea for a Brill Building show without the connection to Judaism.

"I got the idea, and then I picked up the phone and thought, who can I throw this to? And so my call went out to Phil Corrin. I've handed the baton to Phil to make the concert work," Berbrayer says.

"(Berbrayer and I) actually did a shorter version of this as part of an afternoon concert series last spring," Phil Corrin, designated bandleader of the concert, says.

He selected many of the musicians from his experiences with various Winnipeg theatre companies.

"The concert sold out, and it wasn't specifically a Jewish cultural event back then. We realized there were so many Jewish artists who came up in the course of our research for the concert, (and) we



Carole King (left) and Paul Simon are two of the many iconic Jewish songwriters who worked in New York's Brill Building.



thought it would be a perfect fit to close out this Tarbut festival," he says.

Over the course of the evening, listeners will be given crash courses in the Brill Building's storied history in between the musical numbers, complete with photos.

"Whenever I put together a show, in this type of concept, I try to make sure there is an educational component to it. Phil will be, throughout the show talking and giving anecdotes of the connections between these songs and the musicians," Berbrayer says.

"Every song has a Jewish connection of some kind. We're definitely going to explore that and let the audience in on the Jewish history of the building," Cor-

rin says.

For the people involved, the preparation has proven to be an informative experience, as well.

"It's been really fun putting it together, because I've learned a lot myself about the Jewish performers that I didn't even know were Jewish. It's been an educational experience even for myself," Corrin says.

Songs from the Brill Building: The Jewish Connection plays Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Rady Jewish Community Centre (123 Doncaster St.). Tickets can be purchased at radyjcc.net/ticketcentral.cfm.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A still from 1954's *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome*, a seminal work of independent queer cinema by filmmaker and provocateur Kenneth Anger

SPOOKY ACTION

Cinematheque presents a survey of Kenneth Anger films

MADLINE BOGOCH | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

The Dave Barber Cinematheque will honour late avant-garde filmmaker Kenneth Anger with a survey of his works on Oct. 28.

Ceremonies of Light: The Films of Kenneth Anger features *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (1954), *Scorpio Rising* (1963), *Invocation of my Demon Brother* (1969) and *Lucifer Rising* (1972). The screening is curated by Cinematheque programming director Jaimz Asmundson and will be introduced by Murray Leeder, a research affiliate at the University of Manitoba and lecturer at the University of Winnipeg.

Anger, who died in May at the age of 96, remains a towering figure in underground film circles for crafting a distinct and eccentric style that drew from the occult, queer culture and pop music. He also wrote *Hollywood Babylon*, his sensationalist and often apocryphal history

of early Hollywood.

Asmundson says Anger's impact is felt across styles and genres.

"His groundbreaking filmmaking aesthetics, such as editing techniques, experimental structure and his tackling of taboo subjects, were very unlike anything else at the time, and his work has gone on to be a huge influence on generations of filmmakers and popular culture," he says in an email to *The Uniter*.

Anger's legacy is evident in the emerging queer experimental cinema of the 1960s, as seen in the works of artists like Jack Smith and Andy Warhol, whose styles can be traced to Anger's pioneering forms. Beyond the avant-garde, Anger's work has wide-reaching influence. Director David Lynch is often cited as a notable disciple of Anger's oeuvre.

"His importance as an experimental filmmaker can be charted in a couple of different ways. One that's quite noteworthy is in the use of music," Leeder says.

"As early as the '40s, his films play as sort of proto music videos, in that he'll just put pop songs on top of things. I'm sure he did not ask anybody's permission. But he'll play pop songs beginning to end over completely different imagery."

Ceremonies of Light is presented in conjunction with *Undead Archive: 100 Years of Photographing Ghosts*, a multi-venue exhibition curated by Dr. Serena Keshavjee, an art-history professor at the University of Winnipeg.

The exhibition is inspired by Winnipeg's fabled paranormal roots, particularly the experiments of physician T.G. Hamilton, who hosted famous séances at his Henderson Highway home. Hamilton's exploits drew international attention, including from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a notable spiritualist, who attended one such session. Hamilton gained renown for his spirit photography, aimed at substantiating the presence of apparitions.

Anger shared this passion for the supernatural and was a devoted follower of occultist Aleister Crowley. This infatuation is reflected in the themes of Anger's work and his approach to filmmaking, which is executed with

a ritualistic flair.

"There's the idea of cinema being an occult medium," Leeder says, adding that the Anger survey "seemed like a pretty natural fit to slide into the broader programming around the *Undead Archive*."

As Asmundson notes, the exhibition highlights Winnipeggers' fascination with the paranormal and the occult on a local scale, inspiring generations of artists and filmmakers.

"I like to think that Kenneth Anger would have been aware of and inspired by the Hamilton House ectoplasm photos, which brings this screening full circle in an exciting way," Asmundson says.

The films will be screened on 16mm, adding a dimension of tactility and history to the program.

"Part of the magic of watching film on film is that the film's exhibition history is permanently embedded within the imperfections of the celluloid ... and screening the films, with the encapsulation of that history within the celluloid, is like an ephemeral magical ceremony unto itself," Asmundson says.

Ceremonies of Light: The Films of Kenneth Anger screens on Oct. 28 at the Dave Barber Cinematheque. The four-film program starts at 7 p.m. and is pay-what-you-can.

PRAIRIE ALLEGORIES

Island Falls explores labour and dispossession in a Manitoban town

MADLINE BOGOCH | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Local author and researcher Owen Toews' debut novel, *Island Falls*, follows an unnamed narrator who recalls their time as a student in a small, Marxist program in New York and their friendship with another student, Jan, who writes inquiries into the history of his hometown, Island Falls.

The fictional town in Manitoba predominantly serves a local paper mill, which acts as the central organizing body. Workers are divided into strict hierarchies, imposed to ensure the atomization of each group and the continuity of power.

"*Island Falls* is about a young person trying to piece together a geography of their past and where they come from," Toews says in an email to *The Uniter*.

Throughout the novel, Toews connects the historical establishment of economic powers in Manitoba, the strategic dispossession of Indigenous communities, labour exploitation and carceral capitalism.

Toews is a geographer who trained at CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. In 2018, he published *Stolen City: Racial Capitalism and the Making of Winnipeg*, a nonfiction history of settler-colonialism in Winnipeg. *Island Falls*, which launched on Oct. 25 at an event hosted by McNally Robinson Booksellers, is Toews' first novel.

Discussing his decision to write fiction, Toews explains:

"There were elements of several real-life places combined into one and some elements that were just coming out of my imagination that needed to be there because they summed up the truth of what I was trying to describe."

While discussing his process, he notes that the novel originated from extensive research across the province.

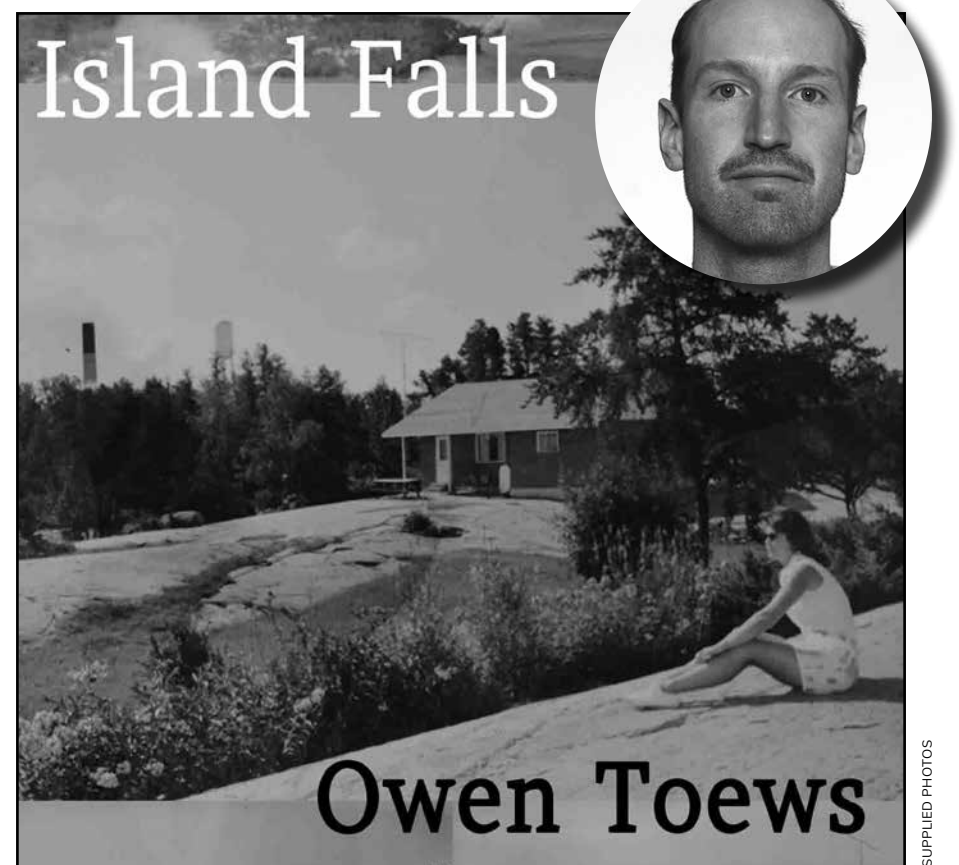
"From 2018 to 2023, I travelled from town to town in Manitoba, talking to people about the ways life had been set up in their towns in the 20th century ... I asked people to talk about two things: racism and the economy," he says.

The community of Island Falls stands as a microcosm of the forces that have shaped Canadian towns and cities. As Jan reflects on the town's history, the novel also hints at the future.

"Jan is tuned in to how his hometown is in motion, how it is in flux, how the people who are dispossessed and exploited to make it function are nudging it toward a totally different future, and how others are trying to recreate the old ways anew," Toews says.

Amid the pervasive inequalities, Toews weaves a thread of hope throughout the novel, emphasizing the potential of solidarity to undermine deeply entrenched systems of racial capitalism.

"Partitions and hierarchies never work



Owen Toews' first novel, *Island Falls*, brings the author's previous historical and political obsessions into fiction for the first time.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

perfectly," Toews says. "We meet each other. We become fond of one another. We start questioning why we've been kept apart."

Island Falls is the story of a town that could be many towns in the Prairies, but it also reflects a common experience for many young people. Jan, a student, is driven to unpack his personal history and where he

comes from through the lens of his studies and developing political consciousness.

"And he's reading (W.E.B.) Du Bois," Toews adds.

***Island Falls* is available for purchase at McNally Robinson Booksellers or at arpbooks.org.**



CRITIEG

CLUE

Plays at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre until Nov. 11

★★★★☆

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

It's the Parker Brothers' world, and we're just living in it.

So goes the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Royal MTC)'s playful, theatrical take on the classic mystery board game *Clue*.

Written by actor and award-winning playwright Sandy Rustin, the Royal MTC production is one of more than 3,000 theatrical adaptations of director Jonathan Lynn's film *Clue* worldwide.

The six original characters – Miss Scarlet

(Reena Jolly), Mrs. Peacock (Sharon Bajer), Prof. Plum (Derek Scott), Mrs. White (Petrina Bromley), Col. Mustard (Beau Dixon) and Mr. Green (Toby Hughes) – are cast as a fashionable crew of social climbers in Washington, D.C. Placing them in the political and historical centre of the McCarthy era sets the tone for an evening of decadent lies and twisted affairs.

The play welcomes the six dinner guests into host Mr. Boddy's (Alex Furber), luxurious manor. Unbeknownst to them, it would soon

become a site of blood and blackmail. After dinner, Wadsworth (Jesse Gervais), Mr. Boddy's butler, reveals the guests have been blackmailed by their host.

Locking the doors, Mr. Boddy throws his guests into a Big Brother-style murder mystery. Gifting each of them a weapon, he asserts that the only way out is to play his game by eliminating his butler.

But when the lights go out and shots are fired, things don't go as planned. As the guests separate into pairs to search for clues across the manor, death never leaves the doorstep.

Staying true to the classic board-game layout, the characters travel through a rotating set of rooms. From the zebra-skinned lounge to the study with a floor-to-ceiling literature display and a secret, revolving bookcase, the interiors alone evoke childlike fascination. As audiences lose sight of select floors, they're left to fill a mental game sheet of what may be happening behind closed doors.

For a game premised on mystery, the script could take on more of it. References to contem-

porary times are sprinkled in each scene, with some landing and others going over the crowd's heads. Nonetheless, each exceptionally talented cast member embraces their role to the highest extent.

Moreover, producing a thrilling play within the creative confines of a ubiquitous board game is no simple task. *Clue* is to be commended for its ability to push beyond the tired clichés of murder mysteries while staying true to the colours and aesthetics of the nostalgic brand. Though occasionally campy, it is never tacky.

As the cast presents their final alibis, one brave character temporarily escapes the Parker Brothers' universe by breaking the fourth wall. Whether future audiences will have the pleasure of being solicited for donations by Gervais in Wadsworth's clothes, like the game, remains a mystery.

Tickets to the Royal MTC's production of *Clue*, on now until Nov. 11, can be purchased at bit.ly/40aH4Cc. Discounted tickets are still available for audience members under 30.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6AM	MORNING BREATH	The Sentinel's Marvellous Kaleidoscope	Worldbeat Canada Radio	Indigenous in Music	FANTASTIC FRIDAY World - Island Music	THE SATURDAY MORNING SHOW	CKUW-SPEAKS
7AM		Folk Roots Radio	FRANÇOL	CANQUEER			
8AM	Shortwave Report	RADIO ECOSHOCK	Behind the News With Doug Henwood	Harbinger Media Hour	Wooden Spoons	Green Planet Monitor	SHADES OF CLASSICS Classical and New Age
9AM	CounterSpin						
10AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!		DEMOCRACY NOW!			MUD PUDDLE RADIO For Kids (Adults too)	
11AM	DEPARTMENT 13 POP/ROCK	This Way Out WINGS	VOYAGE Jazz	Viewpoints BRIDGING THE GAP ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS YEARSHOT DAILY	SUNNY ROAD Roots Music		Medicine Wheel of Music
NOON	COMEDIOLOGICAL REPORT	The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit Folk		Dead Medium	NO FIXED ADDRESS Lived Experiences of Homelessness	THE ELECTRIC CHAIR	TEMPLE TENT REVIVAL
1PM	outSPOKEn	THE GREEN MAJORITY	ALTERNATIVE RADIO	TICKLE MY FANCY Blues	GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR	THE IVORY TOWER Eclectic Mix	YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD Gospel
2PM	Truth Before Reconciliation	The Stuph File	The Reminder	BARKING DOG Past 'n Present Folk 'n Roots	Dollar Country		Active Voice
3PM	GroundSwell Radio New Classical	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire	SPACE CADET MUSIC, OUT OF THIS WORLD	SQUAREWAVE VIDEO GAME MUSIC AND HISTORY	LET'S PLAY DJ!	Star Road Junction Progressive Rock	This is Hell
4PM	NewFound Records Music from Newfoundland and Labrador		AMATEUR HOUR So Bad, It's Good	PAGES EAT YOUR ARTS & VEGETABLES	Soft Robotics (Electronic/Ambient)		The World News, spoken word
5PM	The Vulcan's Hold Trip Hop	SYSTEM KIDZ YOUTH IN CARE	TWANG TRUST Country/Roots/Big, Dumb Rock 'n Roll	TAWNY, THE BRAVE Pop/Rock	THE HOW DO YOU DO REVUE	WE BUILD HITS Hip-Hop	THE C.A.R.P. The Completely Asinine Radio Program
6PM	Thrash Can Thrash Metal	Sonic Blanket	Balmoral Blues Blues	Adult Kindergarten	HIP HOP 50 Hip Hop	RED BOX Hip-Hop	Circle One Punk
7PM	DESTINATION MOON Sock-Hop-A-Go-Go	On My Way Home Local Indie	S.A.N.E. * RADIO Local Experimental Music	Da Show World & Variety	QUADRAFUNK Electric Dance Party	DANCE HALL FEVER Dancehall and Reggae	THE GASHLYCRUMB TINIERS
8PM	The Freedom Principle World Music	TranceLand Electronic/Dance	ROMPE Latin	Dub City Steppers	StreetKilliaz Local Hip Hop		ISLAND VIBES Caribbean
9PM		YEARSHOT DAILY	YEARSHOT DAILY	PHASE ONE Electronic			Rainbow Country
10PM		Free City Radio	Two Princes				
11PM	BREAK NORTH RADIO	LISTENING PLEASURES	ShrimpFarm.Crypto Replay	THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN	MANITOBA MOON	ShrimpFarm.Crypto Collages by Silas	REVOLUTION ROCK
MIDNIGHT	METAL MONDAY	NIGHT DANGER RADIO	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire Replay			Your Show Here	GIRLIE SO GROOVIE
1AM	MODERN JAZZ TODAY	The Motherland Influence	Thrash Can - Replay				
2AM	AMPLIFIED RADIO	BACKBEAT	Meta World STOOPALOOP Show - Replay				
3AM							
4AM							
5AM							
6AM							



MUSIC

LOCAL SPOKEN WORD

SPOKEN WORD

ALTER-NATING

WEEK

Temporary Programming

WWW.CKUW.CA

OFFICE:
204-786-9782

NEWS DESK : 204-786-9998

ON AIR:
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Some programs are on hiatus and/or airing different content due to university closure for COVID-19.

New shows are marked with a star - ★

Live shows are marked with a lightning bolt - ⚡

LOVE IS LOUDER THAN THE DOG WHISTLE

Combating anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate in Manitoba
and beyond

A rainbow flag waves in front of the Golden Boy during a rally supporting trans rights at the Manitoba Legislative Building on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Six years ago, Bryce Byron fled the United States for Canada amid a wave of transphobia.

After Donald Trump was elected president, Byron, a bisexual genderqueer who uses ze/hir pronouns, watched anti-2SLGBTQ+ rhetoric transform into government policy, threatening the livelihoods of queer and trans people across the nation.

Today, Byron, who works as a database manager at Rainbow Resource Centre, is witnessing an all-too-familiar tide of hate emerge in the country where ze sought refuge.

“What has been happening down in the States over the last six years is coming, and we are just seeing the very beginnings of it,” Byron says. “The language that’s being used by organizations like Action4Canada and the 1 Million March 4 Children (is) identical to the language that has been used in the US to push all sorts of really dangerous legislation.”

On Sept. 20, hundreds gathered on two sides of the Manitoba Legislature in protest and counter-protest during the 1 Million March 4 Children, a nationwide rally calling for the elimination of sexu-

ality and gender curriculums, student pronoun changes and gender-neutral bathrooms from Canadian schools.

On the north side of the building, counter-protestors gathered in a sea of pride flags, chanting “Love is louder!” and “Protect trans kids!”

The west side of the building told a different story.

There, a flock of “parental-rights” proponents raised Canadian flags and posters denouncing “gender ideology.” “Leave our kids alone!” they chanted.

As Canadians navigate the murky waters of the so-called parental-rights

movement, 2SLGBTQ+ organizations and activists argue it’s a dog whistle to mask anti-trans and anti-queer rhetoric.

“This is very much a reactionary movement that’s looking to push our community back into the closet where we were prior to Stonewall and prior to the action of folks like Gays for Equality in organizing the first pride march in Winnipeg back in 1974,” Byron says. “It’s really looking to take us back over 50 years in our work for 2SLGBTQ+ liberation.”

Blowing the dog whistle

Across Canada, policies requiring teachers to disclose and require parental consent for changes to students' pronouns and gender identity have emerged.

In June, New Brunswick education minister Bill Hogan amended Policy 713 to require parental consent for teachers to use a student under 16's preferred name and pronouns. In August, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe released a policy requiring teachers to do the same. The latter legislation was formally passed into law on Friday, Oct. 20.

The policies have been met with resistance from advocates across the nation. On Oct. 16, Saskatchewan human-rights commissioner Heather Kuttai resigned due to the province's pronoun policies, which she described as "an attack on the rights of trans, nonbinary and gender-diverse children" in her letter to the premier. Additionally, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) has launched a legal challenge to New Brunswick's Policy 713.

Ahead of the provincial election, the Manitoba Progressive Conservative (PC) Party began parroting the language of parental-rights advocates. The message plastered on Obby Khan billboards reading "parents know best" led some to believe they'd follow in the same direction of New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

After the Manitoba NDP won a majority government in October, fears around parental-rights policies emerging in the province have been largely quashed. However, that doesn't mean anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate has been stifled – far from it, advocates say.

This year, a series of right-wing advocacy groups, such as Action4Canada, lobbied governments across the country to combat what they believe is gender ideology in schools by scrapping Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculums and policies under the guise of parental rights.

Hazel Woodrow, the education facilitator at the Canadian Anti-Hate Network, says much of the current anti-2SLGBTQ+ rhetoric is reminiscent of the far-right rhetoric of the early pandemic birthed from conspiracy group QAnon.

"We're seeing a resurgence of 'save the children' or 'save our children,' and that was something we saw earlier on in the pandemic, but (it) dropped off a little bit in the last couple years," Woodrow says. "It's a real focus on a moral and a social panic about child sexual abuse."

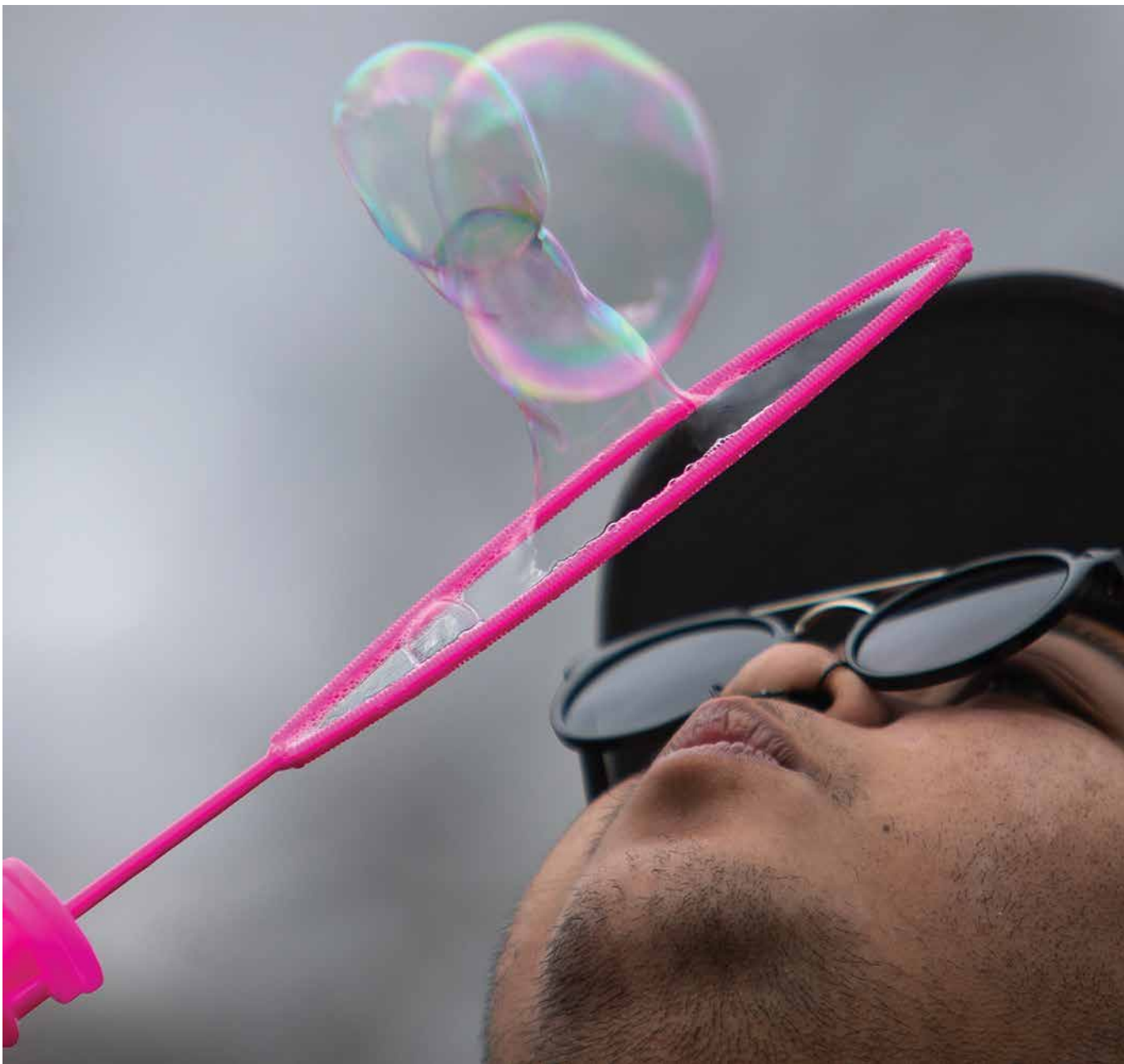
"Sometimes it is specific, in that they're talking about queer and trans people being sexual predators ... sometimes they are talking about a conflation of children coming into their identities as being trans through learning about gender from school, for example, and conflating that with child sexual abuse."



A demonstrator holds a protest sign at the Oct. 21 rally.



A protester with a rainbow temporary tattoo listens to speakers at the Oct. 21 rally for trans rights.



Nix Calma blows bubbles at the Oct. 21 rally for trans rights at the Manitoba Legislative Building.



Yanna Windchime Courtney dances in rainbow attire at the Oct. 21 rally.

In a column for *Ricochet* published earlier this month, writer and professor Aaron Saad argues that parental-rights rhetoric has “smuggled” anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate from the fringe into mainstream politics.

“When presented too overtly, bigoted beliefs remain stranded on the fringe. And so there has to be some vehicle to smuggle them into everyday consciousness, one that covers them with a veneer of reasonableness,” Saad writes. “(T)he activism that culminated in the ‘1 Million March 4 Children’ could not openly present itself as anti-LGBTQ+; that would turn away too many people wanting to maintain they would never associate with bigots. The solution was to take a page from successful hate mobilizations of the past and make the cause about ‘parental rights.’”

Woodrow believes the parental-rights movement has expanded for numerous reasons. Primarily, it toys with the emotions of parents who have a vested interest in their children’s lives and wellbeing at school.

“It combines the stickiness and the just-feels-right-ness and just-makes-sense-ness of so-called parental rights as a concept with fear about abusing children,” Woodrow says. “We consider language (and) rhetoric that casts queer and trans people as child predators to be not just hate speech, but exceptionally inciteful hate speech because it’s incitement to action.”

Moreover, this isn’t the first time the rhetoric of parental rights has been weaponized against 2SLGBTQ+ rights. In 1977, Anita Bryant, a singer and pageant winner turned activist, spearheaded an anti-gay rights campaign called Save Our Children.

Through the campaign, Bryant fueled the idea that gay people were dangerous to children, resulting in a repeal of a law in Miami, Fla. protecting homosexual people from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation.

The law was later restored in 1998. Yet, in 2023, nearly a half-century after Bryant’s campaign, identical slogans have reemerged, fueling attacks on 2SLGBTQ+ rights in schools and beyond.

Combating and connecting

As anti-trans and anti-queer rhetoric materializes, student unions across Manitoba are mobilizing against 2SLGBTQ+ hate on campus.

“There’s a lot of frustration amongst the youth I’ve talked (to). There’s so much misinformation and disinformation, and some individuals have taken that to their advantage to target trans and queer youth,” Brie Villeneuve, the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA)’s 2SLGBTQ+ students’ director wrote in an email to *The Uniter*.

In March, Villeneuve organized a protest against a lecture at the university they feared would perpetuate transphobic views. The university ultimately went forward with the lecture in the name of academic freedom.

As the students they speak with express fears and frustrations, Villeneuve wants the university to work with the 2SLGBTQ+ community – not just the student union – to develop solutions.

“Many students I’ve talked with feel the university administration doesn’t have our backs. Words in supposed support (are) no longer enough, and (they) never truly w(ere),” they say. “2SLGBTQ+ students deserve to feel respected and feel safe on campus.”

In addition to his work as the University of Manitoba Student Union (UMSU)’s 2SLGBTQIA+ students’ representative, Alex Rana recently began organizing alongside the MB 2SLGBTQIA+ Student Action Coalition within the No Space for Hate Collective.

The collective, which was established ahead of the 1 Million March 4 Children counter-protest, is composed of more than a dozen 2SLGBTQ+ community organizations, student unions and allies. Together, they’ve organized two rallies in counter-protest of parental-rights marches.

“We did some help getting students out to the original counter-protests in September, and we’re organizing with all the other communities involved in the No Space for Hate rally,” Rana says.

Ahead of the Oct. 21 rally, Rana helped organize a poster-making workshop with the coalition. By connecting students with the cause, he sees strength in numbers.

"It's unfortunate that we have to do this again after we did this last month, but I hope we have a good show of support," Rana says.

Love is louder

In the early afternoon of Oct. 21, hundreds gathered at the Manitoba Legislative Building grounds at the No Space for Hate rally.

After an energetic DJ set and welcoming remarks, the Feminist as Fuck marching band took to the steps, uniting the crowd in song and solidarity.

"Fight, fight, fight, fight, we don't buy parental rights!" they chanted with the audience. "Win, win, win, win, we won't go back to where we've been!"

Across the way at Memorial Park, a march in support of Palestinians formed. Some speakers drew connections between the two struggles for peace and liberation.

"We know it is our collective responsibility to provide a safe and accepting, inclusive environment for our youth, especially our queer and trans youth," speaker Azka said. "We are here to celebrate their strength to live authentically, to show them that they are not alone, that they are cherished, and that they are loved."

For Byron, there are two options for queer and trans people: disappearance or liberation. In his eyes, it is in everyone's interest to choose the latter.

"We need to be fully accepted. It's not enough to simply have our rights guaranteed by a piece of paper in Ottawa," he says. "We need to be out here demanding that society accepts us as full human beings. And that is what's being pushed back against."



Pierce Marks Plikett holds a sign during a rally supporting trans rights at the Manitoba legislative grounds.



A protester waves a flag at the Oct. 21 rally for trans rights.



MORE SUPPORTS NEEDED FOR ADDICTIONS TREATMENT

Manitoba's opioid crisis reaches record-high overdoses

JURA MCILRAITH | CITY REPORTER | X JURA_IS_MY_NAME

Christine Dobbs still misses seeing her son Adam Watson come home from work with his signature smile, nearly eight years after he died from a fentanyl overdose. She sits at her kitchen table, covered in articles documenting Manitoba's opioid crisis since 2016 and photos of Adam and others who have died from drug use.

Adam's death is just one of many such losses. In 2022, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported 418 drug-related deaths in Manitoba. This year, fatal overdoses spiked in May, reaching 44 deaths. That's the highest it's been since August 2021, when 52 people died from using drugs.

Resources for those struggling with substance use have not improved, although there is wider awareness of the issue, Dobbs says.

"For many of us back in those days, we didn't even know what (fentanyl or OxyContin) was," Dobbs says. "When Adam came to me finally, we knew something was wrong. He sat down with me, and he said, 'Mom, I'm in serious trouble. I'm addicted to OxyContin.'"

Fentanyl, a potent opioid generally used as a pain reliever in hospitals, can be 20 to 40 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, according to Health Canada.

Adam died one month after his 27th birthday. Before his death, Dobbs and her husband Lang Watson had tried every available option to help him overcome his addiction that started with OxyContin. When the price of the drug increased, he turned to fentanyl, which was cheaper.

Adam tried getting help at places like Main Street Project and Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics. He had to go through multiple medical tests and a two-week waiting period, during which he had to phone in every day before being accepted into treatment.

Dobbs says there are still holes in the system that prevent people from recovering.

"The best thing we can do to save people is to not make them wait when they ask for help," she says. "You can't force anyone into treatment of any kind."

Dobbs wants to see more wraparound supports and resources for Manitobans looking to reduce or stop their substance use.

Dobbs believes healthcare cuts from the previous Progressive Conservative government are part of the problem and hopes to see the newly elected New Democratic Party follow through on their promises to increase funding across healthcare services.

Bernadette Smith, the new provincial minister for housing, addictions and homelessness, says the government is committed to opening a safe-consumption site.

"We see less resources being put into combating what we're seeing happening," Smith, the Point Douglas MLA since 2017, says. "I think taking a harm-reduction approach (is) a proven strategy. That's what saves lives, and we need to continue working toward that."

Smith has visited other provinces, including Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, to learn about their safe-consumption site programs.

Between 2017 and June 2023, 39 Canadian safe-consumption sites across the country saw 4.3 million visitors. In the same period, these sites monitored roughly 49,000 overdoses and drug-related medical emergencies with zero reported deaths, according to data from the Government of Canada.

Safe-consumption sites provide safer places for people who use drugs by giving them access to sterile equipment, like needles, which decreases the spread of blood-borne infections, such as HIV, hepatitis B and C and other bacteria that can cause heart infections.

They also offer mental-health, medical and social services, and Health Canada says they help reduce public drug use, discarded drug equipment and the strain on emergency medical services.

Manitoba currently has no permanent supervised-consumption site.

Sunshine House's Mobile Overdose Prevention Site (MOPS) has provided life-saving care for Winnipeggers who use drugs, but their funding may be running out. This year, the organization put out a call for donations to try and raise \$275,000 to keep the RV running until the end of March.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Christine Dobbs honours the memory of her son Adam Watson by fighting to combat the stigma surrounding drug addiction and overdoses.

Since it opened last October, the RV has seen 14,000 visitors and completed 5,000 drug tests using their mobile mass spectrometer, which analyzes drug samples. A total of 19 overdoses have been reversed there.

Smith says safe-consumption sites do not enable drug users and instead help them make connections to start recovering from addiction. She wants to see aftercare, including general healthcare services, mental-health counselling and access to safe housing, improved with an increase to funding for these services.

"We want to ensure ... when someone comes out, there's supports to ensure that they're successful," Smith says.

Stigma and housing issues also contribute to the opioid crisis in the province, Smith and Dobbs say.

Dobbs believes that if her son did not have family support, he would have become homeless, because "all his money went toward buying and finding the drugs."

She struggled to talk with others about the

cause of his death because of the stigma and misconceptions about drug use in 2016.

"Stigma is the number-one issue. Even now, some people will just say things like, 'Well, it was their choice.' It's not their choice. It's not a moral failing," Dobbs says. "It's a health issue. They didn't choose to become addicted to the drug."

Dobbs found support from groups like Moms Stop the Harm. She says being able to talk with others who have gone through similar experiences was an important part of her healing.

She wants to prevent others from experiencing what she describes as the worst pain anyone could go through by advocating for safe supply and getting youth involved in discussing the issue.

Dobbs says the hardest part now is thinking about all the things Adam is missing out on, like his sister's wedding, and celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas without him.

The pain of losing a child to drug use never leaves you, she says.

CITY BRIEFS

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

Low attendance at Jets game

The Winnipeg Jets recently saw their lowest turnout for a home game since pandemic safety restrictions were in effect. They played the Los Angeles Kings on Oct. 17, and only 11,226 of the Canada Life Centre's 15,324 seats were in use. The Jets also reported low ticket sales for their Oct. 19 game against the Vegas Golden Knights.

Trick or Treat and Meow

Craig Street Cats, a non-profit organization working with Winnipeg's community cats, is hosting a drop-in trick-or-treat fundraiser. Parents with kids in costumes will receive a candy goodie bag in exchange for a \$10 cash or canned cat-food donation. Trick-or-treaters can visit the cats this weekend from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 29 at 16-1421 St. James St.

Free flow of menstrual products

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association is launching Free Flow, an initiative providing accessible emergency-use menstrual products on campus. UWSA leaders started this initiative to help minimize students' financial burdens and support people who "don't have a choice to bleed." Students can attend the launch in The Hive on Monday, Oct. 30 at 12:15 p.m. Students can also receive free menstrual products through the UWSA Foodbank.

Highest demand for the city's bus services

The demand for bus service in Winnipeg has reached its highest point since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Winnipeg has 897 active bus drivers, but they need 95 more to operate a full fall schedule. This driver shortage, including operator absences, is causing route cancellations and delays. Although Winnipeg Transit hired 118 drivers this fall, roughly 100 employees retired or quit. It is unknown when bus service routes will be restored.

Record number of nationwide food-bank visits

On Oct. 25, Food Banks Canada released their latest HungerCount 2023 report, showing a 32 per cent increase in food-bank visits in March compared to last year. Their findings show that nearly two million people across the country accessed a food bank during the month, which provided more than 3.8 million total meals and snacks, excluding food hampers. The report states a 79 per cent increase in total visits from 2019 to 2023, the highest year-to-year increase in usage ever reported.

Homeless shelters need winter clothing

Winnipeg's first snowfall happened this week, and chiller temperatures are here. Several homeless shelters in the city say their shelves are empty and are calling for community donations of sweaters, winter jackets, new socks, mittens, hats, boots and cold medication. End Homelessness Winnipeg's 2023-24 cold-weather plan has created a funding stream where organizations can apply to receive support. In addition, staff from some organizations are working to maintain pop-up warming shelters during extreme-weather advisories, along with increased outreach through Main Street Project's 24/7 van.



U OF W FOUNDATION EMBRACES NET ZERO, BUT NOT DIVESTMENT

Endowment fund commits to net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MIEKERUTH

WITH FILES FROM THOMAS PASHKO

The University of Winnipeg (U of W) Foundation, which oversees the U of W's \$82 million endowment fund, has committed to ensuring its investment portfolio is "aligned with net-zero emissions" by 2050 or sooner.

The firm managing the endowment fund, MFS Investment Management (MFS), signed on to the Net Zero Asset Managers (NZAM) initiative in 2021, in response to pressure from the foundation and other clients to deepen its commitment to addressing climate change.

An endowment fund is a large pool of low-risk investments owned by a university or other non-profit organization. The endowment's asset purchases are funded by donor contributions, and the profits earned on those investments are used to financially support some of the non-profit's activities. The U of W Foundation provides money for capital projects (construction and renovation), scholarships, bursaries and other student opportunities.

The foundation does not make investment decisions directly, but it can exert considerable influence over what kinds of companies its asset managers, MFS, do and don't invest in.

Javier Schwersensky, president and CEO of the U of W Foundation, says the NZAM initiative reflects a rapid evolution in how institutional investors and their clients view their environmental and social responsibilities.

"Companies that take care of the envi-

ronment, of social issues, of governance issues, if you look at the results, they just perform better," he says.

Eric Rae volunteers with the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition (MEJC), which engages in educational work and direct action opposing the fossil-fuel industry. They say universities can be important early leaders in realizing broader societal shifts.

"Universities are ... idea hubs. They're places that shape culture. What they do has a greater impact on the rest of the world than other organizations that are maybe financially the same size," he says. "They have big investments, and so they make a big impact."

From 2015 to 2020, the Divest UWinnipeg campaign organized students, faculty and alumni to call on the university to act on its stated values of sustainability and Indigenization by eliminating fossil-fuel companies from the foundation's portfolio.

University of Manitoba (U of M) treasurer Lance McKinley says his institution's commitments to similar values were highly influential in its decision to sell its fossil-fuel holdings in April 2023.

"It was good for the university. It's in alignment with the charter we signed on. It's in alignment with the Race to Zero letter, and it's in alignment with our commitment to sustainability," McKinley says. Race to Zero and NZAM are both initiatives of the United Nations Framework Convention on



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Climate Change secretariat.

In June 2017, the U of W Board of Regents discussed but declined to vote on a divestment motion submitted by student representatives on the board. The motion was accompanied by a 30-minute presentation by divestment campaigners and two days of continuous direct action leading up to the meeting.

Rae says the U of W continuing to stop short of outright fossil-fuel divestment indicates a lack of commitment to meaningful climate action.

"It's an indication of the culture of leadership there," they say, "trying to put a good face on things, trying to hold on to their kind of progressive image. And they're kind of losing that image, at least in my estimation."

Schwersensky says there isn't enough backing from the foundation's donors to move toward a fossil-free investment profile. The foundation started a Fossil-Free Fund within the endowment for donors to voluntarily contribute to in 2019, but as of June 2023, it only accounts for a fifth of one per cent of the overall portfolio.

Schwersensky says an in-house survey of foundation donors found that a substantial majority expressed no interest in fossil-free investments.

"Most of our donors are fairly sophisticated investors, and they like the idea of carbon neutrality," he says. "So we have to be cautious ... and the more restrictions that you put on what you're buying or selling, the more complicated that could be."

WESMEN TRAINING FOR 'TOUGH' HOME OPENER

Women's volleyball team facing Trinity Spartans and UBC Thunderbirds

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER | @MIEKERUTH

The University of Winnipeg Wesmen women's volleyball team will soon square off against some of the toughest opponents in the Canada West conference.

The Trinity Western Spartans will visit the Duckworth Centre on Oct. 27 and 28, and the Wesmen will host the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds on Nov. 3 and 4.

Third-year Wesmen libero Taylor Cangemi says she and her teammates feel a mix of nervousness and confidence about the upcoming home games.

Seven members of this year's Wesmen roster are freshmen, and only three returning players – Cangemi, setter Portia Switzer and left-side Selva Planincic – have experience as part of a U Sports starting lineup.

"We're seen as the underdogs yet again this year," Cangemi says, "but I think that's a really great opportunity to go out and just play how we can and prove people wrong as we go."

Both the Spartans and Thunderbirds mounted formidable performances in the 2022-23 season. The two teams ultimately faced off in the 2023 U Sports gold-medal game in Vancouver. The seventh-seed Thunderbirds upset the top-ranked Spartans to claim the championship title.

There's "no better way to evaluate your level of playing and what you need to work on than playing the best teams, so we're

looking forward to those challenges," Wesmen head coach Phil Hudson says.

Returning players like Switzer, the team's captain, have stepped up to help mentor this year's younger lineup through a "steep learning curve," Hudson says.

Much of the Wesmen squad's training has focused on acclimatizing the new players to faster, more complex games than they played at the high-school level.

"When your own team has the ball, it's as simple as you can get just trying to isolate your attackers on the blockers," Hudson says. "But playing defense, the ball is coming away faster than before, and the serves are way stronger, and there's no free balls coming over."

The team is also working to teach new players Hudson's defensive system.

"Most teams kind of teach you an X and O type defense where you just stand in this spot when this is happening," Cangemi says, "whereas Phil has a defensive philosophy of giving us the freedom to make decisions based on what is going on in the game or in the play in front of us."

Switzer says strong defensive play can help a team feel more in control when they're facing opposing teams with taller and more experienced players.

"It's a great confidence booster when you



DAVID LARKINS (SUPPLIED)

Wesmen women's volleyball libero Taylor Cangemi receives the ball during a game.

do end up succeeding on defense and getting those digs against big hits that can really change momentum," she says.

She says spectators who pay attention to smaller details like side conversations and substitutions during the games will be rewarded with a greater appreciation for the team's more subtle strengths: finesse and strategic play.

Hudson says the team is looking forward to putting on a show for their home crowd.

"We're going to be very entertaining. We're going to work hard, and they're going

to notice some very motivated and very disciplined and focused athletes representing the university," he says.

"It'll be a tough game" against Trinity Western, Switzer says. "It'll be a fun game ... they're really good. They're not unbeatable."

All Wesmen women's volleyball home games take place in pairs, scheduled for Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 6:45 p.m. throughout the season. Find the full schedule at bit.ly/45FWBva.



FINDING LIFE'S MELODY

Jay Maillet, geography instructor

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER | @THANDIVERA

Jay Maillet's earliest childhood memories involve spending time in nature. The University of Winnipeg geography instructor was born near Halifax and lived there until he was about five years old.

He remembers being close to a lake and "holding a fish up," he says. "It's all a bit hazy, but the two earliest childhood memories I can remember are all outdoors."

Maillet's love for the environment eventually led him to geography. "I did two years of engineering and quickly learned I did not want to engineer things," he says.

His academic path meandered until he found his true calling. "I decided to pursue environmental science at Mount Allison University," he says. "As soon as I was sitting in my first lectures in geography and environment, I knew that was where I was supposed to be."

Maillet credits his father as an influence, especially for their shared love of nature and music. "He loves the outdoors, and we're also both musicians, so I kind of followed in his footsteps in several aspects of my life," he says.

Maillet, who sings and plays guitar, says

he sees teaching as akin to performing. "I think part of it comes from the fact that, as a musician, I'm a performer and, with teaching, there is sort of a performance aspect to it," he says.

"You have to become comfortable in front of a crowd. You need to know how to play to your audience, (that) sort of thing, so there's a lot of overlap between the two."

And Maillet is an experienced performer. He's played music since middle school and says he was in a heavy-metal band in high school. "Now I mostly play folk-rock music and, until recently, I played a lot solo."

He only moved to Winnipeg in 2021 and is still discovering the city's treasures. Maillet says he appreciates Winnipeg's proximity to nature and diverse environments.

His career and memories, filled with music, academia and a deep love for nature, show how rich life can be when passions overlap.

What was your worst grade in university?

"When I was in my first year of engineering, I failed Calculus I like three times."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

"My partner has a funny one. She keeps saying that it'd be fun if you had a superpower where you could teleport to different cities based on the name of the road."

What was your favourite toy as a child?

"A recorder, like a little cheap tape re-

order with a mic. I still have the tapes from when I was like two."

What would you tell your younger self?

"Not to take things too seriously, because things have a way of working themselves out."



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

TUTORING SERVICES

Need help with your courses?

Tutoring services are offered by many academic departments, student services, as well as at the tutoring centres on campus.

For a list, please go to "Tutoring Services & Mentor Programs" on the advising website: uwinnipeg.ca/advising

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

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

- Study Abroad (Wed., Nov. 1)
- To Drop or Not to Drop (Wed., Nov. 8)
- Wise Mind (Wed., Nov. 15)

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

WANTED: PERFORMERS FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL DAY

We are looking for students who are interested in performing or creating a cultural display for their country for International Cultural Day (Nov. 17).

Performances could include danc-

ing, singing, music, or other cultural talent.

Presented by International Immigrant & Refugee Student Services (IIRSS), this annual event celebrates the diversity of students on campus.

Please email iirss@uwinnipeg.ca by Nov. 3 if you would like to show off your talent!

WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

The Work-Study Program offers employment opportunities on campus to eligible UWinnipeg students.

First, you apply to the program; then if you are accepted, you can apply for any of the part-time positions in a wide variety of departments on campus.

Apply now! Go to "Work-Study Program" on the awards website: uwinnipeg.ca/awards

CAREER CHATS ON INSTAGRAM

Career Chats are live sessions on Instagram that feature advice from an employer or career-related expert.

- UWinnipeg Human Resources Office (Thurs., Nov. 9)
- Experiential Learning (Thurs., Nov. 23)

Hosted by Career Services, these live sessions take place every other Thursday at 11:00 a.m. on UWinnipeg Instagram.

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

ASK AN ADVISOR

This is your opportunity to find out more about different services at the University in live sessions on UWinnipeg Instagram. Upcoming topic:

- Student Wellness (Thurs., Nov. 2)
- Study Abroad (Thurs., Nov. 30)

Hosted by Academic and Career Services, these live sessions take place every other Thursday at 11:00 a.m. on UWinnipeg Instagram.

NAVARATRI

International, Immigrant and Refugee Student Services (IIRSS)

invites everyone to celebrate Navaratri, a festival that beautifully encapsulates the spirit of Gujarat.

Join us for a celebration on **Fri., Nov. 3, 5:30-9:30 p.m.**, Bulman Centre. Registration is strongly recommended. Email iirss@uwinnipeg.ca to secure your spot.

FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE

The final date to withdraw without academic penalty from a course that began in September 2023 and ends in December 2023 is **Mon., Nov. 13**.

For information and instructions, please see "Course Drops" on the registration website: uwinnipeg.ca/registration

THRIVE WEEK

Thrive Week (Nov. 13-17) will feature a full slate of events and activities to help our campus community thrive throughout the academic year.

To learn more, go to "Thrive Week" on the Student Wellness website: uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness

FALL EXAM SCHEDULE

The Fall (December) Exam schedule is now available at uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules



ACCORDING TO HER

Faith

CIKU GITONGA | COLUMNIST

In the place I grew up, church was at the centre of everything. Sweethearts met at Bible study, married in the chapel and made their friends over years of smalltalk and tea each Sunday after church.

In church, dancing was like breathing. We all stood up in the narrow pews, the men in suits and tunics, the women in long dresses.

Each Sunday morning, there was a fight about the length of my skirt. My father once said that I looked like a harlot. I was 12, in a denim skirt and jeggings that stopped above my ankles.

Back then, I thought of God as a pair of eyes looking down at me as I masturbated. I wrote my most terrible sins on a piece of notebook paper and burned them into ash on the stove.

In boarding school, we gathered every sunset for evening worship. The older girls knew all the gospel songs by heart, their voices high and clear. I listened to them and felt that I was part of something.

“God has a plan for you,” my mother always says.

As an adult, my plans feel shaky. I have left behind Nairobi, the city of my childhood. I have left the church behind. My mother thinks that darkness came into me, severed my bond with the divine.

I tell her, “I’m going to hang up if you talk about the devil again, Mom.”

On dating apps, I choose the option “agnostic.” The gospel songs have stayed with me all

these years. I remember the words, hear myself singing them in little snatches. I still think of those long-ago harmonies of schoolgirls with smiling faces.

“Turn to Jesus,” Mom says each time I ask her for advice.

Lately, I feel so unwise, so incapable of rightly ordering my own life. I need guidance. I need forgiveness. On the phone, my mother soothes me.

“Repeat after me,” she says. I am tired, and so I nod.

“I pray for forgiveness,” she says.

“I pray for forgiveness.”

“I pray for strength.”

“I pray for strength,” I say, and a small burden is released.

God help us all. We make so many mistakes. We hurt each other. We get older and realize that the world we stand to inherit was not made by an all-knowing, all-loving force. It was made by people just like us.

For so long, I struggled with the shame that was given to me by the church. And yet there was a joy I felt, unnamed, when as a child I believed that there was someone watching over me. Now, I feel that I must watch over myself. Every moment, there is a choice to be made and a pitfall that I must avoid. God help me.

Ciku Gitonga is a writer and a politics major. Her dream in life is to escape authority and be left alone to write.

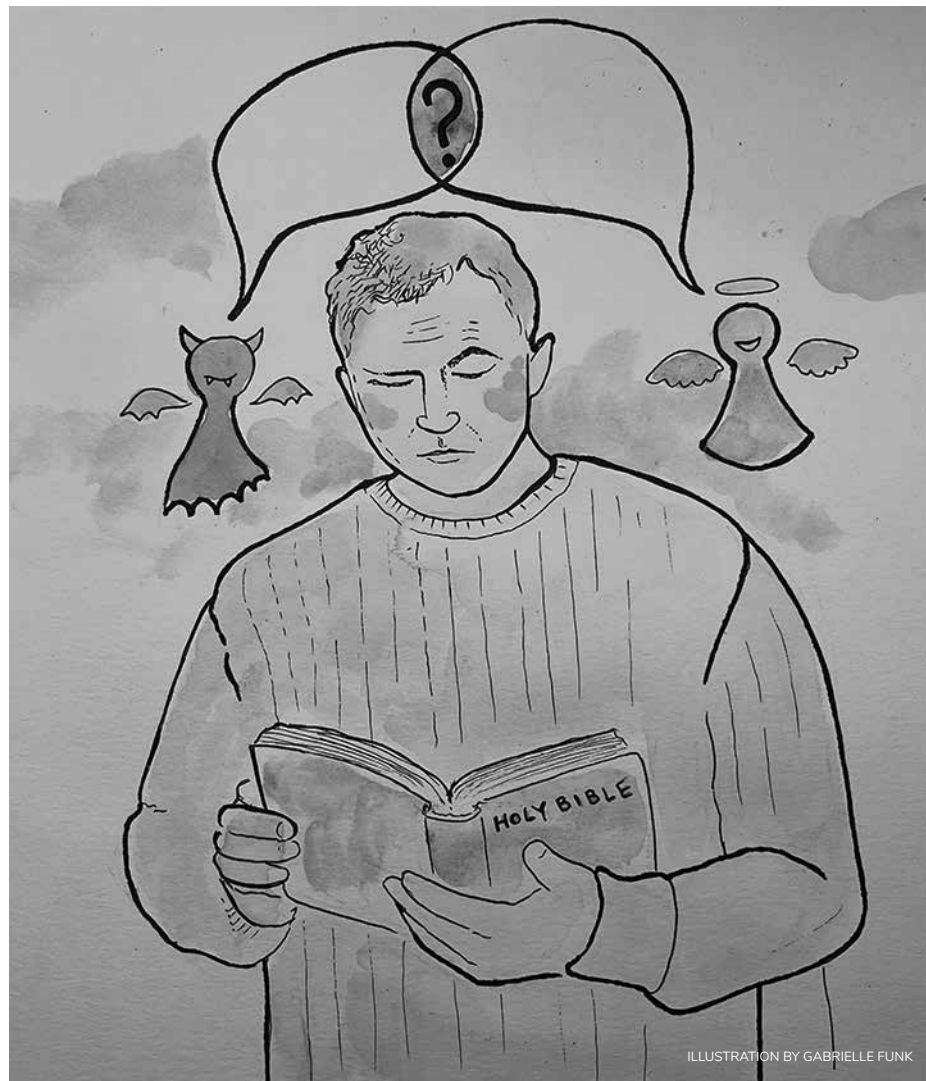


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

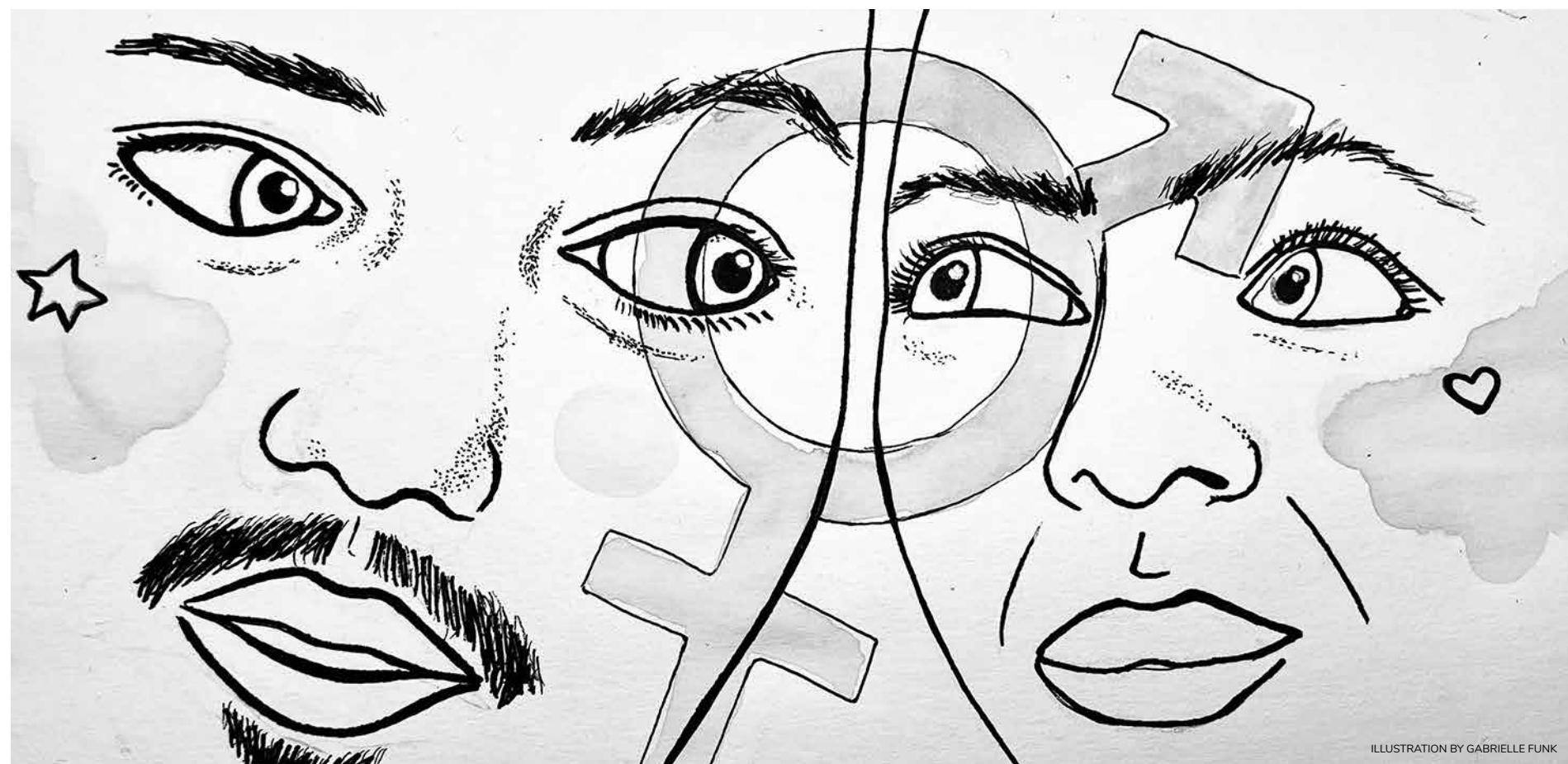


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

JOY IN DISCOVERY

Uncovering gender as a shared experience

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | @DANIELLEMDOIRON

Sipping a tequila soda at the Times Change(d) on Friday night, I asked my partner, “If you were the only person in the world, would you still have a gender?” I asked him partly to fill time, partly to try and explore my own fluctuating, evolving sense of gender identity.

In a recent episode of *The Ezra Klein Show*, Masha Gessen, a nonbinary person who writes for *The New Yorker*, said “gender is something that happens between me and other people.”

They explain gender as something that doesn’t actually happen inside their body. Instead, “It’s what other people see, what I want them to see, what I feel when they see one thing

and not the other thing.”

Something clicked when I read a transcript of this interview. Gessen’s deceptively simple framework lays bare what I find both so binding and freeing about gender. It is – and isn’t – up to me.

I forget which one of us articulated why, but my partner and I settled on “no” before the night’s first act took the stage. If only I or he or some fictional creature existed in the world, that lone being wouldn’t have a gender. They would just be themselves.

Minutes after our conversation, Diaphanie’s Heather Thomas introduced a song about coming out later in life. She described how it’s

easier for people to discover things about themselves when they’re genuinely secure, happy and at peace.

I can’t know who I would be if my gender wasn’t assigned at birth, anatomically determined and socially prescribed. But I know who I am encompasses more than the “F” marker on my birth certificate, the terms of endearment I like to hear or the clothes in my closet. And I know how much joy I feel uncovering these parts of myself.

This joy is what proponents of the so-called “parental-rights” movement fail to understand. Kids need room to grow and the freedom to explore the labels, haircuts and narratives that make sense to them, for them at a given moment in time.

During the *Ezra Klein Show* interview, guest host Lydia Polgreen paraphrased Jules Gill-Peterson, a Canadian academic who specializes in transgender history.

“She said it might be comforting and reassuring to imagine that trans people are fundamentally different. But I think the real startling possibility is that they are not and that we all

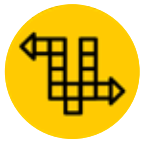
depend on the generosity of strangers to give us our gender every single day.”

Every encounter is a chance for trans people – for any people – to make themselves known to others, to be seen in a different way. Each interaction is an opportunity to shift perceptions, share reinvented identities and convey a sense of self.

There’s a vulnerability to this process, but it’s also a way to connect. For many people, gender is an ongoing exploration, not a fixed designation. My fluctuating gender is something I acknowledge internally – but, more importantly, it’s something I feel when people perceive me in certain ways.

My gender is my joy when someone uses my pronouns correctly or isn’t quite sure if I fit in the box labelled “girl.” It’s the freedom, the exhilaration of being seen and finally, openly sharing those parts of myself.

Danielle Doiron (they/she) is the copy and style editor of *The Uniter*. They currently call Winnipeg, Philadelphia, Fargo and Canberra home.



HOROSCOPES

Welcome to Scorpio season!

Scorpio is a sign of survival, transformation, and emotional purity.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

♈ ARIES

The moon makes its debut in your sign early this morning, dear Aries, marking the start of a new lunar cycle and an auspicious time for initiating projects. Unfortunately, a series of unbalanced aspects throughout the day could stunt your progress, as the stars force you to address existing commitments before adding more to your plate. Meanwhile, Venus and Chiron align overhead, acting as a reminder to nurture your health and physical needs, especially when life gets busy. Watch out for agitation within yourself and others later tonight when Mars becomes active in brooding Scorpio, triggering temperamental behaviors.

♉ TAURUS

It'll be hard to crawl out of bed and into the spotlight as the moon makes its debut into Aries, dear Taurus, putting you in a deeply private mood. Though you'll crave solitude and peace, a series of unbalanced connections overhead suggests that needy loved ones won't grant you the space to recharge. Tensions continue to brew when Venus and Chiron align, though checking in with your body and releasing stress can help you navigate these tricky vibes with little to no incident. Try not to let passion blind you later tonight when Luna and Mars connect in our skies.

♊ GEMINI

It'll be hard to crawl out of bed and into the spotlight as the moon makes its debut into Aries, dear Taurus, putting you in a deeply private mood. Though you'll crave solitude and peace, a series of unbalanced connections overhead suggests that needy loved ones won't grant you the space to recharge. Tensions continue to brew when Venus and Chiron align, though checking in with your body and releasing stress can help you navigate these tricky vibes with little to no incident. Try not to let passion blind you later tonight when Luna and Mars connect in our skies.

♋ CANCER

The vibe could get a little too pushy or aggressive for your liking today, dear Cancer, as the moon enters fiery Leo and your solar tenth house. A series of difficult aspects overhead could make it difficult to command the respect you deserve, causing your ego to take a hit when faced with stubborn or rebellious characters. Try not to get upset when others cross a line with you, opting instead to remove yourself from toxic environments. Meanwhile, Venus and Chiron form an unbalanced connection, which may inspire you to start a dialogue. However, not everyone will be in the mood to have constructive discussions.

♌ LEO

An expansive and supportive energy finds you as the moon enters Aries, dear Leo, activating the sector of your chart that governs luck. However, you may want to buckle up for a wild ride as a series of challenging aspects manifest overhead, taking care to monitor your emotions while keeping track of how others may be feeling as well. Avoid the temptation to spoil loved ones who seem down in the dumps when Venus and Chiron form an unbalanced connection. However, you should watch your personal indulgences as well and take care to maintain smart spending habits if the urge to shop should arise.

♍ VIRGO

The vibe may feel a little competitive as the moon enters Aries, dear Virgo, putting you in a transactional mood, though not everyone will be eager to commit to your terms. Negotiations could go awry as a series of unbalanced aspects manifest overhead, and it may be wise to hold off important conversations around business or commitment for another time. Meanwhile, Venus and Chiron form a challenging connection, bringing a static energy to the air that could slow your personal transformations. Try not to get frustrated when Mars activates later tonight; find passion projects to distract yourself.

♎ LIBRA

The moon migrates into Aries and the sector of your chart that governs love, dearest Libra, though a series of difficult aspects could bring more issues than romance. Watch out for hard-headed behaviors within yourself and others, taking care to avoid controversial topics with those who have conflicting views. It will be helpful to ground by connecting with nature if your thoughts begin to cloud, and an unbalanced alignment between Venus and Chiron suggests you'll need more time alone than usual. Physical activity can provide a healthy outlet for pent-up stress or emotions when Mars activates later tonight.

♏ SCORPIO

The moon enters Aries and your solar sixth house, dear Scorpio, bringing a busy energy to the table. A mounting to-do list will have you flying from task to task, though a series of unbalanced connections in our skies could push you into autopilot, potentially causing a few mistakes. Your social media feeds and electronic devices threaten to throw you further off course when Venus and Chiron align, making it important to stay present in the real world. Watch out for passive-aggressive behaviors within yourself and others when Mars activates, asking for help if you feel overburdened by work.

♐ SAGITTARIUS

You'll fluctuate between craving attention and needing privacy, dear Archer, as the Aries moon forms a series of unbalanced connections throughout the day. Honor your need for space whenever it arises, taking care to avoid problematic people who might trigger social burnout. Self-doubt also threatens to creep in under this cosmic climate, though perfecting plans from behind the scenes can help you grow confidence. Try not to let professional disappointments bruise your ego when Venus and Chiron align, setting internal boundaries that separate your career from your sense of self. Agitation could brew under the surface as Mars activates tonight, making it a good time to lay low.

♑ CAPRICORN

The moon enters Aries and your solar fourth house, dear Capricorn, heightening your emotions and sensitivities. Meanwhile, a series of unbalanced aspects overhead could make it difficult to put on a happy face, causing you to feel out of place in social situations. Don't force yourself into surface-level conversations or large gatherings if you're not in the mood for small talk, opting instead to honor your needs and what it means to feel safe. Meanwhile, Venus and Chiron urge you to embrace your spirituality later this evening, granting permission to bow out from the crowds to lay low from home.

♒ AQUARIUS

Your mouth might move faster than your thoughts as the moon enters Aries and your solar third house, dear Aquarius, forming a series of unbalanced aspects that may cause you to forget your filter. Try your best to stay quiet in tense situations or serious discussions, taking time to consider the implications of your words before sharing them. An authoritative energy may cause you to feel boxed in by others, though strategizing around brooding figures will serve you more than stooping to their level. Watch out for power struggles within your romantic life as Venus and Chiron align, choosing your battles wisely.

♓ PISCES

Your manifestation game will be strong as the moon enters Aries and your solar second house, dear Pisces, creating a portal from which your thoughts can enter the material realms. Unfortunately, a series of unbalanced connections suggests you might bite off more than you can chew, making it important to dip your toe slowly when adding more responsibilities to your plate. Avoid the urge to invest in a retail therapy session when Venus and Chiron align this evening, opting instead to focus on self-care and finding value within. Inspiration strikes later tonight when Mars activates, bringing a rush of creativity your way.

78-06 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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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

2. Favourite local achiever under 30

3. Favourite local activist

4. Favourite local album

5. Favourite local athlete

6. Favourite local barber or hairstylist

7. Favourite local comedian

8. Favourite date activity

9. Favourite local grassroots group

10. Favourite new local independent business

11. Favourite local dancer

12. Favourite local gallery or artist space

13. Favourite movie by a local filmmaker

14. Favourite spot on campus

15. Favourite local outdoor gathering place

16. Favourite local performance

17. Favourite local photographer

18. Favourite local place that no longer exists

19. Favourite local podcast

20. Favourite political moment

21. Favourite local politician

22. Favourite local public art piece

23. Favourite local publication (other than *The Uniter*)

24. Favourite local restaurant

25. Favourite local social-media presence

26. Favourite local music venue

27. Favourite local visual artist

28. Favourite Winnipeg neighbourhood

29. Favourite Winnipegger abroad

30. Favourite local writer

Voting deadline is Nov. 9, 2023 at noon, with winners being announced in the Nov. 30 issue of *The Uniter*. Drop ballots off in *The Uniter's* mailbox at room 0RM14 on the mezzanine level of the Bulman Centre, or vote online at uniter.ca/uniter30.