

THE

UNITER

FREE.WEEKLY.  
VOLUME 72 // ISSUE 23 // MAR 29

# WHAT IS A CITY WITHOUT PEOPLE?

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2018



## Graduate Studies Research Week

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*The Uniter* is seeking an ambitious and experienced individual to take over the layout and design of its physical newspaper on a weekly basis. The creative director must be available online throughout the week and be in the office to work Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the regular academic year. This position pays \$450/week, with a time commitment of 16+ hours per week.

Mouseland Press strives to be an equitable employer and will prioritize qualified applicants who belong to marginalized groups. The successful applicant will receive training in late May for the Summer Festival Guide and begin their term in late August.

Deadline for applications is April 19 at 5 p.m. See [uniter.ca/jobs](http://uniter.ca/jobs) for the full description.

**WE'RE  
HIRING**

## \* ON THE COVER

Hostile architecture is slightly more discreet in Winnipeg, but design elements still interfere with public use of space. Read more on page 9.

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Jessica's Seburn's book *The Corner Chip* explores her grief after losing her best friend. Read more on page 7.

PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

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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. Volunteer workshops take place Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in room ORM14. Please email [volunteer@uniter.ca](mailto:volunteer@uniter.ca) for more details. 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, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.

## A WORK OF HEART

For this, our last regular issue of this production year, we have some really strong contributions from our volunteers - both visual and written. Volunteer perspectives are essential to *The Uniter* because of the breadth and depth of perspectives they add to the paper.

Our volunteer illustrators have added dimension to these stories through their creative imaginings of writers' concepts. Sometimes they're going off a lot, sometimes they're working with a very vague description, but the work they've presented always brightens our days.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Bram Keast and Justin Ladia, who've each taken on the extremely special assignments of creating our special issue covers (watch for Ladia's work next week!). Along with Kathleen Bergen, Keast has also worked with this year's columnists to create a consistent visual thread that ties these series together.

On the side of words, the section that relies most heavily on volunteers is the comments section, and I'm thrilled to see how this segment of the paper has grown this year. This issue has our most robust comments section of the year, with pieces by deb kozak, Chantelle Partyka and Avery Letkemann.

Opinion pieces have the unique distinction of being one of the spaces where first-person narratives pop up and where the stories told are informed by writers' lived experiences. In many cases, these pieces do exactly what we strive to do throughout *The Uniter*, which is to tell the stories that aren't being told elsewhere.

Thanks to all our volunteers who've been a part of this wonderful 72nd year. We couldn't do it without you.

- Anastasia Chipelski

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# WHOSE HOUSE? RACHELLE'S HOUSE



PHOTOS BY CALLIE LUGOSI

THOMAS PASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

@THOMASPASHKO

Contemporary dance artist and DJ Rachelle Bourget has a simple motto for her downtown home: "Nothing new."

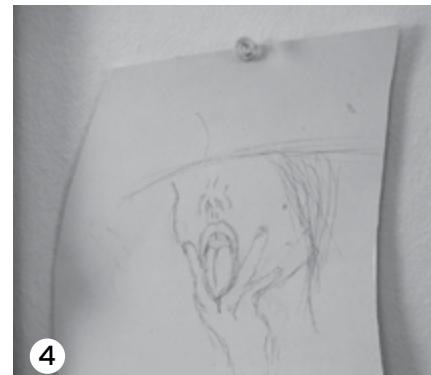
"With very few exceptions, pretty much nothing in this home is new," Bourget says. "There's no need for it. We have so many things that can be recycled and need a second life. Even the candles are from Salvation Army."

Bourget began training as a dancer at age 14, which in the world of dance is considered a late start. She was one of the founding members of the Nova Dance Collective, which she formed in 2011 with six fellow dancers. Her show at last year's Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, *After the Cause*, was her first solo work.

"It was the first time I'd ever done anything completely by myself," Bourget says. "Created, performed, everything alone. It was really rewarding. I'm working on remounting it sometime in 2018 with (local experimental theatre company) Happy/Accidents."

Bourget will be performing two shows back-to-back this May, something she says is a rare occurrence for an independent dancer.

"I'm working with Montreal-based choreographer Jason Martin, who's the artist-in-residence at Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers," she says. "His (show) is going to be called *Beyond*. The following week, I'm dancing for Hillary Crist as part of (the bi-annual arts series) *art-holm*."

**1) DUMPSTER PAINTING**

"My friend Kelsey, who was also in Nova, found this by a dumpster and took it home. I always really loved it. She was going to give it away and sent out a group text asking if anyone wanted it. I was the first to respond. I love that painting."

**2) THE CHAIR OF UNCERTAINTY**

"My roommate Margaret named this chair 'The Chair of Uncertainty.' I have this habit of collecting papers and stuff, and over time they form little piles everywhere. Around Christmas, there was a pile on this chair that kept getting added to, so it's the Chair of Uncertainty now."

**3) MANTELPIECE VINE**

"This plant is pretty special to me. It started out as a little vine that I biked home with in my backpack, probably three summers ago. Now it's grown into this super-long vine."

**4) SELF-PORTRAIT**

"This is my first and only self-portrait. I drew it for Valentine's Day this year. I was making cards for some of my pals that live in the building. I was initially going to draw that for all of them, then realized it was going to be way too hard."

**5) "SEX-POSITIVE CUP"**

"This was a gift for one of my old roommates, Emily. This place used to be called the Casa Lesiana when she lived here. I just put a bunch of condoms and safer sex tools in this sex-positive cup."

**6) FRENCH HANDBILLS**

"I really enjoyed collecting handbills for a while. I was just loving the art that people were putting on them. I was working and travelling in Europe for seven months. These came from the museum in Lille and from the streets of Paris."

## ARTS AND CULTURE BRIEFS

JAZ PAPADOPOULOS // ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR  @CULTURE\_UNITER

### SAADI SAQAFAT (OUR CULTURE)

Artist Hassaan Ashraf's first solo show, SAADI SAQAFAT (OUR CULTURE), is "a series that reflects on his journey as a displaced artist, dealing with themes of cross-cultural experience, diaspora, homesickness, culture shock, global culture, post-colonialism, politics and the west's discomfort with alien cultures." The show will run at Library Gallery (L'Briary) from April 6 to 27. Performances will take place on Thursdays and Fridays.

### Annual Autism Variety Show

Local comedian Adam Schwartz will host Winnipeg's first-ever Annual Autism Variety Show. Schwartz is a stand-up comedian on the autism spectrum, and the show will feature people with autism performing in multiple art forms, including dance, poetry and sketch. The show will take place on April 21 at Wee Johnny's Irish Pub. Search the event on Facebook for more information.

### Białystok

Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art will launch a new exhibit by Poland-based Winnipeg artist Przemek Pyszczek, on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. This will be his first exhibition in Canada. His work addresses the Polish diaspora with interest in shifts in Poland after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Check out [vimeo.com/141522607](http://vimeo.com/141522607) to learn more about his work.

### Friday tea

Friday evenings just got a little bit better in the Exchange! Starting at 5 p.m., the Amsterdam Tea Room (211 Bannatyne Ave.) will host live music. Kick back and enjoy Winnipeg's finest musicians with tasty teas, wines, beer, spirits, tea-infused cocktails and delicious snacks and sharing platters. On March 30, they will feature Skylar Bouchard. Check out the menu at [amsterdamtearoom.com](http://amsterdamtearoom.com).

### An evening with writers

On April 25 at 7 p.m., McNally Robinson in Grant Park Shopping Centre will host a launch of three new books from Arsenal Pulp Press. Amber Dawn, alongside former-Winnipeggers Casey Plett and Joshua Whitehead, will all present new books. The evening is co-presented by the University of Winnipeg's Institute for Women's and Gender Studies and will be hosted by Roewan Crowe.

# LETTING SONGS LIVE

FRIGS' new record is ready to grow on the road

ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

MANAGING EDITOR  @ANACHIPS

Toronto four-piece FRIGS refuses to let their sound be hemmed in by vague descriptors and name-dropping comparisons, and, instead, liken their songs to living creatures that grow with each performance.

"We were joking a while ago, (about) people describing our music as spooky, (which) was happening for a long time, and we don't really feel like that makes any sense," vocalist Bria Salmena says.

"A lot of people will compare us to other bands, which happens naturally, but they'll compare me specifically to a very generic female rock singer - like Courtney Love or something - and that's happened a couple times, and I'm pretty sick of that."

While descriptions fall short, the reputation of FRIGS' live show precedes them and has been lauded by their new label, Arts & Crafts, and in publications

like *Exclaim*. It was their live show that first captivated Stefan Wolf, vocalist for the band Beth (which is opening up for FRIGS' April 1 show at the Good Will Social Club.)

"I saw them at a house show at Sled Island maybe two years ago, and I'd never heard of them before, and they just basically blew me out of the water," Wolf says. After checking FRIGS' schedule, he found they had a show planned for Winnipeg on June 19, 2017, and joined them on that bill at DIY venue The Animal Shelter.

FRIGS' latest album, *Basic Behaviour*, was released in late February. Selmena says with past releases, the songs had been road-tested and developed, but some of the newer tracks from this album are much younger creations.

"The newer songs honestly didn't have a lot of time to live before they were recorded, songs like "Solid State," I recorded and wrote those lyrics on the spot in the studio," Salmena says. "It's a lot more scary to write a song, record it and send it out into the world without having played it."

Beth's latest self-titled album released last May was also tinged with fear. While describing the record as a living being, Wolf says it would "be a goddamn snake, is what it would be."

"I have a severe phobia of snakes, and that record in itself was me confronting a lot of my emotional and mental issues and past relationships, and everything that I was afraid of was in that record. And that's what snakes are for me," Wolf says.

Wolf also recalls the odd challenge of trying to pin down the meaning of a



PHOTO BY CHELSEE IVAN

FRIGS play the Good Will Social Club April 1.

sound, or to explain in an interview what a group of lyrics should evoke.

"It's different for me than it is for you, or for anybody else listening to it in different states," Wolf says. "I don't think those songs are fixed on a specific point by any means, it's more of like ... a graphic feeling basically."

For the April 1 show, Beth will be performing as a five-piece for the last time before shifting to a pared-down configuration as a three-piece. And beyond *Basic Behaviour*, Winnipeggers may witness the treat of some newer work from FRIGS.

"We have two songs that aren't recorded that we've just been playing live, and they kind of change every time we play them. We're still working out the kinks, and that's really exciting," Salmena says. "Songs change, and once you've performed them, they're meant to be performed in a lot of ways, or presented in that kind of ephemeral style where they're just there, and it's about how we kind of work through it live." *Catch FRIGS with Beth and Agapio live at the Good Will Social Club on April 1. Doors at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m., tickets are \$10 in advance through ticketfly.com.*

# AN EMOJI'S WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Pictures add nuance to short-form text communication

CALLIE LUGOSI  @LUGOSI\_CALLIE

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AND ONLINE CONTENT CO-ORDINATOR

Emojis are used every day by millions of people as a simplified way to communicate. They allow for deeper emotional resonance within short-form digital communication like texting or social media posts, and they are often used as a stand-in for certain non-verbal cues you observe in face-to-face communication.

A quick Google search of the word "emoji" will turn up dozens of articles about how the pictographs themselves have evolved into a sort-of global language. However, poet and linguist Chimwemwe Undi feels that gaps in communication from culture to culture aren't so easily bridged.

"Just as the way that certain gestures and facial expressions across cultures mean different things, emojis have probably taken on different meanings based on language and culture," Undi says.

"There's some very obvious ways that emojis can be helpful, in that you can probably use the banana emoji in place of trying to explain what a banana is, but I don't necessarily know that there's any evidence to say that emojis are a global language."

Matthew Flisfeder, an assistant professor in the Department of Rhetoric, Writing and Communications, agrees. According to him, the ability to convey tone is often lost due to the brevity of most digital communication. Long-form communications, such as literature, allow room to apply the kind of expression and nuance that short-form communication doesn't.

Flisfeder feels that the very nature of emojis and their use has certain political implications.

"I think there's something specific about the way that we use emojis, and specific to the technologies that we're using for communicating within the culture and context for neoliberal capitalism," he says.

"Within the context and culture of neoliberalism, a lot of communication has to do with speed and efficiency, and the way in which we're engaged in multiple conversations simultaneously through the practice of online and digital communication," Flisfeder says.

"Emojis ... (have) become an efficient way of getting affect and emotion across to the receiver of the message," Flisfeder says.

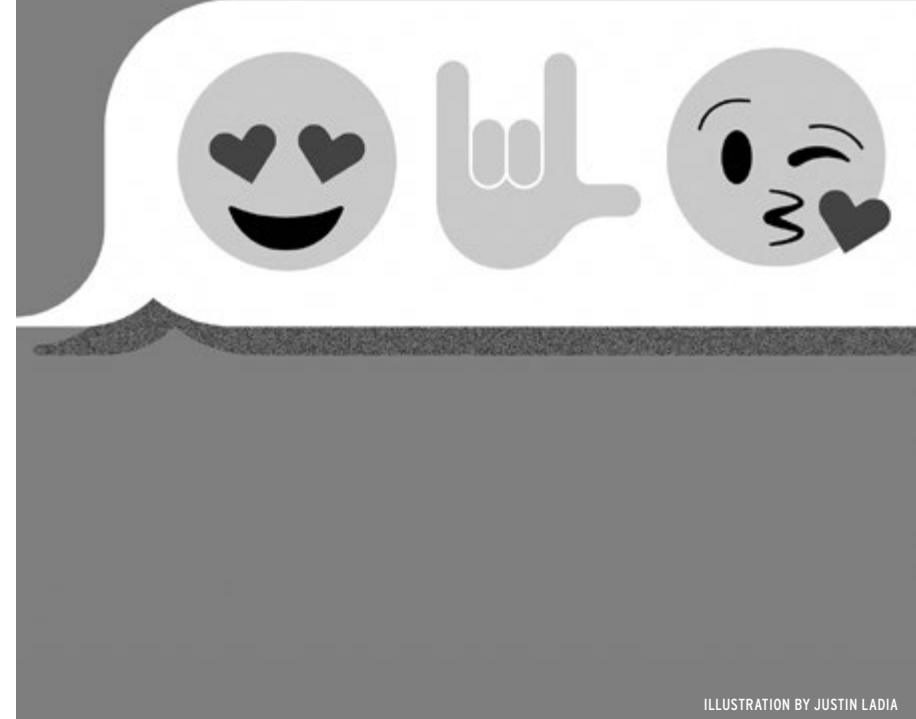


ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN LADIA

Emojis have, of course, evolved alongside technology. However, the translation between human to computer is not flawless.

"What I can say from both personal use and the study is that emojis are a great supplement to text-only, computer-mediated communication," Undi says. "There's a lot of things that people do with their bodies, their faces, tone and hands that emojis can't replicate, but at the same time, there

are some emojis that go beyond what people can do with their bodies.

"Humans have been evolving for a very long time, all the while figuring out how to communicate with one another. Computers haven't been around for nearly as long as humans have, so technology just hasn't caught up to the very complex and sophisticated ways that we convey tone and nuance in face-to-face communication."

# CKUW TOP 30

March 19 - 25, 2018

TW = This Week // LW = Last Week // ! = Local content // \* = Canadian Content



TW	LW	C	ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL
1	2	*	Ought	Room Inside The World	Royal Mountain
2	1	*	Minor Empire	Uprooted	World Trip
3	18	*	Yamantaka // Sonic Titan	Dirt	Paper Bag
4	5	*	U.S. Girls	A Poem Unlimited	Royal Mountain
5	11	*	Buffy Sainte-Marie	Medicine Songs	True North
6	23	*	Born Ruffians	Uncle, Duke & The Chief	Paper Bag
7	8	!	Marshall Birch + Some Buddies	Dog Daddy Yeah	Transistor 66
8	NE	!	Sean Burns And Lost Country	Music For Taverns ...	Self Released
9	NE	!	The Famous Sandhogs	Theia's Mammon	Self Released
10	16	*	Boogat	San Cristobal Baile	Maisonette
11	17		Boubacar Traore	Dounia Tabolo	Lusafrica
12	9	!	Mmmeats	Mac N' Me	Transistor 66
13	10		Zimbamoto	Tambai	Self-Released
14	19		Hailu Mergia	Lala Belu	Awesome Tapes From Africa
15	22		Yo La Tango	There's A Riot Going On	Matador
16	14	*	Weaves	Wide Open	Buzz
17	NE	!	Inflatable Band	Discount Everything	Self-Released
18	RE	*	Geoff Berner	Canadiana Grotesquica	Coax
19	20	*	Destroyer	Ken	Merge
20	RE	!	The Wild Homes	Sundowners	Self-Released
21	13	!	Valiska	On Pause	Trouble In Utopia
22	NE		This Kind Of Punishment	A Beard Of Bees	Superior Viaduct
23	NE	*	Suuns	Felt	Secret City
24	27		Primus	The Desaturating Seven	ATO
25	NE		Spacemen 3	Dreamweapon: An Evening Of Contemporary Sitar Music	Superior Viaduct
26	24	*	Slow	Against The Glass	Artofact
27	RE		Joshua Gerowitz	Solano Canyon	Pfmentum
28	RE		Raoul Bjorkenheim & Ecstasy	Doors Of Perception	Cuneiform
29	30	*	Gord Downie	Introduce Yourself	Arts & Crafts
30	29	*	Wolf Parade	Cry Cry Cry	Sub Pop



## Avec Le Soleil Sortant De Sa Bouche

*Pas pire pop, I Love You So Much*  
Constellation Records

Avec Le Soleil Sortant De Sa Bouche's thing, other than having an extremely long name, is playing, in their own words, "Kraut-funk," which is to say that they play trance-inducing, multi-part motorik suites.

They're self-described as being "angular" (which is to say, sound like bands that get called "angular") and "rubbery" (which presumably means in this case that their music has a rhythmic OOMPH to it).

Essentially they are Stereolab on Stereo-oids.

*Pas pire pop, I Love You So Much* consists of three long musical suites more or less arbitrarily cut into shortish chunks for fun-size consumption.

I say fun-size, because they are a significantly more fun band than most music labelled as Krautrock, with their pre-perforated individual song nuggets being somewhat easier to put on while DJing at a very hip event than, say, notable Krautrock band Can's equally funky, yet exactly-20-minutes-long opus, "Bel Air."

This is an important innovation in Krautrock.

Avec Le Soleil Sortant De Sa Bouche is easily the most eccentric band on Constellation, and if you're the kind of person who is a Unique Soul and who also likes music along the very-long, mostly instrumental rock axis of Krautrock and Post-Rock, you're more or less obligated to give this a spin.

-Topher Duguay



SUPPLIED IMAGE

## AIDA'S SECRETS

THOMAS PASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER @THOMASPASHKO



*Plays April 1 to 28 at Cinematheque*

*Aida's Secrets* is another entry in the genre of "long-lost family" documentaries that have seen a recent explosion in popularity. Like Tasha Hubbard's recent *Birth of a Family*, which explored family reunion (or rather, union) through the lens of 60s Scoop survivors, the Winnipeg-centric *Aida's Secrets* reckons with historical crises to tell a story far richer than the genre's typical basic-cable offerings.

The story focuses on Izak and Shepsel, brothers born 10 months apart to refugee parents in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.

As a toddler, Izak was given up for adoption and sent to Israel. Shep wound up in Winnipeg with the boys' father, by then separated from their mother, Aida. Shep's relationship with his father is troubled. Aida makes periodic trips to Israel to visit Izak. Neither boy knows anything of their birth family beyond their respective single parents.

Directors Alon and Saul Schwarz follow Izak and Shep through their reunion in Winnipeg, Izak's discovery of his family history and Shep finally meeting the mother he's always longed for.

There's an almost symbolic quality to how the brothers' reactions to the meeting differ. Izak, coming from the figurative and literal warmth of a large adoptive family in Israel, is overjoyed to meet his brother and introduce him to their elderly mother. Shep, a self-professed loner from wintry Winnipeg, is wary of the hurt the whole affair makes possible.

While the present-day human story is compelling on its own, the historical questions raised in *Aida's Secrets* are its most intriguing bits. How and why were these boys separated and the truth of their family kept secret from them? Why did Aida, living in Montreal, travel across continents for Izak but never attempted to find Shep? When pressed on the issues, Aida is stone-faced and inscrutable.

The film also examines the camp in which the boys were born. It may come as a surprise to many that the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was converted into a refugee camp after being liberated by British forces.

The lives of displaced people after the end of the Second World War isn't often explored in film or education. The directors uncover through historical research the life and culture of refugees awaiting resettlement in Bergen-Belsen, painting in vivid detail the economies that spring up within the camp and the social lives of its residents, which involve dance nights and passionate romance.

There is a family connection between the directors and the subjects here (Alon Schwarz's father is Izak's adoptive brother). While that can often be a recipe to make a documentary feel like a very expensive home movie, the filmmakers here mostly avoid it.

*Aida's Secrets* understands that its strengths come from elsewhere. The film reveals truths about the legacy of historical trauma. The spectre of their father's time in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, or their mother's as slave labour for Nazi wives, reaches far beyond liberation. It can't be erased by the immediate post-war prosperity in the camp, nor life outside it, and their sons still wrestle with its shadow.

*Shep Shell will endeavour to be at most screenings, except on March 30 and 31.*

# STORYTELLING BEYOND THE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE

Project highlights reality of living with bipolar disorder

CALLIE LUGOSI

 @LUGOSI\_CALLIE

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AND ONLINE CONTENT CO-ORDINATOR

Kelsey James' final year project in Creative Communications at Red River College was driven by the desire to shine light on an experience that often gets left out of conversations regarding mental illness.

"I feel like the focus of campaigns like Bell Let's Talk Day is on more socially acceptable mental illnesses like anxiety or depression, but totally leaves things like psychosis or illnesses like bipolar out of the conversation," she says.

Megan Linton, a member of UWSAccess, a student group that advocates for disability justice, feels corporations like Bell aren't interested in including neurodivergent forms of mental illness in their campaigns because they are less palatable.

"They don't want any liability by talking about anything that's even moderately scary," Linton says. "They also don't want to talk about things that make people homeless, or make people live under the

poverty line, because that's not as aesthetically pleasing."

James, however, isn't afraid of talking about her own experiences with mental illness.

"Bipolar disorder is an illness that I have, so I was more passionate about writing about it, and I feel that also lent a little more credibility to what I was writing about."

The stories from James' journalism project, *Out of the Fire*, take on a more non-fiction feel, as opposed to the less conversational, traditional style of reporting, which is something James strived to achieve.

"I felt like I could have more creative freedom that way," she says. "If you're writing for a publication or a news outlet, you have to follow their guidelines. I also didn't want to be totally objective. Even though I know that's what journalism is, I don't think I always agree with that."



PHOTO BY CALLIE LUGOSI

Kelsey James aimed for a more non-fiction style for her journalism project.

She feels that hearing the experiences of people living with mental illness first-hand is a more effective way of reducing stigma surrounding mental illness than relying on doctors or politicians for information.

"The system is flawed, and we know that. There's enough reporting out there on that," James says. "I wanted it to be more of a storytelling series, where people share their experiences, feel empowered and inspire others to talk about mental illness."

James also interviewed her mother for *Out of the Fire*. Exploring the dynamic between a mother and child who live with the same mental illness was something that she wasn't seeing in other reporting.

"I know it was hard for her to be open, especially talking to her daughter about it. It made me understand her a bit more, and in turn her understood me, because we were both experiencing the same things," James says.

James hoped that being transparent with her own experiences with bipolar disorder would encourage her subjects to feel comfortable sharing their own.

Speaking candidly about the reality of mental illness isn't something some people living with them are used to. Giving her subjects a platform to share their stories proved to be invaluable for both the sources and for James.

"One of the women I interviewed said to me, 'This is my first time telling anyone what I've been through.' She was able to see herself in my experiences, too," she says. "She learnt that her symptoms aren't only her symptoms, and she said it made her feel less alone. I think that was one of the best things that was said to me throughout the project."

*Check it out at outofthefireproject.org.*

## A GLIMPSE OF GRIEF

Book explores Jessica Seburn's healing process

JENNA ANDERSON

VOLUNTEER  @REALLYJENNA

Four years ago, Jessica Seburn lost her best friend at age 25. Now, she has published a book, *The Corner Chip*, that's part non-fiction, part memoir and was written to be a raw, honest look at grief.

"It just kind of hit me that everything that I had been doing, everything that I had written, whether it was for my own self or for school ... had elements of loss and of grief and of my friend April," she says. "Everything that I wrote had a little piece of her in it."

A second-year student at Red River College, Seburn had to submit a proposal for a large independent project. Originally intending to create a video project, she wound up changing the entire concept a week before her deadline.

Seburn set out to write a book that was raw and honest, but also digestible - not something that would feel like a chore to read, especially if the reader was dealing with grief or loss themselves.

"We don't deal with those things, and then I don't think we're living fully," Seburn says. "I hope that people just feel



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Jessica Seburn created *The Corner Chip* as her large independent project.

a little less afraid to talk about it and to face it."

Writing the book was Seburn's second artistic pursuit along her grieving journey. A couple of months after losing her friend, she started doing stand-up comedy.

"I probably should have been going to therapy, but instead, I was like 'I've got to tell some jokes. I've got to laugh,'" she says.

"Getting creative in the healing process can be greatly beneficial," Teela Tomassetti, a Winnipeg therapist who supports people through grief and loss, says. "When people unfortunately come in contact with loss, they think that it is a linear road, and it is not. It is a constant roller coaster ride, and (there is) truly no way to prepare for it."

Tomassetti, who runs a private practice called Mindset Therapy, tells her clients to honour whichever stage of the grieving process they are in. There is no real way to prepare for significant loss, and fighting it will only prolong the process, she says.

"Grief has no deadline," she says. "The quicker you accept that and not fight it, the quicker you will begin your own healing."

Another activity Seburn found helpful was attending a Winnipeg death café, where attendees talk about death and loss with others who are facing similar situations.

"It was just interesting to be in a room where everyone was allowed to talk about the stuff that you're not really allowed to talk about," she says.

"You are entitled to feel the way you do at any given moment," Tomassetti says, "and you do not have to go through it alone ... we live in a culture that surrounds people in that first week or two, and then we tend to disappear."

Seburn also stresses the importance of knowing that others are there for you.

"When I was signing books and stuff, I wish I could have stopped every single person and just told them that their story matters to me," she says. "It matters to more people than they realize."

*Seburn's book The Corner Chip is 171 pages and can be purchased at McNally Robinson for \$20.*

# THE COLUMN



ILLUSTRATION BY BRAM KEAST

## CRYSTAL CLEAR

WITH CRYSTAL RONDEAU

### CLEARING THE AIR ON CANNABIS

It's almost April, which means 4-20 is on its way, and most fellow marijuana enthusiasts know exactly what that means. We go out to the legislature, and we advocate for the right to use cannabis, whether it's medicinally or recreationally.

I say "we," because I am one of the advocates of Manitoba who has spoken at 4-20 for the last five years. use cannabis medicinally to manage the symptoms that come with my illness.

Yet many people are still unaware of what cannabis can be used for, how it works and how it can be consumed.

"Both THC and CBD are in a group of substances called cannabinoids. They bind to receptors in the brain and are effective against pain," according to [healthline.com](#).

"All mammals and most vertebrate species worldwide have endocannabinoid systems (ECS). Receptors for the ECS are much like the lock, while cannabinoids are the key. Our bodies naturally produce cannabinoids to bind with receptors triggering response to pain levels," Mike Mailman, a fellow activist, explains.

"When our body is fighting pain, added dietary cannabinoid medicine, naturally occurring in plants, may be used in place of endogenous cannabinoids."

The uses are very diverse, but one of the major symptoms that cannabis can alleviate is pain. Pain comes with several illnesses and disabilities, such as fibromyalgia, some cases of spinal muscular atrophy, multiple sclerosis, chronic pain and various types of cancer.

Pain is a terrible thing to try to live with, especially if it's daily and constant. A person in pain will often have mental health complications, such as depression, anxiety and anger.

Imagine being in so much pain that leaving the house becomes impossible, and relationships start to suffer because of it - that's emotionally draining. Pain also takes a toll on a person's immune sys-

tem, and it can promote tumour growth.

For several years, harsh prescription drugs like Vicodin, fentanyl and oxycodeone have been the option for pain management. These drugs are highly addictive, can cause stomach ulcers, constipation and overdoses, and they have been linked to several deaths.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, there were 2,861 deaths linked to opioids in 2016 and 1,460 in the first half of 2017. Also, 29 per cent of Canadians over 18 years old used opioids in the last five years.

Yet cannabis has a less-lethal association and fewer bad side effects ... except maybe an empty fridge from the munchies.

Another symptom that cannabis can alleviate is nausea. Nausea can be caused by several diseases, medications or illnesses and is a well-known side effect of chemotherapy. Patients who are treating cancer with chemotherapy really need nutrition to keep themselves strong enough to fight the disease. However, treatment medications are very hard on the stomach and can make it near impossible to eat. Cannabis stimulates a person's appetite and can solve the nausea problem.

The next symptom that cannabis can alleviate is seizures. These can be caused by conditions such as epilepsy or cerebral palsy. [WebMD](#) clarifies that "(a) seizure happens because of abnormal electrical activity in the brain. It may go nearly unnoticed. Or, in some severe cases, it may cause unconsciousness and convulsions."

Cannabis works to control seizures in a similar way that it works for pain. According to [healthline.com](#), "CBD binds to more than just pain receptors. It appears to work on other signaling systems within the brain and has protective and anti-inflammatory properties."

Cannabis is not a cure-all, and if a person needs prescription medication, they should have access to it. This plant is great for those who choose to use it, and it needs more credit for its medicinal benefits.

*Crystal Rondeau is a rock music and tattoo-loving young woman who lives with a physical disability and chronic illness. Her main goal in life is to break barriers and destroy the stigmas that come with being disabled and ill. She does this by speaking in schools, volunteering and being very open and uncensored about her life.*

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# WHAT IS A CITY WITHOUT PEOPLE?

**WORDS BY** Jaz Papadopoulos

 @CULTURE\_UNITER

**PHOTOS BY** Daniel Crump

 @DANNYBOYCRUMP

In December 2017, there was an uproar after the internet got wind of wealthy residents of Bristol, United Kingdom, installing spikes in the trees outside their homes to stop birds from pooping on their cars.

These “anti-bird spikes” are just the latest rendition of an age-old phenomena in urban design.

“Hostile architecture is where architectural elements and the public realm are used to control human behavior,” Dean Harvey, co-founder of Factory Furniture - a company that produces “hostile” benches - says in a 2017 CNN interview.

Others define this architectural movement more specifically. According to Michelle Klimczak, a public health nurse with Winnipeg’s Street Connections, hostile architecture seeks to drive people out of spaces.

She defines it as “any manipulation of a physical environment that leads to ... making it difficult for people to congregate there, or uninviting or unwelcoming for people to congregate there. Oftentimes people will congregate anyway, but it’s uncomfortable for them, or they’re unwelcome.”

**COVER FEATURE CONTINUES // NEXT PAGE**

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(Left) Benches with additional dividing elements can make it difficult for people to sleep or recline on them. (Right) A sign asks visitors to Portage Place Mall not to sit on the planters.

## A HOSTILE REACTION

According to Harvey and architect James Furzer, the main targets of hostile architecture are people who sleep outside, people who use drugs and skateboarders.

**"To the average person, it looks visually appealing, and ... it feels nice and seems maybe safer in some ways, but for marginalized groups, it removed a place to congregate."**

-MICHELLE KLIMCZAK

Existing architecture may be modified (such as a change in bench design that makes it difficult to lie down); elements may be added (like "anti-homeless" spikes or armrests); and elements may be removed, so certain functions disappear (like the 2012 removal of benches from Winnipeg's Exchange District).

In Winnipeg, some common examples of hostile architecture include: benches with armrests or other features that make it impossible or uncomfortable to lie down, decorative additions on the ledges of planters that stop people from sitting on them and piles of rocks outside of buildings or in underpasses.

In other cities, such as Montreal or London, U.K., the examples are more antagonistic. "Anti-homeless" spikes are installed where people try to sit or lay down, sloped benches only allow leaning (not sitting or laying) and ultraviolet lights make bathrooms uncomfortable.

University of Winnipeg professor Barry Pomeroy first noticed hostile architecture in Winnipeg after reading about it online.

"I was like 'oh, really, I've seen this!' I've been seeing this for years," he says. "I've been annoyed by it, that you can't sit somewhere that you should be able to

sit, and I was like, it's systematic. And I didn't realize how systematic it was."

Pomeroy believes the spirit behind hostile architecture is classist.

"The ethos behind it (is) 'Let's get rid

of the poor. Let's make it so uncomfortable downtown, they can't be there,'" he says. "We're sort of doing this with our public spaces, and I just find that annoying. It's not right."

"I don't think you achieve your goal in the end, because people are now just sitting somewhere else," he says, referring to the decorative additions to the planters outside of Portage Place. "They still have to wait for a bus."

"These small changes to our urban space are happening around us, ostensibly with our agreement, for as long as we refuse to see the city being walled against its citizens, they will keep blocking us from sitting, lying, and playing in the spaces we have paid for," Pomeroy writes on his blog.

## EFFECTS OF DEFENSIVE DESIGN

Hostile architecture, also known as defensive architecture, affects everyone, but it disproportionately affects the homeless. For example, a 2017 study done in the United Kingdom by Crisis, a national charity that seeks to end homelessness, found that a growing number of people reported that they're finding it increas-

ingly difficult to find a place to sleep due to defensive architecture.

There is plenty of debate around the ethics of such architecture.

"It's always this idea of balancing how things impact different people," Klimczak says. "People in privileged or dominant culture groups are looking to have a positive benefit from any change to a physical environment, meaning ... they would like their perception of safety to increase, but often that would happen to the detriment of a marginalized population group."

"Something happens to the benefit of a privileged group, then that tends to be promoted as the best outcome or the best strategy," she adds.

Klimczak points to recent landscaping renovations at the Westminster United Church as an example.

"It's a really nice landscaping project they did in the front yard area, but what it created removed sheltered areas where people would kind of hide out or ... sleep," she says. "To the average person, it looks visually appealing, and ... it feels nice and seems maybe safer in some ways, but for marginalized groups, it removed a place to congregate for them."

"Everyone's impacted by it, unfortunately. It's just in different ways."

A spokesperson from the City of Winnipeg's city planning department points out that elements of design deemed hostile serve other purposes. Skate stops prevent damage to surfaces, armrests on benches assist those with limited mobility, and rocks on underpasses discourage people from gathering close to high-speed traffic.

Pomeroy emphasizes the importance of public spaces serving the public.

"These are public spaces we all pay for. Those people that can't sit down waiting for a bus 'cause of that metal on the concrete divider, then they paid for

that metal in the concrete divider to work against them," he says.

According to the report by Crisis, hostile architecture is reactionary. It "responds to the calls for action by local businesses and members of the general public. Urban spaces are consequently often sites of contest between official attempts to keep areas open and 'pleasant' for 'everyone' but while also making them less accessible to those engaged in anti-social behaviour."

## IN PLAIN SIGHT

Hostile architecture looks different in Winnipeg than in other cities. Winnipeg ledges aren't covered in "anti-homeless" spikes. Instead, there are more "mildly defensive measures" in place.

"Mildly defensive measures" include using sound and colour to deter loitering. Pomeroy points to the classical music that used to be played at the corner of River and Osborne. Another common sound tactic is playing high-frequency sounds that only young people can hear.

"Mildly defensive measures act more like nudges ... and will probably be used more widely than more conspicuous defensive architecture in the future, because most liberal, middle-class individuals react negatively to spikes and similar designs," Karl de Fine Licht writes in an academic article entitled "Hostile urban architecture: A critical discussion of the seemingly offensive art of keeping people away."

Klimczak agrees that partitioned seats in bus shelters and rocks in underpasses might go unnoticed, but they effectively stop people from loitering nonetheless.

"They don't jump out ... as 'hostile' to the uninformed person," she says.

Another reason that hostile architecture is less visible in Winnipeg is, according to Klimczak, due to the weather. Harsh winters push people indoors.



These metal accents are installed to prevent skateboarders from using the planter as a rail.

"So much of this (poverty) happens in places that we don't see day to day," Klimczak says. "It's not often on the public radar ... a lot of people have no idea the kinds of conditions people might be living in if they're living in poverty (in Winnipeg)."

#### ETHICS OF DESIGN

Klimczak believes that all is meant well, but those who implement hostile architecture simply aren't thinking about who it will affect.

"I think this is always done under the guise of safety promotion. I do think most often it comes from a well-intended place, but I think we don't consider unintended consequences," she says.

**"There are a lot of issues with creating hierarchy in space and delineating space to push certain people out."**

-OLIVIA MACKINNON

"Those population groups aren't on the radar for more folks in decision-making positions. I don't know if decisions around planning actively leave people out, but when population groups aren't on your radar, you don't think about how these decisions might impact them."

However, the report by Crisis showed that approximately one-fifth of "local authorities" intentionally use hostile architecture to deter people from sleeping outdoors.

Olivia Mackinnon, a landscape architecture student at the University of Manitoba, emphasizes the importance of public space being truly public.

"We have so many conversations (in class) about not prioritizing (certain people),"

she says. "There are a lot of issues with creating hierarchy in space and delineating space to push certain people out. It doesn't solve any issues."

"We don't like designing neighbourhoods where there is one predominant class. The preference is that there is a lower-income area in a neighbourhood, there is higher income, there is public space so that different people can come together (and) there are accessible amenities," Mackinnon says.

She adds that neighbourhoods with a diverse population have lower crime rates.

#### A MORE WELCOMING SPACE

The antithesis to hostile architecture is welcoming public space.

architect Wins Bridgman opened a public washroom on a piece of city-owned land at the corner of Higgins and Main because he felt there was a need for it, but the city ordered its removal in 2008, because they lacked the proper permits and were "not appropriate at that location," CBC reported.

"It's an issue of dignity. People need to be able to go to the washroom. It's as simple as that. And in a thriving community, you take care of those simple needs," Bridgman told CBC in a 2007 interview.

Klimczak agrees that access to spaces like warm-up shelters and public washrooms has the potential to improve quality of life.

"I would say in Winnipeg ... our big work on area is looking at ways that public spaces can best contribute to everyone having a sense of dignity."

#### ENGAGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Klimczak also points to cycling infrastructure, such as the bike-fixing station outside the Millennium Library. According to a survey done by the public health group, bicycles are the main mode of transportation for people living in poverty in Winnipeg.

"A bike-fixing station and good safe biking infrastructure, that's the kind of thing that does help population groups that are traditionally very marginalized and left out of city planning decisions," Klimczak says.

Good information is key to making good decisions, Klimczak says.

"When you have good information about who uses what services, that helps to guide decisions around city planning and infrastructure."

In Winnipeg, there are many ways to get in touch with city planners and hope to influence planning decisions.

On development sites, there are notices posted that include the planner's name and phone number.

According to the City of Winnipeg spokesperson, "connecting with the community is typically built into our planning processes - planning initiatives use tools such as websites, open house events, surveys (and) focus groups to engage with the community."

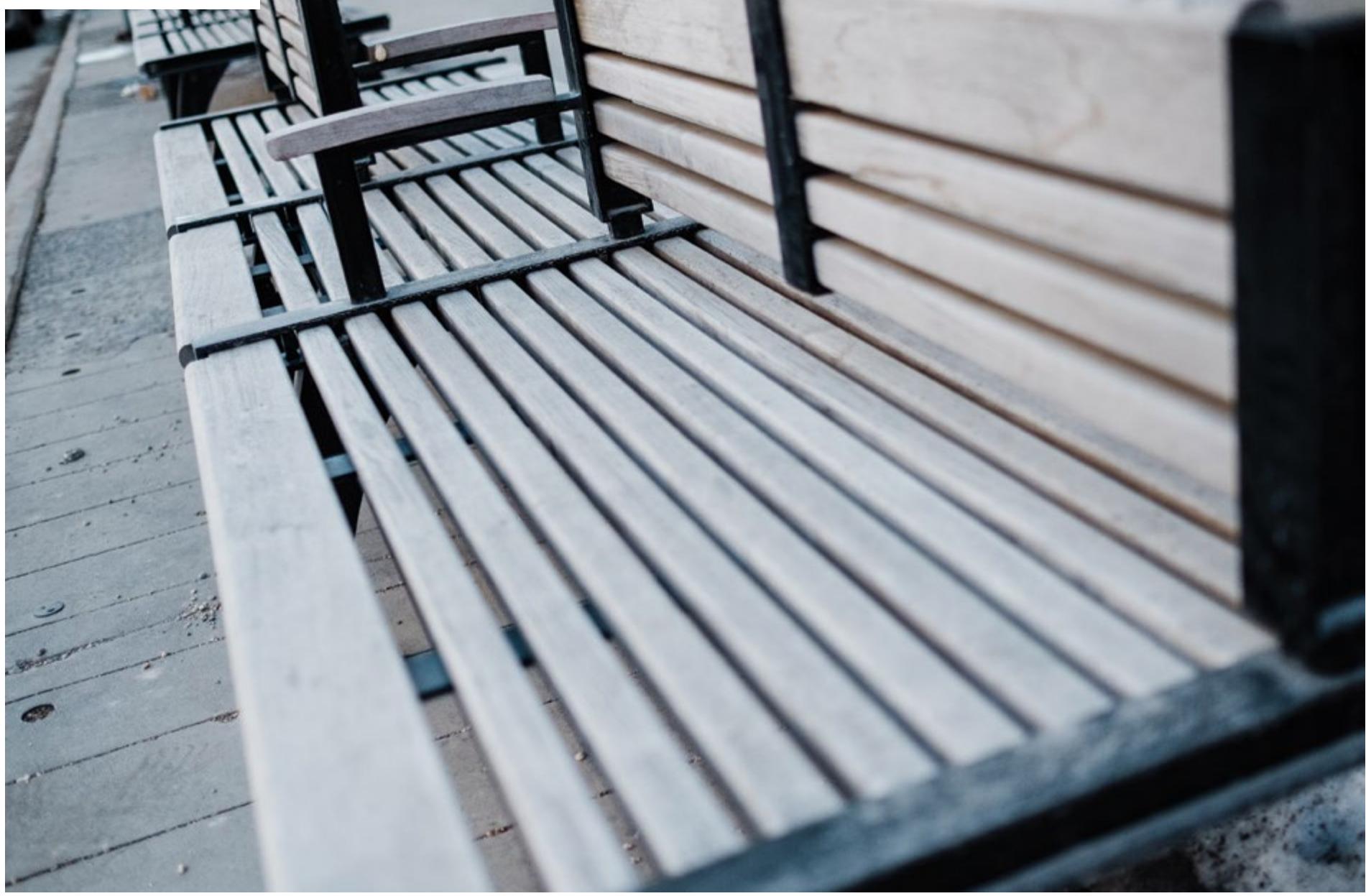
A final example of welcoming architecture that is gaining traction in the modern world is public phone-charging stations. Locally, there are public charging stations at the University of Winnipeg campus (in Riddell Hall and in the library).

Some cities, like Boston, Mass., are putting charging stations on street benches outside.

"When people are out on the streets, out in public spaces, it literally improves so many layers of quality of life," Mackinnon says. "Engagement in outdoors spaces promotes people to care about ecosystems surrounding them."

*Check out Pomeroy's blog to see some Winnipeg-specific instances of hostile architecture: [barrypomeroy.com/blog/hostile-architecture](http://barrypomeroy.com/blog/hostile-architecture) and [barrypomeroy.com/blog/hostile-architecture-2](http://barrypomeroy.com/blog/hostile-architecture-2).*

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Benches with armrests can make it difficult for people to lay down.



Design details such as this wavy steel atop a planting box can make it difficult for people to sit in public spaces.

# YOUTH WALK OUT FOR SOLIDARITY

Grant Park students and staff talk about activism

BRAIDEN PERGIS

CITY REPORTER  @BRAIDENPERGIS

On March 14, Grant Park High School students and staff hosted a walkout in support of the students and victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla. These local Canadian students representing youth solidarity across the border are calling for stronger youth activism.

The walkout "focused on student activism. It was students who came up with the idea. It was students who were walking out. It was students who were taking a stand, and I think that's a big deal in that students have a voice. They want to care, and they want to make a difference," Izzie Hellenchilde, a student at Grant Park High School, says.

Some youth's activism experiences start when they are growing up.

Sunny Enkin Lewis, Alexa Mucyo Kayonga, Julie Van and Hellenchilde are students at Grant Park High School. They now serve as the organizing committee for the Grant Park High School walkout, having gotten involved with activism in different ways and at different times.

Lewis' and Kayonga's parents integrated the need for caring about other people as they grew up. All four young women participated in several activist activities, such as attending WE Day, starting a student group that promotes political activism, learning from MLA Jim Carr, taking part in a Yellow Bench project and participating in women's marches.

Currently, all four students are on the organizing committee of the Rights Here Rights Now human rights conference.

"My parents have always been super passionate about human rights, and that's something I've grown up with, and they've really instilled in me the values and the morals that everyone is equal and that everyone deserves the basic human rights," Lewis says.

The Grant Park walkout promotes youth solidarity across the border between Canada and the United States.

"I think our lives are so intertwined with that of the United States, so I think (youth solidarity) means standing with the people who are so close to us. We have so many similarities in our society, and it's also in finding those ways that it also applies to Canada. When we see such a big uprising ... with Black people



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

in the States, we can say, 'Yes, that's an issue in Canada,'" Lewis says.

She continues on to say there are more issues that are localized in Winnipeg, such as racism against Indigenous people.

Van says being involved with activist organizations has expanded her knowledge from just watching the news with her parents to actually being able to explore where her role is in issues around the world and her viewpoints on them.

Reshal Stein has been working with the young women as their teacher supervisor for the upcoming human rights conference

being held at Grant Park High School. She believes that adults need to speak to younger people to truly understand the way they work and how they care and understand the world around them.

"Conversation and dialogue is really important," Stein says.

Stein also says Grant Park High School has several different courses that instill human rights knowledge into young people, such as classes on Indigenous knowledge and global issues, as well as student clubs that integrate social justice aspects into their background of experience.

## SEE YOUR WORK IN PRINT



### The Uniter is seeking volunteer writers for the 2018 Summer Festival Guide

Are you looking to develop your journalistic or storytelling skills? Would you like to learn how to interview people? Do you have strong opinions on local issues that you'd like to share? Write for *The Uniter* - we're a learning paper, and our editors are here to help you hone your skills.

Summer festival guide contributors are also eligible for complimentary festival passes.

Email [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca) to get involved!

## NEWS BRIEFS

DANELLE GRANGER // CITY EDITOR  @DANELLEGANGER

### Network outage overnight Thursday

The UWinnipeg community is advised that there will be a complete network outage on campus starting on Thursday, March 29 from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Friday, March 30. The following services will be affected: phones, email, Webfiles, network file access to "O" and "M" drives, Nexus, wireless network access, internet, library systems, including the library's proxy server and printing.

### Campus sustainability recognition award

The Campus Sustainability Office is accepting nominations for the Campus Sustainability Recognition Award for Students until Wednesday, April 4. If you know a student who has excelled at sustainability-based research or extra-curricular activities, visit [uwinnipeg.ca/awards-distinctions/sustainability/index.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards-distinctions/sustainability/index.html) to fill out a nomination form. The award is for meritorious contributions to campus sustainability.

### Before Two-Spirit

The lecture by the Sandy Riley Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Scott de Groot titled Before Two-Spirit: Gay Liberation and Indigenous LGBTQ Activism is on April 2 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in room 2B23 (Bryce Hall). Years before the term Two-Spirit was coined in Southern Manitoba, Indigenous LGBTQ activists across North America were exploring how their experiences, identities and histories exceeded the frameworks of settler colonialism.

### Patio-smoking ban

Smoking on outdoor patios at restaurants and bars in Winnipeg will be banned starting April 1. The ban applies to all restaurants and bars where there is an outdoor patio that occupies a defined space and requires an occupancy permit. Smoking devices that allow the user to inhale tobacco, cannabis or any other substances are all included in the ban.

### Parking rate to increase by \$1.50

On-street parking rates will be increasing by \$1.50. This change will take approximately six to eight weeks to fully implement beginning on April 1, 2018. Motorists will know if new rates are in effect by the rate card on the pay station. A temporary sticker will also be placed on the front of a pay station. For more information visit, [theparkingstore.winnipeg.ca](http://theparkingstore.winnipeg.ca).

### Green Drinks

Manitoba Eco-Network hosts Green Drinks Winnipeg every first Thursday of the month at the King's Head Pub (120 King St.) from 5 to 7 p.m. Every month, people involved in the environmental sector meet up. Blue Drinks is a spinoff of Green Drinks that creates space for people to discuss water issues. Visit [mbeconetwork.org/get-involved/green-drinks/](http://mbeconetwork.org/get-involved/green-drinks/) for more information.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE COMMONS

WestEnd Commons provides a supportive space for all tenants

**BRAIDEN PERGIS**

CITY REPORTER @BRAIDENPERGIS

The WestEnd Commons, a part of the St. Matthews Non-Profit Housing Incorporation, is now located in the newly remodeled St. Matthew's Anglican Church. Here, they run different programs where tenants can bring up issues that they have or things that they want to see being provided in the building. They also have seasonal events and potlucks for the residents to allow them to come together.

"About half the population are children ... Twenty of our apartments are subsidized, which would be for low-income people, and six of our apartments are set at market rent. This is to create diversity in the building and (it serves as a) reflection of the broader community," Cheryl Starr, the community connector for the WestEnd Commons, says.

She says the organization's goal is to

create a sense of community in the WestEnd Commons. They do this through several things, such as providing the tenants with a laundry room where parents can watch their children play on a play structure that was donated by the airport.

They also offer Christian ceremonies in the downsized St. Matthew's Anglican Church parish, which is non-denominational, while also helping cover overhead costs of the building by renting out their basement to the Neighbourhood Resource Centre, the Spence Neighbourhood Association and local business startups.

According to their website, the WestEnd Commons' commitment for the social enterprise is for the Neighbourhood Resource Centre (NRC) to provide safe and affordable programming in West Central Winnipeg.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

The WestEnd Commons includes communal space as well as living space.

This also includes meeting and office space for neighbourhood families and organizations. All money yielded is used to sustain the NRC in staff, maintenance and utilities.

Sharpe says all communities need subsidized housing, because if people have families, while also living with mental or psychological issues that do not allow them to work, at least they will have a place to live. WestEnd Commons also has a few programs that allow tenants to work on job development.

"We receive a grant towards local investment which helps us offer employment opportunities to our residents within our building so people can gain \$100 per month by doing eight hours of work within the building, and that can be cleaning and maintenance," she says.

She says residents can also gain employment by being an event host for some of the smaller functions that happen in the basement as well.

On March 1, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) published the "Here We're at Home" report, in conjunction with the WestEnd Commons. The report is based on the WestEnd Commons model of subsidized housing with supports. It talks about subsidized housing making the lives of residents with lower income levels easier.

"It passed on an easier way of having a roof overtop of my wife's and my head," Craig Sharpe, a tenant at the WestEnd Commons says.

## PROFILE



### MELANIE MARTIN PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

**DANELLE GRANGER**

CITY EDITOR @DANELLEGRANGER

Melanie Martin, a professor of physics at the University of Winnipeg (U of W), has been teaching since 2004. She's currently on sabbatical, but will be returning to teach in the fall.

Recently, a few of Martin's graduate students have had their work published in magazines - *Magnetic Resonance Imaging* and *Magnetic Resonance Materials in Physics, Biology and Medicine*. This research project, focused on Alzheimer's disease, was started by Martin in 2000 when she was a postdoc.

"For this most recent published work, my graduate student Kerrie Hayes developed a method to measure the size of the hippocampus, a part of the brain responsible for memory and the part of the brain most affected by Alzheimer's disease," Martin says.

"When she was done, another of my graduate students used Kerrie's sample. The graduate student, Jonathan Thiessen, developed a method for studying white matter, another part of the brain. When he used his method on Kerrie's samples, he could see cell layers in the hippocampus that had not been seen before," she says.

Martin convinced Heather Whittaker, at the time a biopsychology student at the U of W, to work with her on the research project.

"She collected more samples and used Jonathan's method to compare the cell layers of the hippocampus between samples," she says.

"The hippocampus appears more or less uniform on most types of magnetic resonance images (MRI). With diffusion tensor imaging, the cell layers in the hippocampus are clearly visible. Heather traced the cell layers in the diffusion tensor images and superimposed the tracings on the other MRIs. This made it possible for her to measure MRI properties of the cell layers in the hippocampus."

Martin says it was surprising for her to see. Given that the hippocampus looks so uniform in most MRIs, it was quite surprising that the cell layers were visible in the diffusion tensor images.

"What was more surprising is that the MRI properties were different in different cell layers when comparing early stages of our model of Alzheimer's disease and controls," Martin added.

**WHAT WAS YOUR WORST GRADE IN UNIVERSITY?** I believe it was a B+ in my second-year Mechanics course. I'm not sure why that course was so difficult for me ... I can tell the students now to stick with things and try them over and over again, and the material will become clear. It helps to have different profs teaching the material at different levels to get different perspectives.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOURSELF?** If I set my sights on a goal, I will not give up until I achieve it.

**IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE?** Curing diseases. Or maybe being a super teacher so my students can cure the diseases.



## COLLOQUI- WHAT?

Looking at the 20th Women's and Gender studies colloquium

**SKYLAR SMALLACOMBE**

CAMPUS REPORTER @SKYSMALLACOMBE1

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) colloquium at the University of Winnipeg (U of W). A colloquium is similar to an academic seminar, where the students from WGS and Disability Studies program (DIS) will comment on their topics of choice in short presentations.

The WGS colloquium was started by Dr. Fiona Green, who felt it was important to have a space for students to share their work with the community and other students.

According to Dr. Sharanpal Ruprai, an assistant professor in WGS department at the U of W, and Dr. Roewan Crowe, who is the chair of the department, this year's colloquium is special.

"There is a real need for people with WGS and DIS degrees given the rise of

feminist movements here in Winnipeg and across the globe," Ruprai and Crowe say in an email.

"It is important to remember that feminists, women, women-identified and non-binary folks have supported and contributed to these movements here at the University of Winnipeg for over 20 years. We have a strong foundation in the department of WGS/DIS in supporting the development of feminism(s) and students who are engaged in this valuable work," Crowe and Ruprai say.

Breanne Nemez, who is in the Faculty of Arts and majoring in political science and WGS at the U of W, says that the WGS colloquium is very important.

"It's an opportunity to hear about the super-cool work that other feminist students are undertaking. It's also an opportunity to take our feminist theorizing beyond the classroom and share it with the broader community. I think this is especially important in a discipline like WGS, where our academic work ought to inform our everyday lives and praxis," Nemez says.

According to the faculty's website, WGS is an "intersectional approach to understanding social problems and phenomena. It pays special attention to the ways sex, gender, and sexuality are shaped by colonialism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and transphobia, as well as by constructions of difference based on class, (dis)ability, religion, ethnicity, and culture."

Ruprai and Crowe say the department is involved with the colloquium because the WGS faculty sees the importance for



Pauline Greenhill is the acting co-ordinator of Disability Studies and is also involved in the colloquium.

providing space and funds for students to participate in sharing their own knowledge. The main purpose of the colloquium is to celebrate the work of students.

"For many students, sharing their work outside the classroom setting might not be possible, but the colloquium is a chance for students to share their work in a relaxed setting with friends and family. Through supporting each others' work, students build a sense of collegiality and feminist community. Additionally, this opportunity offers students with presentation/conference experience," Crowe and Ruprai say.

Pauline Greenhill, of the WGS department, who is currently the acting co-ordinator of DIS, says the department is involved with the colloquium because after Dr. Michelle Owen moved from DIS to WGS in 2013-14, the DIS studies program was incorporated into the WGS department to become one.

"WGS was happy to welcome Disability Studies because we share interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives, feminist and intersectional concerns, and interest in social justice as well as in understanding cultural diversity from humanities and social science perspectives," Greenhill says.



James Favel, executive director of the Bear Clan Patrol

city. He would like to see it go from Inkster Boulevard between Main Street and Arlington Street all the way over to the river in West Broadway.

According to Favel, there are 1,000 Winnipeg-based volunteers involved with the Bear Clan Patrol. Favel says that he had an idea about how many people they needed to do their work, but that number was exceeded by volunteers. Because

## BEAR CLAN PATROL COVERING MORE GROUND

Expanding the patrol to include Winnipeg's West End

**SKYLAR SMALLACOMBE**

CAMPUS REPORTER @SKYSMALLACOMBE1

The Bear Clan Patrol is expanding to include different areas in Winnipeg. They now have a new meeting point at The Hive, located on the University of Winnipeg campus.

James Favel, the executive director of the Bear Clan Patrol, says the group wanted to expand to include the West End because they want to serve whatever communities need their services.

He adds it makes sense to expand outside of the North End where they currently work.

"The West End has the same kind of issues we have in the North End. They have the exploitation, homelessness, addiction and solvent abusers - it's all there. Some of the exploited persons that were once in our community are now on the other side, because they didn't want to have to deal with us," Favel says.

The Bear Clan Patrol first existed in Winnipeg's North End in 1992. After a few years, the volunteer safety group went on hiatus, but in July 2015, they reformed to start patrolling Winnipeg streets.

According to Favel, there have been changes from the first iteration of the Bear

Clan Patrol in the early 1990s to now.

"They (the first iteration) were primarily in vehicles and ran longer hours. There were less members out. We (now) are almost exclusively on foot and have people (in cars) that provide support who carry the heavier things," Favel says.

Currently, the Bear Clan Patrol works in Winnipeg's North End, West Broadway and the West End throughout the week.

Anastasia Yurovsky, who is frequently in downtown Winnipeg, says Winnipeg is not always the safest place to be, especially in the inner city neighbourhoods. Having the Bear Clan Patrol can help the city deal with the situation in a non-violent manner.

"It is important to have the community involvement in keeping the neighbourhoods safe. It creates awareness and a sense of responsibility in all members of the community, which is important for the prevention of violence. We need the Bear Clan Patrol, not only to keep the inner-city neighbourhoods safe, but to promote awareness of the issues," Yurovsky says.

Favel's vision for the future of the Bear Clan Patrol is looking more at the inner

of all this help, what they could do in a week they can now do in a day. There are chapters in 25 communities, 13 cities and six provinces across Canada.

"We are on the ground, shoulder to shoulder with the community and are able to build better relationships with our community members. I think that's one of the key differences in what we're doing," Favel says.

# COMMENTS

## CALLING IN CALL OUT CULTURE

Making space  
in the movement for  
differences of opinion

DEB KOZAK

VOLUNTEER

"You're trash, human garbage."

I see these words, dehumanizing in any context, far too often on social media. Most disturbingly, I see them in the posts of feminists and other social justice activists - people who I respect, whose opinions matter to me and whose values I often share.

Surely if we truly believe in basic human dignity for everyone - the core of all social justice movements - we firmly believe that no person is disposable. And yet here we are, dismissing other human beings as being irrelevant, unworthy of our most basic consideration.

It's said that we now live in a disposable culture, the legacy of rampant capitalism

and industrialization. In response, more and more of us are compelled to take a critical look at our lives - at our relationships to the environment, to production and consumerism and to the people with whom we share our hurting planet.

Guided by our shared vision for a just and equitable society for all, the idea that any human being is completely worthless, absolutely devoid of value and utterly disposable is antithetical to our values and our goals.

"It's just a word, a metaphor. What's the problem?"

Social change is inevitably messy and often uncomfortable. Critical thinking and challenging each other's ideas is an inherent part of the hard work of social change.

Call-out culture - dismissing people and their ideas as trash, as unworthy of our thoughtful care and consideration - is a problem. It serves to silence people, preventing them from actually speaking their truths, for fear of the social alienation and isolation that inevitably comes with being dismissed as garbage, as having no value.

How can we lay claim to intersectional activism when we routinely exclude diverse and divergent voices by creating hostile spaces with dehumanizing language?

How can our feminism grow when we tell others - whether we agree with them a little, a lot or not at all - that they are worthless, that there is no room in our kind of activism to hear their experiences, their opinions, their questions as they seek to understand? What message does that send to newly emerging voices? To those still on the margins?



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

We learn more about each other, about our problems and possible solutions when we seek to understand the opinions of those we don't agree with than we do from shutting them down. The dismissing of questioning or dissenting voices is antithetical to the work of social justice.

It makes difference of opinion difficult. It stunts our personal growth and makes the growth of our movements impossible.

While we may agree on important issues, name-calling and in-fighting over our imperfect activism distracts our attention and energy from the really hard work of social change. It's not always easy to hear the most difficult of opinions while respecting the humanity of the person holding them, but it is necessary.

Welcoming diverse and divergent thought, listening to it, really truly hearing it, and learning more about the experiences and ideas of others different from ourselves, is how we grow as people and as a society.

*deb kozak is a feminist who lives, works and plays in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Treaty 1 territory.*

## OVERCOMING ACADEMIA

I was no longer a student.  
Who, then, was I?

CHANELLE PARTYKA

VOLUNTEER

No lecture prepared me for the shift from disillusioned academic to young working professional. I was shell-shocked in a bubble of student debt and perfectionism. In an instant, the weight of maintaining grades became the burden of professional liabilities.

I was no longer a student. Who, then, was I?

Nearly a year post-graduation and I'm still figuring it out. I can now see that it's easy to get lost in the demands of academia. It became clear that the culture of university is detached from reality. Not only did I lose sight of the present moment - I lost a stable sense of self.

University is seen as the logical step after high school. I never challenged this notion. I was fortunate to discover my calling in the eleventh grade. My already ample interest in psychology and desire to help those in need partnered well with psychiatric nursing. How convenient that my passion fell under a traditionally secure profession! Thus started my six-year academic journey.



ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN LADIA

My life became an intricate juggling act of maintaining good grades, a social life, secure finances, part-time work and personal health. The stressors associated with being a full-time student became an integral part of my identity. I could not remember who I was prior to the constant papers, projects and practicums. I was lost.

Like many students, I relied financially on a student line of credit that I thought I would have no problem paying off as a working professional. Nine months into my career, I can tell you that I was naïve. The struggle of living paycheque to paycheque is pervasive. Debt clashes with the cost of living - even upon entering a traditionally secure profession.

A friend once told me the struggle builds character. Admittedly, I agree. While I reflect on my experience, I recognize that it built resiliency. Navigating life after a degree

meant dismantling the identity I built around being a student and rediscovering my worth beyond academic perfectionism.

Slowly, I am establishing ways of expressing myself that were formerly obscured by academia. Ironically, I have chosen to write my first article for free while my line of credit persists.

While the university experience can shape your identity, an important distinction must be made between who you are and what you do. Ultimately, my identity is now a psychiatric nurse on the surface - but I have much more depth than that, and so do you.

The truth is, I'm under the same if not more stress than I was as a full-time student. My then-deadline stress has now become the stress of fast-paced shift work. My personal ways of coping, sense of humour and work ethic remain unchanged.

I encourage you to be mindful of the value you place on post-secondary education - a privilege not all can access. With our identities tethered to academia, how do we perceive those without higher education? My experience has taught me that identity and work can overlap but are not synonymous. The fundamental worth of an individual is independent of academic and socioeconomic status.

Rather, every human being is worthy of access to stable income, employment and respect—regardless of their level of education.

*Chantelle Partyka is a registered psychiatric nurse and mental health advocate living in Winnipeg. She is a disillusioned ex-academic trying to make sense of her experience. Chances are you've seen her perusing local music shows.*

## A LOW CARBON DIET

We all have a role to play in reducing the city's footprint

AVERY LETKEMANN

VOLUNTEER  @AVERYLETKEMAN

Winnipeg is a city that was built on the expectation of cheap and unlimited fuel and land spreading out over the prairie landscapes. The public has become dependent on automobiles to get around this sprawling city.

Governments around the world have acknowledged the connection between climate change and the emission of greenhouse gases and its implications to how we live on this planet. Winnipeg itself is responsible for 5,300,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year. The transportation sector is responsible for a large percentage of these emissions.

There is no doubt that Winnipeg is a car-dominated city. Public transit is underfunded and poorly designed. The infrastructure for active transportation is fragmented or non-existent.

Even if Winnipeggers want to reduce automobile dependence, alternatives are often more expensive, inconvenient and less safe. Strong investments in the transit sector could reduce emissions by as much as 575,000 tons over the next 30 years. Making transit more convenient and reducing fares may encourage ridership and reduce trips by single-occupancy vehicles.

The City of Winnipeg could increase parking costs in congested areas or limit driving altogether. But these regulations will also need to be accompanied by a radical shift in public attitudes and behaviours.

The City could put into place top-down regulations encouraging Winnipeggers to live lower-carbon lifestyles. But if those regulations were removed, most people would quickly fall back into old behaviours.

When behavioural changes are enforced by regulating bodies, the public is quick to fight against them, and the externally motivated outcomes often do not last. How then can a city so dependent on cars be convinced to change how they get around the urban landscape?

The motivation to change must be internal, coming from within every individual, if it is to have a lasting impact.

Grassroots organizations are much more able to engage with communities and build personal relationships than government bodies. Bringing people together to learn and share knowledge fosters a sense of community and commitment. Grassroots organizations encourage individuals to participate in the decision-making processes, because the more involved people are, the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

more likely it is that they will adopt these decisions in their everyday lives.

Governments and grassroots organizations both have important roles to play in the fight to mitigate climate change.

By engaging the public and involving them in the decision-making process, grassroots organizations are more able to encourage the public to change their attitudes and behaviours. By working together, community groups involving all concerned citizens can spread knowledge and increase people's commitment to making the necessary changes that the regulations are trying to enforce.

The City of Winnipeg is currently developing a Climate Change Action Plan to reduce emissions. If they truly hope to make a difference with this plan they will need to make an effort to include the participation of grassroots organizations and all concerned citizens.

*Avery Letkemann is an environmental studies student and the environmental ethics director for the University of Winnipeg Students' Association. She has experience organizing with Divest UWinnipeg and has held an advisory position with the city developing Winnipeg's Climate Change Action Plan.*

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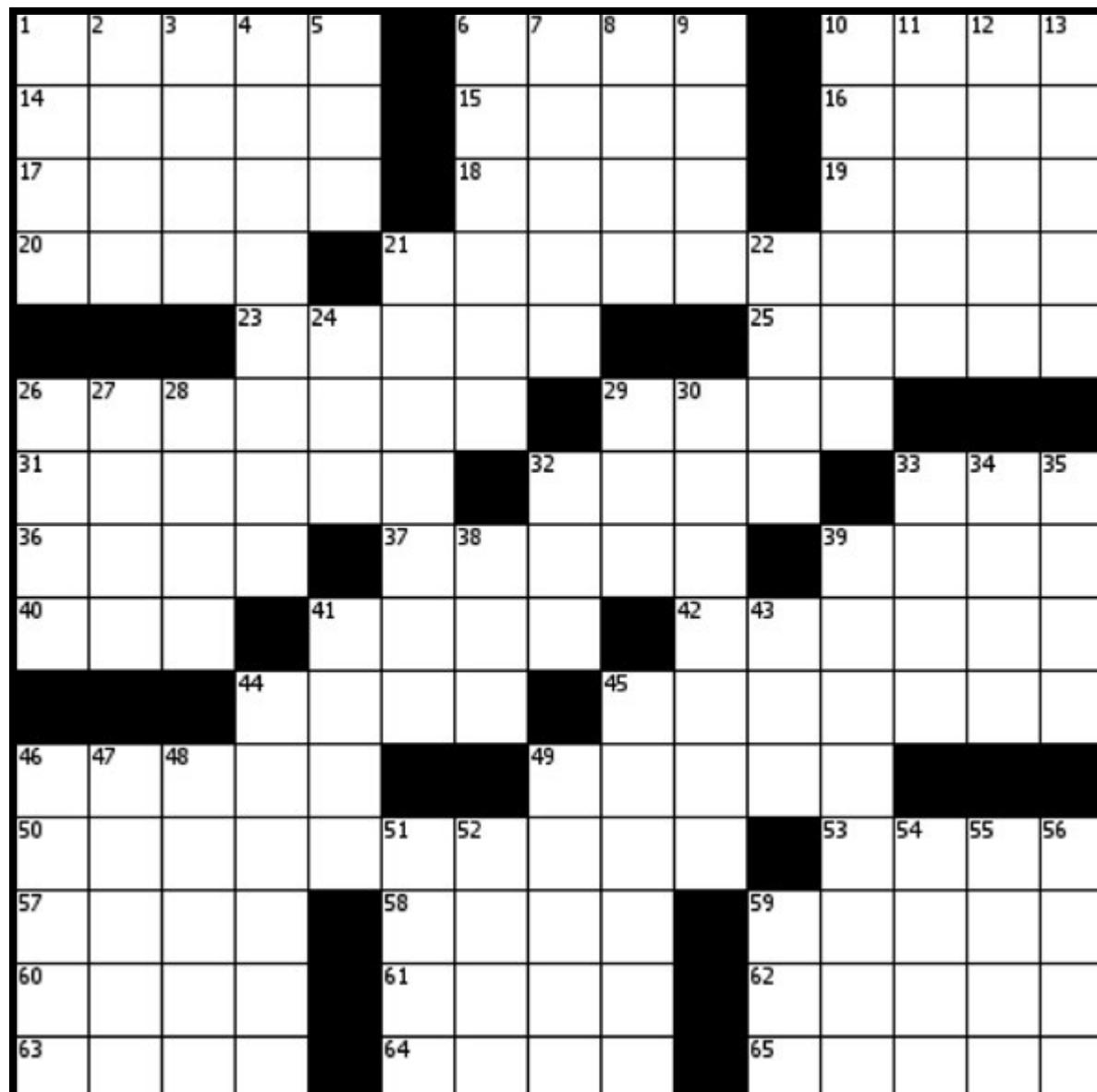
Follow @mpidrive on Instagram and watch for your chance to enter the #drivrxcontest.

Simply share the contest image and caption it with the hashtag #drivrxcontest to enter!



**Manitoba  
Public Insurance**

# DIVERSIONS



[onlinecrosswords.net](http://onlinecrosswords.net)

## ACROSS

1. Unpaid toiler
6. Lima's country
10. Afternoon parties
14. Misplaces
15. Poor me!
16. Skating jump
17. On one's toes
18. Ceremony
19. "Mona \_\_\_\_"
20. Tell all
21. Picnic favorite
23. Apart
25. Awkward
26. Grazing ground
29. Thaw
31. Prompt (2 wds.)
32. Predicament
33. Edge
36. Mushroom part
37. Ridicule
38. Sit for a portrait
40. Skill
41. Uhuh
42. Hairless
43. Tel Aviv's country
44. Exhausts
45. Dressed
46. Mails
47. Road guide
48. Wipe out
49. Jog
50. Phone bug
51. Balmy
52. Mails
53. Addition result
54. Flower
55. Wipe out
56. Jog
57. Pace
58. Phone bug
59. Balmy
60. Mails
61. Addition result
62. Flower
63. Wipe out
64. Jog
65. Pace
66. Transaction
67. Earth's center
68. Colander
69. Steak order
70. Greek god of love
71. Work with dough
72. House additions
73. Lease
74. Hollers
75. Hr. part
76. Give a right to
77. Baby flower
78. Jungle sound
79. Understood! (2 wds.)
80. Blend
81. Roker and Pacino
82. Unspoiled
83. Wild party
84. Amtrak terminal (abbr.)
85. Actress Julia \_\_\_\_
86. Vouch for
87. Juan's father
88. Basketball's Shaquille \_\_\_\_
89. Growl
90. Slugger Hank \_\_\_\_
91. Bakery worker
92. Folk wisdom
93. Rod and \_\_\_\_
94. Face shape
95. Koppel and Kennedy
96. Heavens



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

## Student Services

### STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services staff of The University of Winnipeg provides the student body with information on upcoming events and opportunities:

### AWARDS AND FINANCIAL AID

#### 2017-18 Convocation Awards

These awards are for undergraduate students who will be graduating in June 2018 or those who have already graduated in February 2018 or October 2017. Nominations will be accepted from faculty, staff, and students (including by self-nomination).

For a nomination form, go to [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards) and click on "In-Course Awards (current students)."

Deadline: Mon., Apr. 16, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Student Central

### GRADUATE STUDIES

"Student Planning" for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be launched in early May, 2018. To learn more about this great new tool for program planning and online registration, Graduate Studies students are invited to attend an Information Session:

Thurs., Apr. 26, 2018  
1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Room 1C16A

### SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

Open registration begins Apr. 3, 2018. The Term starts on May 1, 2018.

See all the courses being offered between May - August in the Spring Term Timetable at [uwinnipeg.ca/timetable](http://uwinnipeg.ca/timetable), or in WebAdvisor/Student Planning.

For more information, please visit [uwinnipeg.ca/](http://uwinnipeg.ca/) registration and go to "Registration Process-Spring Term."

#### Spring Term 2018 Fees

All fees for all Spring Term (U2017S) courses between May-August are due May 1, 2018 - regardless of the start date of the course.

Pay the easy way - online through your bank's website!

1. Log on to your bank's website and go to the bill payment section
2. Add The University of Winnipeg as a bill payee
3. Use your seven-digit student number as the account number

There will be no additional fees if you pay this way.

#### Wait Lists

If you've placed your name on a wait list for a course section that is full, please continue to check your UWinnipeg Webmail account regularly as this is the only way you will be notified if an open seat becomes available. Mondays and Thursdays are the best days to check.

Upon notification, you will have three (3) days or 72 hours from the date/time stamped on the email to claim your reserved seat. Don't miss out - claim it right away!

Also: Check your UWinnipeg Webmail every day for updates on course changes and cancellations, as well as new labs and sections.

### STUDENT CENTRAL

Good Friday - University Closed  
March 30 - University closed for Good Friday  
April 2 - University open regular hours (Student Central: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm)

End of Winter Term + Make-Up Day  
Wed., Apr. 4, 2018 - the last day of lectures for Winter Term

Thurs., Apr. 5, 2018 - Classes will be held according to a FRIDAY schedule to make up for classes missed for Good Friday.

#### Exams

The Examination Period is Apr. 9-21, 2018.

Please check your courses on the exam schedule now: Go to [uwinnipeg.ca/registration](http://uwinnipeg.ca/registration) and click on "Exam Schedules."

If you have any time conflicts, follow the instructions on the webpage to deal with them immediately.

Exam locations can change, so remember to also check the "Daily Exam Schedule," which will be posted on the website the day before each exam day. (Paper schedules will no longer be posted around campus.)

#### Locker Rentals

Winter Term: Students who rented a locker for the Winter Term must clear it out by Apr. 21, 2018. All lockers must be emptied and locks removed.

Spring Term: Students must be registered for Spring Term classes first, in order to be eligible to

rent a locker. For details and to sign up for a locker online, please see [www.uwinnipeg.ca/lockers](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/lockers).

#### Tax Receipts

T2020a tuition tax receipts for 2017 are posted on WebAdvisor. Click on the link "View My T2020a Information" and then select the tax year.

### STUDENT WELLNESS

#### Addictions Counselling

A counsellor from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba is at the Student Wellness Centre on Fridays from 12:30-4:00 p.m. to provide counselling services to students specific to alcohol, drug, or gambling-related concerns. Drop in, or make an appointment at 204.988.7611. The Student Wellness Centre is located on the first floor of the Duckworth Centre.

For more information, please visit: [uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness)

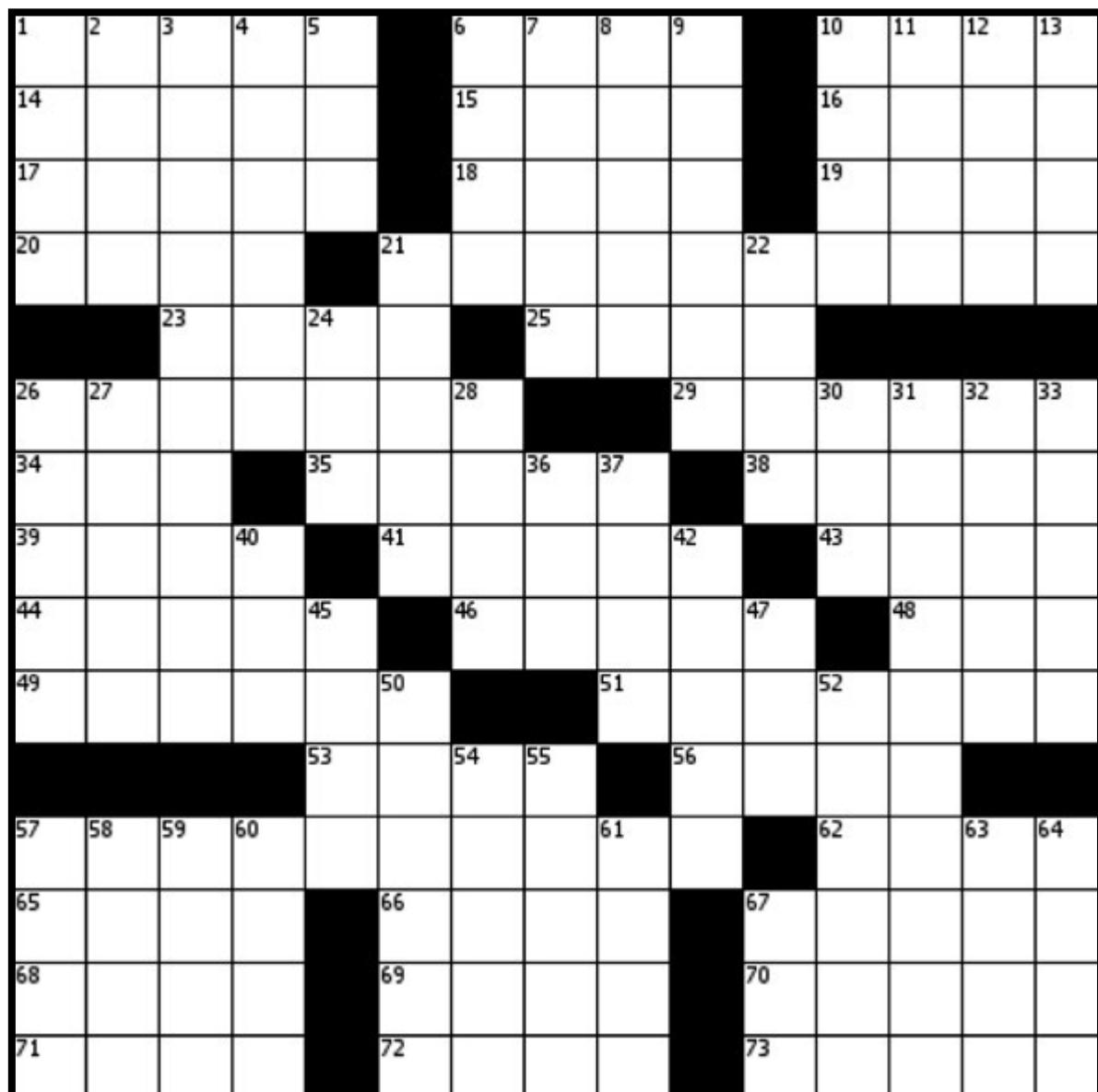
#### Mindfulness Meditation

All are welcome to the FREE Mindfulness Meditation Drop-In Sessions held every Monday and Thursday until the end of April; then every Wednesday from May 2 to June 13, 2018. All sessions are 12:30 to 1:00 pm in the Bryce Hall Chapel.

### UWINNIPERG ON THE GO

Check out the new mobile app, "Ellucian GO." This FREE app makes it easy to connect to UWinnipeg, register for courses, and view your schedule, grades and account balance. For information and instructions, please see: [uwinnipeg.ca/go](http://uwinnipeg.ca/go)

# DIVERSIONS



[onlinecrosswords.net](http://onlinecrosswords.net)

## ACROSS

- 1. \_\_\_ shuttle
- 6. Passenger
- 10. Cease
- 14. Trotter's kin
- 15. Conception
- 16. Ashen
- 17. Mother's brother
- 18. Races the engine
- 19. Draft animals
- 20. Film holder
- 21. Perceived character
- 23. Senate messenger
- 24. Swarm
- 25. Take away
- 26. Inhabit
- 27. Pitcher's stat
- 28. More positive
- 29. Forbidden items (hyph.)
- 30. Pamper
- 31. Princely
- 32. Puts on
- 33. Tiny landmass
- 34. Seoul's country
- 35. "The Raven" poet
- 36. Seesaw
- 37. Money makers
- 38. Shakespearean King
- 39. Happen again
- 40. Grace closing
- 41. Actor Sean \_\_\_
- 42. Butter substitute
- 43. Happen again
- 44. Car for hire
- 45. Butter substitute
- 46. Actor Sean \_\_\_
- 47. Grace closing
- 48. Money makers
- 49. Shakespearean King
- 50. Happen again
- 51. Grace closing
- 52. Butter substitute
- 53. Actor Sean \_\_\_
- 54. Happen again
- 55. Grace closing
- 56. Money makers
- 57. Shakespearean King
- 58. Happen again
- 59. Grace closing
- 60. Butter substitute
- 61. Actor Sean \_\_\_
- 62. Happen again
- 63. Grace closing
- 64. Money makers
- 65. Shakespearean King
- 66. Happen again
- 67. Grace closing
- 68. Butter substitute
- 69. Actor Sean \_\_\_
- 70. Grace closing
- 71. Butter substitute
- 72. Actor Sean \_\_\_
- 73. Grace closing

## DOWN

- 56. Raise
- 57. Eyeopener
- 62. Football cheers
- 65. By mouth
- 66. Fine
- 67. Satellite's path
- 68. Young lady
- 69. Initial bet
- 70. \_\_\_ dot
- 71. Baseball's \_\_\_ Rose
- 72. Famous loch
- 73. Bird sound
- 74. "We \_\_\_ Family"
- 75. President Ronald
- 76. \_\_\_
- 77. Not wide
- 78. Make amends
- 79. Mob scenes
- 80. Frolic
- 81. Buffalo's lake
- 82. Expansive
- 83. Or \_\_\_!
- 84. Poems of praise
- 85. Nature walk
- 86. Doctor's "at once!"
- 87. Select

MOUSELAND PRESS

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 5 p.m.**

University of Winnipeg at The Hive in Lockhart Hall

All *Uniter* staff, contributors and past members are welcome to attend. If you have contributed to three or more issues of *The Uniter* during the 2017-18 school year, you are automatically a member of Mouseland Press Inc. and have voting rights at this meeting. Changes to the bylaws can also be made at this time.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING'S MINUTES
4. MANAGING EDITOR REPORT
5. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT
6. APPROVAL OF 2016-17 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
7. APPROVAL OF AUDITOR
8. APPROVAL OF 2018-19 BUDGET
9. SPEAKER SERIES REPORT
10. NOMINATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS
11. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS
12. OTHER BUSINESS/ CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT



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# WPG COMEDY FESTIVAL

APRIL 9-15, 2018

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 14**  
**Renaissance Apes**  
Starring Rob Bebenek & Rob Pue  
Gas Station Arts Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets \$20

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14**  
**The Dirty Show**  
Hosted by Rob Pue  
The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre  
by Canad Inns | 10:00 pm | Tickets \$20

Tickets available at [www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com](http://www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com)  
or in person at Gas Station Arts Centre open Thursday to Saturday, 11am-6pm

[f](#) WinnipegComedyFestival [o](#) WpgComFest [t](#) WpgComFest #wpgcomfest

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## INFO SEMINARS

SEP 23, 2017 : SURREY, BC  
OCT 21, 2017 : OTTAWA, ON  
NOV 18, 2017 : CALGARY, AB  
DEC 09, 2017 : BRAMPTON, ON

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