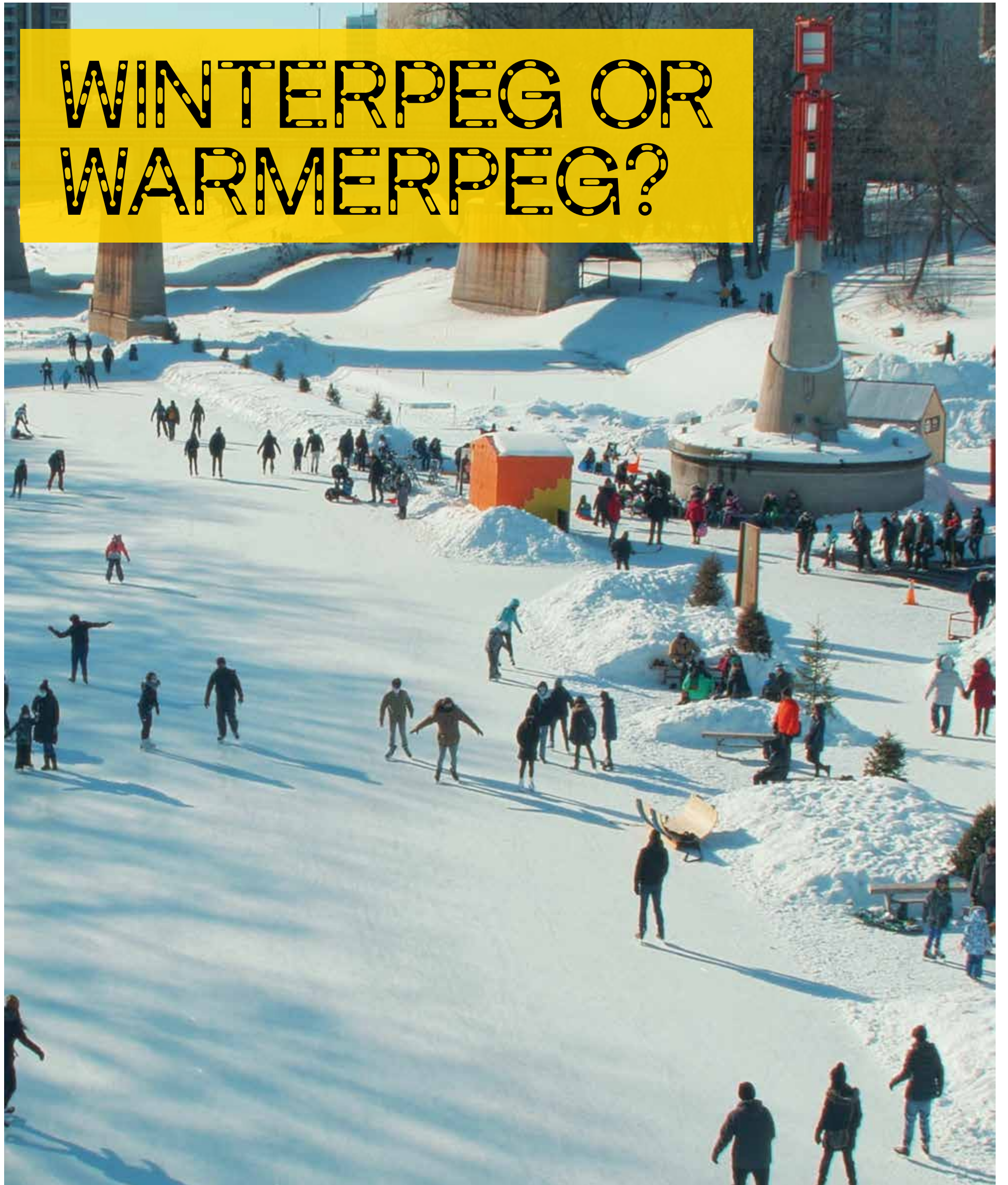


THE **U** N I T E R

KEEPING EXCHANGE DISTRICT GALLERIES ALIVE—P3 | BELL CUTS IMPACT LOCAL NEWS—P6 | YOUR UWSA CANDIDATES—P12 & 13



WINTERPEG OR WARMERPEG?

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PUSH FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

THE OBITUARY FROM HELL

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



While editing local news stories for this week's issue of *The Uniter*, I was distracted by a news alert on my phone. I usually pay these no mind when I'm deep in production of the paper, but the photo in my peripheral vision caught my eye. The long hair and dark eyes were unmistakably those of comedian and actor Richard Lewis.

The news was that Lewis had died of a heart attack at age 76. For years, Lewis was a somewhat marginal figure in pop culture, coming to prominence in the standup boom of the 1980s and as a frequent guest on both David Letterman's and Conan O'Brien's versions of *Late Night*. His specific, neurotic persona ensured him regular, if minor, guest-starring roles in sitcoms and animated television.

Lewis could have remained an all-time great "that guy" if not for his recurring role on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, playing a fictionalized version of himself. He played the best friend of the show's creator and star, Larry David. The depiction mirrored their real-life relationship: the two met at summer camp when they were 12 years old.

Richard Lewis became an unlikely icon for a certain brand of neurotic wretch, a club I certainly belong to. Like a lot of millennials, I fell in love with *Curb* as a teen. I used to joke all the time that, "When I was a boy, I thought I was just like Larry David. When I became a man, I realized I'm actually Richard Lewis." I'll still think of him every time I complain to my friends about a breakup or decline a social invite with a too-elaborate explanation of a chronic health condition.



Michael D'Alimonte is one of the former CTV Winnipeg newscasters impacted by layoffs at Bell Media. Read more on page 6.

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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.

A volunteer orientation will be held on Friday, Mar. 1 at 1 p.m. in The Uniter's office (room 0RM14). For more information, email Dara at volunteer@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.



ARTS



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dan Petrenko and CJ Capital's show *Pain to Power* examines fandom for Kanye West in light of his recent antisemitism.

SINGING STRONG IN THE FACE OF ANTISEMITISM

WJT presents a musical lament of Kanye West, hip-hop's fallen son

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @MATTEKLEMARIAM

For those who may initially scoff at the premise of *Pain to Power: A Kanye West Musical Protest*, director and co-creator Dan Petrenko wants to set the record straight.

"This is not a tribute to Kanye or a celebration of his music. (Kanye's) music included in the show is used with purpose," Petrenko, who is also the artistic director for the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre (WJT), says.

Running March 9 and 10 with three showings at the WJT, *Pain to Power* cap-

tures the inner turmoil of losing faith in your hero, through music. Created by Petrenko and Tracey Erin Smith, along with collaborators Seth Zosky and CJ Capital, the show explores personal stories and the idea of separating art from artist.

"The show is about CJ and I, our lives, us growing up and how discovering hip-hop music changed our lives, especially Kanye West's," Zosky says.

"It's really about us and our story, about

friendship, faith, loss, love ... it's how those things have affected us in our lives and how that's brought us together," Capital says.

Following a rash of antisemitic comments in late 2022, the ever-controversial West, who now goes by mononym Ye, drew the ire of long-suffering fans, including Capital and Zosky. The pair, who met at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont., connected in their first year of studies over basketball and hip-hop, eventually collaborating to create their own music.

"Kanye brought autotune and melodies to the forefront of the song, rather than in the background. All of those things made hip-hop so different, so we gravitated to it and fell in love with it," Capital says.

"We're figuring out what to do when someone like that, your idol, turns against you and against your community," Zosky says.

Pain to Power will see Zosky and Capital on stage as performers, as they riff on and subvert Ye's music, of which they are still admittedly fans.

They draw on their respective backgrounds – Zosky's Judaism and Capital's Haitian heritage – as a means of reflecting their own stories. Audiences can expect Ye's most popular songs to be interrupted or overlaid with klezmer mu-

sic and Creole prayer, along with some original pieces from the musical duo.

"We've done this with a lot of care, and we've been very strategic about how we use the music in the show. CJ and Seth aren't afraid to put themselves out there and take us into some of the darker moments in their lives," Petrenko says.

"Having it at the WJT specifically is really about holding ground and saying that this is our identity. You can't strip that of us."

The ever-controversial idea of separating art and artist pervades the work, but the creators say they'll provide food for thought rather than moral preaching.

"It really dives into a deeper look on how we look at our artists that make this music and the fact that we do put these artists on a pedestal. At the end of the day, there is a personal choice," Capital says.

"It's our perspective on it. We're not telling people what to do. We want audiences to have conversations and ask questions," Zosky says.

***Pain to Power: A Kanye West Musical* runs for three showings over March 9 and 10 at the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at wjt.ca.**

THE EXCHANGE GOT SOUL

Soul Gallery takes over Fleet Galleries' legacy

SUZANNE PRINGLE | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @BLAQUE_SQUIRREL

After 40 years of supporting local artists, and seven generations of fine-art framing, Jeffrey Gasenzer and his father, Jeff, closed Fleet Galleries on Albert Street in the Exchange District in December of 2023.

"It was too much for us to handle," Gasenzer says. He scrambled to keep Fleet going while his father's declining health hospitalized him for months at a time.

Growing up in the gallery and learning how to frame from his father, Gasenzer imagined taking over someday. However, as an artist himself, the rigours of gallery ownership often put his own dreams on the backburner.

"I knew there was so much more potential for me outside of there," Gasenzer, who is transitioning into a new creative venture with his wife, Lori, says.

Once word got out they were looking to sell, Soul Gallery owner Julie Walsh was the first to show interest. The connection, for Gasenzer, was obvious.

"This specific space in the building has been an art gallery for so long, it doesn't have the look or feel of being anything else," he says. "That space will continue to be very creative, as well as beautiful. (Soul's) collection of art and artists is amazing."

Walsh opened Soul Gallery in a residential location on Clare Avenue in December 2012 after dissolving a partnership in her first Exchange location in 2011.

Walsh's background in interior design as the owner of Beautiful Spaces Design got her thinking about showcasing artists' work in a home-based setting.

"I didn't have that intention in the first place," she says. "It was really coming from my soul, my passion, so it just sort of happened that way."

Soul Gallery has enjoyed great success in its Clare Avenue location, representing a roster of local, national and international artists with whom Walsh built relationships over the years.

For several months, she pondered expanding her business to include a framing component, and how that might look.

"The serendipity and the synchronicity of Fleet Galleries closing and them reaching out and suggesting, 'boy we think you would be a great fit here' ... it sort of all fell into place," Walsh says.

Their shared love and support for artists – and Walsh's desire to carry on the framing side – solidified the transaction.

"The appreciation that we have for her for coming in and taking the space in the first place was really nice," Gasenzer, who gifted Walsh Fleet's framing tools and equipment to help her get started, says. "She's a very smart and intelligent woman."

Walsh finds the gallery community in the Exchange supportive and hopes her addition to the neighbourhood will help in-



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Julie Walsh, owner of Soul Gallery

crease foot traffic and revitalization.

"I hope it comes alive again, because it is such a beautiful area," she says.

Soul's packed Albert Street grand opening on Feb. 22 kicked off the first of many events and exhibitions to come.

"My artists are up and creating like wildfire, and we have quite a roster of events and

solo exhibitions planned this year, so we are quite excited about that," Walsh says.

Soul Gallery locations are at 65 Albert St. and 163 Clare Ave. in Winnipeg. Artists, hours and exhibition information can be found at soulgallery.ca



SUPPLIED PHOTO

THE MOUNTAINTOP

Plays at Royal MTC until March 9

★★★★☆

SUZANNE PRINGLE | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @BLAQUE_SQUIRREL

An overflowing crowd gathered in a raging storm on April 3, 1968 to hear Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech, a plea for non-violence in the Black movement at the Memphis, Tenn. sanitation workers strike.

A more modest crowd trickled into the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre on the first Saturday evening performance of *The Mountaintop*, a fictional play depicting the hours between King’s final speech and subsequent assassination by James Earl Ray.

With the brilliant writing of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Katori Hall, smart direction of Hazel Venzon and creativity of

award-winning set designer Brian Perchaluk, the stage was set for an evening of inspiration, hope and reflection.

However, the audience’s fervor did not nearly echo that of the Memphis crowd in ’68, and to no fault of actors Ray Strachan (King) and Cherissa Richards (Camae). Their charismatic performances filled the room to the empty seats in the back and commanded more than what they got.

The play opens in Room 306 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Recreated by Perchaluk, the dated mid-century suite is exquisitely shabby-chic – definitely not befitting a legend, but a place King frequented regularly.

Rain pelts the windows, adding a cozy, melancholic atmosphere, charged occasionally by gun-like thunderclaps – a jumpy foreshadowing of King’s fate.

Enter King, high on post-rally adrenaline, enlivened by the storm and raring to work on his never-to-be-heard follow-up speech: “Why America May Go to Hell.”

But first – coffee!

Here we meet sultry chambermaid Camae, an uncanny temptress played to perfection by Richards. She brings the coffee and shares a Pall Mall with King, a married reverend none too eager to entertain a beautiful woman.

Camae lights up and settles in for a long evening of discourse and flirtation. Strachan’s booming sermon voice undulates as Camae challenges, rouses and soothes King, exposing his anxious, flawed and tender humanity.

As their relationship heats up, Camae is revealed to be the harbinger of King’s imminent assassination.

Acting their hearts out, the audience feels still by comparison. Jokes hang in the air. Titters murmur and die in the auditorium in the uncomfortable parts.

With an 8:30 p.m. curtain call and an intermission-less 90-minute run, maybe the patrons were sleepy, or silently mapping inconspicuous routes to the restroom.

Nevertheless, the audience was inscrutable. The play deserved an “amen!” in several places – especially in today’s climate, where King’s legacy feels so imminently important – but got none.

The final minutes are packed with so much audio-visual stimulation it almost feels misplaced.

The play concludes with the set splitting open to reveal a white pulpit, set against a glittery starlit background. King mounts the steps to deliver one final sermon.

“Can I get an amen?” King yells in conclusion. Silence. He pleads once more, but the audience fails the participation portion of the evening.

A seamless and provocative production with great writing and flawless acting, *The Mountaintop* deserved a bigger ovation and massive crowd. Especially during Black History Month, this play should not be missed.

MYSTIC HUMANISM

by Jared Adams

Releasing on March 15

★★★★☆

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @MATTEKLEMARIAM

Why is it so difficult to simply *be* in these trying times? Local singer-songwriter Jared Adams explores the many facets of this question in his newest record and sophomore full-length effort, *Mystic Humanism*.

Adams’ first album, *Tragic Nostalgia*, had the troubadour stand on the steps with his heart in his hand, so to speak. His second effort takes a turn, as he employs big-band bombast and indietronica stylings for an eclectic and varied second record.

This is very much in the mode of early 2000s alt-rock, drawing inspiration from Radiohead both musically and in thematic content. Adams employs traditional pop song structures but breaks beyond the limitations of the three- or four-minute ditty for a rousing and always engaging effort. Intricate arrangements and a horn section courtesy of local group Apollo Suns, among other guests, bolster these meditations on contemporary existence.

The album explores a litany of themes. The opening track, “Inundated,” is a lament of the rat race and the overwhelming nature of modern life. It’s ironically triumphant with Apollo Suns contributing horns, and listeners are introduced to Adams’ earnest croon that progressively endears itself. “South End Kids” employs handclaps and electric piano for something bordering on the edges of funk, taking the bones of a conscious Stevie Wonder song and making it his own.

The midway point of the album, “Natural Phenomenon,” gets sentimental with sullen strings and acoustics. Halfway through, Adams reaches a vocal high point, my personal favourite on the record, with the line “and all those bastards lie.” Who he is referring to is unclear to this reviewer, but his conviction is enough to inspire vitriol regardless of its target. It’s the closest return to the style of his first album but is more significantly the plainest demonstration of his talent as a singer-songwriter.

“Welcome to the Metaverse” is arguably the album’s best technical exposition. It’s the track that evokes the ideas explored in the 2007 album *Fear of a Blank Planet*, when Porcupine Tree articulated their fears that Xbox would be “a god” to Gen Zs. This take on technophobia is more playful, and thus much more digestible, with computerized bleeps and glitchy grooves. And particular props to Adams for a blithe homage to ’60s hidden tracks on “The Good Ones,” where he bemoans the deaths of paragons of virtue like JFK and MLK.

Lyrical, this is a very blunt project. It’s disarmingly confessional. Adams isn’t afraid to articulate the anxieties of the public consciousness without irony or obfuscating metaphors. It may be too heartfelt for more cynical listeners, but Adams seems disinterested in pleasing them anyway.

Instrumental bridges on most songs wisely give the verses room to breathe and

Jared Adams




showcase Adams’ gift for melody. It should be noted that this is a very consummate package, with high-quality mixing and production value by Adams and John Paul Peters throughout.

It’s hard to say whether the four years of gestation given to *Mystic Humanism* and

resulting artistic maturity are the reason for such a professional record where many artists would slump. But if the state of the world inspires Adams’ work, then maybe it can decay just a little while longer.

	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	FRAÑOL	CANQUEER			
8AM	Shortwave Report	RADIO ECOSHOCK	Behind the News With Doug Hamwood	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	Vtewpofntz BRIDGING THE GAP	SUNNY ROAD Roots Music		Medicine Wheel of Music
NOON	COMEDIOLOGICAL REPORT	The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit Folk		ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS YEARSHOT DAILY	NO FIXED ADDRESS Lived Experiences of Homelessness	THE ELECTRIC CHAIR	TEMPLE TENT REVIVAL
1PM	OUTSPOKEN Truth Before Reconciliation	THE GREEN MAJORITY	ALTERNATIVE RADIO	Dead Medium	HOW TO SURVIVE A TORNADO		NEON BEIGE SOUND EXCHANGE
2PM	GroundSwell Radio New Classical	The Stuph File The Reminder	THE META WORLD STOOPALOOP SHOW	TICKLE MY FANCY Blues	GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR	THE IVORY TOWER Eclectic Mix	YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD Gospel
3PM	NewFound Records Music from Newfoundland and Labrador	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire	SPACE CADET MUSIC, OUT OF THIS WORLD	BARKING DOG Post 'n Present Folk 'n Roots	Dollar Country		Active Voice
4PM	The Vulcan's Hold Trip Hop				The Sean Show Local Music	Eclectic Residents	The World News, spoken word
5PM	Thrash Can Thrash Metal	SYSTEM KIDZ YOUTH IN CARE	AMATEUR HOUR So Bad, It's Good	SQUAREWAVE VIDEO GAME MUSIC AND HISTORY	LET'S PLAY DJ!	Star Road Junction Progressive Rock	GroundSwell Radio New Classical - Repeat Broadcast
6PM			PAGES EAT YOUR ARTS & VEGETABLES		Soft Robotics (Electronic/Ambient)		This is Hell
7PM	THE WORLD World	Sonic Blanket	TWANG TRUST Country/ Roots/ Blq. Damb Rock 'n Roll	TAWNY, THE BRAVE Pop/Rock	THE GUY DO YOU DO BEYON	WE BUILD HITS Hip-Hop	THE C.A.R.P. The Completely Asinine Radio Program
8PM	DESTINATION MOON Rock-Hop-A-Go-Go	Balmoral Blues Blues	S.A.N.E. * RADIO Local Experimental Music	Adult Kindergarten	Hip Hop 50 Hip Hop		Circle One Punk
9PM	The Freedom Principle World Music	TranceLand Electronic/Dance	ROMPE Latin	Dub City Scoopers	Da Show World & Variety	RED BOX Hip-Hop	THE GASHLYCROB TORIES
10PM	YEARSHOT DAILY	YEARSHOT DAILY	YEARSHOT DAILY	PHASE ONE Electronic	QUADRAFUNK Electric Dance Party	DANCE HALL FEVER Dancehall and Reggae	ISLAND VIBES Caribbean
11PM	BREAK NORTH RADIO	Free City Radio	Two Princes		StreetKillaz Generation Local Hip Hop		
MIDNIGHT		LISTENING PLEASURES					
1AM	METAL MONDAY	NIGHT DANGER RADIO	ShrimpFarm.Crypto Replay	THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN	MANITOBA MOON	ShrimpFarm.Crypto Collages by Silas	Rainbow Country
2AM			Winnipeg Arena is on Fire Replay				
3AM	MODERN JAZZ TODAY	The Motherland Influence	Thrash Can - Replay			Your Show Here	REVOLUTION ROCK
4AM			Meta World Stoopaloop Show - Replay				
5AM	AMPLIFIED RADIO	BACKBEAT					GIRLIE SO GROOVIE
6AM							



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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 ⚡

ARTS BRIEFS

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

An exhibition on women, art and war

Starting this week, *Women at War*, a new exhibition showcasing works by contemporary women artists in Ukraine, will be on display at the University of Manitoba School of Art gallery. An opening celebration featuring a talk by curator Monika Fabijanska takes place this Thursday, Feb. 29 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at 364 ARTlab (180 Dafoe Rd.).

A chorus of queer love

On March 2, the Rainbow Harmony Project, Winnipeg's 2SLGBTQIA+ choir, will present the first concert of their 25th season, *Love Out Loud: Off Broadway!*. The choir will perform a selection of Broadway and musical-theatre classics, with guest appearances from local drag-queen artists Lady Muse and Special K. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the West End Cultural Centre (586 Ellice Ave.). Tickets are available via bit.ly/3Tg8kOb.

A play honouring essential workers

DIGGERS, a co-production by the Black Theatre Workshop and Prairie Theatre Exchange, follows Abdul and Solomon, two gravediggers in Sierra Leone, who introduce a newbie, Bai, to the profession. But when illness devastates the town, the three must make the best of a bad situation. What follows is a humanizing portrait of essential workers. Tickets to the world premiere, which plays from Feb. 27 to March 10, can be purchased via bit.ly/3uOPBQ7.

An antidote to writer's – and dancer's – block

Nourish your inner artist and break free from creative barriers at Young Lungs Dance Exchange's forthcoming workshop, "Devising Dance & Text: How to Start and Sustain a Process for Dance/Theatre." Hosted by Emily Solstice Tait and Tanner Manson, the workshop explores writing as a way to document, artistically archive and inspire dance/movement. It takes place on March 10 and 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Théâtre Cercle Molière (340 Provencher Blvd.). Tickets are sliding scale from \$5 to \$50 at bit.ly/3UVyTcE.

A studio for the community

From Feb. 28 to March 13, the Crescent Fort Rouge United Church (525 Wardlaw Ave.) will transform into an open art studio each Wednesday, free for the community to access. The Art Hive welcomes artists of all abilities to bring a project to work on between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Register for free by emailing artsinclusionnetwork@gmail.com.

Fusing tech and tunes for a good cause

The annual Techapalooza is where C++ meets C major. For the 12th year, bands composed of musicians working in the IT sector take the stage to help raise money for Cancer Care Manitoba. Tickets to the event, which takes place on March 9 at the Club Regent Event Centre, can be purchased via techapalooza.ca.

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BELL MEDIA LAYOFFS SLASH ALREADY-THIN RESOURCES

Cuts to local, national journalism 'worrisome' but not unexpected

JURA MCILRAITH | CITY REPORTER |  JURA_IS_MY_NAME

Bell Media's latest round of cuts and layoffs is shocking but not surprising to some local reporters and journalists.

On Feb. 8, Bell announced plans to slash 4,800 jobs – its largest round of layoffs in decades. It also includes the sale of 45 of its 103 radio stations and the end of multiple television newscasts at CTV stations across Canada.

Michael D'Alimonte lost his weekend anchor position but says he's not taking the loss personally and wasn't surprised by the announcement. Bell Media cut 210 employees in 2021 and another 1,300 people in 2023. D'Alimonte says he anticipated layoffs months ago and expected to see more after Bell Let's Talk Day in January.

D'Alimonte says he spent about six months doing a job that "wasn't really" his and remembers thinking, "Okay, something has to break at some point."

"Working at Bell Media ... there is kind of already a culture of 'When are cuts going to come, and will I be impacted?'" he says.

D'Alimonte worked for Narcity Media before getting his master's in journalism. He then worked for CTV Ottawa before moving to a producer and reporter role at CTV Winnipeg in 2020.

He says journalists across the industry and the country are being tasked with more work but have fewer resources in the newsroom. Although this isn't a new phenomenon, this often means TV reporters have to act as their own cameraperson, producer and editor to package stories, on tight deadlines.

At the same time, this means there are fewer reporters available to research and cover news stories which impacts what viewers get to see about what is happening in their communities.

"The less people we have on the ground ... the less people are going to be able to see what's on the news," D'Alimonte says. "I think the latest rounds of restructuring is a little troublesome or worrisome, because it's

not like Winnipeg is a small city."

Although D'Alimonte says he and his colleagues were able to continue producing quality reporting with a lack of time and resources, he believes they could have done better if they had more support.

"What happens to all the other smaller cities and towns that don't boast a million people?" he says. "I can only imagine that their local news coverage is going to continue dwindling, as well, if it's not already obsolete."

Bell Media isn't the only company to announce cutbacks. In December last year, CBC said it would cut roughly 600 jobs and leave 200 positions unfilled.

In the United States, the *Los Angeles Times* fired 115 journalists, or 20 per cent of its newsroom, in late January, and the *Washington Post* announced plans to cut 240 jobs in October last year.

Cecil Rosner, an investigative journalist and adjunct University of Winnipeg professor, is shocked but not surprised by Bell Media's layoffs, because of current trends in the media landscape.

"They're making decisions based on what's best for their shareholders, but the thing is, journalism ought to transcend that," Rosner, who worked at the CBC for three decades, says. "Anyone that owns a newspaper or a TV or radio station or a journalism outlet also has a public responsibility that they need to take on if they're going to enter into that kind of business."

He says fewer journalists mean less scrutiny for large corporations and government bodies. It leaves room for the remaining media to be more easily manipulated when they don't have the time and resources to verify facts or challenge what those groups are telling them.

He says it's worrisome to see the layoffs happening nationally.

Rosner thinks different levels of government need to step in and have a larger role in



Michael D'Alimonte, former weekend anchor at CTV Winnipeg, is one of the 4,800 employees laid off by Bell Media amid recent cuts.

ensuring journalism survives.

"If this trend continues, it's got serious consequences for how the public is informed about things," he says. "If you're an ordinary citizen, you can't go to every city-hall meeting or every legislative-committee meeting. The public depends on journalists to be their eyes and ears all over the place."

On top of creating more gaps in what is being reported on, a lack of resources leads to burnout for others in the industry like Joey Slattery.

Slattery left CTV Winnipeg in late August after about three years working as a full-time sports reporter. He says he had an epiphany after going on a two-week vacation and felt like there was no path forward for him.

"When I looked at it, there's no more money, there's no more help," Slattery says. "Then I noticed with the resources, there was probably a chance that my sports job would turn into a news and sports hybrid. I saw the writing on the wall, and I just made the decision."

Slattery had worked for CTV since 2013 in Timmins, North Bay, Regina and Edmonton and then moved to Winnipeg in

2020. Now he works freelance and as a sideline reporter, covering the Winnipeg Sea Bears for the Canadian Elite Basketball League.

Sometimes, after reporting on Winnipeg Jets games, he would be called to fill in for the morning show, just a few hours after his previous shift ended.

"I never worked 24 hours straight, but there wasn't an hour in the day that I didn't work," Slattery says. "It got pretty intense. That's what was starting to wear on me."

Working overtime wasn't uncommon in the other markets he experienced, and he says doing that type of work was different when he was younger, but it became harder to bounce back.

Slattery says he hopes the next generation of journalists will help change the culture in the industry. He also worries that, with the layoffs, many younger journalists won't receive mentorship from senior reporters to help them find their footing or not have opportunity to find a job.

"You're walking on eggshells and just thankful to even have a job, which is also a product of the journalism industry," Slattery says. "That's not a way to keep people motivated."

CITY BRIEFS

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR |  THOMASPASHKO

Massive airport coke bust

On Feb. 27, Canada Border Services Agency announced a record-breaking cocaine seizure at Winnipeg Richardson International Airport. On Feb. 9, border officers investigated two unclaimed suitcases at the airport. They contained 60 individually wrapped packages of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$9 million. The cocaine, with a combined weight of nearly 75 kilograms, is the largest airport drug bust ever in the Prairie region.

Changes to nursing requirements

Manitoba's provincial government announced on Feb. 28 that it is amending regulations to make it easier for former nurses to return to work in the province's public healthcare system. The move aims to address the province's nursing shortage, created by former premier Brian Pallister, who cut hundreds of nursing jobs in a failed attempt to reform the province's hospitals.

Former Blue Bomber Craig Roh dies

The family of former Winnipeg Blue Bombers defensive end Craig Roh announced that the footballer died on Feb. 26 after an 18-month battle with Stage IV colon cancer. Roh played with the Bombers in 2018 and '19, winning the Grey Cup in his final season. A GoFundMe to cover medical expenses and education for Roh's son can be found at bit.ly/3v11hgz.

Dry winter spells drought for province

A lack of precipitation in the winter of 2023-24 is already having environmental impacts on Manitoba. Morden, a city of 10,000 people in southern Manitoba, has declared a state of moderate drought, with their drinking-water reservoir already running low. An article by CBC meteorologist Riley Laychuk says the Pembina Valley region has received less than half of its regular amount of winter precipitation.

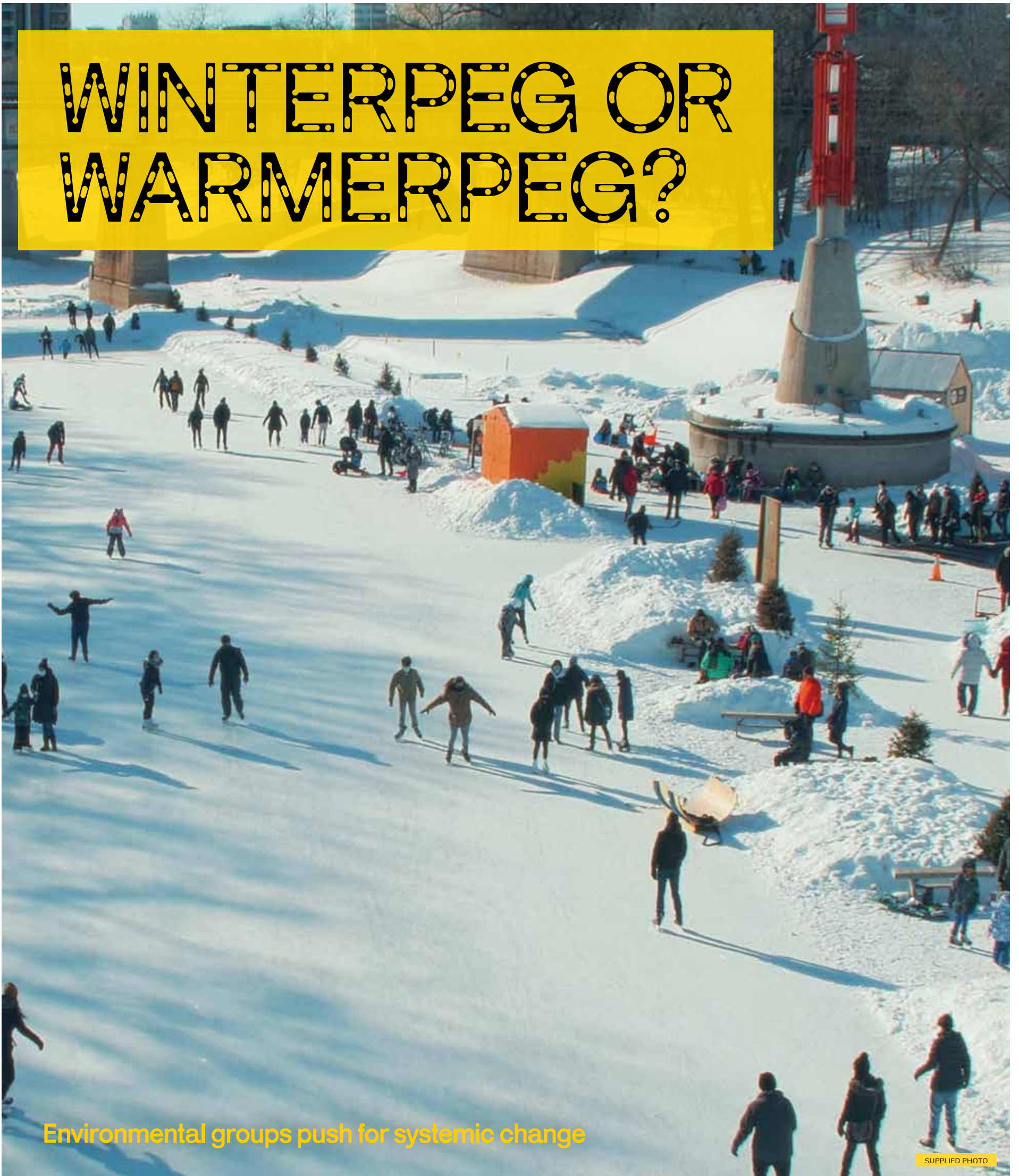
Weidman Warehouse destroyed by fire

Fire destroyed yet another historic Winnipeg building when the Weidman Warehouse burned down on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The building, constructed in 1910, was designed by prolific architect Max Blankstein for Weidman Brothers wholesale grocers. Fire crews said that falling temperatures hampered fire-fighting efforts. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

MP Blaikie resigns

Daniel Blaikie, the NDP member of Parliament for Elmwood-Transcona since 2015, announced on Wednesday, Feb. 28 that he will be resigning from his seat effective March 31. Blaikie is shifting from federal to provincial politics, where he will work as Premier Wab Kinew's senior advisor on intergovernmental affairs. He previously served as the NDP's finance critic in Parliament.

WINTERPEG OR WARMERPEG?



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Environmental groups push for systemic change

A still from Erika MacPherson's 2024 documentary *Snowball Effect: Warmer Winters Mean Changing Identities*, which explores how the loss of cold leads to a loss of winter activities.

Although Winnipeg is known as a winter city, there are many days during the season when it's too cold to spend time outdoors. But this year, it's the warmer temperatures that are keeping people off the ice.

El Niño is a climate pattern characterized by warm, above-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean. These warmer temperatures have turned skating rinks to mush, shut down cross-country ski trails and melted the snow on toboggan hills.

While the El Niño is temporary, Manitoban climate activists are using this weather event to start conversations about the need for systemic change.

"What we see right now is disheartening," Eric Reder, a wilderness and water campaign director, says. "It's not going to get any better — it's only going to get worse, because we haven't eliminated the greenhouse-gas emissions that (are) causing our problem."

Reder, who works for Manitoba's chapter of the Wilderness Committee, says the warm weather has flooded the

skating rinks he makes on the Seine River in St. Boniface. People who stop along the path ask him about his rinks while reflecting on their environmental concerns for the future.

Over a 10-day period from Jan. 28 to Feb. 6, the average minimum temperature in Winnipeg was 17.6 degrees Celsius above normal, which makes it the warmest 10-day period on record in the city since 1872.

On Feb. 24, Environment and Climate Change Canada recorded a new high in Winnipeg when the temperature reached 6.9 degrees Celsius at The Forks and 6.1 degrees Celsius at the airport, where official temperatures are marked. Both of these highs surpassed the record of 5.4 degrees Celsius set in 1998.

These abnormal winter temperatures will also affect the weather this summer in Manitoba. A lack of precipitation and moisture in the ground will lead to a drought, causing an increase in the potential for forest fires.

Last July, Reder remembers travelling with his 15-year-old son through the Okanagan region of British Columbia be-

fore a suspected lightning strike started a forest fire, burning 4,823 hectares of land around Adams Lake.

"There was ash, like falling from the sky, (and) we couldn't go hiking, because we were too worried about ... sucking more things into our lungs," he says.

Extreme weather events like this are concerning and will occur more frequently until the province acts on systemic changes to eliminate fossil fuels and greenhouse-gas emissions, Reder says.

"One thousand of us could stop driving cars, but until we change the system, we're still screwed ... this is the fight of the lifetime for the fate of society," he says.

Climate change affects every part of people's lives, and it can be tough knowing what actionable steps to take, Reder says. Feelings of climate grief or eco-anxiety may come from not knowing where to start, especially when the solutions seem vague and intangible

The big picture

Under the Progressive Conservative government in 2017, Reder says the province published the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan without hosting a public town hall or consulting with environmental groups in Manitoba.

As a result, five organizations created Manitoba's Climate Action Team to investigate climate solutions and make a list of policy recommendations. This coalition includes the Wilderness Committee, Climate Change Connection, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and the Green Action Centre.

In 2021, the team published the Manitoba's Road to Resilience report, featuring extensive research on the pathway to a climate-resilient future that eliminates fossil-fuel use within the three largest sectors: buildings, transportation and food and agriculture.

Reder says the biggest challenge facing the Climate Action Team is the fact that 60 per cent of homes in the province are heated by burning natural gas.

According to the 2018 Emissions Gap Report, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is calling for a 45 per cent reduction in the total annual emissions from the 2010 levels by 2030. They also want to achieve net-zero emissions worldwide by 2050.

Achieving this goal would mean Manitoba would have to reduce its building-sector emissions by 4.7 per cent every year until 2030, and more reductions by 2050, according to the Road to Resilience report.

"We need to get people to realize that fossil gas is burning up our world," Reder says.

Members from the Climate Action Team are pushing for buildings, old and new, to be converted from natural gas to biomass, passive solar and geothermal alternative heat-energy sources.

Climate Change Connection (CCC) project director Curt Hull says geothermal heating is far more energy efficient. Hull says geothermal heating systems, which draw temperatures from the ground to heat or cool inside air depending on the season, could reduce annual costs by 50 to 70 per cent.



A still from *The Snowball Effect*



A still from *The Snowball Effect*



Geothermal piping in a residential home. Manitoba climate advocates say that replacing natural-gas heating with geothermal heating is essential to lowering the province's emissions.



Some of the Prairie Climate Centre team at the Adaptation Futures conference in Montreal, October 2023. From left: Marcel Kreutzer, Eromose Ebhuoma, Christey Allen, Danny Blair, Erika MacPherson, Annie Martel, Izabella Robak, Matthew Loxley, Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett Huson).

The affordability of alternative energy solutions

Hull says creating a geothermal utility paired with upgrading the energy efficiency within buildings would make a huge difference.

Doing so could help solve the home-heating problem and take “a big chunk out of energy poverty in this province, because there’s an inordinate number of people who are forced to choose between being warm and being fed,” Hull says.

The average single-family household would pay approximately \$449 per year using geothermal heating, as opposed to paying \$991 per year using a high-efficiency gas furnace or \$1455 conventional gas furnace, according to CCC’s website.

Reder says the future costs of climate change are going to be “debilitating,” because the cost of gas pumps has gone up, and people are concerned with affordability.

People need to see the return on investment from things like switching to geothermal, he says.

These harder discussions with the provincial government need to look at ways to “ensure that folks can fight climate change, can change the system and can keep a roof over their heads and food on their table.”

Prairie Climate Centre (PCC) filmmaker Erika MacPherson says the social determinants of health are huge when it comes to climate impacts, because people who can’t afford air conditioning during a heatwave are going to be at a higher risk of experiencing heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

People who face the highest risk include older adults, infants and children, folks experiencing homelessness and those with chronic health conditions or taking certain medications.

To mitigate these risks, the PCC collaborates with communities in Manitoba, helping people understand how climate change impacts them and how to responsibly prepare for the future.

What comes next

Since the provincial election on Oct. 3, Hull says he and other Climate Action Team members have had many meetings with environment minister Tracy Schmidt about the policy recommendations outlined in Manitoba’s Road to Resilience report.

“I’m happy to say that the new government has been very receptive,” he says. “They’re talking the right language.”

Reder also said Premier Wab Kinew’s government seems to be taking climate initiatives more seriously, and he hopes this momentum will continue.

According to Kinew’s mandate letter to Schmidt on Oct. 19, the province expects to implement an Affordable Home Energy Program with the goal of helping people switch to geothermal heating.

The letter also said they will create a roadmap toward making the energy grid net-zero by 2035 and meet net-zero targets by 2050.

The provincial government did not respond to requests for comment.

While there is a lot of work to be done, Reder says, “the road to resilience is going to come to fruition. It’s (just) a matter of when.”

“Climate is so important for everybody that we should see the government working together on this. It doesn’t matter which side of the floor or the House or which colour their party is, they need to be sitting in a room saying, ‘How are we going to get there?’” he says.

“If you can get the government to do that, you’re going to signal to the general public that this issue transcends politics.”

It’s important to have people in positions of power who have climate at the forefront of their agenda, MacPherson says.

She says that although she has a 21-year-old daughter who has to grow up in a world that has become more uncertain by the day, climate resilience means having a sense of possibility. Otherwise, people feel crushed.

“We can work together, and we can put a lot of pressure on the government, and we can figure this out, but we have to take care of each other,” she says.



Curt Hull, project director of Climate Change Connection

PROFile

THREADS OF DIVERSITY

Zabeen Khamisa, religion and culture lecturer

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER

Zabeen Khamisa, a lecturer in the Department of Religion and Culture at the University of Winnipeg, moved to Winnipeg last July, eager to embark on a new chapter in her academic career.

She is originally from the Greater Toronto Area, and her childhood was marked by a love for mathematics, fueled by a fascination with a math rap cassette tape.

“I had this cassette tape of math rap. It would do multiplications and sums,” she says. “I would dance to it for my family, and I used to wear a top hat, a Beatles T-shirt and a skinny black tie with a black vest.”

However, it wasn’t until high school that Khamisa’s interests began to diversify. Exposed to the rich diversity of religious beliefs within her community and inspired by her family’s craftsmanship, she says she found herself drawn to fashion.

“My family emphasized sewing and making our clothes,” she says. “I took a fashion course in high school and became interested in the politics of fashion, especially in the context of immigration and cultural textiles.”

She later applied to fashion school but realized it wasn’t the right fit. “I wanted to study

the relationship between religion, immigration and textiles,” Khamisa says. “That’s when I discovered a new Muslim-studies program at Wilfrid Laurier University.”

With a new focus on religion and culture, she embarked on a path that eventually led her to pursue a PhD in religious diversity in North America. Now settled in Winnipeg, Khamisa is passionate about sharing her insights with her students.

“For many young people, religion is still a source of understanding and inspiration for social change,” she says. Through her research, she aims to highlight the significant role of communities like Sikhs in Canadian public life, urging others to appreciate diverse expressions of faith and tradition.

Outside of her academic pursuits, Khamisa says she finds joy in composting, gardening and exploring Winnipeg’s cultural scene. “I really enjoy learning about the things that people are doing in the city to make a difference,” she says. “I love Winnipeg.”

What’s something you’d tell your younger self?

“Trust what I value and what I think is important will carry me forward. It’s okay to



SUPPLIED PHOTO

love what I love and take an interest in the things that I’m interested in. You’ll make friends who really care about you someday.”

What was your worst grade in university?

“I think I had a D at one point. I can’t remember the classes, but I had a low grade, and it was because I was in my first or second year. I was still learning how to balance everything, because I also was

working at the same time.”

If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

“Ramen, definitely ramen.”

What was your favorite toy growing up?

“It’s a tie between a sewing machine and this stuffed cat that would purr.”



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE UWSA REFERENDUM

Students vote on joining federal advocacy organization CASA

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER

This year's University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) general-election ballots, which students can cast from March 4 to 6, include a vote on joining the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), an advocacy organization that lobbies federal politicians on issues facing post-secondary students.

If the vote is successful, University of Winnipeg students would each pay \$4.07 per year to help fund CASA, which currently represents 274,000 students at 23 post-secondary institutions across Canada.

UWSA president Tomiris Kaliyeva and vice-president student affairs Christine Quihah participated in CASA's 2023 Advocacy Week, when student representatives from across the country met with MPs to present CASA's proposals for expanded federal support of post-secondary students and institutions.

In recent years, CASA's lobbying has focused on issues like mental-health support, international-student rights and affordable tuition and housing.

Kaliyeva, who is an international student, had the opportunity to correct MPs' potential misconceptions about the availability and affordability of housing in Manitoba.

"You might think it's the cheapest place in Canada, but it's actually horrible, and these

are the numbers," she says. "Most of the time, they were shocked ... that the prices in Winnipeg grow so much."

Winnipeg students' median personal rent payments are higher than anywhere else outside of Vancouver or Toronto, according to a 2022 survey by Montreal-based social enterprise UTILE. Eighty-three per cent of students in the Prairies spend at least 30 per cent of their income on rent.

Kaliyeva says she also spoke to MPs and senators about how "universities have to take responsibility for (student) housing" with better support from the federal government.

CASA's 2023 advocacy document *Reframing the Future* recommends that the federal government "unlock housing supply by investing \$3.25 billion dollars to support the addition of student-oriented units to be completed within six years."

Students can register individually to campaign on either the "yes" or "no" side of any referendum question in a UWSA election. UWSA communications manager Alex Nguyen confirmed via email that no one registered to campaign in favour of or against CASA membership before the Feb. 8 deadline.

If the referendum succeeds, the UWSA would become the second student association in the country – alongside the Univer-



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

sity of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) – to hold joint membership in CASA and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

CASA and the CFS have historically been considered rival organizations. CASA was founded in 1995 by student representatives dissatisfied with CFS' social justice-oriented approach to student advocacy.

At the time, a *Canadian University Press* article by Samer Muscati described the two organizations as engaged in a "bitter power struggle" with "no indication of reconciliation in the near future."

Muscati quotes founding CASA national director Alex Usher as writing "hard as it may be for some of us in CASA to believe, there are indeed student associations who may prefer to be represented by an organization that takes stands on social issues, no matter how irrelevant to higher education

they may seem."

In 2018, then-UMSU president Jakob Sanderson penned an editorial in *The Manitoban* arguing that CASA offered better value for student money than CFS. He deemed CFS' campaigns on social issues, such as fossil-fuel divestment and support for labour unions, "not an appropriate use of student funds."

Sanderson did not reply to requests for comment.

Kaliyeva hopes the UWSA and other student unions can work collaboratively with both the CASA and CFS.

"With this line of work, we can never have too many allies," she says. "For quite a (few) topics, (the organizations) come from different perspectives and different lenses, which is also valuable."

'OBJECTIVITY IS A MYTH,' HUMAN-RIGHTS JOURNALIST SAYS

Jodesz Galivan delivers McLuhan Fellowship lecture at U of W

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER

Jodesz Galivan's coverage of the Philippine drug war questions the limits of journalistic objectivity in the face of overwhelming human-rights abuses.

Since 2017, Galivan's investigative reporting for independent digital news outlet *Rappler* has shone a light on the trauma borne by families of the thousands of Filipino civilians killed in "anti-drug operations" under the government of former president Rodrigo Duterte.

In her Marshall McLuhan Fellowship lecture at the University of Winnipeg on Feb. 12, Galivan drew on her experiences at *Rappler* to make the case for a journalistic approach that focuses on building community and trust, rather than objectivity.

"The old guards of journalism in the Philippines, they're mostly from the perspective of purist journalism ... two sides, he-said, she-said kind of journalism," Galivan says.

"In the aftermath of the human rights abuses under Duterte, it kind of made them realize that we have to pivot our way of journalism if we want to survive and actually build more trust with the people."

Duterte was elected in 2016 off of a campaign that promised to end "crime and corruption" within six months. As a candidate, Duterte drew international attention for boast-

ing that he had run "death squads" as mayor of Davao City and threatening the mass extrajudicial execution of alleged criminals.

Galivan says that, in spite of Duterte's calls for the execution of "son of a bitch" journalists, she has always been more concerned about her sources' safety than her own.

A labour leader who chose to be named in Galivan's 2021 coverage of the "Bloody Sunday" killings of nine activists was assassinated a month after her story was published.

This anecdote and others Galivan shared shore up her contention that journalists who are willing to put in patient, long-term work to build trust with vulnerable communities gain access to perspectives rarely present in traditional media coverage – perspectives that can often shed light on issues that had otherwise been ignored.

In 2019, the Vancouver drug user-led podcast *Crackdown* exposed the disastrous consequences of a previously unreported provincial cost-saving measure, dubbed "the switch," that disrupted 15,000 methadone patients' access to the live-saving medicine.

Crackdown's mission statement states "some of the most powerful journalism comes from a particular point of view."

In her talk, Galivan encouraged journalists



to let go of the notion that they should be indifferent toward the subjects they cover, advocating instead for a disposition of "sensitivity, interest and an intense desire to seek justice."

She says long-term thinking and a belief that journalism doesn't end when a story is published can deepen the potential for reporting to spark positive change.

Responding to an audience question, she argued that when it comes to reporting on human-rights abuses, "objectivity is a myth."

"If you're trying to always be objective, peo-

ple will question you like, 'Why are you taking a stand? Why are you not interviewing this person?'" Galivan says.

She says, in human-rights reporting, "(the more you) focus on objectivity, the more you have to explain yourself to people. When you're honest, you can do your work. You can just ignore these naysayers."

UWSA GENERAL ELECTION 2024 CANDIDATES' BIOS

Executive team candidates

NAME: Tomiris Kaliyeva
RUNNING FOR: President



My name is Tomiris Kaliyeva, I'm an international student from Kazakhstan. I am the current president of the UWSA. Some of my biggest wins, amongst many others, are the period products in washrooms, the student's saver menu in Diversity, and the government's promise to reinstate international students' healthcare. I have also added games in the UWSA lounge, bringing students together. Additionally, a lot of work has been done to better security services and promote Safe Ride. If I get the honour to serve for one more year, I am planning to:

Expand on the menstrual product initiative, putting more dispensers in gender-neutral washrooms on campus and Manitoba Hall

Continued work in improving pricing at Diversity Foods

Improved security, a better safe ride mechanism with less waiting times

Lounge upgrades: new furniture, a mural to celebrate diversity on campus, and more pool tables

More events on campus; a big roll call with more freebies

More outlets in classrooms

Development of a counsellor helpline for in-the-moment mental health support

Reflecting on my achievements, experience, and professionalism, I assure you that I am the best candidate for this position, and I hope for your vote!

NAME: Alan Saji
RUNNING FOR: President



"As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence actually liberates others." - Marianne Williamson

I am Alan Saji Koshy (He/Him), a third-year student at the University of Winnipeg, studying Physics and Philosophy. I am running for UWSA President, alongside my slate, The Luminaries, bringing every problem and its solution to light!

Having dedicated a massive part of my life to help and contribute to community, I thrive amongst people. With 500+ hours of accountable community service and volunteering, I am confident in dedicating my time for service. Having worked for the UWSA, Rec-Services and Student Recruitment, I am always of service to the students.

I am vocal and not one to be shunned away by bureaucracy or oppression. My slate reflects the same and hopes to bring a more approachable, transparent and vocal UWSA, improving on every front with divisive plans and relentless effort.

I urge everyone to come forward and vote. Your voice and your vote has the power to bring change and shape this University's vibrant and diverse community. Let's continue to stand together and make our voices heard!

Slate The Luminaries

NAME: Christine Abantika Quiah
RUNNING FOR: President



Hello all, my name is Christine, and I am your current Vice President of Student Affairs. I am an international student from Bangladesh, completing my third year, majoring in Conflict Resolution and minoring in Criminal Justice. And I am delighted to announce my candidacy for President this time.

Working as your VPSA, has been as amazing as it has been chaotic. I am currently collaborating with faculties and deans to address misconduct issues. While I believe I have fulfilled most of the promises I made, I recognize there is more we can do. We have strengthened bridges and improved relationships with departments, and some of our initiatives is a success. I believe my leadership qualities will bring a different structure, and directors will be more actively engaged with incentives, making UWSA more accessible to students. We will advocate for more collaborations, being active both on and off-campus, and bringing in opportunities to assist students.

Throughout this past year, my doors have been open for students to reach out, and this will not change if you choose me as your President. I enjoy engaging in conversations and love resolving conflicts.

Stay tuned, get to know your candidates, and remember to vote!

Slate Student Advocacy

NAME: Jashanpreet Singh
RUNNING FOR: President



In his bid for UWSA president, Jashanpreet Singh Bhari, a dedicated second-year international student, highlights his commitment to enhancing student life at the university. As the current Recreational and Athletics Director for the UWSA, Bhari has actively participated in various initiatives aimed at fostering student unity, including food drives and intermural activities.

Under his slate, "TEAM CHANGE," Jashanpreet pledges to prioritize accessibility by ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality menstrual products and affordable food options for students. Transparency is a cornerstone of his platform, promising to provide weekly reports on UWSA's activities, drawing inspiration from UofM's UMSU.

Recognizing the importance of representing the diverse needs of international students, Bhari advocates for reserved seats for international students, bursaries, and U-Pass subsidies.

Additionally, his team plans to address parking concerns, advocating for flexible parking hours to accommodate students' schedules effectively.

With a focus on unity and student engagement, Bhari and his team aim to establish open channels for communication between students and the administration. They invite the student body to vote for the "THE CHANGE" and work together towards a better university experience.

Slate Change

NAME: Patrick Trudeau
RUNNING FOR: President



Hello everyone! I am Patrick Trudeau. I am a Political Science major at UWinnipeg, and I am running for the position of UWSA President with my slate Diya Kapoor and Kushneet Kaur. After being a UWinnipeg student for several years, I know how important it is for everyone to have an environment to succeed academically. There is a set of issues students are facing in 2024, so I believe it is vital we make improvements to issues pertaining to security, providing products, medical care and Affordability. Each student who attends the University of Winnipeg should feel safe, which is why I will work with the UWSA to hire a retired professional who can suggest security measures which can be implemented.

Providing extensive medical resources is vital; as President, I will work to ensure that students are able to receive adequate medical treatment by establishing a helpline. Additional products for students will also be present, such as menstrual products for women.

The student experience at the University of Winnipeg should be high quality; I will work to attract more businesses to campus to ensure students have more places to eat, improving affordability through more business competition.

Slate #forthefuture

NAME: Abdelrahman Abdelmeguid
RUNNING FOR: Vice-President External Affairs



I am Abdelrahman Abdelmeguid, also known as Abdo, an Egyptian international student pursuing a major in business and administration in my third year. My professional journey has led me through the realms of marketing and sales, where I've cultivated a strategic mindset akin to that of a seasoned salesman.

My experiences have granted me a profound understanding of the university system, allowing me to identify key areas for improvement in students' overall experience. Having navigated challenges in my initial year, I recognize the significance of a holistic student life. Known for my commitment, not only evident in my regular presence at the gym but also in my dedication to fostering diversity and creativity within our academic community.

I am eager to bring forth my energy and knowledge as your prospective VPEA, dedicated to enhancing your university experience. I humbly seek your support, as your vote is essential for me to contribute meaningfully to our academic community.

Slate Student Advocacy

NAME: Chhavi Dhir
RUNNING FOR: Vice-President External Affairs



Hello! I am Chhavi Dhir (She/Her), a third-year international student, pursuing BA Psychology. I am excited to announce my candidacy for Vice President External Affairs alongside my slate The Luminaries. I am actively involved in the community by being part of various student groups, being the UWSA Emerging Leader Director, International Student Mentor, Resident Advisor, Peer wellness Educator and working with Sexual Violence Response Team. With these positions, I have dedicated myself to supporting peers in navigating mental health challenges and promoting well-being through workshops, events, and one-on-one interactions. I'm proud of spearheading the annual Gala for International students, providing a platform for cultural diversity, and fostering community engagement, exemplifying my commitment to creating a supportive environment where all students are valued and included. Through this, I've gained insights into university and student association policies, aiming to implement and amend them to ensure accountability to students.

If elected, I will fight for better resources, reducing tuition, health-care, mental health resources, better student/study spaces, and increase support/opportunities for students. I believe in collaboration and inclusivity and, commitment to fostering a supportive, safe, inclusive, and empowering environment.

Your vote has the power to bring change, so let us make our voices heard.

Slate The Luminaries

NAME: Saurav Dhand
RUNNING FOR: Vice-President External Affairs



Meet Saurav Dhand, a candidate for UWSA Vice President External Affairs with Team Change! He's passionate about ensuring every student at the University of Winnipeg feels included and heard. Serving as the Vice President of the Indian Student Association, Saurav is dedicated to uniting people and ensuring everyone's voice counts.

Despite being in his second year studying computer science, Saurav understands the diverse needs of students and aims to provide equal opportunities and access to resources for all. With Team Change, he emphasizes transparency, responsiveness, and accountability within the student government.

Saurav prioritizes celebrating diversity and advocating for the needs of international students. He believes in providing support, such as transit assistance and reserved seating, to ensure they feel valued and included on campus.

Vote for progress and unity with Saurav and "TEAM CHANGE", as they strive to create an inclusive campus environment where every student can thrive.

Slate Change

UWSA GENERAL ELECTION 2024 CANDIDATES' BIOS

Executive team candidates

NAME: Khushneet Kaur

RUNNING FOR: Vice-President External Affairs



Slate #forthefuture

I'm Khushneet Kaur, a third-year biochemistry student with aspirations for medicine I am running for the position of Vice President External Affairs under the #forthefuture slate along Diya and Patrick. Our primary goal is to transition from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). Let me break down the difference between the two:

Currently, CFS charges \$165k/year, while CASA charges \$90k/year. Switching to CASA would save students approximately \$50,000 while offering better coverage through Blue Cross health plans compared to Green Shield. CASA also boasts a larger lobby week than CFS, providing more opportunities for executives to advocate for student interests with federal politicians.

With the savings, we plan to support student groups, creating more on-campus job opportunities. Additionally, we're committed to providing free menstrual products in every washroom, hosting podcasts with guest speakers from various professions to help students clarify their career goals. Our initiatives extend to free financial literacy and immigration advising sessions through the Alliance of Business Chambers, leveraging our connections with Canadian associations and licensed immigration advisors.

I urge you to vote for the future. Your support ensures we fulfill every promise made, shaping a brighter tomorrow together. Thank you

NAME: Melody Olowo

RUNNING FOR: Vice-President External Affairs



Greetings UWinnipeg! My name is Melody Olowo, a second-year student pursuing a major in business and economics born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria.

I am attuned to the unspoken challenges faced by fellow international students and non international students, recognizing their potential impact on their overall well-being and mental health.

With my understanding and commitment to positive change, I offer to serve as Vice President of External Affairs. My advocacy centres on amplifying the voices of marginalised students, both within and beyond the institutional boundaries. I aspire to foster an inclusive and supportive environment that prioritises student wellness and offer a voice that speaks for you and create room for you to be heard.

If entrusted with this role, I pledge to make every student feel welcomed, heard and seen. Let's cultivate a community where each member is valued.

I require your trust and your vote to make this into reality.

Thank you.

NAME: Abrar Abdelmohammed

RUNNING FOR: Vice-President Student Affairs



Slate Student Advocacy

Hello! I am Abrar Abdelmohammed, a fourth-year neuroscience major at the University of Winnipeg. I am excited to announce my candidacy for Vice president of student affairs. I firmly believe in my leadership abilities and I am eager to bring them forward to enhance campus life at the University of Winnipeg.

Currently, I am a research assistant in the psychology department. Beyond my involvement in research, I am a volunteer at the Immigrant and Refugee community of Manitoba where I engage and support immigrant and refugee communities.

My vision is simple: I want to breathe new energy into our campus culture. That means advocating for the establishment of more sports teams on campus, supporting student clubs to take a more active role in campus activities, and implementing mentorship programs to ensure all students have access to valuable guidance and resources.

The university years are pivotal in shaping our lives and looking back we should cherish positive memories of our experiences on campus. With your support, I am confident we can create a campus community that thrives on inclusivity, engagement, and support for all its members. So please vote for me, Abrar Abdelmohammed as your next vice president of student affairs.

NAME: Diya Kapoor

RUNNING FOR: Vice-President Student Affairs



Slate #forthefuture

As your Vice President, I, Diya Kapoor, a 2nd-year business student, along with my slate Patrick Trudeau and Khushneet Kaur, vow to support you beyond academics. We as a team have to offer career clarity via seminars and 50+ financial literacy sessions have already been done with our network of 20+ banks and firms. Our goal is that every graduating student has wealth-building wisdom. We've also already established a 24/7 immigration helpline for international students on Instagram. While we can't promise sudden fee reductions or new cafes, here's what's your future looks like - Don't worry about purchasing textbooks you got access to online PDFs. You have access to health helpline assistance where a nurse walks to you, be it for menstrual cramps or anxiety. Pretty ladies have non-expired menstrual products in all campus washrooms in a cute basket. You are included in the university lottery grant system, funded smartly from the university's budget. Simplified U-pass opt-out conditions. You have invitations to social and networking events at UofM. And There is a lot more which could not fit into 200 words.

NAME: Parth Kaushik

RUNNING FOR: Vice-President Student Affairs



Slate Change

Parth Kaushik, a current UWSA Senator and an international student, is vying for the role of Vice President Student Affairs. His decision stemmed from a crucial observation: the disconnect between the current leadership and UWSA Senators, a key aspect outlined in the bylaws. With a profound understanding of governance acquired through his Senate experience, Parth is poised to fill this gap, ensuring effective coordination and representation.

Central to Parth's vision is student accountability. His slate pledges regular office hours for directors and executives to facilitate direct student engagement, fostering transparency and responsiveness within the student government. Parth and his Slate advocates for various student-centric initiatives, including improving access to menstrual products, expanding scholarship opportunities, subsidizing Peggo cards, introducing flexible parking options, and implementing affordable meal plans.

Driven by a commitment to student welfare, Parth and his team stand as advocates for positive change. They promise proactive and inclusive leadership, dedicated to addressing student concerns and enhancing the overall student experience.

NAME: Arundhathi Muthu

RUNNING FOR: Vice-President Student Affairs



Slate The Luminaries

"Just as one candle lights another and can light thousands of other candles, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts" - Leo Tolstoy

Hello everyone! I am Arundhathi Muthu. I am running for the position of Vice President of Student Affairs and I am part of The Luminaries slate. Our slate illuminates the issues for the students.

I am a fourth year business student majoring in accounting and international business. I aim to enlighten students on them as well as help them navigate through them. I would also strive to make procedures and policies transparent to everyone.

I have always been someone who helps in any way I can and I believe my exposure to different perspectives has made me more adept. I would love to see the university grow beyond its current stage and improve the student life of many who choose our university.

I urge everyone to vote. Please consider us and our ideas. Your voice and your vote has the power to bring change and shape this University's vibrant and diverse community. Let's continue to stand together and make our united voice heard!

Voting for the UWSA General Elections 2024 takes place from Monday, March 4 to Wednesday, March 6. For more information, including candidates running for faculty director, community director and other positions, visit theuwsa.ca/elections.



BREAKING THROUGH THE SAINT-BONIFACE CEILING

XO, the financial therapist

ELENA STURK-LUSSIER | COLUMNIST | [@ELENASTURKLULU](#)

I couldn't wait to leave Saint-Boniface behind me when I was growing up. Yet I'm still very much nestled within its confines, not for want of trying.

I grew up in a French-speaking household and attended francophone elementary and high schools. Early on, the importance of retaining our language was drilled into us: if we were to stop speaking French, our culture would disappear. Like anything that's forced upon a teenager, I rebelled and consumed mostly English-language books and films.

The Franco-Manitoban culture felt oppressive to me, for some reason. *Belong, belong*, I kept hearing it say. But I didn't want to belong to anything. I just wanted to be me. I wanted to be swallowed up by the world, live in a too-big city where no one recognized me on the street.

I went as far as I could and attended grad school abroad. Immediately, a weight left my shoulders. I felt such freedom discovering who I was without the context in which I was born.

When I came back to Winnipeg, my community welcomed me back with open arms and took care of me. People gave me

work because they knew my family, because they'd seen me grow up and knew I was a good kid.

Slowly, since, my resumé has grown, one contract leading me to the next. But nearly all of that work has been within my community's walls. It's not something I want, and the bulk of my work being in French starts to worry me.

When I try to branch out and offer my services to the English-speaking world, I'm met with apprehension. Either they can't go over my writing samples because they're in French, or they don't have a frame of reference for the contracts I've worked on. In an industry where it's all about who you know, they don't.

I'm frustrated. To be fully bilingual was supposed to be a career asset. And, sure, I've gotten a couple jobs that required bilingualism, but most were government ones. I had assumed living in an officially bilingual province and country meant that my work experience was interchangeable, but I was wrong.

I can see the Saint-Boniface ceiling from here, and I'm trying to break through it



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

— not just to live a life beyond its cultural confines, but to get more diverse work. The scale of the work available is limited, and I know that if I manage to branch out, to scale up, I can grow my career and my economic options, too.

I'm working on dream projects right now. Some are personal, funded specifically for francophones. Another is the biggest contract I've worked on in years. My community keeps me employed, and I can't dismiss its unrelenting support.

I'm still pushing to break through to the anglophone side. But until then, I will keep gaining work experience with whoever gives it to me. It is not wasted time. Eventually, I know, when the time is right, those outside my community will take notice. This is not forever. This is just for now.

Elena Sturk-Lussier is a filmmaker with an MSc in creative writing and a penchant for romance novels.

INSUFFICIENT FUNDS

Winnipeg's draft budget prioritizes flashy, inaccessible recreation

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | [@DANIELLEDOIRON](#)

One of the two public tennis courts a block from my downtown apartment has been missing a net since the fall. This was a more pressing issue in October, when temperatures were above freezing and the surface was still playable — but just barely.

The courts are regularly cracked, flooded and covered in leaves and litter. Still, I consider them one of the perks of the neighbourhood, along with spaces to read and picnic on the Legislative grounds and proximity to the Millennium Library, riverwalk and Nestaweya River Trail — when they're actually open.

I didn't realize how inadequate Winnipeg's public recreation infrastructure is until I visited Australia this winter.

One of the first texts I sent home — after showing everyone the kangaroos in my backyard — was from Streets Beach, a stretch of free, lifeguard-patrolled pools, sand, lounge chairs and splash pads in downtown Brisbane.

And this wasn't a one-off. I walked through botanical gardens that prioritize education and conservation (much like Winnipeg's FortWhyte Alive, but without the \$10 adult admission fee) in four different cities. It's also free to visit the permanent collections at most Australian museums.

These cities have free public bathrooms, showers and water-bottle refill stations, along with almost unbelievably well-maintained beach-volleyball courts, skate parks,

playgrounds, boardwalks, outdoor fitness stations, cycling paths and picnic shelters.

It's arguably easier to gather, exercise and spend time outdoors in beachfront cities that don't experience negative temperatures for half of the year. However, Winnipeg could — and should — do more to maintain its existing public spaces and invest in low-cost recreation options.

Disappointingly, Winnipeg's draft budget for 2024 would cut funding to some of the city's remaining community spaces.

The proposed budget, released on Feb. 7, includes plans to replace or decommission 20 wading pools and close the Eldon Ross indoor pool, as well as the Happyland and Windsor Park outdoor pools. Some of these sites will be converted into splash pads, which, while typically cheaper to staff and maintain, don't directly serve older youth and adult populations.

Reddit users on r/Winnipeg note a disturbing trend: the city is seemingly closing smaller community centres, pools and rinks in favour of larger recreation complexes. However, most of these new, upgraded centres are in the suburbs, leaving downtown and central residents with even fewer low-cost options.

Meanwhile, other crucial recreation and public services are given meagre slices of the fiscal pie. Libraries will receive a \$5.9 million funding increase to hire more full-time staff members and extend their summer hours.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

The Happyland Pool is one of a number of Winnipeg recreation facilities on the chopping block in the city's 2024 draft budget.

The city will also fund the construction of a new northwest library.

This is an improvement, but it still won't come close to addressing the underfunding, staffing issues and toxic workplace environments Winnipeg Public Library employees have spoken out about over the past year.

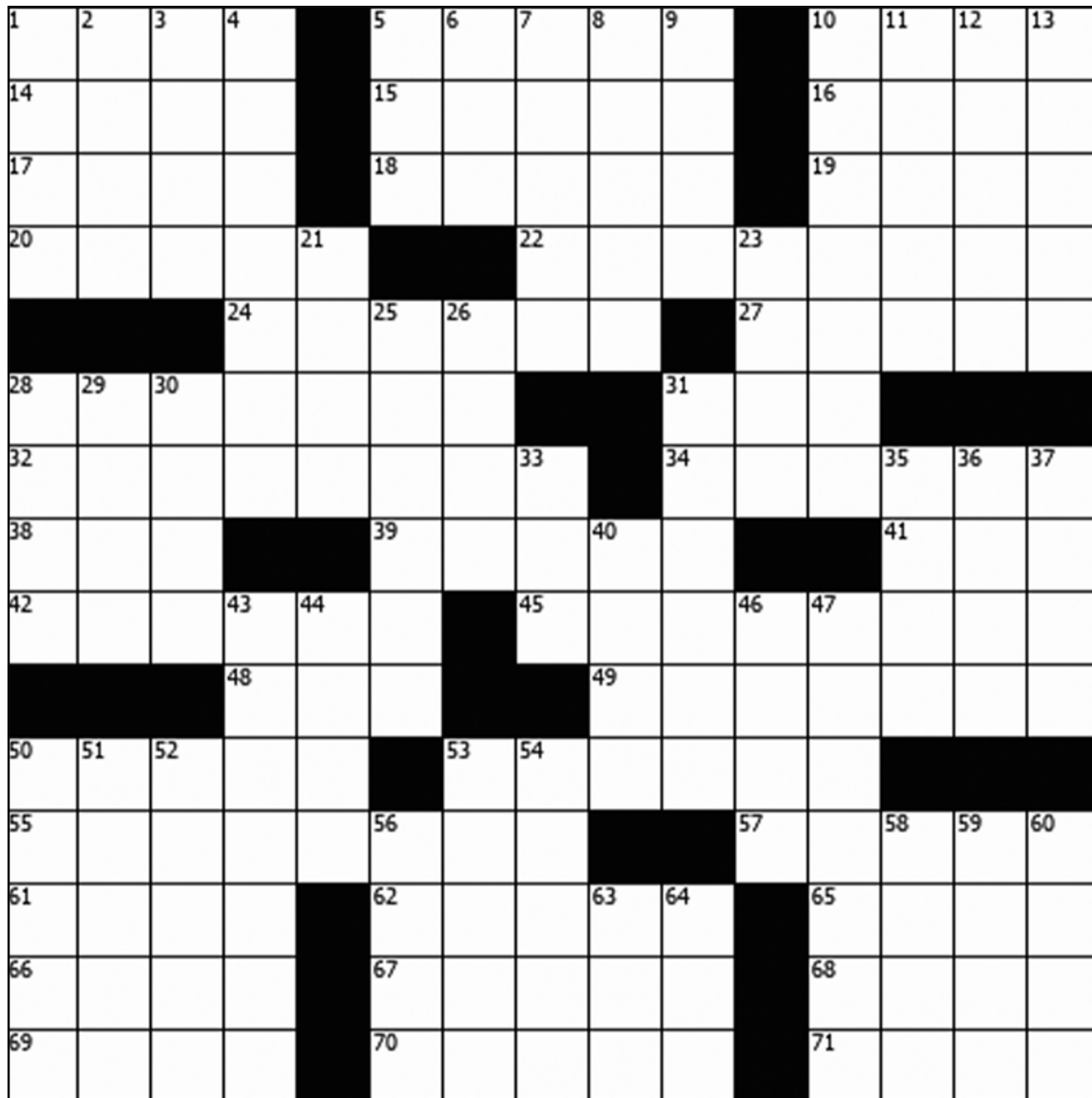
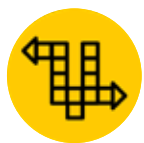
The city could address these concerns, instead of announcing plans to build a \$1.5 million covered outdoor rink that most Winnipeggers will have to travel across or around the city to access.

It could repair the Glenlee rinks that are apparently "too far gone" to open. It could extend operating hours for the Amoowigamig public washroom, install public drink-

ing fountains or replace hostile architecture with people-friendly public benches.

At the very least, the city could replace the nets on its tennis courts.

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



ACROSS

- 1. LARGE TRUCK
- 5. REED INSTRUMENTS
- 10. BEATLE ____ MCCARTNEY
- 14. OUTLINE
- 15. ARTIST ____ PICASSO
- 16. RELIEVE
- 17. BUILDING EXTENSIONS
- 18. BELONGING TO THEM
- 19. DIVA'S SPECIALTY
- 20. GREEK LETTER
- 22. NEW SPOUSE'S BOYS
- 24. MENU ITEM
- 27. KITCHEN APPLIANCE
- 28. HUNGARY'S NEIGHBOR
- 31. ____ VOYAGE!
- 32. FINGERPRINTS, E.G.
- 34. MANOR
- 38. LION'S LAIR
- 39. DISH OUT
- 41. SCAM
- 42. PROMPT (2 WDS.)
- 45. KEPT
- 48. FOUR QTS.
- 49. SICKNESS
- 50. ARTIST'S NEED
- 53. EXCEPT IF
- 55. ADD COMMENTS TO
- 57. ____ SPACE
- 61. "A ____ IS BORN"
- 62. BEGIN
- 65. TALK IRRATIONALLY
- 66. FORK PRONG
- 67. SCARY
- 68. SQUEAKS BY
- 69. SERVED PERFECTLY
- 70. FIERY FELONY
- 71. LANDLORD'S DUE

DOWN

- 1. ZOOMED
- 2. FASHION MAGAZINE
- 3. SHOPPING SPOT
- 4. AS A SUBSTITUTE
- 5. SELECT
- 6. "____, HUMBUG!"
- 7. CHUBBY
- 8. UPPER CLASS
- 9. ANGRY
- 10. POOR FARMER
- 11. SLUGGER HANK ____
- 12. UTILIZING
- 13. RENTAL AGREEMENT
- 21. ENGLISH PRINCESS
- 23. PAID ATHLETES
- 25. CHRISTMAS GLITTER
- 26. MARATHON, E.G.
- 28. DECORATOR'S ADVICE
- 29. COOKIE COOKER
- 30. COIN FACTORY
- 31. LADYBUG, E.G.
- 33. GO WRONG
- 35. TEEN'S WOE
- 36. LITTLE PIGGIES
- 37. GOALS
- 40. FACE COVERING
- 43. DISREGARDED
- 44. ACTOR ____ DILLON
- 46. LIKewise
- 47. UNDERWRITER
- 50. ZITI, E.G.
- 51. CAPER
- 52. FOOLISH
- 53. COMPLETE
- 54. ADVANCES
- 56. NOT ASHORE
- 58. SWIPE
- 59. FIFTY-FIFTY
- 60. RELAX
- 63. ____ DE JANEIRO
- 64. TWICE FIVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Student Services

SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

Check your University webmail on **March 1** for your assigned registration start date/time for Spring Term. The registration period for Spring Term will be from March 18 to April 2.

View Spring Term courses here: uwinnipeg.com/timetable

FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE (FALL/WINTER TERM)

The final date to withdraw without academic penalty from a Fall/Winter Term course (September to April) is **Feb. 16, 2024**.

MONEY TALKS

Student Aid is in the spotlight

this month in the Money Talks series:

- **March 5** – Convocation Awards
- **March 12** – Manitoba Student Aid Repayment
- **March 19** – Financial Literacy & Financial Wellness

Pre-registration required. Please visit: uwinnipeg.ca/awards

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

Looking for tips to polish your resume or improve your interview skills? The Webinar Wednesdays series starts again with a pair of job-hunting related webinars:

- **March 6** – Planning for Spring Term Registration

- **March 13** – Self-Compassion
- **March 20** – Test Anxiety

Webinar Wednesdays are held at 12:30-1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Pre-registration required. Please visit: uwinnipeg.ca/webinar-wednesdays

FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE (WINTER TERM)

The final date to withdraw without academic penalty from a Winter Term course (January to April) is **March 15, 2024**.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES BURSARY

Applications for the Graduate and Professional Studies Expenses Bursary are now open for students in their final year

of an undergraduate degree program in 2023-24 academic year, who are applying for Graduate or Professional Studies starting in 2024-25. Deadline to submit – **March 31, 2024**

More info here: uwinnipeg.ca/awards

CONVOCATION AWARDS

Nominations for Convocation awards are now open for undergraduate students graduating in the 2023-24 academic year. Deadline to submit – April 15, 2024.

More info at uwinnipeg.ca/awards



The Uniter is seeking a city editor

The Uniter is seeking a dedicated, politically minded and well-connected person to fill the role of city editor. This person should have experience and a passion for writing about such topics as local news, student issues, community events, sports and more.

Interested parties should submit a resume including references, CV, a cover letter and at least three published works. Application packages should be sent to editor@uniter.ca.