

# im print

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**GUN VIOLENCE RISING IN KW**  
Shooting homicides are increasing in Kitchener-Waterloo, where residents can expect more cops.



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**LUNAR NEW YEAR**  
Learn the history and celebrate the Year of the Rat in KW.

**TERMINAL LIVE P7**

UW beats U of T seven to nine at the Terminal Live competition.

**DEAR KOBE P6**

Dashawn Stephens' touching eulogy says goodbye to one of his heroes.

**MATT LANG P9**

Imprint interviews voice star and country music singer Matt Lang.



# Students left out in the cold in GRT-union fight P2

JANSHER SAEED, WENDY ZHOU & HARSHITHA DAMODARAN



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# How students face the GRT strike

Daanish Rawal  
Reporter

The GRT strike has rocked the day-to-day life of students in the KW region.

Over 17,000 students are being affected daily, along with various other vulnerable sections of the region, including the disabled and new refugees.

Imprint asked five students how their lives have been affected in the wake of the strike.

All responses have certain commonalities, like the challenges faced while commuting back and forth from campus, yet each interviewee provided some unique perspectives.

Ola, a second year student of biomedical science stated that she was over thirty minutes late for numerous classes due to

the distance between her home and campus. She also emphasized the cooperation between students for providing rideshares to those in need. Imprint found that numerous students with cars have stepped in on the Facebook rideshare pages, offering free rides to those in need.

Mahmood, an international student from Jordan, described the challenges of having to walk in the snow and being late for all of his classes— even missing a few of them. He insists holidays or reimbursement should be provided to those who own a GRT pass instead of having the school change its schedule entirely. Conestoga College has agreed to reimburse its full time students who have GRT passes (GRT term passes are not universal, but a termly \$300 discounted pass) with up to \$200 for transportation costs. In the wake of Conestoga College's move to reimburse its

students for transportation, it remains to be seen if such an action will be instituted by UW.

Athea, a first year student, described her struggles stemming from the GRT strike— having to walk in snow and taking longer than usual to reach class. She believed that the university should change its schedule because of the strike as it is not fair towards the students who are left without options to commute and live further from campus.

Hannah, another second year student, stated her struggles, as she happens to live a 20 minute walk from campus. According to Hannah, the sidewalks from her home to campus were also not shoveled, thereby making her rely on following the footprints left by people who walked before. It also represents a heightened health hazard, as one is at a constant risk of slip-

ping on the ice and injuring themselves. Upon being asked if the school should change their schedule due to the strikes, Hannah insisted upon having professors understand the daily challenges faced by students in their commute and act accordingly (in terms of accommodations) rather than have the school entirely change its schedule.

Yasmeen, our last interviewee, provided some deep insights not only on the plight of students but also on the relatively newer Syrian refugees whom she deals with as a volunteer.

Speaking on her personal experiences, she acknowledged the delays the GRT strike caused her on numerous appointments and classes. She emphasized the need for professors to be accommodating in the wake of the strike and cooperate with students to make up for missed classes and participation, instead of having the school to change the schedule altogether (which according to her, was not practical).

More than herself, she was concerned with the well being of the young refugee families being adversely affected by the strike. Being an active translator for new refugees, she described an instance where she had to help a new family of five (including two young children) from Syria get car insurance. This family had to hire two Ubers every time they had to go somewhere for completion of documents and related tasks due to the maximum occupancy of car-for-hire rules.

The majority of refugees don't have large amounts of disposable income that can be used on Ubers, often relying on government help initially while settling down.

Yet there are many families like the one described who are now being forced to rely on private (and expensive) modes of transportation such as Uber and taxis, because of the ongoing strike.

Students emphasized the need for professors to be more empathetic towards the plight of those without a car and recognize their efforts to make it to the classes, even if late due to weather and sidewalk conditions, rather than having the school entirely change its schedule. Students are missing out on classes, and those that do make the trek to campus have to face tricky conditions due to unshoveled sidewalks and winter conditions or pay for an Uber or cab.

Negotiations continued Tuesday as both the region and the union face pressure from residents trying to get around town.



Bus stops around campus, usually full of commuters, now sit empty as students are forced to walk or find alternate transportation.

# KW gun crime on the rise

Jansher Saeed  
Reporter

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) is taking drastic action to combat rising gun crime in the region with the help of additional funding from the Ontario government. The initiative is driven by concerns related to the 21 shooting-related incidents that occurred in Waterloo in 2019—five of which were homicides.

“We’ve got a rising violent crime rate,” WRPS Chief Bryan Larkin said. “We’ve recently redeployed operational resources in our organization to provide support to our major crime team.”

On Saturday at 7:00 p.m., officers marched into the Marianne Dorn Trail in the Strasburg area of Kitchener to lead a police investigation on the first homicide of the year. A 48-year-old man was pronounced dead on arrival of the scene while a 77-year-old man was taken into custody.

Police say the two men knew each other but did not provide details on their relationship or any other matter concerning the incident.

In April of last year, Helen Schaller, 58, was killed after she was shot multiple times in the area of King Street East and Church Street in Cambridge.

In August of last year, Kyle Parthe was also fatally shot in a Cambridge plaza after a dispute between two groups of men.

WRPS acknowledged the alarming increase in violent crimes.

“Organized crime and those that commit crime, they do not respect jurisdictions, they have tentacles in all communities,” Chief Larkin, said in July of last year.

WRPS also remarked that many of the people charged with drug trafficking and violent crime are not from the Waterloo region — instead, the area is seeing an overflow of crime traced back to other parts of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

“Often, our investigations find the tentacles of crime go back to the GTA,” Const. Ashley Dietrich, public relations officer with the police service said.

“Because individuals involved in criminal activity do not necessarily respect geographical boundaries, we are seeing an increase in violent and non-violent crime in Waterloo region.”

WRPS is still concerned with the level of occupancy they have in dealing with immediate crimes. There is limited time and resources available to solve the problem at its source.

Patrick Watson, an assistant professor in criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Brantford, said growing income inequality and high property prices in the region could be a driving force behind more violent gun crime.

“The income inequality in Waterloo Region is pretty dramatic at this point, especially with the sort of market forces that are being driven on property prices by the tech sector,” Watson said.

Regional police will be receiving \$8.5 million in funding from a new grant program administered by the Government of Ontario to provide Waterloo with a fighting chance against the spike in gun crime. The grant will be directed towards investigating local issues, human trafficking and gang violence.

WRPS has received approximately \$1.5 million for provincial priorities, with \$7 million dedicated towards local ones.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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UW INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION



# Uncertainty on Student Choice Initiative

Suhani Saigal  
News Editor

The future of the Student Choice Initiative at UW is more uncertain than ever.

In early December the Ontario government appealed the Divisional Court ruling on the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) that was declared “unlawful”.

“At this point, we are in discussions with the student associations about next semester, and will continue to work collaboratively with them moving forward,” Matthew Grant, director of Media Relations, UW, said. The implementation of the SCI, a directive that allowed postsecondary students to opt-out of certain incidental fees, was challenged by the Canadian Federation of Students- Ontario (CFS-O) and the York Federation of Students (YFS). The fees, more often than not, are meant for on-campus groups like student unions, newspapers, food banks, and others.

The policy was enacted for the academic

year 2019-2020 at all postsecondary institutions in Ontario.

“Last semester, the University gave students a choice on certain fees, as per the government’s initiative. We are aware of the recent court decision related to SCI and continue to monitor the situation, including the Government of Ontario’s decision to appeal,” Grant said. The court overturned the SCI because the government had overstepped its authority and was interfering with the autonomy of universities and student unions. The government, however, argued that it had the authority to attach conditions to the funding given to public colleges and universities and has applied for leave to appeal, but it is yet to be granted.

“The University of Waterloo continues to follow the progression of the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) and to work with campus stakeholders as things change,” Grant said. There were two intervenors in court: the University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union (UTGSU), supporting the CFS-O and the YFS, and B’Nai Brith of Canada League for Human Rights, supporting the government.

# HEADACHES?

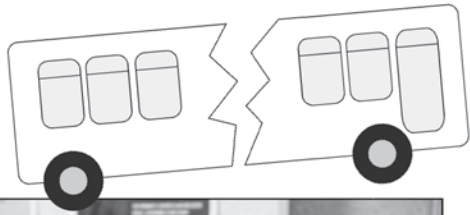
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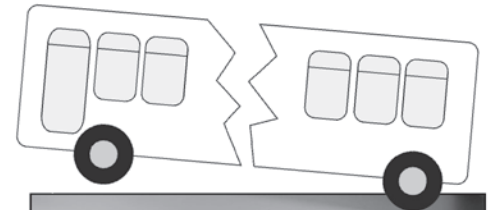
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# Campus Question

## How did the GRT strike affect you?



**Ikkshita Vinaya, 1B**  
Environment and Business

"The bus strike has been affecting me really badly because I have to look for apartments nearby and I cannot go and then I have to take an Uber which is very expensive. I have to go to the mall, nearby shopping places to get my regular stuff and I cannot so I am low on supplies and have nothing left in my room to have or eat and all my groceries are out. That's very sad. This is the biggest inconvenience I've ever faced here."



**Laila Risk, 2B**  
Biomedical Science

"I have to wake up a lot earlier in the morning to get to class I walk like 20 minutes as opposed to 10 minutes to get to class. It's really hard to go grocery shopping, I've actually had to order my groceries online. It's really hard to get to places and it's cold outside. It's hard to cross the street in the morning. We all pay so much every semester for the busses and it's hard to get the ION to go places because not everyone lives close to the ION."



**Rashimi Gopaul, 1B**  
Biomedical Science

"I'm in my first year so I live in residence. I don't really need to take public transportation unless I just want to go to the supermarket. I rarely leave my room, I'm kind of anti-social so no. I just study and watch YouTube videos. I've made friends with people in res, I don't really know anyone else."



**Tyler Zhang, 4A**  
Computer Science

The bus strike hasn't really affected me. I was lucky enough to live on Lester Street this term so the campus is just a 15-minute walk away so I don't have to take the bus. I usually stay on campus or go to Conestoga mall and the LRT still takes you there so that's not a big issue. I don't really go to any other places, I just started UberEating McDonald's instead of bussing over there."

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# WUSA elections

**Jansher Saeed**  
Editorial Assistant

On January 27, Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) officially released their nominations for the upcoming Winter 2020 election. Candidates for President, Vice President Education, Vice President Operations and Finance, Vice President Student Life, Student Council and Student Senate were announced.

For more information on candidate platforms, students and faculty can come see an electoral debate hosted by *Imprint* for the executive position roles. Here is everything you need to know about the upcoming election.

### Important Dates

The upcoming election entered its campaign period on January 28, running until Feb. 6. Within that time period, voting will also begin starting Feb. 4-6.

Online voting begins at 12 a.m. on Feb. 4 and closes at 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 6. Results for the election will be released by WUSA in the SLC Great Hall on Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

### Student Senate

The UW Senate is comprised of University admin, faculty and elected student lead-

ers.

The Senate is responsible for any issues relating to academic quality, including the granting of degrees, setting program requirements and approving academic regulations. Candidates also run to represent their faculty, including all undergrads.

Some of the issues they are concerned with include Fall Reading Break and program requirements.

### Students' Council

Students running for council aim to represent their faculty, college or campus.

The councillors will oversee the WUSA Executives, Board of Directors, determine priorities for WUSA fees and approval of the fees, and decide what WUSA advocates for and how it is run.

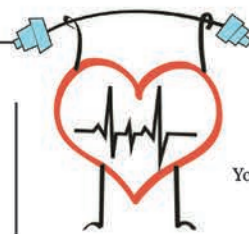
### Voting

During the voting period, students have the option to vote online at [vote.wusa.ca](http://vote.wusa.ca) or vote in person at WUSA's on-campus polling stations.

More information on these polling statements will be released by WUSA in the time leading up to the election.

WUSA uses a ranked ballot system where students rank candidates from most favourite to least.

# sports & health



**WRITE FOR SPORTS**  
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## The valuable role of intervenors

**Jansher Saeed**  
 Editorial Assistant

When a group of parents lobbied the Ontario government in 1989, they stepped up to be the voices of their children with deafblindness.

They hoped to secure funding for community-based living support programs for when those children finished school.

Independent Living Residences for the Deafblind in Ontario (ILRDBRO), now renamed DeafBlind Ontario Services, emerged as a product of this movement on April 6, 1989.

DeafBlind Ontario Services specializes in providing accessible and customized support services to deaf and blind service users across the province.

"Our holistic approach to Intervenor Services empowers people with deafblindness to achieve their goals and dreams," reads DeafBlind Services' website.

One way they do this is through the use of intervenors — people who provide auditory and visual assistance to individuals with deafblindness.

Intervenors also a medium of connecting service users to people in their community, acting as a communication partner.

"Working as an intervenor helps me to be a better person; it allows me to guide someone to really experience the joys the world has to offer," Jesse Downes, an intervenor who has worked at DeafBlind Ontario Services for 11 years, said.

Deafblindness is a combination of vision and hearing impairments, a condition that can uniquely vary from person to person.

Deafblindness has the potential to limit access to information, communication, mobility, and can lead to social isolation.

To bridge the gap between deafblind impacted individuals and their communities, has created a program of activities led by the intervenors for deafblind individuals.

"There can be anywhere from three activities for the day or nine... It all depends on the plans, it can mean a bigger community outing or something like a craft at home. I support each individual with these activities based on their specific and unique needs, always encouraging their independence. Throughout the day, there are times when you may need to administer medication or help with personal care, too," Downes said.

Approximately one percent of the Canadian population, roughly 368,400 people, are deafblind, deafblind individuals are estimated at around 147,736 in Ontario alone.

It is an area in high demand and is a service sector currently experiencing growth, DeafBlind Ontario Services said.

"As an intervenor, every workday is different. The people we support at DeafBlind Ontario Services have a range of plans, personal goals, and commitments. The role of the intervenor may take you to a local volunteer placement where your support will encourage the individual's independence, or on a community outing. The intervenor also bridges the gap with day-to-day tasks in their home", DeafBlind Ontario Services' Chief Operating Officer, Karen Keyes, said.

The problem: a shortage of trained individuals.

George Brown College's Intervenor for Deafblind Persons's two-year Bachelor's program is currently the program of its



Jesse Downes, an intervenor, says working with patients makes him a better person.

kind available in Ontario.

With the new year, Deafblind Ontario Services invites potential intervenors towards a new career. "We believe that with

a helping hand and supportive touch, individuals with deafblindness can increase their independence on their own terms," reads DeafBlind Ontario Services' website.

**THIS WEEK IN ATHLETICS**

WATERLOO WARRIORS

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**BATTLE AT THE AUD**

UW and Laurier's men's hockey teams will square off in a special Battle of Waterloo game at the Kitchener Auditorium on Jan. 29 at 7:00 p.m. It's an important game for UW, who would be eliminated from playoff contention if they lose.

**UW SWIMMERS DOMINATE LAST MEET****BEFORE PROVINCIALS**

The Warriors' swim team had a strong showing at the Brock Invitational on Jan. 27, capturing gold in 24 of 28 events. Next up for the swim team is the OUA Championships on Feb. 6 in Scarborough.

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STAYS****UNDEFEATED IN 2020**

UW's women's volleyball team didn't drop a set en route to back-to-back victories over Trent and Nipissing. The Warriors, who have been climbing up the standings, are now tied for first in their division.

# Dear Kobe Bryant



**Dashawn Stephens**  
*Sports Columnist*

What you meant to the game of basketball needs no explanation.

NBA All-Rookie Second Team, NBA Slam Dunk Contest Champion, three-time NBA All-Defensive Second Team, nine-time NBA All-Defensive First Team, two-time All-NBA Third Team, two-time All-NBA Second Team, 11-time All-NBA First Team, two-time NBA Scoring Champion, fourth on the NBA All-Time Scoring List, two-time Olympic Gold Medalist, 18-time NBA All-Star, four-time NBA All-Star Game MVP, 2008 NBA Most Valuable Player, five-time NBA Champion, two-time NBA Finals MVP, and I'll say it now, 2020 James Naismith Pro Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee.

Your career was more than just statistics and accolades. Your story was written on the narrative of great discipline and dedication.

From the moment you entered the NBA, you vowed to one day dethrone the ghost in Chicago. Many laughed, many doubted, many did not believe.

But you believed, and that's all that mattered.

On your path, you built a reputation of hard work. Players over the course of your career can attest to seemingly unbelievable amount of hours you spent by yourself in the gym shooting, or the unbelievable early hours you'd wake up to, to get in a lift.

To many, it was almost as if you weren't human. You brought intensity not only to the work done on the court, but to the work done behind closed doors. You were never secretive about the process—always open and honest. There was never any magic involved, just hard work.

Throughout your career, you never let failures, obstacles, or limitations sit on your mind or heart.

Whether it was the 3 straight air balls in Utah, the laundry list of injuries in 2000-01, or the torn Achilles in 2013, you always responded with passion and perseverance.

Your work ethic was notorious. The stories are endless.



CAITLYN YU

For 20 years, you redefined what it meant to work hard and created a mentality that has become synonymous with your legacy.

The "Mamba Mentality" may have been created by a basketball player, but it transcends sport. It was for anyone with a goal or a dream that would do anything to accomplish it. The Mamba Mentality was about going out and

achieving that goal, conquering that dream.

In the second half of your career, you made 24 more than just your jersey number. You made it the number of hard-working hours one should aim to meet every day.

Kobe, we mourn your loss, and we mourn the loss of your daughter, Gianna.

There is no doubt that she was ready to carry your torch in the game of basketball.

Losing you was losing a large piece of basketball history, but losing Gianna was losing a large piece of

basketball future. We mourn the loss of the other seven passengers, whose families have also been devastated by these unforeseen events. You've done so much for the game of basketball on the court, but many believe you were about to out-do yourself in your post-retirement.

An NBA star of the past, you were a mentor to the stars of the future. It's been four years since you hung up your jersey, but your proteges keep your game alive. There is Kobe in DeMar DeRozan's footwork, Devin Booker's mid-range game, Kyrie Irving's 5-on-1 mentality, and in almost every player in today's league.

You took the time to work out with players who sought you out, teaching them the moves in your arsenal, but one didn't have to know you personally to learn from you. Your "Detail" video series educated fans and children, allowing them to recreate the Mamba's moves in their driveways. The "Kobe Pipeline" will be generational. You were a huge advocate for women's basketball and the WNBA. Your support wasn't just reflected through words, but through actions. You showed up to games and supported many female athletes on their journeys. Whether they are professional, collegiate, or AAU, there are countless female athletes today practicing the Mamba Mentality. And you were just getting started on your mission to champion women in sports.

You were also a vocal advocate for the future of sports on a global scale. Your goal was to inspire as many athletes as you could and equip them with all with the tools needed to achieve success. The Mamba Sports Academy was just the beginning, serving as an incubator for athletes of all sports to work hard and chase their dreams.

But you were more than just basketball. You reached out to athletes across all disciplines, giving stars like Novak Djokovic the confidence to push through injury and teaching others like Neymar how to navigate fame. You set the example for how to be a superstar role model and taught us all how to be professionals on and off the court.

Although you're gone, your legacy is immortal.

As basketball fans, we are grateful for the privilege to witness you create art on the court.

As athletes, we are grateful for the mentality you pushed onto us to be our best selves. As human beings, we are grateful for the inspiration you gave us to chase our dreams.

Thank you for your love of basketball, your dedication to sports, and your commitment to excellence.

Thank you, Kobe.



## Are hackers targetting UW?

John Edwards  
Science Reporter

Students are seeing a rise in scam and phishing campaigns delivered straight to their university email.

UW students particularly receive emails such as tax refund emails pretending to be from the Canada Revenue Agency, fake blackmail emails that lie to students about release embarrassing (non-existing) footage of students for digital currency, and fake job ads for a position of "Mystery Shopper" from strangers pretending to be UW students.

In light of these scams, is UW becoming a target for hackers and scammers? The answer is a bit complex.

Florian Kerschbaum, Executive Director of the Waterloo Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute, said UW is not being targeted any more than any other university.

Kerschbaum pointed out that online scams aren't an isolated incident happening only to UW or even to Ontario universities. Kerschbaum went even further by giving

the example of Justus Liebig University, a university in Germany, dealing with hackers and scammers as well.

But higher educational institutions are an increasing favourite among phishing campaigns according to one cybersecurity professional.

Mark Sangster, Vice President and Industry Security Strategist at eSentire, answered in an email that "Students and educational skills institutions are fast becoming a popular target. Academic records are also tied to financial records via tuition payments. And this information can be used to steal money directly, or defraud both the institution and students. Students receive fake payment info and pay through a fake portal."

"We have also witnessed social engineering tactics like phishing campaigns that look to come from the registrar of the school, but lead back to criminal operations. Often it refers to a financial refund for overpayment. The student logs into the fake portal and thereby surrenders their legit credentials. We've also seen student targeted with job offers that require them to provide bank-

ing info to receive payment. They are fake," Sangster explained.

Sangster said that Waterloo in general receives attacks from hackers and scammers on a regular basis.

"The KW region is regularly the target of cybercrime. Local businesses, hospitals and likely individuals are victims. Hospitals in southwestern Ontario, including Listowel were disrupted last year by ransomware attacks. And we are aware of local businesses that were targeted," Sangster said, "asking about regional risk touches on a major point. Most [local companies] don't see themselves as targets. They can't imagine criminal groups in Asia and Russia targeting KW. But they do. In short, KW business is already under attack. Victims suffer silently and criminals operate at home, here, with impunity,"

In addition, Sangster noted that important data many people overlook can be stolen, sold and resold for money. Data such as email addresses, names and credentials, school records, IP addresses. People volunteer some of these of their own free will in

lotteries or draws that require contact information.

When asked why people should be expected to protect themselves, Sangster answered that people should expect to be protected, but it doesn't always work in practice.

"Police and intelligence agencies are pivoting to protect people against such attacks but they often operate outside the reach of conventional law. Local police work with national police and intelligence to combat foreign crime organizations," Sangster explained. Sangster associated this predicament to the Wild West. The law exists, people to uphold the law exist as well, but that's not enough.

"Think before you click," Sangster says. Be suspicious, if an email or notification doesn't seem right. Ask questions and investigate using trusted sources. If using a public WiFi, one protect their IP address with a VPN they can count on. On the university campus alone, students can find various sources, such as The Centre in Irene Needle's Hall, with staff willing to help however they can.

## UW captures Terminal Lives top-prize

John Edwards  
Science Reporter

Saturday night, Jan. 25, 2020, teams representing the UW managed to beat those representing the University of Toronto seven out of nine times in Terminal Live, an overwhelming victory for UW.

Terminal Live is an event hosted by Correlation-One, and sponsored by Citadel and Citadel Security, where various teams composed of 2-3 people compete on who can create better algorithms for their artificial intelligence (A.I.) to win a game called Terminal.

Terminal is a turn-based game in the tower defense genre created by Junaid Nomani, one of the Correlation-One event coordinators present at Terminal Live. Unlike most turn-based games, the two players actually make their moves at the same time.

A mechanic similar to rock-paper-scissors where, instead of showing a hand sign, independent units strategically placed on a grid to attack and defend.

Terminal has two types of unit, offence and defense. The three defensive units remain stationary to defend against attacks,

the three offensive units move varying speeds and attack the opposition differently.

The goal is to make the opposition's "health" reach zero first. Terminal is also online and available for people to play manually or with algorithms they created. They can play against A.I. bosses created by Correlation-one or against their own algorithm. The competition, on the other hand, is invite only.

People can apply on the Terminal website, submitting an application is simple, no payment required, but the questions on the application are fairly challenging.

This is the first time Terminal Live pitted two educational institutes against each other. With Terminal Live gaining more institutes interested, it became possible to have schools compete against each other.

This season the first competition was between UW and University of Toronto. There were a few technical issues on the day of the competition took place that acted as an extra challenge for the participating teams, but overall, the participants had fun at the event. The event lasted roughly eight hours and the teams spent the majority of it creating the algorithms for their A.I.'s. Food and refreshments were provided and coor-

dinators from Correlation-One were on site to provide technical support and ensure everyone had a great time.

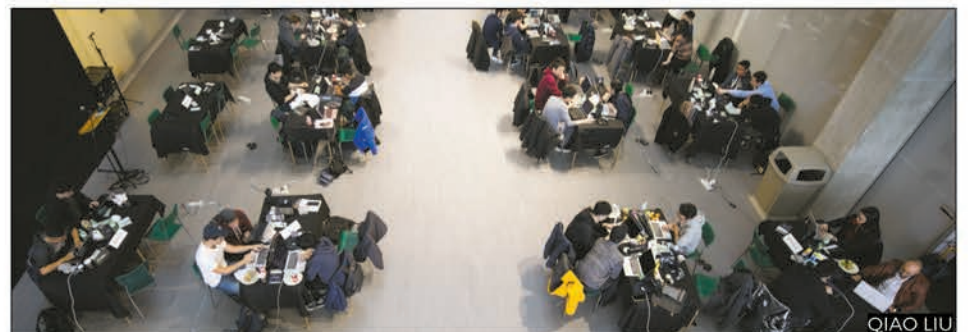
According to Rebecca Rodriguez and Alex Klufas of Correlation-One, they encourage participants to prepare beforehand, read the rules and play against the A.I. bosses. Doing so poses no problem to the competition because the game is modified, requiring the teams participating to make changes to their algorithms in order to compensate. The representatives for the universities were picked from the highest scoring teams that were in the competition. The three that scored the highest and became the representatives for the UW were Yellow Goose, Traveling Wilburys, and Garpuz.

The teams from the University of Toronto that scored the highest and became the representatives were Free Snacks, Alpha Pro, and Terminal Hackermans.

Alpha Pro and Terminal Hackermans managed to eke out victories, but the teams representing UW came out victorious. Team Garpuz being the overall winner of Terminal Live.

According to Victor Hall, one of the four coordinators of from Correlation-One, Terminal Live is a great place to network with competitors and recruiters.

When asked, many of the participants stated that they would recommend Terminal Live to others because it is a fun and competitive experience.





## *The Year of the Rat:* Students at UW welcome the Lunar New Year

Miley Xu  
Reporter

Unlike the solar calendar that is based on the sun's movement, the Chinese follow the Lunar calendar that is based on the phases of the moon. According to this calendar, this new year falls on Jan. 25. The New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important calendar event for Chinese people.

The 12 Chinese zodiac symbols introduce 12 animals—each representing a year—in the sequence of Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster,

Dog, and Pig.

Similar to the 12 zodiac signs, each animal represents a personality. For example, people who were born in the year of the Dog are loyal and never give up halfway. Similarly, many tend to avoid having a baby in the year of the Sheep because Sheep year babies tend to be susceptible to diseases.

"Year" in Chinese is called "Nian" and it has its own legend. Once upon a time, there was a hideous monster called "Nian" with long horns, sharp teeth and fierce eyes. It stayed in a cave all the time except during the New Year's Day when it would go to the village to eat people. It was said that "Nian" was only afraid of the colour red and loud

noises. Therefore, every villager set off fire-crackers and stuck Spring Festival couplets to scare Nian away. Although "Nian" no longer exists, the tradition has been passed down. Another tradition is to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Families light candles or oil lamps and gather together for a night vigil. It's a symbol to drive away all evil plagues in the coming New Year. Furthermore, it has two different meanings. The elderly go for a vigil to bid farewell to the old year and cherish time spent, while the younger generation stays up to pray to prolong their parents' lives. Chinese people eat traditional food that has symbolic meaning on New Year's Day. Noodles symbolize longevity.

The longer the noodles, the longer the life. The shape of dumplings is made to resemble the gold or silver ingots of ancient China, hence the Chinese believe eating dumplings can bring great fortune.

There are many relevant celebration activities in the KW region. The City of Kitchener hosted a Chinese New Year event at the Kitchener Farmers Market on Jan 25. THEMUSEUM in Downtown Kitchener hosted a lion dance and other Chinese New Year-themed events on Jan 26.

Another Chinese celebration to look forward to is the Chinese Lunar New Year Gala that will be held at the UW's Federation Hall on Feb 2.



Students at UW get crafty while ringing in the New Year

PHOTOS JINLIN LI



# Matt Lang: Canada's next country star

*“And all my prized possessions  
My slight obsessions  
You know I’ve got a few more than a few  
But I don’t love nothin’  
No, I don’t love nothin’ like”*

- MATT LANG, LOVE ME SOME YOU, 2018

Sharanya Karkera and Lauren Speight  
Arts & Life Editor and Reporter

Nashville, Tennessee, 2018—Canadian singer-songwriter Matt Lang strums his guitar in a dimly lit lounge to record his very first English single. Two years later, “Love Me Some You,” has over 1.6 million Spotify plays and 2.6 million all-time streams. His latest single, “Water Down The Whiskey,” received recognition as the Most Added song at all Canadian radio formats and the Country radio format the week it was released.

What sets Lang apart from his contemporaries is his warm, powerful vocals and Nashville-esque twang. Ahead of his performance as part of the Good Ones Tour in Waterloo, *Imprint* got the chance to get to know him a little.

Born and raised in Maniwaki, Quebec, Lang began playing music when he was a teenager. He was playing hockey at the time but quickly discovered his heart was not in the sport, but in writing and playing music. Back in his hometown, Lang worked for a local radio station and performed at one of their events. He recalls this being a defining moment in his career: the moment he realized music was his path, and he hasn't looked back since.

Having grown up listening to Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, and Dwight Yoakam, Lang continues to find inspiration in old school country. More recently, he has found himself humming the tunes of Luke Combs and other country artists who give the genre a pop rock twist. Although he has always been a fan of American country music, growing up in Quebec and having French as his first language, has significantly influenced his work and sound.

More interestingly, growing up, he didn't exclusively listen to the American greats, enjoying local music from Quebec artists like Kain, Les Colocs, and Okoume. Lang didn't exclusively listen to the American greats growing up; he enjoyed more local music from Quebec artists like Kain, Les Colocs, and Okoume.

Lang kicked off his career with a French album in 2015, following his time on the Quebec version of *The Voice*. He realized,

however, that country music was what he'd be happiest pursuing.

When Lang released his first-ever English album in April 2018, he didn't anticipate how quickly his music and career would take off. “I didn't expect things to move so fast. It made me realize how far things could go, and it made me want to work even harder to achieve my goals. It took away any doubt I might have had. I am very lucky to do what I love and have that kind of support,” he said.

Though he loves being in the studio, his heart lies in performance and the more social, interactive aspects of the job. Lang loves touring, watching and hearing his audience singing along to his songs, and spending time with his band when they're on the road.

One thing that is very important to Lang is the experience his audience has at his shows. He describes his set as a “big party.” “We play the tracks from my first album, some new songs and some classic country and rock covers. Be prepared to sing and dance.”

Though he's still a new artist on the scene, Lang has received several awards and accolades, including several CCMA Awards, Billboard Top New Artist, and Academy of Country Music / Top New Vocal Group. According to Lang, winning the SIRIUS Top Of The Country contest was particularly special because it was the first one, and it was both extensive and competitive. Interestingly, the attention hasn't changed his music or his creative approach. What it has done, though, is given him made him more confident.

Heading into 2020, Lang says he wants to play as many stages as he can, meet as many people as possible, and share his music with anyone who wants to hear it. There is no doubt that the coming year is going to be a successful one for Lang, as 2020 is about to introduce Europe to his music and prepare his fans for a new album that is in the works.

When asked if he had any words of wisdom for those pursuing music themselves, he said, “Follow your heart, work hard and surround yourself with the best team. And always remember to have fun!”

If you want to hear Lang play live, you can catch him crooning his songs at Maxwell's on Friday, Jan 31.



COURTESY HARLTONEMPIRE

Matt Lang poses for the Good Ones Tour poster, who will visit Waterloo on Jan. 31

# campus bulletin

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN

Submit your 30-word announcement or upcoming event to [ads@uwimprint.ca](mailto:ads@uwimprint.ca) for free.

## upcoming events

### January 2020

**For all of** UpTown Waterloo Winter activities visit [www.uptownwaterloo.ca](http://www.uptownwaterloo.ca).

**Savour in Stratford** — Saturday morning Market from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Rotary Complex, and more, [www.visitstratford.com](http://www.visitstratford.com).

**Unplug from screens.** Connect with friends. Sing your faith. Chapel Choir meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Sign up for an audition at [uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles](http://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles). No prep required. For more details [ksteiner@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ksteiner@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-885-0220, ext 24226.

**Choral and Ensemble** auditions begin. Can be taken for credit (.25) or extracurricular activity. For more info [www.uwaterloo.ca/music/ensemblesmusic@uwaterloo.ca](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/music/ensemblesmusic@uwaterloo.ca).

### Sunday, February 2

**KW Chamber Music** presents "The Andromeda Trio" at 8 p.m. at KW Chamber Music Society, 57 Young Street, W., Waterloo (walkable from campus). To reserve tickets/info contact [jnarveso@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jnarveso@uwaterloo.ca).

### Wednesday, February 5

**Partnerships for Employment (P4E) Job Fair** - meet with 200+ employers at the largest Fair of its kind in the country at Manulife Sportsplex at RIM Park (free busing from Ring Road at Hagey Hall). Begins at 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. from campus). For more info [partners4employment.ca](http://partners4employment.ca).

### Tuesday, February 11

**Coin collectors - The Waterloo Coin Society (WCS)** is meeting today at 6:30 p.m. at 510 Dutton Drive, Waterloo. Attendance is free

and all are welcome. The month's meeting includes door prizes and a 50 lot auction open to all. Membership discount for UW and WLU students. Visit our website [www.waterloocoinssociety.com](http://www.waterloocoinssociety.com) or email vicepresident@waterloocoinssociety.com.

### Saturday, February 29

**Emmanuel United Church** presents "The Soviet Influence" at 7 p.m. at 22 Bridgeport Road, W., Waterloo. 519-886-1471 or [info@emmanueluc.ca](mailto:info@emmanueluc.ca).

### Thursday, March 12

**Conestoga College Job Fair** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Doon Campus, Recreation Centre. For more info [mycareerservices@conestogac.on.ca](mailto:mycareerservices@conestogac.on.ca).

## volunteering

**Bereaved Families of Ontario - Midwestern Region**, The Family Centre, 65 Hanson Ave., Suite 1042, Kitchener. We currently have a number of exciting volunteer opportunities. For more info, [jaime@bfomidwest.org](mailto:jaime@bfomidwest.org) or 519-603-0196.

**Become a Meals On Wheels** volunteer! Call 519-772-8787 or [www.community-supportconnections.org/volunteer/apply](http://www.community-supportconnections.org/volunteer/apply).

## help needed

**NOT JUST TOURISTS** — We are a humanitarian organization that pack medical supplies and bring them to developing countries. We are in need of volunteers, donors and travelers. For more information, please visit [www.notjusttourists.com](http://www.notjusttourists.com).

# classified

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Wednesday, February 27

## 3 to 5 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room, Student Life Centre



## For more information

[chair@uwimprint.ca](mailto:chair@uwimprint.ca) or [ceo@uwimprint.ca](mailto:ceo@uwimprint.ca)

IMPRINT Publications  
Student Life Centre, room 0137 ; 519-888-4048

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 | Vol. 42, No. 23  
 Student Life Centre, Rm 0137  
 University of Waterloo  
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1  
 P: 519.888.4048 | F: 519.884.7800  
 uwimprint.ca

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**Next scheduled post-mortem meeting:**  
 Wednesday, January 29 at 4:00 p.m.; SLC0137

**Next scheduled board meeting:**  
 Thursday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m.; SLC0137

# opinions



**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
 Submit your letter to the editor or your  
 community editorial to [opinion@uwimprint.ca](mailto:opinion@uwimprint.ca).  
 Find more opinions at [uwimprint.ca](http://uwimprint.ca)

## The grads aren't alright

From Jan. 23 through 24, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) Council held an e-vote on the following resolution: Be it resolved that the GSA Council supports the formation of a union of graduate TAs, RAs, and sessional instructors at the University of Waterloo and recommends that the GSA Board of Directors review and organize the unionization.

The vote surpassed quorum and included representation from all faculties.

The results of the vote are as follows:

In favor of the motion (supportive of unionization): 78 per cent

Opposed to the motion (not supportive of unionization): 13 per cent

Abstain: 9 per cent

Let's talk about the immediate implications for the vote. To clear the air, UW graduate students are not automatically unionized following this month's GSA Council vote. Organizing a labour union is a multi-stage process detailed under Ontario's Labour Relations Act, which ultimately requires a formal vote wherein all members of a proposed bargaining unit would have the final say in supporting or opposing unionization.

That said, there are two direct outcomes of this vote. First, the GSA Council (the wing of the GSA tasked with determining the official positions of the GSA as they relate to academic and political representation of graduate students) now supports the formalization of an on-campus labour union representing graduate students. Second, the GSA Board of Directors will now review unionization (and associated student and logistical issues) in more depth and will determine whether to mechanize the GSA to action the Council's request.

As an aside, it is important to understand that the GSA is incorporated under Ontario law. Accordingly, the GSA Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing corporate interests of the GSA.

You may be wondering why the GSA Council, with representatives from all faculties, resoundingly voted to proceed in this direction.

There are several issues at play, including (but not limited to): Timeliness of pay, discrepancies around compensation paid to students working as sessionals, poor categorization of online instructors/sessional instructors, lack of training, and overwork. Additionally, total compensation for graduate students (specifically graduate TAs) is not aligned with many universities in Ontario and regional cost of living requirements.

As the GSA Vice President, it is clear, to me, that there are pervasive and objectionable issues impacting graduate students at the UW. As part of my role as Vice President of the GSA, I work with students coming to the GSA office who are facing very concerning challenges.

What sort of challenges? Not being paid for months. Significantly surpassing their allotted TA hours. Supervisors demanding inclusion on publications they had no part in. Unwarranted and aggressive behaviour from faculty members. There have even been allegations of human rights abuses on campus, specifically homophobia, that students feel powerless to address.

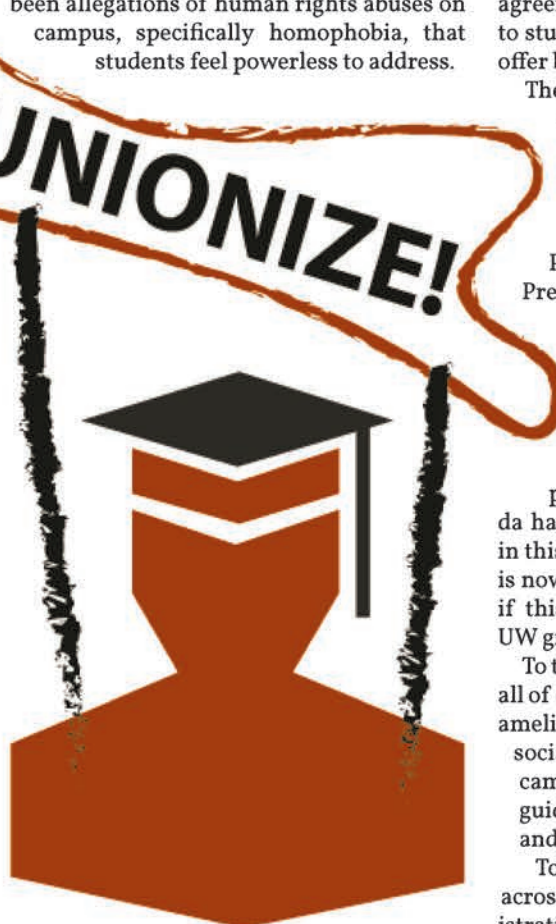
have been greatly beneficial.

Yet, despite these policies, and even with the GSA's ongoing collaboration with campus administration to improve the graduate experience, many students are worried about the implications of triggering these procedures in fear of reprisal from their departments. Some students feel that the risk of reporting unethical behaviour may jeopardize the years they've invested into their graduate education and research. The GSA's forthcoming review of unionization will include examining whether a collective agreement would afford more protections to students than the current policy suite on offer by campus administration.

The GSA appreciates the work being conducted by Jeff Casello, Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs; Chris Read, Associate Provost, Students; Jim Rush, Vice-President, Academic & Provost; and Feridun Hamdullahpur, President and Vice-Chancellor for their work in supporting graduate students at UW. That said, the GSA Council's recent vote makes clear that more action is required on a striking array of issues. A swath of universities and their on-campus student associations across Canada have addressed similar problems raised in this article via unionization, and the GSA is now embarking on a review to determine if this course of action is appropriate for UW graduate students.

To that end, the GSA will be engaging with all of our members to determine how best to ameliorate the academic, professional, and social experience of graduate students on campus. Wider community feedback will guide our path forward on unionization and other areas of importance.

To our supervisors, mentors, and friends across all faculties, and to the UW administration, I hope you do not see the GSA's review of unionization as an indication of a lack of willingness to engage with you. Quite the contrary. This vote is an indication that the GSA is, more than ever before, willing to collaborate and advocate for the advancement of equitable and fair treatment of graduate students on campus. In order to reach that goal, I hope that the relationship between the GSA and the wider campus community continues to be predicated on



HARSHITHA DAMODARAN

To the credit of campus administration, UW does have several policies designed to support graduate students (e.g., Policy 30: Employment of Graduate Teaching Assistants, Policy 33: Ethical Behaviour, Policy 70: Student Petitions and Grievances, etc.). Moreover, I believe that the efforts of campus administration towards improving the graduate student experience through various initiatives and projects (e.g., the Graduate Supervision Taskforce, the Student Experience Review, the Center, graduate supervision guidelines, etc.) are earnest and

David Billedeau

GSA VP and Interim Speaker of GSA Council

# distractions



**UW VOLLEYBALL'S SARAH GLYNN LEADS THE PROVINCE IN ASSISTS**  
She's helped UW significantly more than Ford's OSAP

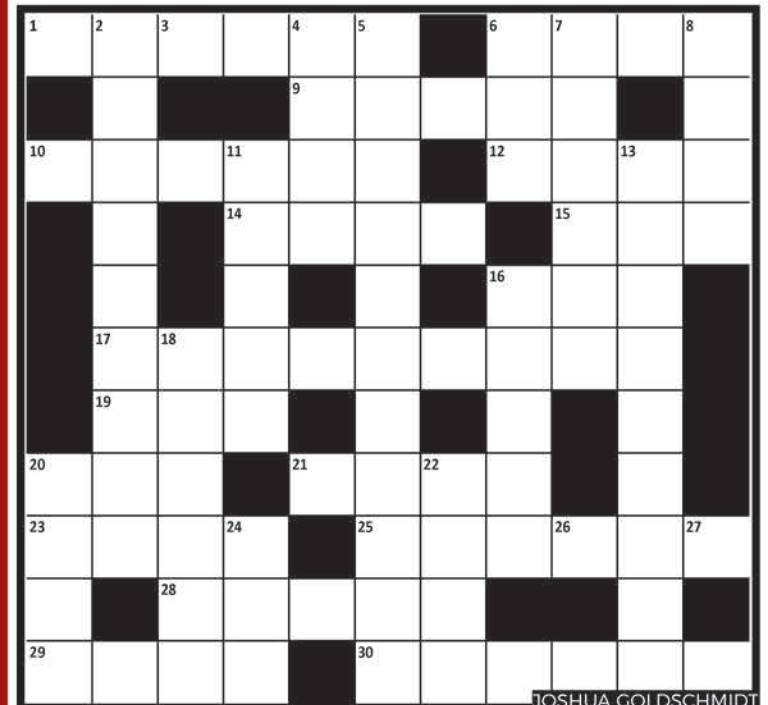


AD SENSE BY *Timi-Belk*



(VINTAGE TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENT SCREENSHOT RECOVERED AFTER AGE OF CHIMPS WITH ACCOMPANYING WRITE-UP)

## Gohan beats Wuhan



JOSHUA GOLDSCHMIDT

**Across**

- 1. Video game in which the player eats ghosts
- 6. Duplicated an email
- 9. Five books of Moses, to a Jew
- 10. Bobby Drake, one of the original *X-men*
- 12. Apple desktop released a year before the Macintosh
- 14. To approve or allow to pass
- 15. Single unit of corn
- 16. Formerly the National Indian Brotherhood, currently led by Perry Bellegarde
- 17. Most important meal of the day, allegedly
- 19. Founder of *Creative Computing* and writer of *BASIC Computer Games*
- 20. Junji \_\_\_\_\_, Japanese horror mangaka who received an Eisner for his adaption of *Frankenstein*
- 21. Support cells for neurons in the central nervous system
- 23. To reject
- 25. To damage or hinder

28. Mother of William and Harry

29. Pb

30. Of or relating to striptease

**Down**

- 2. Acidic salt found in most fruits and vegetables
- 4. NASA's GPS for tactical assault, available for Android
- 5. Acidic, especially for batteries
- 6. Abbreviation for calories
- 7. Playing in Superbowl 2020
- 8. "\_\_\_\_\_ Basketball," a poem by Kobe Bryant
- 11. Roadside hotel
- 13. Greek Island featured in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*
- 16. Professional association for American Child Psychologists
- 18. "Help Me, \_\_\_\_\_" 1965 Beach Boys single
- 20. Man-made object venerated as a deity
- 22. Wide film format used in 1917, *Birds of Prey*, and *Mulan*
- 24. A Jew

GINA HSU