



# *in Touch*

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KEEPING RETIREES ENGAGED IN THE UNIVERSITY

**SPRING, 2024**

The University of Winnipeg Retirees' Association Newsletter

## ***UWRA Board of Directors 2024/2025***

President	Judith Huebner
VP/President Elect	Jim Christie
Secretary	Debbie Machula
Treasurer:	Murray Wiegand
Member-at-Large (1)	Dawn Rittberg
Member-at-Large (2)	Lynn Jones
Past-President	Neil Besner

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Newsletter	Bill Rannie
Scholarship/Bursaries	Ed Byard
United Way	Linda Dietrick
Zoom Technical Team	Judith Huebner Brian McGregor Steve Coppinger

### ***Pension Trustees***

Mary Anne Walls (2022-2024)  
Murray Wiegand (2023-2025)

### ***UWRA Address***

UWRA  
c/o Human Resources  
The University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9

#### **EMAIL:**

[uwra@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:uwra@uwinnipeg.ca)

#### **WEBSITE:**

[www.uwinnipeg.ca/uwra](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/uwra)

## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

In spite of the fact that I hate cold weather, winter in Winnipeg can be very beautiful. I am privileged to be looking out my windows at a picturesque landscape of white snow covering grass, garden plants, the skeletons of deciduous trees, heavy branches of conifers, a snow-covered river, deer, the occasional fox, rabbits, squirrels and oodles of birds (an entire flock of Bohemian Waxwings made a guest appearance today). This year, Winnipeg seems to be in the sweet spot for weather. We were not the epicentre of fires or floods this summer and so far, the weather this winter has not really been extreme as Winnipeg winters go.

What is in store this coming year...who knows? I do know that it would be a deception to think that climate change is not happening even though we were so fortunate this past year. Look east and west, north and south and fires and floods, tornadoes, monsoons, blizzards, ice storms, record-breaking heat and cold are all around us. We were lucky!

I am told that another scourge we face (in addition to the above-mentioned climate crises and the violence that rages around the world) is loneliness, especially among our not-so-young demographic. I guess in the past, families were larger, and most people lived close to their immediate and extended families. In addition, it was common for people to be engaged with religious institutions and community organizations providing opportunities for social contact, friendship and support. It's harder now, families are small and spread out, religious institutions are no longer hubs of engagement and activity, and connections with neighbors are not strong,

So we retirees are lucky; in its small way, the UWRA offers opportunities for social contact with each other whether in person or on zoom. Perhaps it can help rekindle connections and offer us the possibility of new friendships. In the bargain, we get to hear interesting speakers and if we are at UW, we can partake in coffee, treats and even lunch together.

I hope you enjoy the rest of winter, but if you're not a winter person, take heart, the days are longer and average temperatures are rising, so spring is coming!

Judith Huebner

## NOTABLE DATES

FEBRUARY 2	Groundhog Day
FEBRUARY 3	"The Day the Music Died" (1959)
FEBRUARY 14	Valentine's Day
FEBRUARY 19	Louis Riel Day
FEBRUARY 18-24	University Reading Week
FEBRUARY 29	Leap Year Day
MARCH 10	Daylight Saving Time begins (2 a.m.)
MARCH 14	Pi Day (as in $\pi = 3.14$ )
MARCH 19	Vernal (Spring) Equinox
APRIL 1	April Fool's Day
APRIL 9	Vimy Ridge Day
May 4	Star Wars Day (as in "May the 4 <sup>th</sup> be with you")
MAY 8	VE Day
MAY 12	Mother's Day
MAY 20	Victoria Day
JUNE 6	Anniversary of D-Day
JUNE 6	Blue Bombers' Season Opener

## WORDS THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ACADEME

*Pleniloquence* (n): Excessive talking.

*Lachrymogenic* (adj.): Inducing tears.

**YOUR CHALLENGE:** Combine these words in a sentence which recalls meetings of a University committee or body that you remember with amusement or horror.



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 10:30-12:00 in the University Club from September to April on the first Tuesday of the month except in September when it is on the second Tuesday and in January when there is no meeting.

The meetings will continue to be held in hybrid format with both an in-person component in the University Club and a Zoom option.

### February 6: In-person + Zoom

#### "Manitoba Makes the Movies"

Film-making in Manitoba is a thriving enterprise. Whether the Writers' Guild strike delays the Oscars or not, much is happening on the Manitoba film scene, and film makers **Nick Christie** of Bent Neck Films (degrees in film and history from UW) and **Maria Fiorencia Gor** have a lot to tell us.

### March 5: In-person + Zoom

#### "Stars in their Eyes"

UW's Science Pedigree is top drawer. Long time Science Professor **Michael Eze** will bring us a state of the laboratory talk on where we are and where we may be going.

### April 2: In-person + Zoom

#### "Chief Peguis and Lord Selkirk: Together at Last"

Reconciliation takes many forms. **John Perrin** and **Bill Shead** lead the team to establish a memorial to the giants who imagined and made Manitoba. It will stand on the Legislative grounds as both a testimonial and an inspiration to a new iteration of our extraordinary province. They will bring us the tangible results of dreaming, planning and imagining.



## In Memoriam

*We shall remember with joy and gratitude...*

January 16, 2024

**Dick Dearing**

*Theology*  
1974 – 2003

January 17, 2024

**Virginia Hart**

*Counseling Services*  
1972 - 1986

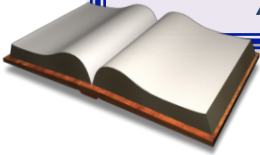
January 18, 2024

**Peter Cooney**

*Administrative Studies*



*As a lasting tribute to UWRA members, a library book is plated in their memories.*



## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee presented the slate of candidates given below at the December 5 monthly meeting. Current officers Judith Huebner, Jim Christie, and Neil Besner have agreed to stand for second terms (2024-2025) as President, Vice-President, and Past-President respectively, as permitted by the Constitution.

### PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2024-2025

(Candidates other than Pension Trustees will assume office following the February AGM)

#### Board of Directors

President	Judith Huebner
Past President	Neil Besner
Vice-President (President Elect)	James Christie
Secretary	Debbie Machula
Treasurer	Murray Wiegand
Member-at-Large #1 (Communications)	Dawn Rittberg
Member-at-Large #2 (Membership)	Lynn Jones

#### Other Positions

Pension Trustees on Trusteed Board (terms begin June 1)	Maryanne Walls (2022-2024) Murray Wiegand (2023-2025)
Newsletter Editor	Bill Rannie
Scholarship and Bursary Delegate	Ed Byard
United Way Delegate	Linda Dietrick

## University 55-Plus Programme Spring Courses

### WHAT IS 55-PLUS?

This programme offers short, non-credit courses which promote life-long learning with subject matters drawn from a wide variety of areas of interest, including the arts, science, history, religion, current affairs and more. They are taught by 'experts' drawn from UW faculty and the broader Manitoba community. There are no tests, assignments, or exams but lots of discussion and social interaction. Classes involve one 2-hour lecture per week for 6 weeks.

The programme can be contacted at [55plus@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:55plus@uwinnipeg.ca) or through the UW website by Googling "55plus program University of Winnipeg". Note that the course registration link on this site will direct you to a webpage listed as the U of W 55+ Programming on the Manitoba Conservatory of Music & Arts webpage.

### SPRING 55-Plus OFFERINGS

#### CREATING MANITOBA: THE EMERGENCE OF PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY

Instructor: **Dr. Gerald Friesen and Guests**

Six Tuesdays from April 9 to May 14, 09:30 – 11:30



The course will discuss the history of some of Manitoba's founding peoples and how they came to terms with evolving provincial, national, and global circumstances in the late nineteenth century. It will include (one in each of the six meetings): First Nations, Selkirk settlers, Michif/French-speaking Metis, Orange Order Canadians, first-wave Mennonites, and Bungee/English-speaking people of mixed ancestry. In addition to a lecture, the sessions will feature conversations with authors who have written about the groups, including Jean Friesen, Robert Lower, Phillippe Mailhot, Tom Broadbeck, and Roy Loewen. The last meeting will consider Manitoba as it appeared in 1887, John Norquay's last year as premier.

#### POVERTY IN WINNIPEG: CAUSES, COSTS, SOLUTIONS

Instructor: **Dr. Jim Silver**

Six Wednesdays, April 10 to May 15, 09:30 – 11:30



This course will examine poverty, and in particular what is called "complex poverty", in Winnipeg. Winnipeg is home to a high incidence of complex poverty, and this has become increasingly obvious in recent years, so the course will have relevance to the daily experiences of students.

Ideas and concepts that the course will address, in addition to complex poverty, include low-income rental housing and homelessness, colonialism and racism, the criminalization of poverty, the social determinants of health, the growth and consequences of inequality, the "blaming the victim" phenomenon, the high cost of allowing poverty to persist, and community development, employment strategies and universal social programs as means of solving poverty.

**NOTE ALSO: As a senior citizen, you can take credit courses for non-credit by auditing, or for credit toward a degree. Tuition is free either way.**

# WHAT ARE OUR MEMBERS UP TO?

## PER BRASK reports:

*"I have co-edited with Marianne Olsen and Ida Sophie Skriver Olsen an anthology of work by the Danish-Jewish thinker Andreas Simonsen entitled *Dialog & Diskonjunktio: Om Tro og Etik*, which I've translated into English, *Dialogue & Disconjunction: On Faith and Ethics*. The anthology was launched in Copenhagen on Nov 13 in celebration of the centenary of Simonsen's birth. Both versions are available from [saxo.com](http://saxo.com). The English version includes an afterword by Professor Jane Barter, Department of Religion & Culture."*

## JOCK LEHR had a most busy and varied year of publications.

Lehr, J. 2023. "Outside the colony: Jewish farmers on the Prairies." *Canadian Jewish Studies*, 36, (Fall): 79-88.

Lehr, J. 2023. "Wishful thinking: Describing the prairie climate and changing the weather," *Prairie History*, No. 12 (Fall) 19-25.

Wienersmith, K., Z. Wienersmith, R. Abamitzky, and J. Lehr, (2023) "To each according to their space-need: Communities in outer space," *Space Policy*, 101592.

Lehr, J. 2023. "The evolving prairie landscape," *Prairie History*, No.11, (Summer) 37-42.

Lehr, J. 2023. "Hutterites: A borderland society. *Prairie Perspectives: Geographical Essays*, 23: 1-6.

Lehr, J. 2023. "Rabbi Eliezer Gruber's Jewish agricultural settlement schemes in Manitoba," *Prairie History* No.10 (Spring) 20-32.

### If you have

- ✚ photos (other than your cat) which you would like to share
- ✚ received an award or honour
- ✚ accounts of an interesting thing you did or plan to do
- ✚ descriptions or pictures of places you have visited
- ✚ something you crossed off your bucket list
- ✚ publications or other academic endeavors
- ✚ anything else which might interest our members

please send them to me at [mewalker@mymts.net](mailto:mewalker@mymts.net) for inclusion in a future Newsletter



## CONTINUED ...



### GARDEN TOURS WITH LINDA DIETRICK



**Linda** has been recruited by Ruth MacRae of World Wide Ecotours (Calgary) to host tours of the world's great gardens, continuing a tradition started by Saskatoon horticulturist Sara Williams.

**UPCOMING TOURS:** Gardens of New York City, May 5-8, 2024  
Oregon Gardens: Portland, Salem and the Willamette Valley, September 4-8, 2024  
Devon and Cornwall: Spring or Fall, 2025 (tentative)

Descriptions can be found at [worldwideecotours.com](http://worldwideecotours.com).

Prices will depend on the number of participants. Linda will pay her own airfare but have her accommodation covered in exchange for providing knowledgeable hosting and support for the group.

To be added to the mailing list or to book a tour, please contact Ruth ([ruth@worldwideecotours.com](mailto:ruth@worldwideecotours.com)). Linda can be reached at [l.dietrick@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:l.dietrick@uwinnipeg.ca)



**The High Line Gardens in New York.**  
(Photo by Bryan Ledgard via Wikimedia Commons)



## SPRING ALMANAC

### Sunrise and Sunset Times, Day Lengths, and Average Temperatures in Winnipeg

Date	Sunrise (am)	Sunset (pm)	Day length (hr:min)	Ave. Max. (°C)	Ave. Min. (°C)	Average (°C)
January 27	8:08	5:14	9:05	-11.1	-21.4	-16.3
February 3	7:59	5:25	9:26	-10.4	-20.8	-15.6
February 10	7:48	5:39	9:50	-9.3	-19.8	-14.6
February 17	7:35	5:50	10:14	-7.8	-18.2	-13.0
February 24	7:22	6:01	10:39	-6.3	-16.5	-11.4
March 2	7:08	6:13	11:05	-4.8	-14.9	-9.9
March 9	6:53	6:24	11:31	-3.2	-13.4	-8.3
Note: Times after March 9 reflect the shift to Daylight Time at 2 a.m. on March 10.						
March 16	7:38	7:36	11:58	-1.1	-11.1	-6.1
March 23	7:23	7:47	12:24	1.4	-8.5	-3.6
March 30	7:08	7:58	12:50	4.0	-6.1	-1.1
April 6	6:53	8:09	13:16	6.9	-4.3	1.3
April 13	6:38	8:20	13:41	9.9	-2.7	3.6
April 20	6:24	8:31	14:06	12.4	-1.2	5.6
April 27	6:11	8:41	14:31	14.2	0.1	7.2
May 4	5:58	8:52	14:54	15.6	1.4	8.5
May 11	5:47	9:02	15:15	17.0	2.8	9.9
May 18	5:38	9:12	15:34	18.4	4.4	11.4
May 25	5:30	9:21	15:51	20.0	6.2	13.1
June 1	5:24	9:29	16:04	21.4	7.9	14.7
June 8	5:20	9:35	16:14	22.3	9.3	15.8



## LEAP YEARS

2024 is a Leap Year so February has an extra (29<sup>th</sup>) day. Leap Years occur every 4 years when an extra day (a Leap Day) is inserted into February to account for the fact that the true length of a year is 365.25 days but the normal calendar year contains only 365 days. Without this correction, the calendar and seasons would become more and more out of sync. A Leap Year occurs in every year divisible by 4 except in years ending in 00 which must also be divisible by 400. Thus 1900 was not a Leap Year but 2000 was. The next Leap Year will be 2028.

People born on a Leap Day are sometimes called Leaplings (but maybe not to their face).

It would be nice if there were some mystique about Leap Days to report but historically, they've been pretty boring. In Ireland, Leap Day was the one day when women were free to propose to men, a precursor, I suppose, of Li'l Abner's Sadie Hawkins Day (but which was more commonly in November). The only noteworthy events that have occurred on February 29 seem to have been the opening of the first Playboy Club in Chicago in 1960 and the first warrants being issued to women accused of witchcraft in Salem in 1692. Similarly, it seems the only 'famous' people who have been born on February 29 are singer Dinah Shore, big band leader Jimmy Dorsey, and Montreal Canadiens great Henri Richard.

Of special interest in Canada, however, Pierre Trudeau announced he was stepping down as PM on February 29 after his famous 'walk in the snow' the night before. As this year is a Leap Year, might history repeat itself?

# FLASHBULB MEMORIES



We all have exceptionally vivid, intense, long-lasting memories of particular events in our lives that were surprising, dramatic, shocking, emotionally-charged, and consequential. We can remember, often with intricate detail, where we were and what we were doing when the event occurred or when we learned about it. Psychologists call such memories '**FLASHBULB MEMORIES**' because they appear to capture the events with the *apparent* accuracy and permanence of a photograph illuminated by a flash. They may be positive or negative. There is debate about the *actual* accuracy of such memories and how they may change with time. Some may seem to last, essentially unchanged for very long times (essentially a lifetime) but some research indicates that flashbulb memories are not always stable and their accuracy may "drift" with time. In our own minds, however, there is little doubt about their accuracy or about their emotional impact on us and we usually describe the circumstances with great confidence.

Such 'flashbulb memories' may be of important autobiographical events (a marriage proposal, news of a loved one's death, first kiss, etc.) or they may be of dramatic public events in national or world affairs. The former will be entirely personal and shared with few or no others while the latter may be part of large communal memories common to most people who experienced them.

My memories of a couple of these dates have been stirred in the past few months and I wonder how many are shared with others of our 'advanced' years. Below are 10 dates on which an event occurred that I have flashbulb memories of. It's unfair to give only the date since even if we have an exceptional flashbulb memory of the event, we don't necessarily remember the exact date, just the event itself and where we were, what we were doing, etc. But see if you can identify what happened that might have been imprinted on your mind on these days as indelibly as they were on mine. Some are dead easy, others are harder, perhaps less likely to be shared as widely as I thought, and a couple might be unfair to those who weren't in Canada at the time, or are too old for our youngest members!

1. December 8, 1980
2. July 20, 1969
3. October 13, 1970
4. November 22, 1963
5. September 11, 2001
6. April 30, 1975
7. August 31, 1997
8. October 16, 1962
9. November 24, 1963
10. September 28, 1972

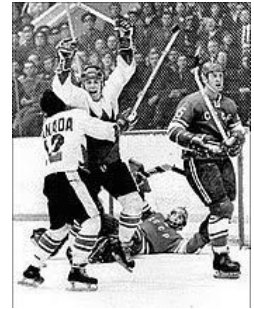
The answers are given on the next page.



**December 8, 1980** – John Lennon murdered at the door of his hotel



**September 28, 1972** – Paul Henderson scores the winning goal in the Canada-Soviet Summit Series



**October 13, 1970** - FLQ Crisis – “Just Watch Me” – PM Trudeau responding to the question “How far would you go?”



**August 31, 1997** – Death of Princess Diana



**September 11, 2001** – No need to elaborate



**November 22, 1963** – President Kennedy assassinated



**July 20, 1969** – First moon landing



**October 16, 1962** – Cuban missile crisis

**April 30, 1975** – Fall of Saigon and evacuation of US Embassy personnel



**November 24, 1963** – Lee Harvey Oswald murdered by Jack Ruby on live television



Vietnam civilians try to board a US helicopter at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, 1975.



## “Campus Novels”



Beginning in May 2018, these Newsletters have featured short reviews of “Campus Novels”, the genre of novels set in a university or college, which began to appear in the early 1950s. The subject matters include campus politics, collegial romances and sexual peccadillos, academic misbehaviors, tensions surrounding tenure, even murders; from the 1980s onward, such contemporary matters as gender inequities and sexual harassment have become increasingly common. Given universities’ eccentricities, absurdities, pettiness, egos, pomposities, and idiosyncrasies, it’s not surprising that comedy and satire are prominent. The great majority involve English or Writing Departments; a few other disciplines such as Sociology and Anthropology make occasional, often tangential, appearances, but the Sciences are almost nowhere to be found.

The varied British or American (and occasional Canadian) settings depict real differences in national institutional cultures and practices. The earlier books, particularly those set in Britain, portray academic environments that are quaint and eccentric, certainly very different from current ones. For several decades, the main characters were almost all men but women became increasingly prominent in the 1980s. The books also reflect the mores of their times, with all the misogyny, homophobia, sociopolitics, political incorrectness etc. that mark the past 60+ years. In recent decades, it seems like the standard satirical or serious academic plots have been mined out, largely replaced by murder mysteries set (sometimes loosely) on campus.

If you’ve read a ‘Campus Novel’, send a paragraph or two describing it and why you liked (or disliked) it.

### Cumulative List (with the Newsletter in which they appeared)

1. *Lucky Jim* – Kingsley Amis – Summer, 2018 - (Winnipeg Public Library)
2. *Changing Places* - David Lodge – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
3. *Small World* – David Lodge – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
4. *The Rebel Angels* – Robertson Davies – Fall, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
5. *A New Life* – Bernard Malamud – Fall, 2018 – (UW Library, PS 3563.A4N4 1962)
6. *Nice Work* – David Lodge – Winter, 2018 – (part of Lodge Trilogy, Winnipeg Public Library)
7. *The Groves of Academe* – Mary McCarthy – Winter, 2018 (UW Library)
8. *The Masters* – C. P. Snow – Winter, 2018 (UW library – PN 6037.N58M3 1951)
9. *Dear Committee Members* - Julie Schumacher – Winter, 2018 (Winnipeg Public Library)
10. *Death in a Tenured Position* – Amanda Cross – Spring, 2019 – (UW PS3558 E4526D4 1981)
11. *Sticks and Stones* – Janice MacDonald – Spring, 2019 – (UW PS 8575 A1633S7 2001)
12. *Death Without Tenure* – Joanne Dobson – Spring, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
13. *Purely Academic* – David Stephens – Summer, 2019 – Winnipeg Public Library
14. *Moo* – Jane Smiley – Fall, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
15. *The Shakespeare Requirement* – Julie Schumacher – Fall, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
16. *Straight Man* – Richard Russo – Winter, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
17. *A Large Harmonium* – Sue Sorensen – Winter, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
18. *The Devil and Webster* – Jean Hanff Korelitz – Spring, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
19. *The History Man* - Malcolm Bradbury – Spring, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
20. *Gaudy Night* – Dorothy L. Sayers – Summer, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
21. *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt – Summer, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
22. *Stoner* – John Williams – Fall, 2020 – Winnipeg Public Library)
23. *The Tenured Professor* – John Kenneth Galbraith – Fall, 2020 – (Kindle)
24. *The Human Stain* – Phillip Roth – Winter, 2020 – (Kindle)
25. *The Lecturer’s Tale* – James Hynes – Winter, 2020 – (Kindle)
26. *Pnin* - Vladimir Nabokov – Spring, 2021 – (Kindle)
27. *A Killing Spring* – Gail Bowen – Fall, 2021 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
28. *Burying Ariel* – Gail Bowen – Fall, 2021 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
29. *The Night the Gods Smiled* – Eric Wright – Winter, 2021 – (Kindle, Amazon)
30. *Disorientation* – Elaine Hsieh Chou – Summer, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
31. *Vladimir* – Julia May Jonas – Summer, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
32. *The Mark Twain Murders* – Edith Skom – Summer, 2022
33. *Matricide at St. Martha’s* – Ruth Dudley Edwards - Fall, 2022

34. *The Madness of Crowds* – Louise Penny - Winter, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
35. *Disorientation* – Elaine Hsieh Chou, Spring 2022 (reviewed in Time Magazine)
36. *The Memorial Hall Murder* – Jane Langton, Spring, 2022
37. *All Souls* – Javier Marias, Summer, 2023 (reviewed by Neil Besner)
38. *Simon Said* – Sarah R. Shaber, Summer, 2023 (reviewed by Dan Stone)
39. *The Long Lost Jules* – Jane Elizabeth Hughes, Summer, 2023 – (reviewed by Dan Stone)
40. *The Marriage Plot* – Jeffrey Eugenides, Fall, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
41. *The Theory of Death* – Faye Kellerman, Fall, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
42. *The Late Scholar* – Jill Paton Walsh, Winter, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
43. *Campusland* – Scott Johnson, Spring, 2024 – (Winnipeg Public Library)

**CAMPUSLAND** (2019) by Scott Johnson is a sharp satire in the tradition of the likes of Tom Sharpe and Kingsley Amis with a touch of David Lodge, updated to a modern time within the Trump-COVID-DEI-anti-wokeist era. It is set in the elite, very prestigious, Ivy League Devon University (think Harvard or Yale) and involves the entwined stories of Lulu, a totally self-possessed, vacuous, privileged first-year student (think Paris Hilton if she had gone to university), Ephraim (Eph) Russell, a liberal English professor, desperately seeking tenure, who is universally well-liked and whose classes are always fully subscribed, a variety of pseudo-fraternities, radical political student organizations (think Students for a Democratic Society of the late 60's for those of you who are old enough), and various university administrators and donors.



The unfortunate Eph's tenure prospects fade to zero when he becomes the entirely innocent victim first of a vicious set-up in the guise of a protest over the use of the n-word in a class on Huckleberry Finn and then of a false accusation of sexual assault, also a set-up. The latter charge initiates a bizarre public demonstration that ultimately involves all of the players – frat boys, inept administrators, scheming colleagues with their own agendas, wealthy donors, and a gullible media in a spectacular dénouement.

The satire in *Campusland* is caustic and at times quite over the top, but as with all good satire, often with sufficient grains of plausibility to make it all the more uncomfortable. It is quite likely to offend every reader, liberal or conservative equally, with plenty left over. Fraternities, DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) policies, sexual assault investigations, and most viciously, Title IX practices (the US legislation which prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally-funded educational programs) are all ridiculed. Along the way, such matters as trigger warnings, unisex washrooms, social attitudes in Alabama, 'wokeism', 'cancel culture', gender issues and others. Most of these are prominent in the news these days and are left in ruins. The book is broadly humorous but the humour is dark.

Praise for *Campusland* has been effusive with 60% of the submissions on Goodreads rating it 4 or 5 out of 5 stars and another 25% gave it 3 stars. Descriptors used by these groups include "brilliant", "hilariously funny", "breath of fresh air", "satire at its best" etc. As is common with satire, however, some readers have been irredeemably offended by what they consider conservative propaganda, a point with enough substance to make liberal readers squirm at many places.

In an Afterword, the author reveals some of his bias, which might support the liberals' arguments:

*"Campusland is a work of fiction. Kind of. The American college has evolved into a strange place, and while Campusland is written as satire, it doesn't stretch the truth by much, and sometimes not at all. Title IX, as depicted, is true to life. If you want some good nonfiction on the subject, I suggest Laura Kipnis's excellent (and horrifying) book Unwanted Advances. (Note: As of this writing, the Department of Education has begun reviewing some of Title IX's more troublesome aspects.)"*