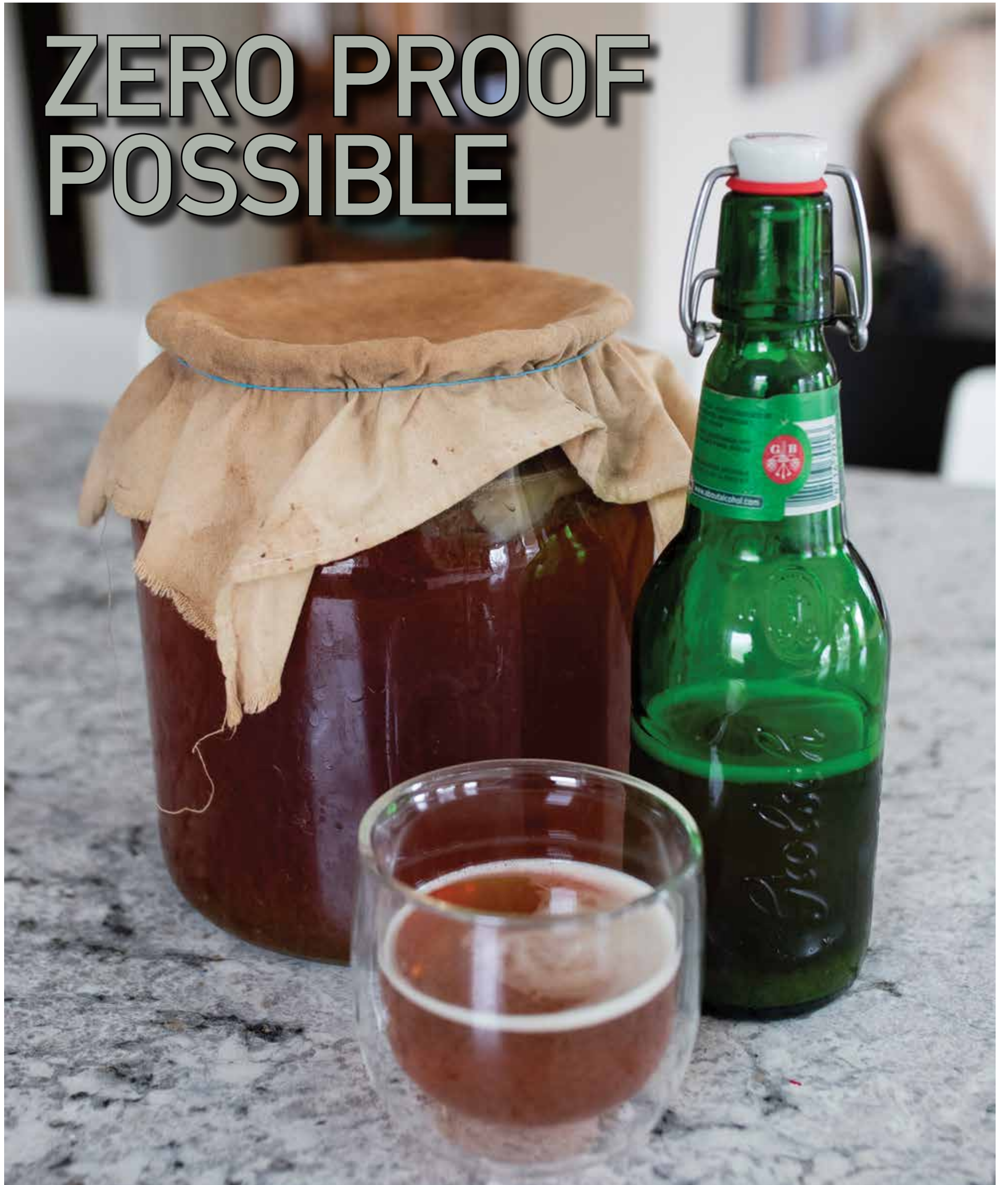


THE **U** N I T E R

DIAMOND DOGS—P4

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PROTEST BUFFER ZONES LONG
OVERDUE—P13



ZERO PROOF POSSIBLE

MORE OPTIONS, GROWING DEMAND FOR LOCAL NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BE KIND, REWIND

THOMAS PASHKO
MANAGING EDITOR



Sad news came out of Transcona this week when owner Glen Fuhl announced that his business, Video King, would be closing after 40 years.

It might sound silly or old fashioned to lament the death of the video rental store in the age of streaming. "Can't you find everything on Netflix or Prime?" No, you can't, but that's beside the point.

My sadness around this isn't merely rooted in nostalgia for my childhood neighbourhood video store (Lasertek Video in Selkirk, thank you very much), nor in my bitterness about the fact that I now live a two-minute walk from where Movie Village once stood.

Despite the convenience of streaming, it's an extremely flawed system. Availability of titles can be extremely limited. Streaming services like Netflix prioritize original content and new releases, so movies older than 10 or 15 years are often missing from these platforms. Some movies are available to rent for around \$5 from Amazon, YouTube, Google Play or Apple TV. But I'd much rather put that \$5 into a local business than a faceless corporation.

And then there are the movies that aren't available digitally at all. In the past week, at least half a dozen times, I've had a hankering to watch a movie to find it is completely unavailable. These range from older foreign films (1971's *Sacco & Vanzetti*), Hollywood oldies (1970's *The Phantom Tollbooth*) and 21st-century entries in popular franchises (2007's *Hannibal Rising*).

Without the video store, viewers are left to resort to piracy or buying the movie physically. I'm a collector of physical media myself, but discs can be expensive, and I don't need a BluRay of *All the Fine Young Cannibals* on my shelf forever.

What I need is my neighbourhood video store.



PHOTO BY MIKE THIESSEN

Dr. Zdan Shulakewych offers Ukrainian-language dental services at his practice. Read more on page 11.

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SUBMISSIONS

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

A volunteer orientation will be held on Friday, March 22 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.



Across myriad cultures on Earth, there exists a myth referred to as an Ouroboros. In the majority of cultures in which it exists, it functions as a representation of death and rebirth; depicted as a gargantuan serpent doomed to forever chase and consume its tail. In modern, Western usage, the serpent has come to embody a once-great institution, now fallen and struggling to recapture its place of greatness.

On October 3, 2011, I moved into my first apartment at 1010 Sinclair St. in Winnipeg, Manitoba. There at 24 years old, I began my journey toward living independently as a Power Wheelchair user with Cerebral palsy. I met and made fast friends with neighbours, personal support workers and the community in the neighbourhood. I also learned how to guide the support staff through assisting me as my hands, arms, and legs where my own saw fit to fail me. Be it with meal preparation, cooking, bathing or going to bed – though at 24, who has time to sleep? There’s a whole world to get lost in! They were there with a smile, a laugh and unimaginably large hearts to make sure I could be my best self.

By January of the following year, I’d moved downtown, to another one of TenTen Sinclair Housing’s programs, the Fokus cluster apartments. This meant I’d be as independent as you probably are, dear reader – accounting for my brain being wired up wrong in a socket or two, of course. It also meant no more pre-scheduled-though-tenant-guided support calls anymore. Fokus means flying without a net. They were there 24/7, just as before, still scheduled *when* to show up, but if I

didn’t instruct them, I couldn’t go about my day. This isn’t as awful as you might think – again, I never went without. This time, it was entirely my responsibility to ask for what I needed, since the staff here didn’t have an itinerary for us as they did at TenTen.

I spent the next decade (and counting!) chasing the dream I’d come back to Winnipeg for, and achieving it in ways I couldn’t have possibly imagined. All because of the wonderful staff who made it possible. Eventually, COVID saw fit to hang us all upside down by our shoelaces for our lunch money. That’s when everything began to change. You see, per the bylaws of Fokus Housing, the group of us that lived here have a degree of autonomy when it comes to how the scheduling was done, needs were met and staff were hired. Or at least we *did*.

During the pandemic, things changed. Much of this was to be expected. We were all upside down and dizzy without lunch money, after all. What wasn’t expected, however, was the gradual and ongoing erosion of that autonomy by the management of TenTen. It began with a noticeable decline in the quality of staff hired to support us, in part due to us no longer being directly *and vocally* involved in the hiring process of those charged with our care. It culminated in the point of this piece.

At midnight Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 160 wonderful, talented, loving support workers across seven locations (these *aren’t facilities, they’re people’s homes*) went on strike, seeking better wages, a better standard of work support and other issues. What followed was an abysmal failure of

duty of care on the part of management. That night I was left to either sleep in my chair, with the ability to safely void my bladder, or sleep in my bed at 10 p.m. and risk sleeping in my own urine. Why? Because, despite management’s assurances that they’d done their best to ensure no lapses in service, nobody showed up for the overnight shift.

The rest of Wednesday went much the same that night, and the weeks and days leading up to work stoppage, inadequate, near nonexistent communication riddled with platitudes that rang as empty as my bed the night before. Fortunately, I had friends and family at the ready to help out. Others didn’t. Someone could have died. By that evening, the regional health authority rolled in and got my unit back to normal. How does something like this happen? Not because staff are fighting after eight years of overwork and underemployment without adequate wage and structural support, nor because the health authority didn’t do their job.

It happened because management failed to heed years-long warning signs, failed to prepare, failed to admit guilt or even failed to apologize. It happened because those atop the chain of TenTen Sinclair Housing failed to care. They failed to provide us with the basic human dignity of sleeping in our own beds.

In closing, I’d like to address three groups. Firstly, you the reader. Don’t receive this as an opportunity to wave your side’s political flag. If that’s your takeaway, please, leave. This isn’t a political football you can score points with. Secondly, don’t

feel sorry for us. Use that energy to ensure this *never* happens again. Vote. Check on your loved ones, and make sure you leave the world more accessible than you found it. If I don’t, that’s how I failed us in this strike. I’m going to hold you to that standard, too.

Secondly, I’m going to speak directly to management. There is no world in which you did not fail us, no metric by which these outcomes can be considered merely “unfortunate.” There is no interpretation by which all subsequent efforts to fix this by your team can be received as anything other than reputational damage control. It is my opinion that the founders of this once-vital and perpetually necessary organization would be utterly horrified by your decisions in this crisis.

Board Members, Chairperson Wullum and Executive Director Van Ettinger, I implore you to grant yourselves the dignity in this crisis that you couldn’t grant us. Resign. Walk away knowing you tried and failed before we sink. Allow us, your tenants, to begin anew with fresh management. Unlike the infinite Ouroboros, we don’t have much tail left to eat.

Lastly, to my friends, family and the WRHA staff and agencies who’ve stepped in to care for us, thank you. Some of us may not be alive if you hadn’t.

Before I go, Premier Kinew, Health Minister Asagwara, you have an opportunity to make an actual change here, please. Don’t fail us.

-Myles Taylor

ARTS BRIEFS

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

A hilarious debut

Jared Story, one of Winnipeg’s most highly regarded comedians, is set to release his first comedy album, *Good Ideas*, on April 5. Packed with a perfect balance of cheeky vulgarities and local references, the album may be purchased on all major streaming platforms.

Putting the ‘fun’ in fundraising

The West End Cultural Centre (WECC) will bring in some of Winnipeg’s finest musicians for their annual fundraising concert on March 23. The all-ages show features performances by Leaf Rapids, Sheena & Daniel, French Class and Bloc Parents. To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/3x1ghxR.

Caring for the land

On March 27, head to the Winnipeg Art Gallery to immerse yourself in a screening of *We Are Made from the Land*. The documentary tells the story of four Indigenous nations working together to establish the Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. Be sure to RSVP via bit.ly/4an1Brs.

Call for submissions: Writes of Spring

Spring will soon spring, and the Winnipeg International Writers Festival wants your poetry to ring in the season. This year’s Writes of Spring initiative is centred around the City of Winnipeg’s Winnipeg 150 theme, “Our shared stories. Our shared future.” The deadline to submit is April 1. For more information, visit bit.ly/4afi0To.

Divine by design

The annual Architecture and Design Film Festival (A+DFF) returns to local screens this week from March 20 to 24. This year’s programming features a host of exciting films on how we shape architecture, design and urban space, and how it shapes us. On Saturday, March 23, the festival’s ArchiShorts screening presents two-minute films by emerging filmmakers. For the full program and to purchase tickets, visit adff.ca.

A fiery night at the symphony

This Saturday, March 23, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will present an evening of four fiery classics: Carl Maria von Weber’s Overture to *Oberon*, Franz Liszt’s Concerto No. 1 for Piano & Orchestra, Florence Price’s Piano Concerto in One Movement and Igor Stravinsky’s Suite from *The Firebird*. Conductor Daniel Raiskin will be joined by American pianist Michelle Cann to open the night, which begins at 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit wso.ca.

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THE CONVERSATION OF ART

MHC Gallery exhibition has art imitate life and vice versa

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @MATTEKLEMARIAM

Ekphrasis! Hold the *gesundheits* and recall classics class, where the term may have been embedded in the mind alongside a John Keats ode to an urn. For aesthetes looking for a more contemporary and interactive experience with the medium, MHC Gallery's *Brush Strokes & Bluewords* has just what you need.

The latest exhibition at the Canadian Mennonite University's in-house gallery, *Brush Strokes & Bluewords* is a collaboration between United Kingdom-based artist Pauline Aitken and Winnipeg-based literary artist Christine Stewart-Nuñez.

The art of ekphrasis, a Greek word denoting the practice of vivid descriptions of artwork, is showcased through Aitken's mixed-media visual work and Stewart-Nuñez's poems.

Stewart-Nuñez, who is also a professor at the University of Manitoba, likens the show to a conversation through art, as both artists respond to each other's work through their respective mediums.

"It's a dialogue between my poetry and Pauline's artwork," she says.

Stewart-Nuñez explains that rather than mere illustrations of her poems, Aitken's responses are more akin to translation.

"I saw a piece of her work, and I riffed off of it and wrote about it in a poem," she says. "Typical ekphrastic definition ... I wrote this poem called 'Site Planning,' and then she did two more pieces related

to it where she uses cobwebs. This is more of like a conversation, literally."

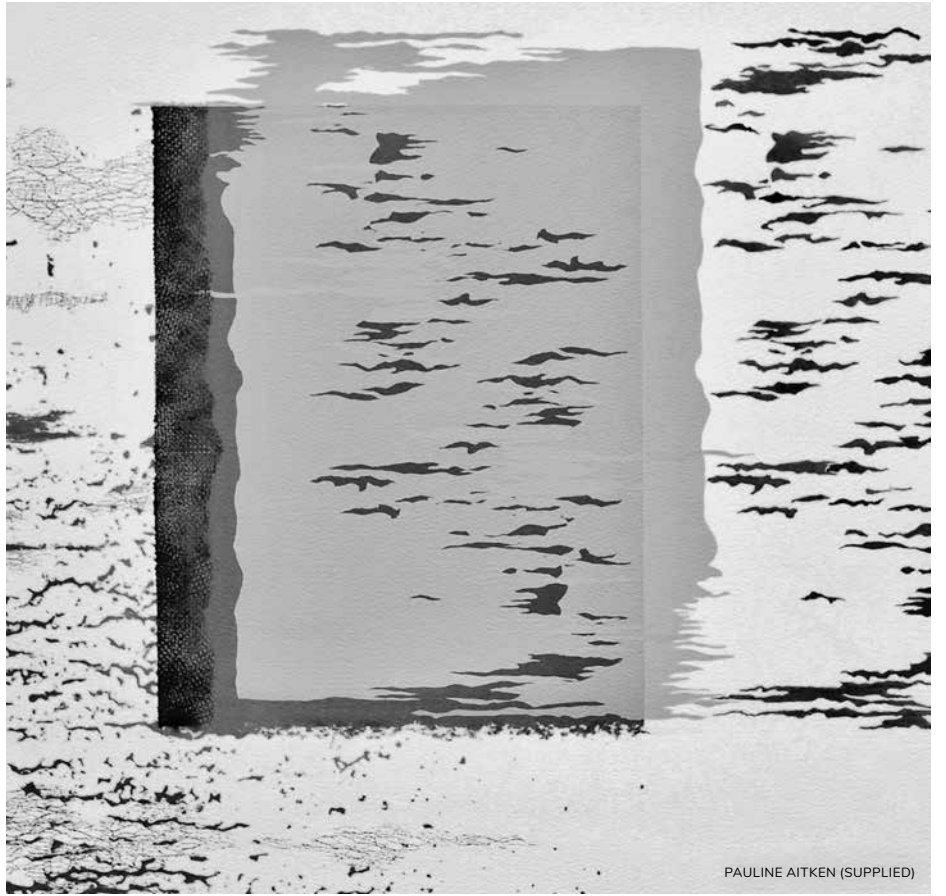
Visitors to the gallery will see 21 pieces of Aitken's art, which include watercolour, print work and sketches, paired closely with 18 of Stewart-Nuñez's poems throughout the exhibition.

"At MHC Gallery, we believe that through artistic expression, we can learn about, know and respect one another," Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, the MHC Gallery director, says.

"The ekphrasis featured in *Brush Strokes & Bluewords* is such a beautiful example of that sentiment: two artists with much distance between them engaging with each other in a relational, dialogic way that births something entirely new and special."

Inspired by "body-mind phenomena" and drawing from personal experience, much of the exhibition is themed around bodily function, like Aitken's visual piece "Dendron." The creative collaboration came together holistically, as Stewart-Nuñez's work was influenced by her son's neurological disorder.

"Pauline had been doing all of this rich research and creative work around the brain and the heart. When we struck up this collaboration, she really started to respond to my poetry based on grappling with my son's seizure disorder," Stewart-Nuñez says.



PAULINE AITKEN (SUPPLIED)

Brush Strokes & Bluewords runs at MHC Gallery until April 13.

"There are these really rich ways in which the body and the mind interact or affect each other. The poems speak to that pretty clearly."

On March 21, MHC Gallery will celebrate World Poetry Day with a slate of readings from published poets, including Stewart-Nuñez. CMU students will also have the opportunity to showcase their own ekphrastic poetry alongside the roster of writers.

"Given the exhibit's exploration of not

only a variety of media but wide-ranging topics, it's also just a great example of the kinds of radical dialogue and relational ways of knowing that we hope to foster on campus," Hodges-Kolisnyk says.

Brush Strokes & Bluewords runs until April 13 at MHC Gallery (600 Shaftesbury Blvd.). For more info, visit cmu.ca/gallery.

'DIAMONDS' ARE A HUMAN'S BEST FRIEND

Local rescue dog to co-host heartwarming TV show

SUZANNE PRINGLE | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @BLAQUE_SQUIRREL

From humble beginnings to CBC Gem, Diamond, a one-eyed husky-Labrador, has become Winnipeg's cutest celebrity.

"She gets recognized more than me," her owner Ian Bawa says. Bawa is a Winnipeg-based filmmaker and host of *Finding Diamonds*, set to air on CBC Gem starting March 25.

"She is a one-eyed dog, you know," he says.

Diamond came to Bawa in 2021 through a fostering program at Manitoba Underdogs Rescue (MUR). She was surrendered by her family in Easterville to receive medical care in Winnipeg.

"When Diamond came to us, she was dealing with an eye condition that needed urgent attention to save her eye health and vision," MUR executive director Jessica Hansen says in an email to *The Uniter*.

"Despite our efforts, her condition persisted," she says. Bawa fostered Diamond throughout her treatment, made possible through donations and fundraising through MUR.

They eventually removed her eye in February 2021, and Bawa adopted her permanently.

"(Diamond) has thrived with the love and care from both our agency and her devoted dad, Ian," Hansen says. "Their bond is a shining example of why fostering and adopting rescue animals is so rewarding."

Bawa says Diamond rescued him more than the other way around. They met

shortly following the death of his father, who was his last remaining parent.

"I was extremely lonely," Bawa says. "I was truly depressed at the time. Having Diamond come in gave me purpose."

After nuzzling her way into Bawa's heart, Diamond won over his TikTok followers.

"I started making little shows with her. One is called 'Ian and Diamond give advice,' where people call in, and Diamond gives feedback through an AI-generated voice," Bawa says.

This caught the attention of producer Scott R. Leary at Farpoint Films and filmmaker Quan Luong, who pitched them *Finding Diamonds*, which was subsequently picked up by CBC.

The show takes the duo across Canada to capture vignettes of people whose pets helped them heal from traumatic experiences.

Bawa says the producers approached him because of his vulnerability, which fosters genuine connection.

"A lot of my film work (*Strong Son, My Son Went Quiet*) is about my family, my dad," he says.

In the show, people open up to Bawa and Diamond – who is also a certified therapy dog – about how their pets met them in their grief.

"I think there (are) times in our lives where we feel unloved, and these creatures who want attention, want affection, they do that for us in our time of need," Bawa says.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

Filmmaker Ian Bawa (rear) and Diamond (dog) are the hosts of *Finding Diamonds* on CBC Gem.

"That happened to me, and that happens to a lot of people in these stories."

The first season of *Finding Diamonds* documents real people recovering from injury, bullying or seemingly impossible situations – including a Syrian woman reunited with her beloved cat after fleeing from war.

"That was because of an immigration officer who really loved animals," Bawa says.

Hansen says they are the perfect hosts. "Ian and Diamond's story is just too

heartwarming to pass up. Their connection is something special."

"She has a very calm presence, and that's one of her greatest gifts," Bawa says. "It gives me so much joy to share her with the world."

Follow Ian and Diamond on TikTok @ianbawa and stream *Finding Diamonds* for free starting March 25 on CBC Gem.



OSBORNE VILLAGE SPRINGING BACK TO LIFE

Eras in the Village celebrates neighbourhood's past and future

SUZANNE PRINGLE | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @BLAQUE_SQUIRREL

Osborne Village could reclaim its spot as “Canada’s greatest neighbourhood” as the district celebrates its 150th anniversary.

The Canadian Institute of Planners awarded the Village this title in 2012. After a tough decade of business closures, increased crime and a pandemic, Osborne Village BIZ wants to help revitalize Winnipeg’s iconic neighbourhood by launching Eras in the Village this summer.

“We have lots of new businesses and residential spaces opening up in the summertime,” Zohreh Gervais, executive director of Osborne Village BIZ, says of the event’s kismet timing.

Eras in the Village is a celebration of the storied Winnipeg neighbourhood’s bygone days. Starting with the 1910s, each weekend will feature events themed around subsequent eras of its history.

“I really wanted to help all of these establishments on Osborne celebrate the cultural heritage of Winnipeg,” she says.

Free event programming includes weekly live outdoor concerts, vintage cars and costume contests. Gervais says a Canada Day event is also “in the works.”

Art installations, including multimedia window projections featuring local and international artists, will roll out from April onwards.

Participating restaurants will design weekly era-specific cocktails, with plans

to host beer gardens next to the outdoor concert venues.

“All of the establishments in the Village can put their own mark on these events,” Gervais says.

New-wave hangout spots like Must Be the Place (formerly Segovia) and a confirmed new venture in the former Basil’s with chefs and restaurateurs Chris Gama and Raya Konrad (Clementine), plus Daly Gyles and Nick Gladu (RAW Almond) are fresh additions to the Village niterie and culinary landscape.

“It’s really cool to see a new generation of chefs from the community taking over these historic sites,” she says.

The BIZ hopes the events will bolster new businesses in the area and attract new energy – and residents – to Osborne.

Two mixed-use developments along Osborne Street will welcome both residential and commercial tenants this summer.

“I’m excited to see what it’ll be like next summer after all these buildings are open and there are more residents in the neighbourhood,” Adam Sharfe, president of Sharfe Developments, says.

Sharfe’s complex at the corner of Gertrude and Osborne will see residents taking occupancy of their 90 units on Aug. 1. They currently have a waiting list, with seven commercial units pending.

“Commercial and residential additions



PHOTOS BY DANIEL CRUMP

Zohreh Gervais (insert) is the executive director of the Osborne Village BIZ.

to the area are vital to bringing (Osborne) back to what it used to be,” Sharfe says. He hopes the project will reduce the neighbourhood’s carbon footprint by bringing amenities to residents.

At 160 Osborne St., Private Pension Partners (P3) will open The Zü, with 207 residential units ready for June 1 and 5,200 square feet of commercial space available in September.

“This is a new era for Osborne Village,” Gervais says.

The BIZ is also awaiting approval on a proposed pedestrian scramble crossing

and slip-lane closure at the intersection of River and Osborne to make foot traffic safer in the neighbourhood.

It’s a step in the right direction. “Now that we’re going to have residences on Osborne, it’s where we need to go,” Gervais says.

She is optimistic about the future of the Village. “It feels like everything is evolving right now, and we’re stepping into the next evolution of the vibe.”

Check osbornevillagebiz.com for schedules and updates on events in the Village or visit [@osbornevillagebiz](https://www.instagram.com/osbornevillagebiz) on Instagram.

WHO LET THE DOGS IN?

The Handsome Daughter now serves up tubular treats

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | @MATTEKLEMARIAM

From the ashes of another food venture’s sudden twilight, the (hotdog) wieners will rise.

Following the untimely demise of Magic Bird Fried Chicken’s cornerstone deep fryer, perhaps Winnipeg foodies’ worst kept secret as of late, the staff of The Handsome Daughter were faced with a culinary quandary.

Facing enormous repair costs, the crew made the tough decision to shutter Magic Bird for the time being, with a new hotdog pop-up taking its place, cheekily christened Doggystyle.

“We actually used to do hotdogs and stuff like that here in the past,” Mike O’Connell, chef at The Handsome Daughter, says.

“There’s a lot of fun stuff you can do with it ... a hotdog is like a blank canvas,” he says.

“With branding and everything, too, not just the actual food. That’s more my area of interest and expertise,” Jesse Kowalski, bar manager and Doggystyle social-media wizard, says.

Doggystyle currently boasts eight varieties of hotdogs on its menu, including the Coney Island-inspired “The Wonder Wheel” and Chicago-style “Da Bear,” most of which are O’Connell’s own interpretations of regional favourites. Original creation “The Hunky Bill” is a more financially viable take on the iconic Jumbo Jet Dog.

“The inspiration is just the hotdogs I’ve eaten throughout my life, with some research and studying. My favourite one and the newest one to me is the Seattle-style

hotdog, the ‘Supersonic,’ that has cream cheese and jalapeno,” O’Connell says.

Frankfurter aficionados can rest assured, the sausage is made with the best of care, using Nathan’s Famous hotdogs imported courtesy of Food Fare. Each hotdog can also be made vegetarian, with some additional vegan options, as the crew stressed the importance of menu accessibility.

Notably, Doggystyle employs an idiosyncratic and oddly alluring approach to marketing. A retro aesthetic with Fleischer-like mascot “Mr. Hotdog,” courtesy of local artist Paul Stafford, is combined with a playful presence on their Instagram, @whomstletthedogsout.

Videos of celebrities barking on the red carpet sit comfortably alongside references to *The Simpsons* and comedian Tim Robinson. Kowalski elaborates on the farcical yet calculated philosophy.

“The thing with hotdogs, when we first started coming up with this, I didn’t want it to be over-the-top goofy. But it’s hotdogs. It has to be kind of silly, and no one wants to come to a serious hotdog restaurant,” he says.

“What I kind of gave (Stafford) was a ’70s-style cartoony wholesome guy. It plays off the name pretty well, too. It was important to have that attitude with it, but not go too far, and be kind of playful.”

Launched with a hotdog-eating contest on March 6, in which the crew underestimated demand and ran out of hotdogs be-



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

A vegan Wonder Wheel hot dog from Doggystyle at the Handsome Daughter

fore night’s end, the folks behind Doggystyle are convinced that this dog will hunt for the foreseeable future.

“It was a lot (busier) than we had anticipated. We expected it to be busy, but the turnout was beyond what we had imag-

ined,” O’Connell says.

“In the future, you’ll be able to get these dogs not just here. We’ll put it that way. Right now, we’re just focused on slinging dogs in West Broadway,” Kowalski says.


SPEAKER SERIES


SUPPLIED PHOTO

THE UNITER SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS: JENNIFER SMITH

Shifting priorities: the battle for systems of care

OMID MOTERASSED | FEATURES REPORTER |  OmidMOTERASSED

For Métis curator Jennifer Smith, replacing colonial practices begins with a reexamination of values. “Our systems need to change in enormous ways.”

Smith is currently executive director for the National Indigenous Media Arts Coalition (NIMAC), where she maintains a tradition of community-building and care established by her predecessors.

“I value people,” she says, responding to institutional biases which over-privilege academic intellect and the maintenance of

harmful power structures. “We wanted a system of our own.”

She recalls her first-ever curatorial residency at *aceartinc.*, where someone said to her, “I didn’t know you were Indigenous!” Upon explaining herself, she had a revelation.

“It’s interesting that as Indigenous people, the ways we talk about our heritage need to be really public and open, but then for the majority of other artists, I knew nothing about theirs,” Smith says.

This consideration of identity created a path forward. “(At that time), I wasn’t sure if I wanted my culture to be a central part of my career,” she says. “I really needed to understand my responsibility to it.” Despite this, it became clear that there was an incongruence between her cultural values and that of the art world’s.

Since then, Smith has been consciously incorporating Métis value systems into her work. She is deeply concerned with the needs of different communities, focused on removing economic barriers and fostering safe, accessible spaces. She points to grass-root organizations and artist-run centres as inspiration.

“When we think about what’s harming people across the world, it’s due to the current systems not valuing individual lives,” she says. “(Ironically), it is *people* who uphold these systems.”

She fears the loss of humanity that individuals face within an institution. “You are not the institution, you are still a person who is allowed to have values and needs and wants in the ways you engage with the community, and you can attempt to bring that into it.”

For Smith, this requires understanding and care. “We affect a lot more people than we realize,” she says, adding that val-

ue-based actions can accumulate and redirect the course of history. Her hope is that communities are able to receive the care they need and that more people offer it for each other.

However, respectful relationships do not mean freedom from conflict. “It’s important for us to allow for disagreement. What does it mean to be uncomfortable with myself? To accept responsibility if I did something I’m not happy about?”

Smith proposes moving past the fear of imperfection. “What does it mean to build relationships? To know that those relationships aren’t going to be perfect and to move forward in an attempt to not harm people.”

For Smith, there is little separation between her art, work and personal life.

“It’s all informed by how I choose to live,” she says. She suggests that more people spend time thinking about their values and how they wish to move through the world. And yet, she remains optimistic.

“There is a real pinnacle of change at this moment.”

“The Uniter Speaker Series presents Jennifer Smith: Building Respectful Relationships in the Arts” will take place at the West End Cultural Centre (586 Elice Ave.) on Thursday, March 28 at 6 p.m. The event is free.

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ZERO PROOF POSSIBLE

More options, growing demand for local non-alcoholic beverages



Homemade kombucha, courtesy of Emma Ko's mom

Bre Kelly's favourite drink to make at home for herself is an espresso martini. Minus the alcohol.

Kelly, 34, is one of the many Manitobans hopping on the "sober curious" movement that started around 2018 but has made its way into the province more in the past few years.

She decided to go sober 14 months ago and has no plans of returning to alcohol in the future. She was taking hormones — one of which also acted as a blood thinner — and was figuring out her new alcohol tolerance.

She wanted to remove alcohol from her lifestyle and reevaluate and "interrogate" her

relationship with the substance during her transition.

"Navigating the world as a femme-presenting person, period, can be kind of terrifying sometimes," Kelly says. "I definitely wanted to think about removing those additional layers of fear."

She says everyday life stresses made it easy to rely on having a glass of wine or a cold beer to unwind after coming home from a long day.

Some of her social circles relied on alcohol to keep them together, also contributing to how often she drank. She wanted to find

new ways to hold friendships together, without using alcohol as the glue.

But Kelly's sobriety led to a disconnection with some of her social groups that would go out to bars to socialize. Eventually, they just stopped inviting her. She thinks they might have felt like they were pressuring her into something she didn't want to do.

"I think it's a little strange that we're sort of conditioned to think that the only way to socialize is with alcohol," Kelly says. "The more establishments that have alcohol-free options, it just helps to not only include people who are ... choosing a sober existence. It

also sort of takes away that layer of necessity of alcohol for social interaction."

A few months after fully cutting alcohol out of her life, Kelly adopted her dog, Keenu, who she says has helped give her a sense of purpose, even while living on her own.

"Discovering that I'm fun because I'm fun, I'm not fun because I'm drinking, has been a big thing, too," Kelly says. "I made this choice for me, and I don't anticipate or expect anyone to follow suit."

No alcohol, no questions asked

Kelly's philosophy on drinking echoes DrinkSense Manitoba's recent campaign.

DrinkSense, an extension of Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, ran their Mocktail Week campaign from Feb. 22 to March 17, encouraging Manitobans to give non-alcoholic options a try, even for one night.

"It really is about positive experiences when (people) do choose to drink, and enjoying a mocktail ... is a really great way to do that," a DrinkSense spokesperson says. "You don't need alcohol to have a good time. It's your choice, no questions asked."

The spokesperson says having high-quality, interesting drink options helps those choosing to not drink feel more included in the fun with less pressure to drink. She adds that her favourite non-alcoholic drink is a jalapeno cherry mocktail.

Mocktail Week featured recipes without any type of alcohol on the ingredients list to make at home.

But for those not keen on making their own drinks, Manitoba's locally made non-alcoholic options have boomed in the last few years.

brite water, brewed by Little Brown Jug Brewing Company (LBJ) in Winnipeg's downtown, gives patrons an option in the pub that isn't beer or cider.

"There was a big gap in the market in terms of a local, non-alcoholic sparkling product," Jensen Maxwell, LBJ's marketing and events coordinator, says. "Naturally flavoured sparkling water seemed like kind of the obvious answer."

They say the move to create brite water has helped create a more inclusive environment at LBJ.

"When you come to a brewery, you kind of expect, if you don't drink alcohol, that you won't have anything available for you," Maxwell says. "It's really nice to walk into the space and go, 'Oh, there is something for me.'"

They add that everyone who tries brite water has a strong opinion about their favourite flavour, but theirs is the peach



Emma Ko holds a glass of kombucha that her mom makes at home.



Emma Ko, 22, is a non-drinker.



Shane and Jessie Halliburton make a toast in their store, Søbr Market.

mango. Outside of LBJ's creations, Maxwell also enjoys a non-alcoholic bourbon peach drink from an event hosted by Søbr Market.

Other restaurants like The Roost on Corydon have offered handmade mocktails for years, while places like Amsterdam Tea Room and The Common also offer zero-proof menus for those who don't want to drink.

Local non-alcoholic options expanding

Shane Halliburton, co-owner of Søbr Market, stopped drinking alcohol just over two years ago. He says he used to think it was normal to drink excessively.

Halliburton says his priorities changed when he and his wife and Søbr Market co-owner, Jessie, had kids. Jessie also chooses to not drink alcohol.

"There's no longer time to feel tired or groggy the next day, and how unfair is that to your children?" Halliburton says. "They deserve 100 per cent energy and attention, and I want to give that to them."

He also stopped drinking pop 12 years ago and was left with very few options besides sparkling water. He and his wife realized there must be other Winnipeggers with similar experiences and launched their website in June 2022.

He says the response was bigger than they anticipated and grew until they opened a storefront on Academy and in Toronto. The Toronto store is currently closed for renovations to expand to meet the growing demand.

They now plan to have six stores open by 2025 across Canada.

When they started, Halliburton says there were very few non-alcoholic options outside of water, juice and pop made in Winnipeg or the rest of Canada. Most of the drinks were imported from Europe or the United States.

It's easier to find and stock items made in Canada now, but they still import from all around the world. Recently, he's noticed more places making non-alcoholic spirits, like gin, whisky and tequila.

Since expanding to carry more than 700 products, Halliburton says he can't possibly pick one drink he likes best.

"To pick a favourite, it's just something I can't do anymore," he says. "It all depends on what kind of mood you're in and what you're looking for."

Although Halliburton is comfortable sharing his reasons for not drinking, he says it's important that no one at Søbr Market ever asks someone their reasons for limiting how much they drink or cutting alcohol out completely.

Feeling included in socializing regardless of whether you're sober or not is important, Halliburton says. Often, manufacturers create packaging for non-alcoholic beverages that mimic alcoholic drink designs to help people blend in and avoid questioning.

This helps remove stigma for those not drinking. People are asking why someone is not drinking less, Halliburton says.

"It used to be, if you weren't drinking alcohol, it would be, 'What is wrong with you? Why aren't you drinking?'" he says. "That's kind of slowing down lately."

Halliburton says no specific demographic is joining the sober-curious movement more than others. People from a wide range of ages frequent the store, but he sees younger generations embracing it a little more.

Although Statistics Canada data shows Canadians aged 19 to 34 years were most likely to report heavy drinking in 2021, those numbers are down 10 per cent from 2020. They are also lower compared to the one-third of that demographic that said they drank heavily in 2015.

Emma Ko, 22, prefers water when her friends go to LBJ after class and only drinks alcohol a few times each year. Even then, she always limits herself to one drink.

The first-year Creative Communications student at Red River College Polytechnic has many reasons for not drinking.

Data from the Canadian Centre on Sub-

SUPPLIED PHOTO

stance Use and Addiction released in 2023 shows a link between frequent drinking and an increased risk for heart disease, stroke and cancer. Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health says having seven or more drinks per week "radically" heightens these risks.

Ko finds the habit expensive and doesn't like the taste of alcohol. She's concerned about health effects and generally dislikes the culture around drinking.

"This isn't the case for everyone, but a lot of people can't have fun unless they're drinking," Ko says. "If you are with a group of people and you can't genuinely have fun unless you're drinking, you're not friends with the right people."

Her parents only drink socially and have a healthy relationship with alcohol, which also influenced her decision to stay sober.

She feels no pressure from friends to drink and feels confident in the boundaries she sets around the substance. Ko is curious to know what she would be like drunk but doesn't find the process of getting drunk appealing.

"I don't ever want to be drunk to the point where I can't walk properly and I'm so dizzy," Ko says. "That type of feeling is so scary, especially with the way women kind of have to be a little more careful."

Ko believes younger generations are more accepting and kind about others' decisions. She also thinks they are more comfortable with others not drinking.

Although she prefers to save her money and stick to water, or drink her mom's homemade guava kombucha, Ko likes to see more restaurants and bars offering mocktail options.

"Having (non-alcoholic drinks) in restaurants and having restaurants kind of promote it also helps push the culture of 'you don't have to drink to have fun.'"



Emma Ko generally dislikes the culture around drinking.

CITY BRIEFS

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | @X THOMASPASHKO

Firefighters' union sounds alarm

Tom Bilous, president of the local union representing Winnipeg's firefighters, is voicing his concern about the wave of recent fires that have destroyed homes, businesses and historic buildings alike. Bilous says fire crews have battled nearly 500 years so far in the 2024 calendar year, which began only 80 days ago.

Some pool closures paused for now

Three public swimming pools were slated for closure in the City of Winnipeg's recent preliminary budget. Two of those pools will stay open. Windsor Park outdoor pool in St. Boniface will remain open for at least two more summers, while Eldon Ross pool in Brooklands will remain open until August to give the city time to court private buyers. Happyland Pool in St. Boniface will still close.

The (Video) King is Dead

One of Winnipeg's last remaining video rental stores is closing its doors for good. Video King in Transcona, which for the last 40 years has offered movie rentals to neighbourhood residents, will close its doors on April 6. Owner Glen Fuhl told CBC News that the popularity of streaming services played a role in the closure. Video King also distributes rental copies of videos to various stores throughout Manitoba. Fuhl says this side of the business will continue.

Winnipeg police beef up retail presence

Winnipeg Police Service will increase its presence in retail stores in advance of spring break, which they say typically brings an increase in shoplifting. Police did not reveal in their press release how much taxpayer money will be spent to protect retail profits. In 2024, Winnipeg increased its annual police budget to a third of a billion dollars, which is over \$100 million more than it spends on community services and public transit combined. One of every eight Winnipeggers currently lives in poverty.

Tory obstruction

The Progressive Conservative party, the opposition in Manitoba's legislature, spent multiple days blocking efforts by the ruling NDP to pass bills, including one that would ban scab labour and another that would establish a senior's advocate. The PCs have used procedural tactics to grind proceedings to a halt by airing petty grievances. For instance, interim PC leader Wayne Ewasko whined that Wab Kinew said Ewasko is against transgender people. On March 12, Ewasko said that schools should require parental consent to refer to students by their preferred names, a policy that is transphobic.

Cop sued for abuse – again

A Winnipeg police officer with a history of alleged misconduct is being sued for at least the fourth time. Winnipeg cyclist Leo Lafreniere alleges that officer Jeffrey Norman Tasered and unlawfully arrested him after Lafreniere asked why officers stopped him on his bike and asked to see his license and registration. In 2019, Norman pepper sprayed a cyclist who asked him to dim the headlights on his police cruiser. The Independent Investigations Unit declined to charge Norman, despite finding that there were grounds to arrest and charge him. Earlier this month, during a meeting of the police board, a community member was cut off one minute into their speech for accurately stating that Winnipeg police have killed nine people since the last city budget approval.



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OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIERS FOR REFUGEES

Community support key for newcomers accessing dentistry, basic services

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | THOMASPASHKO

For many Winnipeggers, it's easy to take basic services for granted. Relationships with one-on-one service providers like dentists, doctors or barbers are personal and often develop over the course of years. But for the city's many newcomer refugees, there's a significant barrier to accessing these services: language.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, more than 24,000 Ukrainians have taken refuge in Manitoba. Online community message boards like the r/Winnipeg subreddit, Nextdoor and Mutual Aid Society Winnipeg frequently feature posts from locals trying to help Ukrainian friends, family and neighbours find professionals who speak their language.

Dr. Zdan Shulakewych is a dentist at Images Dental Centre. A first-generation Canadian, Shulakewych grew up speaking Ukrainian at home and provides Ukrainian-language dental services. He says that more than 100 of his patients are Ukrainian refugees.

"Some of the patients speak no English at all," he says. "A lot of them are stunned that I speak (fluent Ukrainian). But that's still what I speak with my parents at home ... It's funny, some of these patients come in, they start speaking in (English or Russian). I start speaking Ukrainian to them, and it's like a light flips on. They're so overcome that I'm

speaking in Ukrainian."

The Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) has a searchable database where users can search for providers based on language. But Shulakewych has also relied on word of mouth to inform newcomers about these services.

"My clinic has been advertised on Instagram and Telegram (as providing Ukrainian-language services), and people speak amongst themselves in the community, and some refugees come into the practice," he says.

Joan Lewandosky is the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' (UCC) Manitoba Provincial Council. The UCC is a Ukrainian-Canadian community organization that has provided a wide array of resources to Ukrainian newcomers, including financial and material aid. Lewandosky says the community response, which has been key to filling the gaps in resources, is part of why so many Ukrainians have come to Manitoba.

"They feel that this is a welcoming place," she says. "There's a (large Ukrainian diaspora) here."

Lewandosky says contributions from other ethnocultural communities have provided crucial support, citing a multimillion-dollar program by the Manitoba Métis Federation to train Ukrainian refugees as early childhood educators.



Dr. Zdan Shulakewych offers Ukrainian-language dental services at Images Dental Centre.

"(The local French community) has given us \$100,000," she says. "Money has come from the Italian, Polish and Sudanese communities, just to name a few ... Manitobans have been extremely generous. They've opened their hearts, homes and wallets."

Shulakewych says his office has hired two refugees who worked in dentistry in Ukraine and Poland to work as receptionists, which has helped with translation. He's also offered services on a sliding payment scale for those who don't have dental coverage.

While many newcomers have access to employer-based dental coverage, those who don't remain in an awkward limbo. Dr. Daron

Baxter, president of the MDA, says the federal government provides emergency dental coverage for refugees, but Ukrainians fleeing the war technically don't have refugee status in Canada.

The MDA's philanthropic arm, the Manitoba Dental Foundation, donated several thousands of dollars to the UCC for dental coverage, but Lewandosky says the funds have been exhausted.

"The dentists have been very accommodating (since the funds expired)," she says. "(Many) aren't charging for their work, just for materials."

PROFITING OFF A BROKEN CHILD-WELFARE SYSTEM

Why is Manitoba trusting some of its foster care to for-profit businesses?

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | THOMASPASHKO

On Feb. 28, CBC Manitoba published a bombshell investigation that found that a local foster home had been giving cannabis to children in its care on a daily basis.

Spirit Rising House (SRH), the private for-profit foster home, lambasted the provincial government's decision to cut ties with SRH following the investigation, saying that they provided children with the drug as a form of harm reduction.

The controversy surrounding SRH raises an interesting question: why are for-profit foster homes allowed to exist in Manitoba? Why is something as vital as foster care being placed in the hands of profit-motivated businesses?

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), an "independent, non-partisan research institute concerned with issues of social, economic and environmental justice," has long reported on the pitfalls of privatizing public services.

Molly McCracken, director of CCPA's Manitoba office (CCPA-MB), points to the Manitoba government's 1997 decision to sell public telecom provider MTS as an example of privatization gone wrong.

"What we've seen with (the privatization of) MTS is that ... it was bought by Bell, and they downsized the workforce," she says. "Those are good jobs (that were lost). And the service has suffered."

There are key differences between a previously functional public service like MTS and the foster-care system. Child and Family Services Manitoba (CFS-MB) has been scrutinized for decades for its handling of foster care, which

some have criticized as continuing the colonialism of the Sixties Scoop and residential schools.

According to 2021 census data, 90 per cent of foster children in Manitoba are Indigenous, compared to the national rate of 53.8 per cent. Manitoba also has the highest rate of children in foster care of any province with 2 per cent, far above the national average of 0.4 per cent (the second-highest province, Saskatchewan, has 0.9 per cent).

McCracken says the goal for foster care in Manitoba should be to return responsibility to First Nations, Métis and Inuit-led child-welfare services. "But the problem that has emerged is that they're still operating within the same legal frameworks of a child welfare system that was set up by colonial governments," they say.

"The legacy of colonization ... has fractured a lot of families. There needs to be a lot of resources to help these families heal so that we can break this cycle between different generations of families. That means good housing, that means mental-health and addiction supports, that means access to education for second-chance learners, that means childcare."

In 2019, the Pallister government introduced a new funding model for foster care. Single-envelope funding, previously known as "block funding," shifted from providing funding on a per-child basis to a single predetermined annual budget for all child welfare.

"What we're hearing is that (the new model doesn't provide) sufficient money to cover all the costs of delivery (of services) and particularly of prevention to keep families together,"



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

McCracken says. "Money only flows once a child is at risk or is apprehended."

Ultimately, McCracken says public services provide better and more efficient services than private businesses.

"Private delivery of public services is more costly for the public purse, because you can't off-load the risk to government. The government is ultimately responsible for the delivery of child welfare, for schools, for building roads ... infrastructure services. You can't just contract that out, because if they don't do the job properly, then the onus is on government," she says.

"And that's what we're seeing with this (SRH) situation. They're contracting out foster care, and the risk is still coming back on government."

In an email statement to *The Uniter*, a spokesperson for the Manitoba government said some foster programs "are managed by third-party organizations. Third-party organizations that are directly funded for administrative fees by the province are all not-for-profit. CFS agencies can purchase various types of services, including therapy and placements, from other organizations. Third-party foster homes are still licensed by a CFS agency, however day-to-day management ... is the responsibility of the third party. These same third-party managed foster homes then care for children placed by various CFS guardian agencies. This care is designed to have more skilled foster care providers to meet the needs of children with complex issues."



FORMER U OF W PROF RETURNS TO CAMPUS FOR TRANS GENRES KEYNOTE

Dr. Trish Salah closes out trans solidarity event series

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER

Celebrated poet and former University of Winnipeg (U of W) women's and gender studies professor Trish Salah will deliver a keynote talk, titled "After T-Day it got worse: trans genres for the interregnum," on Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m. in Riddell Hall.

Salah's keynote is the final event in the Building Trans Solidarity series hosted by the U of W's 2SLGBTQ+ Solidarity Collective, a group of faculty and students "formed in 2023 with the goal of protecting and advancing trans rights on campus," according to the collective's webpage.

"I will be talking about the trope of 'gender apocalypse' in some recent and not so recent trans lit(erature), and how that might speak to the world we are currently living in," Salah said in comments emailed to *The Uniter*.

The talk's title is a reference to Gretchen Felker-Martin's 2022 horror novel *Manhunt*, told from the perspective of two trans women fighting for survival after "a virus turns anyone with enough testosterone into a feral, cannibalistic beast," according to an NPR review.

Salah says she will also reflect on two conferences "focused on trans people's literary and cultural production" that she helped or-

ganize at the U of W: Writing Trans Genres in 2014 and Decolonizing and Decriminalizing Trans Genres in 2015.

Her keynote will pick up on themes central to the 2015 symposium to explore "cultural/aesthetic work that may enable liberatory and decolonial possibilities," she says.

Prof. Roewan Crowe was a colleague of Salah's during the latter's tenure at the U of W. Crowe says the Trans Genres conferences were "huge and significant" historical events, not just for trans scholarship and cultural production, but also for Winnipeg.

"The organizing and community labor to bring people together, to fundraise, to hold space so that trans cultural productions, trans thinking, trans community can flourish, that often gets lost," she says. "Dr. Salah creating space for trans folks to comment on their own lives and theorize? Hugely important."

Crowe says the talk's focus on trans and gender studies shouldn't dissuade those lacking familiarity with gender theory from attending, as theorizing about gender is already "something that everyone does."

"The really restrictive and limiting ideas about gender that are being mobilized right now have an impact on everyone, because,



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dr. Trish Salah's free lecture on March 22 will close out the 2SLGBTQ+ Solidarity Collective's series.

well, we all have a gender," they say.

She says the talk is an opportunity for non-trans folks to develop a "political understanding about how these words that we take for granted are being mobilized against others and also have implications for everyone."

Salah says her intended audience centres on trans and trans-adjacent people while also including cisgender people who are "open to considering the violent effects of contemporary anti-trans panics and thinking about their relation to other manifestations of reactionary, even fascist thought."

Crowe says the kinds of cultural produc-

tion enabled by Salah's work provide artists and audiences with opportunities to build solidarity and "taste a little bit of liberation."

"We can have those moments where we feel free witnessing art or reading a poem or a good scholarly article," they say. "These expressions of what decolonization and liberation can look like, (they) help us feel it for just a moment, so that we have that in us to remember."

Register to attend Dr. Salah's free keynote at bit.ly/43rpBHE.

INCOMING UWSA EXECUTIVES 'OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS'

Team Change wins election with highest voter turnout in 25 years

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER

Candidates from a single slate, Change, won a clean sweep of all three executive positions in the 2024 University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) general election. Jashanpreet Singh, Parth Kaushik and Saurav (Sherry) Dhand were elected president, vice-president student affairs and vice-president external affairs, respectively.

Several promising trends from last year's contest repeated themselves, most notably in the realm of engagement. Fifty-three students put their names forward in the 2024 election, making for a substantially larger candidate pool than other highly contested years, like 2023 (34 candidates) and 2017 (28).

A staggering 1,861 students cast ballots this year, representing a 25-year high in UWSA election turnout. The trend of strong participation by international students also continued this year, including the milestone of all three elected executives being international students, a first in UWSA history.

Singh and Kaushik praised this year's high turnout. "It's great students are trying to be part of the elections," Kaushik says. "Students are taking part in the betterment of the university, (the) betterment of the campus."

The duo say focusing on international-student participation takes away from the reality

that "at the end, we are all students."

"For me, each and every student is the same," Kaushik says. "It's nothing about the international or domestic. I have seen each and every candidate as the best one. Whether it was my own opponents, they were trying their best, and they had their own objectives."

The new executive team's first priority when they take office on May 1 is to cultivate a sense of transparency between themselves and the student body by issuing weekly reports and holding regular office hours.

"What are we working on? What have we achieved in terms of what we have promised? At the end, we are accountable to (the students). They have elected us," Singh says.

UWSA executives are already required to provide written reports of their activities at monthly board of directors meetings, but there's a one-month delay in those reports becoming available to the public, and the "executive reports" page of the UWSA website is not regularly updated.

Kaushik says the team plans to spend the summer training new representatives and promoting collaboration between the board of directors as a whole. He says training new UWSA senators is one of his highest personal priorities.

"The senator is the first person students contact" in cases of academic misconduct, he



HARLEEN KAUR SEKHON (SUPPLIED)

Parth Kaushik (vice-president student affairs), Jashanpreet Sing (president) and Saurav (Sherry) Dhand (vice-president external affairs)

says. "Senators might not know how the senate works ... we would be helping (train) them anytime a student got stuck in a particular situation, so that they can help the students, as students have elected them."

Singh says the team's experience speaking with students during the campaign period was "a positive thing for everyone in the campus. It helped us ... and the students to learn more about (our)selves and the things which

we need to change in the university."

The duo says they want students to know that their team is always looking for input from students.

"We are open for suggestions," Singh says. "During campaigning, as well, after pitching our campaigning stuff, we were asking (students) for their suggestions or what are the problems they are facing. So we are open for suggestions."



A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF WINNIPEG

Seeing Winnipeg with the right eyes

SCOTT PRICE | COLUMNIST

One of the things I love about learning Winnipeg's history is how much vibrancy it adds to how I experience the city. As I learn more history, certain areas and places take on greater significance, representing the overlap of historical continuums.

Over the years, I have done several 1919 General Strike tours, and some of my favorite spots are those around Waterfront Drive, James Street and Pacific Street. These spaces are significant, as they are where Victoria Park and the old pump houses were located.

Victoria Park was a major meeting place for strikers to gather and hear speeches from strike leaders. Even after the strike, Victoria Park became a symbol for the strikers, which they commonly referred to as Liberty Park.

Such a symbol could not remain, so Victoria Park was eventually demolished after the strike when the pump houses were built. Those pump houses carried water from Shoal Lake when the Winnipeg aqueduct was built in 1919. For the next 100 years, this same aqueduct dispossessed Shoal Lake 40 from having clean drinking water.

One of the most striking vantage points is an unremarkable and forgotten location, the McPhillips Athletic Grounds.

The Athletic Grounds are essentially a field with an old set of bleachers and a rusted soccer goal post off Logan Avenue.

People drive by these grounds without even knowing they are there. To access them,

you have to go through a side street and then walk up a flight of concrete stairs. However, this unremarkable field allows visitors to see so much of Winnipeg and its history.

First, this is probably one of the best vantage points to look at the CPR rail yards. These train tracks have defined Winnipeg for its entire history and played a major part in the General Strike, as many strike leaders worked there.

South from the rail yards is the neighbourhood of Weston, where many of the strike leaders, skilled trades workers and important political figures, like Helen Armstrong and Edith Hancox, lived.

Keeping your eyes south, you can also see roughly where Winnipeg Police Service Const. Robert Cross shot John Joseph Harper in March of 1988. This, along with the police killing of Helen Betty Osborne, launched the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry to investigate the justice system's relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Looking north again, you can spot the hydro towers where some of the events of Katherena Vermette's *The Break* takes place.

For one of the most unremarkable fields in all of Winnipeg, the McPhillips Athletic Grounds holds a vantage point of some of the key historical continuums in this city.

From the role of the rail yards splitting the city, the labour struggles and militancy of the early 20th century to the enduring In-



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

The McPhillips Athletic Grounds may look like an unassuming field, but it sits at the crossroads of several historical Winnipeg landmarks.

igenous presence in this city, it all can be broached from this seemingly underwhelming field. But to see it, you must have the right eyes.

Scott Price is a labour historian and the program director at CKUW 95.9 FM.

CONSTRUCTING PEACE OF MIND FOR PATIENTS

Proposed 'buffer zones' outside healthcare centres are long overdue

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | @DANIELLEDOIRON

At least I didn't have to wear one of the sandwich-board signs.

Still, I spent more than a few weekend afternoons pacing the Notre Dame sidewalk, a sullen, unwilling teenager woefully underdressed for March. Forgoing gloves, a toque or anything resembling a parka, I staged my own silent protests.

If I had to take part in pro-life vigils outside the then-Women's Hospital, I'd stay on the fringes of the group and look cool doing it, dammit.

I can't trust my other memories of these marches. Mittened hands fumbling decade rosaries. Graphic imagery splashed underneath Comic Sans calls to action. Some cars slowing down to honk, others reversing course, driving down side streets.

Everything is jumbled. Clips from news segments, Instagram posts and textbooks merge with my years-old recollections into a stock-image version of anti-abortion protests.

Frostnip and lingering embarrassment aside, I took one thing away from these events: the Health Sciences Centre was The Place For Abortions.

That association persists, despite years of visiting sick family members, interviewing doctors and attending my own appointments there. Before my first biopsy, I wasn't thinking about the impending pain, or even a possible positive result.

I was preoccupied, wondering what would happen if I ran into protestors outside the new

Women's Hospital building. I didn't want confrontation, someone offering to pray with me, prying questions from an acquaintance — or worse.

The provincial NDP government introduced a bill on March 7 that would help assuage some of my residual unease. If passed, the Safe Access to Abortion Services Act would restrict protests outside clinics and hospitals that provide abortions.

Specifically, it would create buffer zones of at least 50 metres around these healthcare centres and 150 metres around the homes of abortion providers. Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Québec have similar laws to protect the privacy and safety of patients and healthcare workers.

"Patients entering clinics are often frightened and anxious by the presence of even seemingly peaceful protesters," a position paper from the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada reads, "and the emotional upset can negatively affect their health and safety as they undergo a medical procedure."

This is true for any medical consultation or procedure, whether or not a patient is seeking an abortion.

Manitoba Families Minister Nahanni Fontaine told CBC that anti-abortion protestors have blocked, photographed and accosted people trying to enter hospitals and clinics.

Fontaine has tried to pass similar legislation multiple times, including a proposal to introduce buffer zones around schools. She also



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

introduced a private members' bill in 2021 to limit where people could protest COVID-19 safety measures.

On Sept. 1, 2021, hundreds of people crowded outside the Health Sciences Centre to oppose mask and vaccination mandates. As CBC Manitoba reported at the time, these demonstrators not only intimidated and harassed patients who wore masks, but also "hampered foot traffic and impeded vehicles, including ambulances driving with sirens blaring to the emergency department."

After backlash, the group behind this rally moved a follow-up event to the Manitoba Legislative grounds. This is where protest

belongs. Political and ideological outbursts of any stripe have no place outside healthcare centres where people receive life-saving, emergency treatment.

If the NDP majority government passes the bill, this could be the last year I worry about facing coercion, admonitions and sandwich-board signs as I walk into my appointment at Women's. Really, there shouldn't have been a first.

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



DIVERSIONS

Haiku HOROSCOPES

by Jonathan Ball,
Registered Fraud

haikuhoroscopes.com



Aries

March 21 - April 19

Learn something new this
Week, like how to avoid the
Bear trap in the yard



Libra

September 23 - October 22

Though gambling is a
Sin, it's probably not worse
Than killing gamblers



Taurus

April 20 - May 20

The ghosts haunting you
Request more warning before
You use the bathroom



Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

You'll be invited
To a classy affair, so
Wear a classy noose



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Skill saws are less fun
But do not require as much
Skill as you might think



Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Though misery may
Love company, it's getting
Sick of your visits



Cancer

June 21 - July 22

You let the genie
Out of the bottle, now you
Get to shut your mouth



Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Music won't soothe the
Savage beast but you can club
It with the guitar



Leo

July 23 - August 22

Don't gamble with your
Life, instead bet something that
Is valuable



Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Helping others is
Not meant to entail helping
Them get arrested



Virgo

August 23 - September 22

You will feel like a
High roller this week, until
You learn how to count



Pisces

February 19 - March 20

The rock gods smile on
You and your decision to
Stop writing rock songs



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Student Services

MONEY TALKS

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

- **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

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

The Webinar Wednesday series
continues with these sessions:

- **March 27** – Applying for Manitoba Student Aid (Spring Term)
- **April 3** – Self-Compassion (rescheduled from March 13)
- **April 10** – Government Student Aid Re-payment (rescheduled from April 3)

Webinar Wednesdays are held
at 12:30-1:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Pre-registration required. Please

visit: uwinnipeg.ca/webinar-wednesdays

GOOD FRIDAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED

The University will be closed on
March 29 for Good Friday.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES BURSARY

Applications for the Graduate and
Professional Studies Expenses
Bursary are open for students in
their final year of an undergrad-
uate degree program in 2023-24
academic year, who are applying
for Graduate or Professional Stud-
ies starting in 2024-25. Deadline
to submit – **March 31, 2024**

More info here:
uwinnipeg.ca/awards

SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

Your assigned registration start
date/time for Spring Term was
sent to your University webmail on

March 1. The tiered registration
period for Spring Term continues
until April 2. Open registration
begins **April 3**.

View Spring Term courses here:
uwinnipeg.com/timetable

LAST DAY OF LECTURES FOR WINTER TERM

The last day of lectures for
Winter Term 2024 will be **April 5**.
A make-up day will be on **April 8**
for classes that would have been
held on Good Friday.

EXAM SCHEDULE FOR WINTER TERM

The exam schedule is now post-
ed. Students are able to view and
search the schedule here: uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules (The
exam period will be **April 11 – 24**.)

CONVOCATION AWARDS

Nominations for Convocation
awards are now open for under-

graduate students graduating in
the 2023-24 academic year.
Deadline to submit – **April 15,
2024**

SINGLE-SESSION COUNSELLING

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

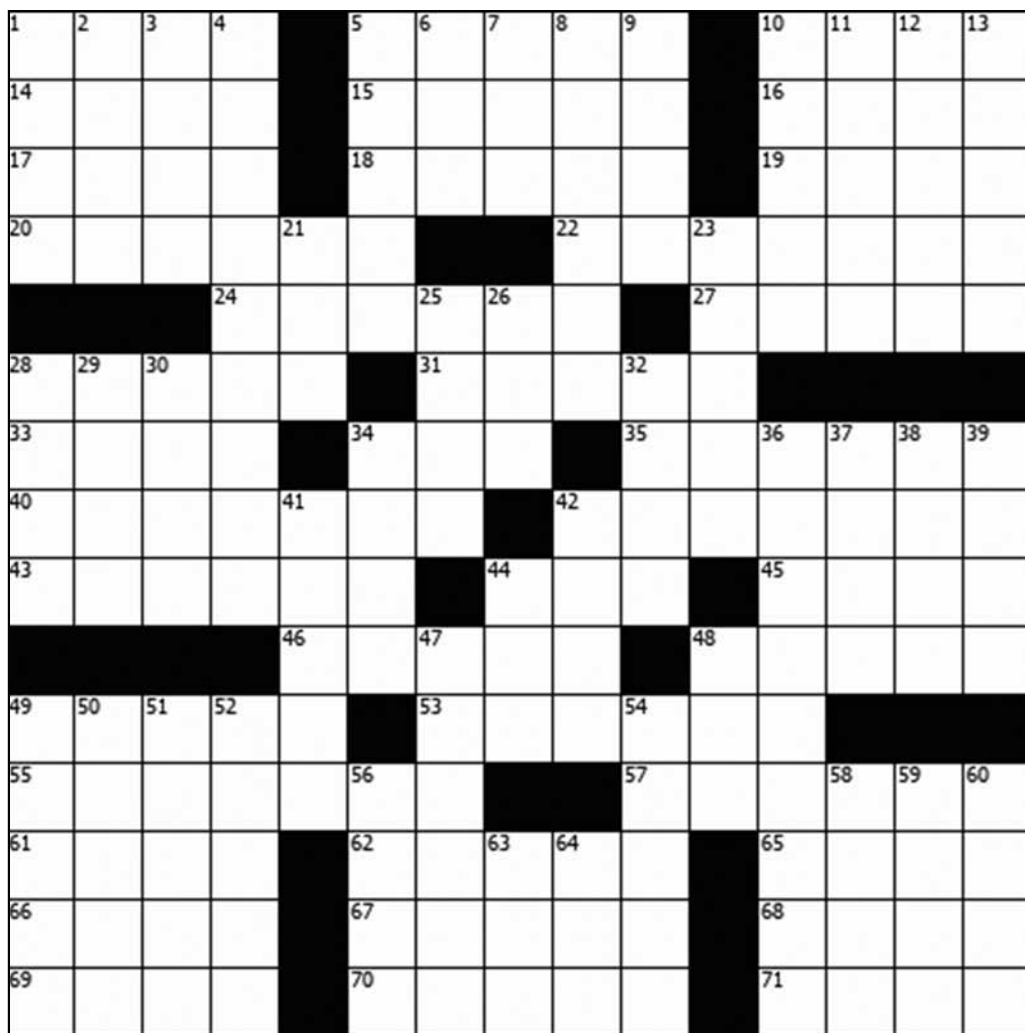
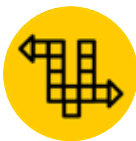
To find out more information and
see if a single session would be a
good fit for you, please visit:
uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness

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.

PHONE: 204.779.8946

| EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca



ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET

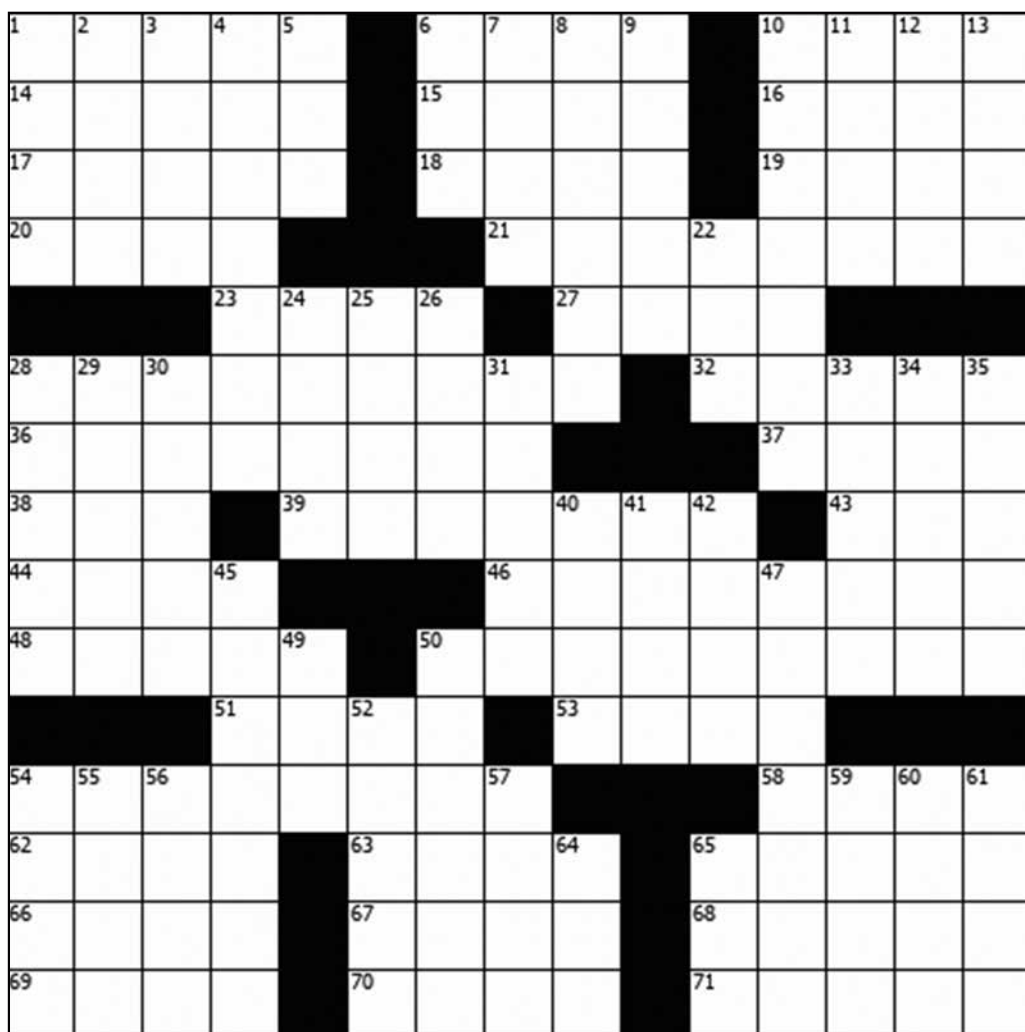
ACROSS

- 1. CROONED
5. BRINGS UP
10. NARROW OPENING
14. WOODWIND
15. TV HOST
16. CONIFER
17. COLLEGE OFFICIAL
18. NAPPED LEATHER
19. CAPRI OR MAN
20. CLING
22. ENAMORED
24. REVOLVE
27. ROBINS' HOMES
28. TRICK OR ____!
31. SLIGHTEST
33. HARM
34. GENTS
35. THREEFOLD
40. FOOLISH
42. EARLY SETTLER
43. COVERT
44. AND NOT
45. COMEDIAN ____ CARVEY
46. COMES CLOSER
48. PERFORMS

- ALONE
49. IN THE KNOW
53. WICKER
55. REMOVED
57. MILITARY COMMAND (2 WDS.)
61. ARTIST SALVADOR ____
62. PRYING BAR
65. WINTER FORECAST
66. SMOOTH
67. PREPARED TO PRAY
68. DOING NOTHING
69. LIONS' HOMES
70. PLANT STALKS
71. AFFIRMATIVE VOTES

DOWN

- 1. POP
2. ASLEEP
3. ARK'S CAPTAIN
4. ELECTRICITY SOURCE
5. BOWLER'S BUTTON
6. FLIGHTLESS BIRD
7. CRACK PILOT
8. WHAT MOSES PARTED (2 WDS.)
9. LOOK
10. ILL WILL
11. SHOPPING REMINDERS
12. SMALL BAY
13. YOUNG PEOPLE
21. GO BAD
23. PREFACE
25. BALDWIN OR GUINNESS
26. TWICE FIVE
28. NOT THAT
29. UNCIVIL
30. ROCKER ____ CLAPTON
32. AGITATE
34. TICK'S KIN
36. JAKARTA'S COUNTRY
37. RESOUND
38. TV HOST JAY ____
39. HISTORIC TIMES
41. BELIEF
42. PILLAR
44. SHOOTER'S GROUP (ABBR.)
47. EAGER
48. MADE A LAP
49. TACKED ON
50. USE A LOOM
51. COMIC TIM ____
52. BRIDLE STRAPS
54. BAKERY ITEMS
56. BPOE MEMBERS
58. ARTIST ____ WARHOL
59. FLOUNDER'S KIN
60. FLOCK MEMBERS
63. VICTORY SIGN
64. SHADE TREE



ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET

ACROSS

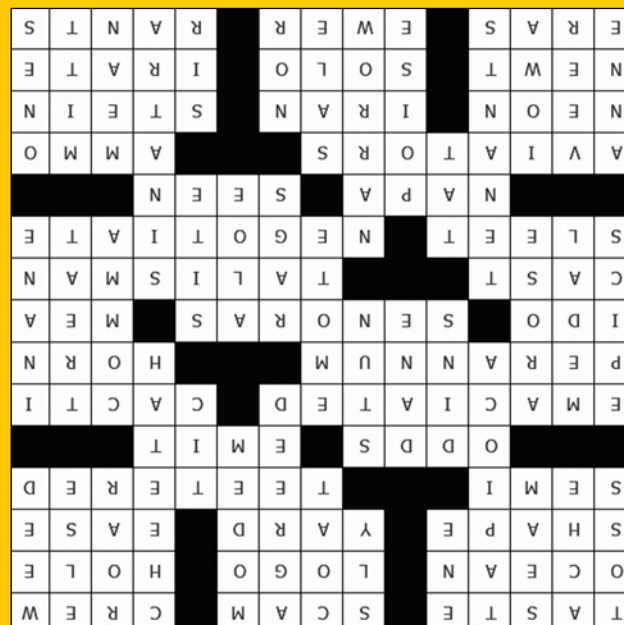
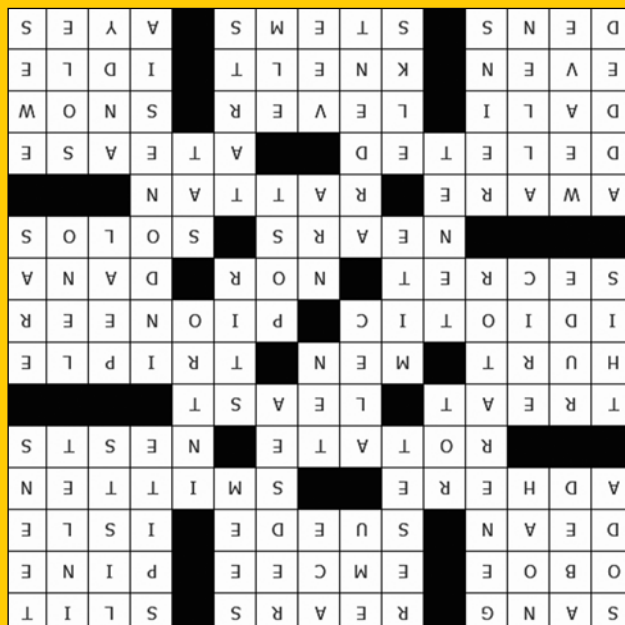
- 1. A SENSE
6. CON GAME
10. SHIP'S STAFF
14. ATLANTIC OR PACIFIC
15. ADVERTISING SYMBOL
16. GOLFER'S GOAL
17. FORM
18. THREE FEET
19. ALLEVIATE
20. LARGE TRUCK
21. WOBBLER
23. PROBABILITIES
27. DISCHARGE
28. VERY SKINNY
32. PRICKLY PLANTS
36. YEARLY (2 WDS.)
37. RHINO FEATURE
38. BRIDE'S VOW (2 WDS.)
39. SPANISH WOMEN
43. "OH, GIVE ____ HOME..." (2 WDS.)
44. PLAY PERSONNEL
46. AMULET
48. WINTER FORECAST

- 50. BARGAIN
51. WINE-PRODUCING VALLEY
53. VISUALIZED
54. PILOTS
58. MILITARY SUPPLIES
62. INERT GAS
63. TEHRAN'S LAND
65. PUB MUG
66. SALAMANDER
67. ARIA
68. WRATHFUL
69. MEMORABLE PERIODS
70. WATER CONTAINER
71. SPEAKS WILDLY

DOWN

- 1. HURL
2. HURT
3. FABRIC JOINT
4. CASSAVA STARCH
5. OPPOSITE OF WSW
6. LIKE A FOX
7. OUTERWEAR
8. CAME TO TERMS
9. INTERNET ACCESS DEVICE
10. SPEEDY CAT
11. JUNGLE SOUND
12. IF NOT
13. UNWANTED PLANT
22. NERVOUS TWITCH
24. UPROARS
25. COPENHAGEN NATIVE
26. DAZE
28. HEROIC TALES
29. OLYMPIC AWARD
30. MOVED UPWARD
31. HAM IT UP
33. PUNCTUATION MARK
34. GOODY
35. SILLY
40. SCRAPS OF CLOTH
41. BALM
42. LOCALE
45. RENTERS
47. SINGER FRANK ____
49. CREATE LACE
50. NOT WIDE
52. SELF-ASSURANCE
54. ACTRESS ____ BANCROFT
55. SWERVE
56. MIDWEST STATE
57. DISCOUNT EVENT
59. INTEND
60. CATCHER'S GLOVE
61. WALLET STUFFERS
64. NEITHER'S PARTNER
65. POLITE ADDRESS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS (FLIP TO VIEW)



U SPEAKER
SERIES

THE UNITER SPEAKER
SERIES PRESENTS:

A Conversation with Jennifer Smith

Building respectful relationships in the arts

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 / DOORS: 5:30 P.M. / EVENT @ 6 P.M. | WEST END CULTURAL CENTRE / 586 ELLICE AVE.

FREE | CASH BAR & SNACKS | EMAIL JASMINETARA7@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO

