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### THE POLITICS OF THE RIGHT TO REPAIR

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG AND DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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### ON THE COVER



Must Be the Place is Osborne Village's vibiest new spot for cocktails and mocktails. Read more on page 6.

### YOU REALLY LIKE ME!

THOMAS PASHKO MANAGING EDITOR

О № ТНОМАЅРАЅНКО

Like many movie nerds, I spent this past Sunday evening watching the Academy Awards. Curled up on my couch with a bowl of popcorn, I settled in for what is essentially my Super Bowl.

Do I care about who wins? Not particularly. Detractors of the Oscars love to thumb their nose at the show. Art is subjective. There isn't a "best" actor or film. Isn't this all just a bunch of narcissistic Hollywood self-promotion?

Sure, that's part of it. But I don't care. It's the one night a year where creators, broadcasters and the TV-watching public alike all gather around and collectively spend three-and-a-half hours enthusiastically celebrating movies.

I love how self-indulgent it is when five previous Oscar-winning actors parade onstage, backed by colossal images of their younger selves, and wax poetic about the current nominees. I love watching Nic Cage give a go-second toast to Paul Giamatti. I love it when the dorky sound designers or special-effects artists frantically try to read a list of names and tell their kids watching at home to go to bed before the orchestra plays them off.

I love the In Memoriam segment. I was grateful for the opportunity to give one last little salute to Paul Reubens, Harry Belafonte and Piper Laurie. Maybe it's silly, but seeing Pee Wee Herman tell Dottie "I don't need to see it, I lived it," and have it be treated with all the reverence of "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn," warms my heart. It's one last little outpouring of love for someone we loved and whose work brought us joy.

I don't care if the Oscars are cringe. Celebrating things that bring joy is cool.

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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.

#### A volunteer orientation will be held on Friday, March 15 at 1 p.m. To register, 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.



### THE PERFORMANCE **OF WELLNESS**

### Sick Party shows hidden disabilities in plain view

SUZANNE PRINGLE ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER O BLAQUE\_SQUIRREL

Textile artist Katrina Craig knows how to throw a sick party.

Her exhibition Sick Party, on display at Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba (AANM), is a series of figurative drawings that characterize the performative aspects of living publicly with disabilities.

"The performance of being well is often harder than the illness itself," Craig says.

She lives with fibromyalgia and hypermobility, and her uncanny, tortured-looking figures personify her attempts to appear "normal" while hiding disability. "I feel terrible, but I'm smiling, and act-

ing like everything is fine," she says.

AANM is a not-for-profit, artist-run organization with the main goal of improving accessibility in the arts for disabled artists and audiences. Craig is one of their members.

"Craig's show (is) about the experience of being an artist with disabilities," programs assistant Sacha Kopelow says, adding that their artists are not bound to that subject. "Her (work) is interesting, be-cause it shows having a chronic illness that isn't widely understood."

Craig moved to Winnipeg in 2014 after graduating from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design with a degree in textiles and fashion design. With a background that includes disability direct-support work, her art combines advocacy, community and her love for textiles.

When I was really sick, I couldn't do very much textile work," Craig says, "so I just started drawing these sort of weird, stretched-out, knotted, looped-like figures."

Her drawings, made of natural dye, embroidery and mordant paintings on cotton, depict humanoid shapes with elongated limbs piling up or hanging loose like wet noodles.

"That is kind of what my body feels like sometimes, like it's melting into a puddle because it's not really holding itself up," she savs.

Kopelow says artists like Craig often mask their illnesses and make adjustments in order to produce their work.

"(They) sort of have to work around that disability in order to achieve a show," she savs.

To produce this exhibition, Craig had to move away from the meticulous and repetitive textile work that was typical of her pre-symptomatic days.

"Fibromyalgia has a lot of symptoms, but one of the major ones is widespread pain," she says. Craig opted to work on cotton so as not to abandon her passion for textiles completely.

"It's ergonomically a lot friendlier, and it's not as much needlework," she says of this process versus the painstaking amount



"Folds," a mordant painting on felt by Katrina Craig, is part of her exhibition Sick Party.

of embroidery she would normally use.

AANM's exhibitions promote inclusivity by offering online proxies with descriptive text, in-person ASL translation, wheelchair accessibility and loud or quiet viewing for those with tics or sensory sensitivities.

'There's been steady movement forward with a few steps back each time, but I think we're moving in the right direction," Kopelow says.

Craig, who now calls Winnipeg home,

agrees.

"There (are) some really great grassroots organizations here working on disability rights, but we still have a long way to go," she says. "I think for people with physical disabilities, mental-health issues and intellectual disabilities, the world is still small."

Sick Party runs through March 25 at AANM at 102-329 Cumberland Ave. and can be viewed online at bit.ly/3TxeKsn.

### CONSCIOUS **CONNECTION DONE** QUICK

### Winnipeg Connect brings strangers together in a rapid-fire format

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | OMATTTEKLEMARIAM

Mental-health therapist and Winnipeg Connect founder Sabrina Friesen does all she can for her patients in her one-on-one clinical work. But, sometimes, it takes a village to make someone feel welcome.

Friesen launched Winnipeg Connect in May of 2022 as a response to what she perceived as a dearth of practical solutions to widespread loneliness following an extended period of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group now hosts "an array of different types of events that intend to bring people together in intentional, thoughtful, respectful, inclusive community," Friesen says. Through a curated series of community meetups, speed-dating sessions and platonic gatherings, Winnipeg Connect endeav-ours to re-establish human contact for a more mindful approach to connection. Friesen partly credits philosophy espoused in Malcolm Gladwell's Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking that stipulates people have an intuitive and fast-acting sense of compatibility. "A couple of years ago, I was just really feeling like there was a practical problem with loneliness and disconnection. Just bringing people to face-to-face, in-person contact, especially coming out of the pandemic ... I think a lot of us were missing that," she says.

in person. Our nervous systems are tuned differently when we're in person."

The speed-dating events have a maximum of 30 participants who spend seven minutes with each other, testing the waters of romance over the course of two-and-a-



"Our bodies pick up more information

half hours.

"Generally, they've been close to being sold out. At the end of the night, you hand your match sheet in. I take it home and put it in a spreadsheet that shows who matches and send emails out the next day, whether or not you matched," Friesen says.

Participant and therapist Carmen Okhmatovski stumbled upon a speed-dating event online and joined with a friend hoping for a fresh experience.

"It was a comfortable environment, and people were friendly. Everyone was a little bit nervous, but it was like a common experience, so that was great," they say.

"It's personal and really tangible. You feel like you're dealing with whole human beings rather than just profiles. I don't know if it's better (than dating apps), but it definitely is a more holistic approach."

While the chance of finding love while speed dating may be the carrot on a stick for most, Friesen stresses the idea of all connection being equal.

"All types of relationships matter, and that can be having really good friends, that can be having a supportive community at the gym," she says.

Winnipeg Connect is using social events, including speed dating, to address widespread loneliness in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We work really hard not to prioritize or put romantic relationships on top of the relationship hierarchy."

One of Winnipeg Connect's central tenets is to help give those seeking connection the opportunity to be viewed wholly, without the advanced filters of dating apps feeding participants' implicit biases.

"Our online world has allowed us to select out people ... we can filter out faces and races and ethnicities. We can really create this pool of homogeneity that we don't actually expose ourselves to people who are different," Friesen says.

"Having positive experiences where you're seen and regarded as a whole person are really lacking in online forums. I think really meaningful community can happen online, but this is just an alternative way."

Winnipeg Connect is hosting Speed Dating for Monogamous Humans on April 9 at Little Brown Jug (336 William Ave.) and Queer Speed Friending on April 10 at The Rec Room (696 Sterling Lyon Pkwy.). For registry and more information, visit winnipegconnect.ca.



### AN ARTISTIC LABOUR OF LOVE .... IN 3D!

Artist Scott A. Ford debuts new graphic novel years in the making

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

On March 16, the local comics community will be blessed once again with an offering from renowned artist and graphic designer Scott A. Ford.

His new graphic novel *Hologram Hunter* will officially launch this Saturday at a Millennium Library event presented by the Prairie Comics Festival.

Described as primarily a sci-fi action comic by Ford, *Hologram Hunter* follows the mysterious title character and robot companion Whiskers as they explore post-apocalyptia while threatened by a technological adversary.

"The story is definitely minimalistic. It is an action comic, so it is more focusing on the movement and excitement of the physical conflict between characters," Ford says.

Most notably, the book includes a pair of red-and-blue 3D glasses, just like those B-movies of old, for viewing Ford's carefully exacted anaglyph 3D art.

"The main goal for the book was always as a stylistic experiment first. I wanted it being a 3D book to be the showcase," he says.

Scott was inspired by the immersive qualities of some of his favourite stories, citing manga *Ghost in the Shell* and the Wachowskis' sci-fi anthology film *The Animatrix* as major influences. "I want to make worlds, and I want to make characters and transport people to a different reality. The idea of making a 3D comic where it feels like it's literally jumping off the page at you or that you're sinking into it seems so cool," Ford says.

"There are all these bleeding the lines between mediums that I think is so cool when you expand beyond the vacuum of a particular genre."

Using 3D modelling software, Ford realized all the anaglyph 3D images digitally before committing them to print. He describes the process as arduous, with the book in gestation for nearly four years.

"The process got really demanding ... but for all my comics, I always try to do something new. It's detrimental to workflow, but I think I just get bored easily," he says.

"Every single one has taken a different artistic approach to come up with the end result. This was the most technically intricate workflow that I've done yet."

The launch event will allow those who backed the printing of *Hologram Hunter* to pick up their copies, along with being the first instance of public sale. Attendees can expect a behind-the-scenes look at the artistic process behind the comic and the creation of 3D models, followed by a



Hologram Hunter is a new 3D comic by Winnipeg writer and artist Scott A. Ford.

Q-and-A with the author.

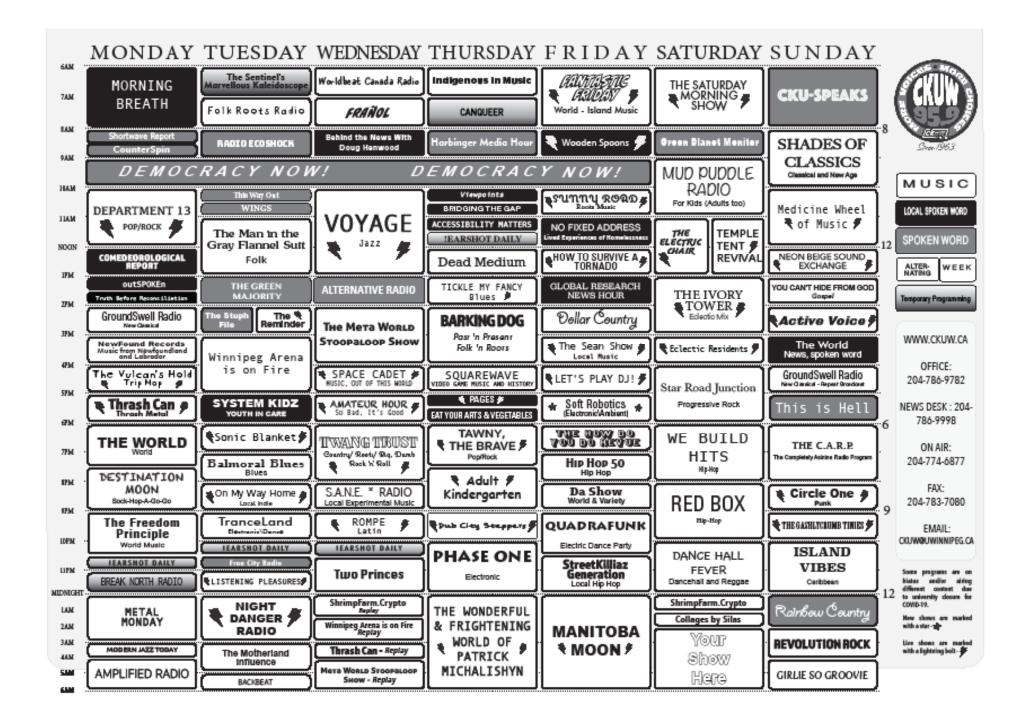
Sam Beiko, Prairie Comics Festival organizer and launch coordinator, speaks highly of Ford's contributions to the comic-book scene.

"He's been really devoted to help organize the festival and put on other seminars," Beiko says.

"He's been a stalwart of the comics

community here in Winnipeg. He's so excited to share all his skills and experiences with anyone in the community."

Check out the launch of Hologram Hunter on March 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Carol Shields Auditorium in the Millennium Library, or order the book online at scottafordart.com.







Taiza Konrad is one of the co-owners and bartenders of Must Be The Place. March 11, 2024

### **DEFINITELY 'MUST BE** THE PLACE' TO BE

### Vibey Village nightspot is open for business

SUZANNE PRINGLE ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER O BLAQUE\_SQUIRREL

Four months ago, a new Osborne Village venue and bar quietly opened on Stradbrook Avenue.

Unobtrusively occupying the former Segovia Tapas Bar space, a single neon "open" sign serves as Must Be the Place (MBTP)'s primary identifier.

Owners Taiza Konrad and Colleen Ans prefer the low profile – at least for now.

"We're just pretty old school in the fact that we don't really like doing too much promotion," Konrad says. She got her start as a dishwasher at Segovia, her sister Carolina's former restaurant.

Ans, who partnered with Konrad two summers ago to develop the concept, finds it easier to work out the kinks of new ownership among supportive friends and family.

"Just opening our doors, I think, was the right call," Ans says of foregoing a soft opening. "And the very second night, we had people in who saw that our sign was on.'

Now, the word is spreading, and neighbourhood establishments are excited about this new venture - particularly the Osborne Village BIZ.

Zohreh Gervais, executive director at the BIZ, says MBTP is exactly what the Village needs right now.

"It's providing fresh faces in terms of the business community in the neighbourhood, and it's also giving space to residents," she says. "Everybody now has their own kind of place to go."

With communal-focused activities like bring-your-own crafts night, karaoke, bring-your-own vinyl, local acoustic sets and, yes, Ska Sundays rolling out, the place is already a hit.

"Crafts night is such a beautiful addition to the Village. So many people are so creative here," Konrad says.

An artist herself, Konrad designs the bar's Instagram content, as well as distinctive touches around the interior.

"To have it my way, I would make art and cocktails for a living. And now I get to do that," she says.

Gervais is excited to see two young women behind the venture, since that isn't typical in the bar scene.

"Representation matters, and I am just so happy to see that," she says, noting that The Toad Pub, a neighbourhood institution, is also now women-run.

Designed to be an inclusive space, MBTP serves inventive non-alcoholic cocktails, (ask Ans to whip one up) as well as alcoholic choices, and a food menu that includes vegan and gluten-free options.

"We have vegan honey dill," Ans says, which goes great with their "authentic' smiley fries.

Designed initially by chef Keith Csabak (formerly of Sous Sol) and now steered by

Oliver Svenne and Drew Tyler, the menu is a quirky, nostalgia-inspired assortment of create-your-own sandwiches and nachos, corn dogs, wings and weekend specials.

Konrad and Ans also blended in "odes" to Segovia, such as their Spanish doors and glass, chandeliers, wallpaper and sangria recipe.

"Segovia was such an original thing," Konrad says, noting that her sister loves MBTP. "We definitely wanted to do something completely different, because, in my eyes, it's very hard to live up to that space.'

Ans agrees. "We still see (regulars of Segovia) come in here and love it for a whole different reason," she says.

Gervais sees MBTP as a vital part of community revitalization and a welcome addition to its more seasoned establishments.

"It's really cool to see the next evolution of Osborne," she says.

Must Be The Place is open Wednesday to Sunday from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Check out @mustbetheplacewpg on Instagram.

**ARTS BRIEFS** 

CIERRA BETTENS  $\mid$  ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR  $\mid$  ightarrow FICTIONALCIERRA @CIERRABETTS

### A St. Patty's Day Pogues tribute

Just in time for the lucky holiday, local Celtic-infused rockers Dust Rhinos will perform a tribute to The Pogues on March 17. It all starts at 8 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.) at the West End Cultural Centre. To purchase tickets, visit wecc.ca.

### Tarot tales

On the evening of March 19, join Bernice Bisson, a psychic medium and astrologer, to discover the story of the Tarot through the lens of Carmen. the opera. The presentation, which takes place at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg (603 Wellington Cres.) is an extension of the Manitoba Opera's community programming. Register online at mbopera.ca.

### United through song

Local choirs from six different cultural backgrounds will share their collective love for music in Together in Song. Hosted by the Manitoba Choral Association and the Manitoba Great Wall Performing Arts, the intercultural choral festival begins on March 16 at 7 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church. Visit mbchoralassociation.ca to learn more and purchase tickets

### The Lehman Trilogy @ Royal MTC

A riveting tale of three immigrant brothers in the late 19th century will be chronicled on the Roval Manitoba Theatre Centre mainstage from March 20 to April 13. The Lehman Trilogy follows Henry Emmanuel and Mayer's journey as they slowly weave their way into America's cultural fabric. Secure your tickets via royalmtc.ca.

### Discussing diversity

Join Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba on March 14 at 6:30 p.m. for a free Zoom discussion on expanding diversity in the arts. Participants will have the chance to explore the topic of "outsider art" and the value of making audiences uncomfortable, among other exciting subjects. Register by emailing your name and access needs to programming@aanm.ca.

### Cold reading and colder brews

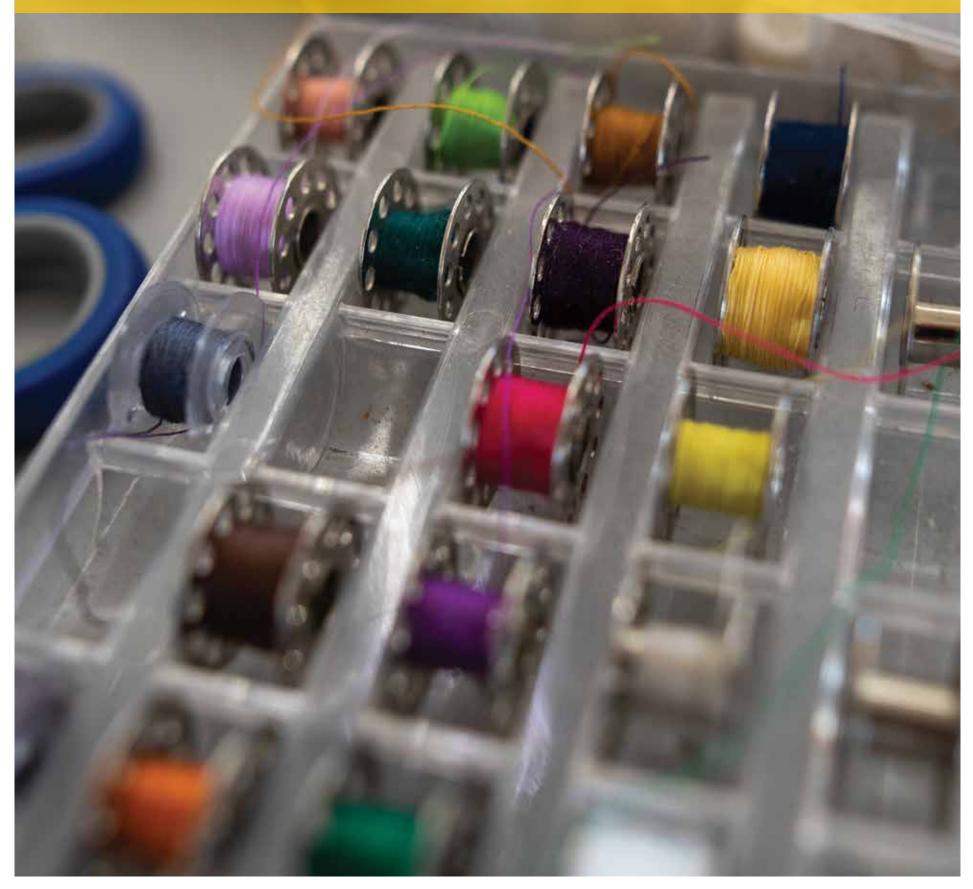
Budding actors and script-writers alike are invited to partake in an upcoming Cold Reading Event, co-hosted by the OurToba Film Network and ACTRA Manitoba on March 27. The event, which takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Kilter Brewery, allows women, nonbinary and gender-diverse screenwriters to receive a live script reading of their works by local actors. To submit a script or register as an actor, visit bit.ly/3ThdXub.



Words by Patrick Harney



The politics of the right to repair



A colourful set of bobbins at MAWA's Repairathon. March 9, 2024

Whether it's a gradual depreciation, an aesthetic blemish or a catastrophic meltdown, wear and tear is a natural part of most things' lifecycle.

When this happens, the owner must choose whether to mend, make do or buy something new. The choice seems like a rational calculation, requiring a damage assessment and a cost-benefit estimation.

However, according to a 2019 survey of 1,600 Canadians by online part shop and repair advocate iFixit along with internet-based engagement organization OpenMedia, 76 per cent of respondents have discarded or replaced a broken device that could have been repaired.

As the cost-of-living crisis intensifies, repair seems like a valuable way for Canadians to save money. However, closer examination of the question of repair reveals a variety of values, choices and barriers to action which go beyond a rational cost-benefit analysis.

### **Repair in action**

Columbus Radio, an audio repair shop nestled on a small street on the edge of the West End, engages with the questions of repair directly.

The business focuses on fixing amps, turntables, cassette decks and speakers, among a whole range of other pieces of audio equipment. In the age of streaming, Columbus Radio deals in restoring an older form of music-listening. Their clientele ranges from teenagers looking to see what the hi-fi fuss is all about to seniors looking to refurbish their forgotten tools.

Debbie Beatie and her husband recently took over the business from her father and now run Columbus Radio.

Beatie says they help repair objects that hold significant sentimental value: cassette decks with recordings of family members' voices or pieces passed down.

"Sometimes we'll phone and say 'I'm going to give you a heads up, the turntable has seized and it needs a lot of work,' but they say 'it was my grandfathers, it doesn't matter," Beatie says. "We get a lot of sentimental repairs."

Columbus Radio's shop, with stacks of wood-paneled boxes, crossing wires and a seemingly endless supply of knobs, embodies this nostalgic glow that calls to a time when repair was a social norm.

"Sometimes it's a throwaway society, but the old equipment from the '60s, '70s and '80s is such high-quality equipment. It was built to last," Beatie says, "whereas the new stuff is built so cheaply that we don't even like working on it."

While she says junk was made in the past, and quality equipment is still manufactured now, the items average consumers can afford now aren't built to last.

Even at the highest end, Beatie says newer equipment relies on computerized technologies that are expensive to repair, if the parts are even available. Machines of the past relied on durable parts with straightforward paths to replacement and repair.

Dr. Alissa Centivany, an associate

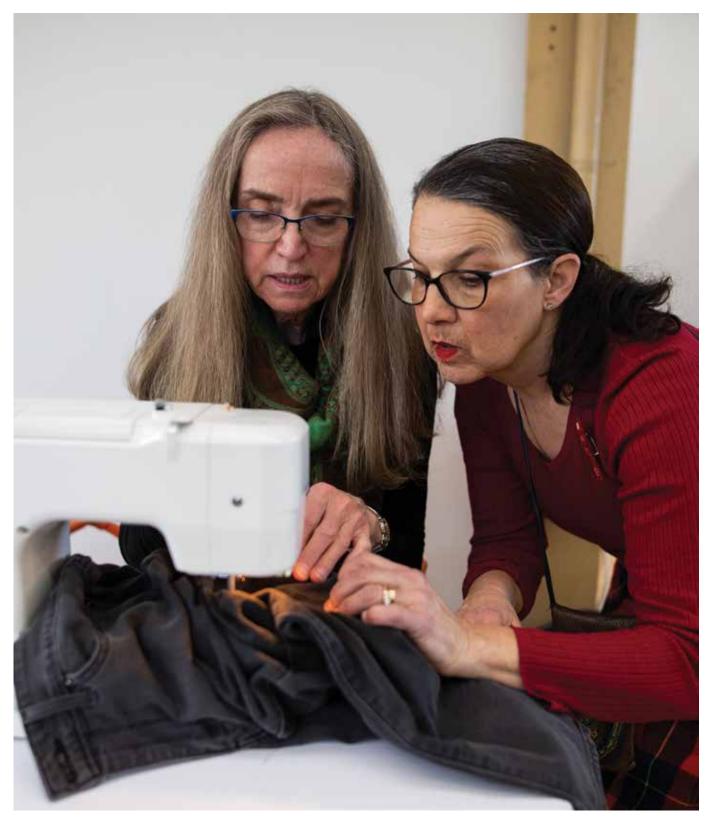


People breathe new life into old and damaged clothes at MAWA's Repairathon.



Beatriz Barahona (left) teaches Margaret Glavina how to convert an old dress into a smock at MAWA's Repairathon.

Feature continues on next page.



Cheryl Butler (left) gets some assisstance while mending a pair of pants at MAWA's Repairathon.



professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario, echoes this sentiment. Centivany says that "Over the past 50, 60 years ... there (have been) significant changes in the ways things are designed and manufactured that really simultaneously undercut questions of durability and the lifespan of things we buy."

She says the deck is stacked against users, as innovative marketing and design strategies are increasingly employed to make sure individuals continue to buy new.

#### The right to repair

Over the past 20 years, the "right to repair" movement has begun to highlight the barriers to repair and advocate for owners' right to reuse their goods.

Centivany, who has testified in the House of Commons on the subject of repair, characterizes the right to repair as "a social movement that is aimed at empowering us to extend the useful life of the things we own."

She says the right to repair is typically justified using two arguments. First is the economic argument that giving individuals the ability to repair already-purchased goods increases affordability, supports local skilled workers and sustains a healthy secondhand economy

Second is the ecological argument that a successful repair sector moderates levels of consumption and reduces how much ends up in landfills.

Centivany also says there is an additional argument regarding "human values around care, maintenance, hope, autonomy and self-efficacy." People's right to fix the things they own crosses over into questions of ownership and the attachment they build with the objects that surround them.

Computers, smartphones and, most literally, medical equipment act as additional appendages people depend on. Not having access to the internet, a phone or a lifesaving insulin monitor can be difficult and, in the case of the latter, lethal.

Centivany says that legislative action in the right-to-repair movement focuses on objects like computers, machinery or appliances, where barriers to repair are the most high, although she says the movement has "friendly cousins" in textiles and other consumer goods.

The increasing link between physical hardware and complex softwares creates an important barrier to repair. Lines of code that make up software are protected by copyright law, preventing users from making alterations, even with legal parts.

"Any time a bit of code is embedded into something, copyright suddenly gets brought in and applies to that device or object," Centivany says. "If you break a digital lock or circumvent a technological protection mea-sure to fix something or diagnose something, that itself is copyright infringement."

These problems are amplified in the case of smart devices (such as laptops, phones, cars or appliances) that connect and share data through the internet. Smart devices are constantly reaching through the "internet of things" to acquire information and process omplicated tasks.

Ashpreet Maan repairs a hole in a shirt at MAWA's Repairathon.

However, the internet is a two-way street, and manufacturers are able to reach into smart devices, pushing updates that can downgrade or "brick" older models.

"Smart tech is fundamentally incompatible with repair," Centivany says. "The brains of the device are never really in your possession. It is located on some server somewhere that you don't really have access to, so you can't ever really fix or maintain those things."

She says the control manufacturers have over the software embedded in everyday objects along with their actual built complexity forces users into a passive relationship. This relationship normalizes corporate capture of maintenance and ownership over critical devices in people's lives.

### Communities and repair

Grassroot community organizers are working to help individuals develop active relationships with their things. Their organizations help communities learn more about how the objects around them work and how to fix them while engaging in the creativity of repair and communal sharing.

On March 9, Mentoring Artists and Women's Art (MAWA) hosted their second Repairathon to help people creatively reduce, reuse and recycle old textiles.

Organizer Melanie Wesley has worked with textiles since she was 15 years old, purchasing thrifted clothes and altering them. She believes her time mending and making new clothes has strengthened her relationship with the things in her life.

"Sustainability is important, and stewardship is important," Wesley says. "Whether you make your own clothes or not, I feel strongly about taking care of the things you've got and being active in that."

She says that participating in events like the Repairathon is "a really good way to kinda introduce people to some of those concepts (like) taking care of your clothes, making them last longer." The Repairathon brings communities together to share in the processes of restoration and transformation.

"This is so much more enjoyable in a community setting," Wesley says, "partially because you have the social aspect. It's company, and you have someone to talk to, but also all the skills and things that you can share."

As Wesley says, grassroot organizing presents a valuable way for people to connect with one another and share skills that can help people begin the stewardship process. She also says that when individuals engage in repair, it quickly goes beyond the utility of fixing something and becomes a creative practice.

"I saw people with the needle and with the thread ... Just the physical act of doing it wakes up creativity in people. It goes beyond the utility," Wesley says. "You can be in charge of your clothes and create something that is really special to you."

She mentions one Repairathon participant who decided to mend a rip by patching a flower design

overtop, not only fixing the piece but transforming it.

"There's so much pressure to consume, consume, consume," Wesley says. "We're so disconnected from things that are important ... I think sewing is super easy. It's very attainable, and it relates to everyone – everyone could do with knowing how to sew a button or mend a rip."

### Repair on the legislative level

While community organizing makes up one half of the repair puzzle, others working in the right-to-repair movement have been making political gains, pushing for policy reform in Canada, Australia, the United States and the European Union.

In the United States, cases have been brought forward against John Deere, Harley Davidson and others regarding unfair barriers placed on the right to repair their tech. These companies have been accused of using software locks that prevent users from practicing self-repair and force machines to be fixed by the manufacturer or licensed repair shops.

In British Columbia, Apple recently paid a \$14.4 million settlement for pushing updates that deliberately slow down phones, although they hold that the settlement is not an admission of guilt.

Legislative change is happening in Canada. Bills C-244 and C-294 are currently being read in the Senate and aim to revise copyright law to allow for the altering of computer code in the name of repair.

The right-to-repair movement brings together questions of consumer choice, legislative change and social action, but the movement is largely in its infancy. Centivany says there are both individual and systemic actions people can take to ignite their right to repair.

"It's always good to be intentional about your patterns of consumption. Is this about a dopamine hit about getting the iPhone 15, or can I hold off?" Centivany says.

"At the same time, it's really important not to suggest that the problems we are facing here can be solved by individual consumer choices, because the problems are systemic. They're at a higher level, which will require regulatory intervention or collective action at a grand scale.



Melanie Wesley attends MAWA's Repairathon.



Attendees mend clothes at MAWA's Repairathon.



### Suing for Silence

Mandi Gray, author of Suing for Silence: Sexual Violence and Defamation Law, will speak at two Winnipeg events about her book, which "critically examines how abusive men can use defamation lawsuits as a weapon against anyone who attempts to hold them accountable." Gray will speak at McNally Robinson (Grant Park) on March 14 at 7 p.m. and at the University of Winnipeg on March 18 in room 3C01 at 12:30 p.m.

### Kinew calls for Gaza ceasefire

On Monday, March 11, Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew issued a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. In the letter, Kinew cites conversations with local Palestinian and Jewish communities, Israel's disregard for civilian casualties in Gaza and the "famine ... caused by the war." The letter doesn't acknowledge that the famine's cause is Israel's deliberate blocking of aid to Palestinians or the fact that multiple members of Israel's ruling coalition have explicitly called for ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in the conflict.

### Appeal sought in curling doping scandal

Briane Harris, a four-time Canadian women's curling champion from Winnipeg, has been handed a four-vear suspension after testing positive for Ligandrol. The tests left Harris ineligible to compete in February's Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Ligandrol is a muscle-growth substance banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Harris plans to appeal the decision, saying that she doesn't take supplements and may have been unknowingly exposed through physical contact with another individual.

### Minimum wage increase coming in October

Starting on Oct. 1, Manitoba's minimum wage will increase by 50 cents to \$15.80 an hour. The move comes after the provincial NDP government declined to raise the minimum wage in autumn 2023 shortly after coming to power. The opposition PCs have criticized the NDP for not raising the minimum wage sooner. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives says that, as of 2023, someone living in Winnipeg must make at least \$19.21 an hour to earn a living wage.

### Transit safety officers assaulted

A 29-year-old man is in custody following an assault on two of Winnipeg Transit's new security officers on Monday, March 11. The man, who the officers say was acting erratically, was the subject of an outstanding arrest warrant. He now faces two accounts of assaulting a peace officer after, the officers allege, he attacked and tried to bite them.

### Sunday library closures looming

Around 100 Winnipeggers gathered in Winnipeg's Millennium Library on Sunday, March 10, to protest the city's plan to close the library on Sundays year-round. The city also plans to close all its libraries on Sundays from June to August. Winnipeg's 2024-27 preliminary budget did increase funding to the city's long-underfunded libraries but will still close the centrally located Millennium Library on Sundays, keeping suburban libraries open.



### INDIGENOUS-LED PROJECTS TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Southern Chiefs' Organization develop downtown

JURA MCILRAITH | CITY REPORTER | 🙆 💥 JURA\_IS\_MY\_NAME

Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) is building a new apartment complex in downtown Winnipeg to provide affordable housing for Indigenous students and elders.

The seven-storey building at 380 Young St. near the University of Winnipeg is expected to be finished this summer. Owned and operated by Opaskwayak, it will create 69 units.

"That's a big boost for our students," Opaskwayak Chief Maureen Brown says. "We have a high percentage of students from our community that go to ... different higher-learning centres. They'd be able to rent our spaces there."

Chief Brown adds that the living spaces are available to anyone regardless of whether they are Indigenous or not. Chief Brown hopes other businesses will see how vital Opaskwayak's contribution is in Winnipeg and want to partner with them on other projects in the future.

Previously, First Nations didn't have the same opportunities to participate in the economic landscape, Chief Brown adds.

"It's definitely a step towards reconciliation," Chief Brown says. "We've been at this for a very long time and taking the steps to become a self-sufficient, self-determining nation. Most First Nations haven't had that kind of opportunity that we have."

Opaskwayak is contributing \$1.8 million to the project. The province is spending \$105,000 from Efficiency Manitoba, and the federal government is providing \$15.6 million.

In addition to the 380 Young St. apartment plan, another Indigenous-led housing project is taking place a few blocks away at 450 Portage Ave.

The 98-year-old Hudson's Bay Company building is being converted into more than 300 affordable housing units and a health and healing centre in addition to restaurant, museum, gallery and business spaces. The project is led by the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO).

The Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgohn, announced in April 2022, is hiring First Nations trade professionals through Miikahnah Connect to help develop the building.

Miikahnah Connect is operated by Faber Connect Technologies and works to connect skilled workers with construction companies to complete specific projects.

"We are working to create long-term employment opportunities to benefit our citizens and our Nations," SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels says in a press release.

"This technology will greatly contribute to the Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgohn project and will foster social and economic growth."

HBC gifted the building to SCO in March 2023. SCO regards the move as a "visionary plan" for "economic and social reconciliation." "The project's working title is Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgohn, or 'it is visible,' and it will be a public act of reclamation and reconciliation as First Nations become the new owners of the historic building," according to the press release issued March 7.

HBC is the oldest company in North America and has a colonial history. Indigenous Peoples played a significant role in the fur trade, but SCO says their history is "often invisible in the Canadian narrative." SCO hopes to preserve heritage and revive Winnipeg's downtown by taking over ownership of the building. Chief Brown says Opaskwayak had different opportunities for economic growth than some other First Nations because of their access to gravel as a natural resource. As a result, Opaskwayak was the first First Nation to open an on-reserve shopping mall in 1975.

Despite this, Opaskwayak has still faced obstacles to greater economic growth.

"It's been very difficult for us to overcome the barriers that have been in place," Chief Brown says, "but we have a lot of people working toward reconciliation and opening those doors."

### MEASLES CASES ON THE RISE IN CANADA, GLOBALLY

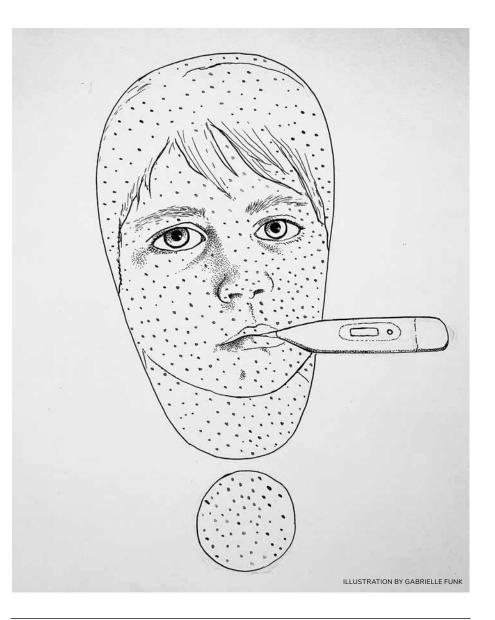
### Experts urge Manitobans to get vaccinated

JURA MCILRAITH | CITY REPORTER | 🖸 💥 JURA\_IS\_MY\_NAME

With measles cases on the rise globally and in some Canadian provinces, Manitobans are being encouraged to protect themselves from the virus before it reaches Manitoba.

While there have been no recorded cases in Manitoba, there are reported cases of the virus in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and years," a provincial spokesperson says in an email statement.

"Manitoba Health has been actively engaged in increasing vaccine uptake in children since it was identified in 2023 that there was a decrease in uptake of routine childhood immunizations due to the pandemic, espe-





British Columbia. Quebec has seen 12 cases of the measles since the beginning of the year, according to its provincial government.

The best way to protect yourself and others from the highly contagious virus is to get vaccinated, Jackie Neufeld, primary care nurse at Winnipeg's Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, says.

"(Because of COVID), we know how connected the world is and how easily things can cross into different countries," she says. "This is the time for Manitobans to be doing what they can to ensure they're protected or to get immunized if they don't have the protection."

The first measles vaccine was introduced in 1963, which led to vaccines to protect against mumps in 1967 and rubella in 1969. The three were combined to create the MMR vaccine in 1971. After one dose of the vaccine, recipients have 85 to 95 per cent protection rates, but two doses are needed for nearly 100 per cent protection against the virus.

The last confirmed case of measles in Manitoba was reported in 2019.

"Manitoba is prepared in the event a suspected case of measles is identified within the province and has dealt with cases in recent cially within young children."

Neufeld agrees that, early in the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a focus on testing for and immunization against that virus. As a result, some children may have missed one or more doses of other vaccines.

Measles symptoms can be similar to those of other viruses and may include fever, runny nose, cough, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. They can appear seven to 18 days after being exposed to the measles virus.

A red, blotchy rash can show up three to seven days after other symptoms occur, typically starting on the face and spreading down the body.

"By the time that rash starts, you've already been highly infectious," Neufeld says.

People born before 1970 are presumed to have natural immunity to the virus, but healthcare workers, those travelling outside Canada and military personnel should get vaccinated regardless of when they were born.

Children aged 12 to 15 months should receive a first dose of the vaccine, followed by a second dose at 18 months or older.

Roughly one in every 1,000 reported cases of measles results in encephalitis or inflam-

mation of the brain, and about one or three of every 1,000 people who are infected with measles will die from complications, according to the Government of Canada.

Manitobans can check their vaccination

status, eligibility and update their vaccines through their primary healthcare provider. Infants and pregnant people are generally not able to get vaccinated.



### UNCERTAINTY, BARRIERS PERSIST FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### Healthcare access and employability top of mind on U of W campus

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD CAMPUS REPORTER

The federal government announced a suite of policies affecting international students in late January, including a two-year cap on new study permits. More than a month later, experts and students alike remain uncertain as to how the changes will impact Manitoba.

Dhruv Gupta is a second-year international student at the University of Winnipeg (U of W). He says most of the peers he's spoken to about the policy changes expect to see a positive impact.

"Right now, they weren't getting any jobs because there were a lot of students," Gupta says. He says the changes could make it easier to find employment and work longer hours.

Previously, most international students could only work off campus for 20 hours a week. That cap was temporarily waived in November 2022, and the waiver was extended in this year's announcement.

In an interview with *The Canadian Press*, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said more than 80 per cent of international students currently work more than 20 hours a week, but that "it's not credible that someone can work 40 hours and do a proper program."

Miller said he plans to permanently raise

the cap to "somewhere between 20 and 40 hours a week."

Gupta says working full-time "does impact our studies, but not that much." In a survey commissioned by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, international students' self-reported academic performance was stronger than that of domestic students.

Devanshi Patel is an international student studying business at the U of W. She says she understands that the government wants to protect access to housing for both domestic and international students. Nonetheless, she says the decision is "unwelcoming."

"People want to put their money, put their assets into education, and (the) government wants to restrict it," she says. Patel was planning to stay in Canada after her degree but is reconsidering now that it's less clear whether her brother, cousins or a future spouse would be able to get visas.

She says rather than "restricting students," the government should focus its efforts on ensuring post-secondary programs are preparing young people for the "real world."

"There are not enough subjects which are covered (in a) one-year diploma," she says.



Dhruv Gupta, a second-year international student at the University of Winnipeg, expects to see a positive impact from the federal government's new policies affecting international students.

"They won't be able to get (adequate) employment at certain positions. It's very important, because education shapes individuals."

Gupta says more needs to be done to make international students aware of the resources they can access, especially when it comes to healthcare.

"For the first one-and-a-half years of my studies, I didn't know I had GreenShield as a second insurance provider," he says. "I just thought Blue Cross is everything."

He says high costs, long wait times and

complicated insurance claims processes lead him and his peers to avoid seeking healthcare from Canadian providers, instead relying on over-the-counter painkillers or asking friends travelling from India to bring medicine.

"Here, you pay a lot for the insurance, and you cannot claim it properly," he says. "It's very difficult. I got a bill for \$150 just because my insurance was not in effect during that time, then I had to claim it with (Green-Shield). It was a mess."

### AIRING OUT CLIMATE ANXIETY

### Gallery 1C03 exhibit highlights the sensory experience of pollution

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER

How do you prepare for a future that's already unfolding?

Two works by artist Christina Battle, *the air* we breathe and Learning the Signals/Change is Coming, are exhibited at the University of Winnipeg's Gallery 1C03 until April 12. Both pieces are part of Battle's ongoing series FORECAST, which "consider(s) the complex dots between disparate aspects of their lives is "one of the privileges of being an artist."

The exhibition's brochure features an essay by local artist and writer Mariana Muñoz Gomez. Their essay points to the history of Shoal Lake 40, Man. as illustrating the kinds of environmental trauma that shape racialized communities' experience and perception



ways in which we both sense and anticipate the climate crisis."

Participatory practice is a recurring element of Battle's work. For *Learning*, visitors are prompted to take in the air around them – how it smells, feels and tastes – and log their findings on a postcard.

"One of the things at the centre of a lot of this work for me is trying to figure out strategies to make visible this crisis and this pollution that is often really invisible to us," Battle says. "This act of practicing trying to put these sensorial feelings into language is at the heart of (the) project."

the air we breathe is an "expanded, experimental" documentary that calls attention to environmental racism in North America and the Global South, as well as the ways corporate interests deploy wealth to reshape and suppress messages of climate justice.

"In that video, I start to thread these connections across information, disinformation and the impacts that we've seen, especially across the pandemic (and) within it," Battle says. She says helping audiences connect the of the air, water and land.

Shoal Lake 40 First Nation is an Anishinaabe community on a peninsula of Shoal Lake. Residents' access to the mainland was cut off a century ago when the aqueduct that supplies Winnipeg with drinking water was constructed in 1919.

"We might be sharing whatever space of land, like relatively close to each other, if we think about it on a global scale," Muñoz Gomez says. "But, of course, residents there are sensing things like environmental crisis very differently than people in the city of Winnipeg might be."

They say the conversations Battle's work raises about different experiences of climate anxiety and crisis can also be an entry point for potentially challenging self-reflection.

"I think a lot of people are really uncomfortable with this question of how to live ethically and responsibly on this planet," they say. "These systems in place have made it really difficult to try to confront that question and try to just live differently than this capitalist system encourages us and expects us to." Christina Battle's FORECAST runs at Gallery 1C03 until April 12.

Battle says the widespread experience of unseasonable, unpredictable weather this past winter has destabilized how she thinks about questions of "imagin(ing) potential futures" she tries to raise in her work.

"We're already in that future, much earlier than anyone really thought," she says. "Time becomes something that's so strange, because we're already in the future, and we still haven't quite even caught up to the present."

FORECAST runs at Gallery 1C03 until April 12. The gallery is located in the first floor of Centennial Hall, across from Info Booth.





### **ONE GREEN CITY**

### SUVs, Winnipeg's apex predator

ALLYN LYONS | COLUMNIST | O ALLYNLYONS

Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) are quickly becoming a consumer favourite in Canada, with sales tripling in the last 10 years. They have ample cargo space, high seating with great visibility, and, according to ecologist Andreas Malm, you should deflate the tires of each one you see.

The *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* author believes that acts of sabotage, from targeting fossil-fuel infrastructure to defacing carbon dioxide-spewing vehicles, are morally just in our current climate crisis.

Eliminating SUVs would make a significant difference. If SUV owners formed their own country, they would place sixth for the world's largest emitters of CO2, pumping out a billion tonnes of the gas each year.

SUVs also make roads less safe for people trying to limit their emissions. As physically larger and heavier vehicles, SUVs are essentially apex predators in cities and a threat to anyone who may accidentally get in their way.

While SUVs are responsible for 14.7 per cent of pedestrian and cyclist collisions, they're at fault for 25.4 per cent of fatalities, according to a study from the *Journal of Safe-ty Research*.

Not only are these gas-guzzling, super-polluters putting people in physical and environmental danger, but most SUV owners don't even regularly use their car's towing ability or cargo space.

While SUV marketing highlights their towing capacity, a study found that in Quebec, 74 per cent SUV owners have never even used their towing hitch. The same study found that less than half of SUVs use all of their seats at least once a week.

So what are they doing in our cities?

Big cars are status symbols that make the driver feel safe while putting everyone else on the road at greater risk. While travelling to and from work or running errands within the city, SUVs are unnecessarily producing 30 per cent more CO2 than smaller cars would.

Malm may encourage people to slash the tires on their neighbours' Ford Escapes, but a more effective and less antagonistic solution would be for the province to step up and introduce legislation to discourage SUV sales.

A few countries have already started cracking down on the popular high-emitters. In an effort to make SUVs less appealing in the city, Paris voted to raise the cost of parking SUVs in the city to 18 euros. The United Kingdom has banned advertisements for Toyota SUVs, citing their "(disregard for) their impact on nature and the environment."

Multiple levels of government already ban advertisements for cigarettes and tax tobacco



products. Why couldn't they do something similar for SUVs?

We can not allow for SUVs, which are worse for the planet and more dangerous to cyclists and pedestrians than smaller cars, to continue to menace the roads of our city when they are not even being used to their full capacity.

It makes no sense for a country promising to be net-zero by 2050 to allow for the sale of vehicles that are unnecessarily contributing more emissions each trip. Bold climate policy won't be popular, but taxing or even banning SUVs would both lower our emissions and make the roads safer for everyone else.

Allyn Lyons lives on Treaty 1. It's pronounced uh-lyn lions.

### WHO'S AFRAID OF NUCLEAR POWER?

### The future of energy is in our past

GABRIEL LOUËR | VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTOR

In 2023, the German government announced that it had finalized the process of decommissioning its remaining nuclear reactors. The phase-out is the result of Energiewende, a decades-long strategy spearheaded by Die Grünen, Germany's Green Party.

The decision saw overwhelming public support. According to a poll from 2019, nearly 60 per cent of Germans supported the movement to retire its reactors. There was widespread celebration of the result, particularly among climate activists such as Greenpeace. Neighbouring France, on the other hand, is the world's leader when it comes to nuclear power. In total, France boasts 56 reactors at 18 different sites and receives close to 70 per cent of all its electricity from nuclear energy, more than any other country on the planet. France's reactors produce so much energy that it exports its excess to Germany. How could the country that birthed quantum mechanics become so skeptical of atomic energy? The anti-nuclear position in Germany has a complicated history resulting from anti-authoritarianism following the Second World War, Cold War tensions and the nuclear disasters of Chernobyl in 1986 and Fukushima in 2011. For instance, Greenpeace's website states "(we have) always fought - and will continue to fight - vigorously against nuclear power because it is an unacceptable risk to the environment and to humanity."

ically fall within two categories: safety and economics. On the issue of safety, critics point to spent nuclear fuel, the potential for meltdown and the dangers associated with uranium extraction to suggest that the costs of nuclear power are too high.

Yet, when looking at the data, nuclear energy emits less carbon dioxide per gigawatt of electricity produced than solar power. As for the issue of spent fuel, waste can be safely disposed of in concrete casks, provided proper practices are followed. New technology also allows for some spent fuel to be reused, although this isn't currently in widespread practice. On the economic side, critics argue that reactors are too costly to be worthwhile. While nuclear reactors have large upfront costs, one paper published in the journal Applied Energy suggests that, without nuclear power, the costs to meet global energy demand by 2060 would be up to 50 per cent higher. Despite what the empirical data says about nuclear power, public opinion remains uncertain. According to Dr. Hannah Ritchie, a researcher at the University of Oxford, less than half of people in the UK believe that nuclear power is a low-carbon energy source. The unintended result of environmentalist groups, whose stated goal is to protect both the public and the environment, is that Germany has turned to coal plants to meet its energy needs.



Most concerns about nuclear power typ-

That is to say, turning to an energy source that emits 273 times more carbon

dioxide than nuclear power and resulting in up to 820 times the amount of deaths.

There is not a single materially prosperous country on the planet that has low energy consumption. What's more, recent estimates suggest that global energy demand is expected to grow by a factor of one and a half by 2050. If we are to simultaneously maintain our standard of living and reduce our emissions in the future, we must turn to the technology of the past: nuclear power.

Gabriel Louër is a volunteer contributor for The Uniter. He serves as emerging leaders director for the UWSA.







**Student Services** 

#### SINGLE-SESSION COUNSELLING

Student Counselling Services is launching "Single-Session Counselling," based on the idea that sometimes, a single, well-timed conversation is just what is needed to facilitate change or offer support.

To find out more information and see if a single session would be a good fit for you, please visit: uwin-

### MONEY TALKS

This series covers some important topics to help you manage your finances:

- March 19 Financial Literacy & Financial Wellness
- March 26 Financial Planning for Fall 2024

Money Talks are held Tuesdays, 11:00-11:30 a.m., via Zoom. Pre-registration required. Please VISIT **uwinnipeg.ca/awards** 

academic penalty from a Winter Term course (January to April) is March 15, 2024.

### SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

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

for Graduate or Professional Studies starting in 2024-25. Deadline to submit - March 31, 2024

More info here: uwinnipeg.ca/ awards

#### Last Day of Lectures for Winter Term

The last day of lectures for Winter Term 2024 will be April 5.

#### nipeg.ca/ student-wellness

### TAX FORMS

The T2202 tuition tax forms and T4As scholarship tax forms for 2023 have now been uploaded and are available to students through WebAdvisor.

#### EXAM SCHEDULE FOR WINTER TERM

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

#### WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

The Webinar Wednesday series continues with these sessions:

- March 20 Test Anxiety March 27 Applying for Manitoba Student Aid (Spring Term)

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

View Spring Term courses here: uwinnipeg.ca/timetable

### GOOD FRIDAY - UNIVERSITY CLOSED

The University will be closed on March 29 for Good Friday. A make-up day will be on April 8 for classes that would have been held on Good Friday.

#### **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

### **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

### PHONE: 204.779.8946

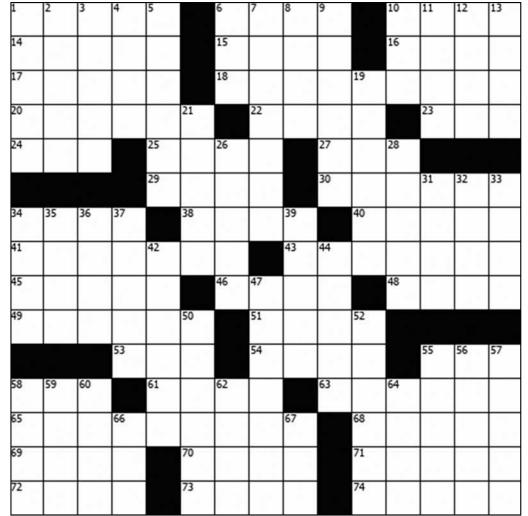
### EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca



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## (FLIP TO VIEW) CROSSWORD **SOLUTIONS**

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d	В	Π	8		Э	٦	S	Ι		٦	A	Я	Π	Я
s	0	Я	Э		Ν	Э	Ι	٦		A	Я	Э	d	0

к	С	Э	D		S	B	Э	D		D	Э	Т	0	T
s	Э	0	Ν		Э	Ι	Я	Э		Э	٦	A	Т	A
Э	٦	В	A	Я	Э	S	Ι	М		Т	A	Э	٦	С
D	A	0	٦	Э	Я		d	A	Я	Т	D	Ν	A	S
			Ν	Ι	9		S	Т	A	0				
Э	Э	Ν	Ι	Т	A	М			Т	Я	Э	S	Э	D
С	Т	Э				Я	Э	Э	٦		D	Э	9	A
Ν	Α	٦	d		Ν	0	В	d	Α		A	м	Α	٦
A	٦	٦	Э		A	Μ	0	I				A	м	A
٦	Э	A	Я	s	Ι			Я	A	С	Э	D	Ι	S
				Т	S	Э	Т		М	Ι	В			
S	S	Э	Ν	Я	A	Э	Ν		Э	Я	Ι	Т	Ν	Э
s	Э	S	A	Э		Я	Э	Т	Ν	Э	d	Я	A	С
Э	S	A	Э	٦		Н	С	Ν	Ι		S	A	Я	Ι
м	Π	В	٦	A		T	S	A	С		A	T	Ι	Я



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