

im print

p2

MEDTECH CENTRE IN KW

Kitchener city council votes to approve funding for UW's new Medtech centre. P2



ONLINE CLASSES

How a student feels about online classes during a pandemic. P10

FARMERS' PROTEST P4

Farmers' protests in India go global as other countries join in solidarity.

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UW partners with Sportsnet and Rogers for Hockey Hackathon.

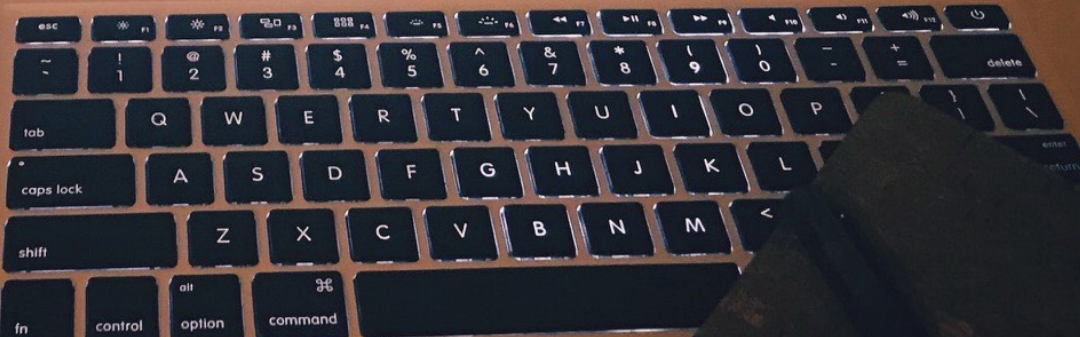
ARTS & CULTURE P7

How to stay involved in the arts & culture in KW amidst COVID-19.

How has COVID-19 affected co-op? P3.



MacBook Air





City of Kitchener to contribute \$8.5M for UW Medtech Centre

Nicole Desana Rose
Assistant Arts & Life Editor

UW Kitchener is partnering with the City of Kitchener to open a 90,000 square-foot health innovation and medical technology centre.

In November, 2020, Kitchener city councillors voted 6-2 to approve \$8.5 million in funding to support the development of the facility.

The councillors called the centre a “fantastic” opportunity that would help bring

investments and competitive jobs to Kitchener. The \$8.5 million contribution will come from the city’s new \$110 million economic development fund, which was launched to stimulate Kitchener’s economic recovery from the pandemic and spur economic growth over the next decade.

Two councillors voted against the proposal, noting that it’s not the city’s job to support the university, adding that Kitchener is facing greater financial demands as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is an investment where a significant return is expected,” Feridun Hamdullaphur,

President and Vice-Chancellor of UW, said.

“I’m hoping it will be seen as a major economic development opportunity.”

Hamdullaphur also clarified that the city’s money would not be used to support UW’s academic work.

UW is contributing \$11.5 million to the project, and will also fund the \$1.8 million yearly operating costs.

As part of the partnership, the university will be leasing 5,000 feet of the facility to the city for \$1. This space will be used by the Waterloo Region Small Business Centre to support health and medtech compa-

nies growing their business. Velocity, UW’s startup incubator, will also be housed in the centre.

Brian Bennett, manager of business development for Kitchener, said the centre could incubate more than 50 startups in its first five years and support the scaling up of another 50 medtech firms.

These companies could bring hundreds of new jobs to the area. UW is working with both the provincial and federal governments to fund the last \$15 million needed to cover the centre’s \$35 million capital cost. The facility is set to open in 2023.



COURTESY UW

The UW Medtech Centre which will also be used to support health and medtech companies growing their business is set to open in 2023.

The future of internships: more sweatpants, less breakroom chit-chat

Tara Jillian Deboer
Sports & Health Editor

If you've been forced to work virtually at any point in the last 10 months, then you're likely familiar with the struggles of remote work. From full-day Zoom meetings to non-stop Slack messages, the entire work experience has deviated from what employees were formerly accustomed to.

The same goes for interns, who, rather than mapping out their new bus route to work and mentally preparing for an awkward lunch with their new manager, now get their taste of the "real-world" from their childhood bedroom. That is, if the student is fortunate enough to find a placement, as many companies have cancelled their internship programs, or don't have the resources to bring on a new team member for the time-being. Data from the University of Waterloo has shown that student employment rates have decreased-

compared to this time last year as a result of the pandemic. But for those students who did find employment, what has the experience been like working remotely? And what exactly does the future of internships look like?

When people were sent home to work remotely back in March 2020, ambitious interns finished up their jobs virtually as they waved a half-hearted goodbye to their teams via Zoom. What's more strange is that many students, in the spring and fall terms, started and finished their work placements virtually, never meeting their co-workers in-person.

While there were challenges for students, including technical difficulties and loss of collaboration opportunities, there were in fact some positive outcomes from the work from home life. It was revealed by a WxL Institute study that 87 per cent of Waterloo students reported a smooth transition to work from home during the initial stage of the pandemic. Students reported

that the flexibility in hours, relaxed dress codes (sweatpants are the new slacks), and more independence were certainly positive changes. I spoke with upper year student Nicole Riddle, who found herself in the middle of an eight month co-op term when the pandemic hit.

"This experience is something I can now carry with me as I attempt to navigate what is now a digital working world," Riddle said.

She mentioned how working remotely improved her wellbeing by creating more opportunities to take walks and workout - activities that were harder to make time for with a traditional work schedule.

However, many students are finding it difficult to secure a job.

To address the problem, the Co-op department has made use of new hiring strategies like supporting employers with the capacity to "bulk hire" hundreds of students and targeting small businesses. They also introduced flexibility into the process to allow for quick-

er hiring and shorter hiring cycles, amongst other new initiatives.

While all these changes are excellent for UW students, the question of what co-op will look like in the future remains unanswered.

When I posed this question to the UW co-op department, I received an optimistic response from Ross Johnston, Executive Director, Co-operative Education. "While there is a lot of uncertainty about the future of work, and what that will look like for co-op and work-integrated learning, we do know that there are strong supports in place at the University, in industry, and through the federal government to build these opportunities. At Waterloo, we've been helping our students develop future-ready skills to enable them to succeed in the future workplace, no matter what it looks like."

Internships, like everything else, have been flipped upside down by COVID-19, robbing students of great hands-on learning opportunities.

Although it's uncertain what the long term implications will be, the remote working style has presented more flexibility, innovation, and new possibilities for co-op placements. Just think that placement in Dubai you dreamed of applying to may be more attainable in the new digital world. If you're currently a co-op student, co-operative education has some resource pages including:

- Resource page for students who haven't yet found employment for this term.
- Free Digital Skills Fundamentals courses in conjunction with industry partners like Shopify, to help students improve their digital skills, and help employers transition to a digital environment.
- Supports for remote work terms, including new resources developed for both co-op students and co-op employers.



AHLAM IBRAHIM

Without having to worry about mapping out the route to work, many interns in during COVID-19 have quickly adapted to working from home with 87 per cent reporting a smooth transition.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IMPRINT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO IS SITUATED ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE ATTAWANDARON (NEUTRAL), ANISHNAABEG, AND HAUDENOSAUNEE PEOPLES. THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO IS SITUATED ON THE HALDIMAND TRACT, LAND PROMISED TO SIX NATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES SIX MILES ON EACH SIDE OF THE GRAND RIVER. THEREFORE, IMPRINT RECOGNIZES AND RESPECTS THIS LAND THAT IT IS SITUATED UPON.

UW INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION



Everything you need to know about the farmers' protests in India

Saihaj Dadhra
Assistant News Editor

Hundreds of thousands of farmers have entered their 46th day of protesting at Delhi's borders in India, as of Jan. 10, 2021.

Farmers are protesting for the repeal of three bills introduced in September 2020 by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"As a first generation Canadian who emigrated from India at a young age, the farmers' protests in India have been very near and dear to my heart," said Sanovar Singh Bajwa, a second-year Accounting and Financial Management student.

Agriculture Reform Laws

The three bills the farmers are protesting are the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.

The first bill was passed into legislation by the BJP on Sept. 20, 2020, removing the minimum support price (MSP) that was put in place by the Indian government for essential commodities, allowing farmers to sell outside of the government-regulated agricultural markets – known as Mandis – to private buyers and corporations.

Before introducing these laws, farmers would sell commodities at auction at their state's Agricultural Produce Market Committee.

Restrictions on who could make purchases and minimum sales prices for essential commodities allowed farmers to earn an income.

Under the new laws, farmers do not sell only in their own state, but can sell to other states and directly to buyers. The bill also dismantled the MSP system, which potentially allows big corporations to dictate terms, giving them the power to drive down prices.

Critics say the new agricultural laws could lead to exploitation by corporations that would buy crops at cheaper prices, leading to reduced earnings for farmers.

"Imagine if Canada completely dropped minimum wage, it would lead to employees being taken advantage of and companies trying to pay people as little as possible. That is exactly what's happening by removing the minimum support price.

Farmers have to work harder, are taken advantage of, and are never guaranteed a proper income," said UW Sikh Chaplain, Simran Parmar.

The second bill will push farmers to negotiate contracts with corporations and private buyers.

Farmers have made it clear that they will not have enough bargaining power to negotiate a fair price with large corporations.

The bill also removes the chance for farmers to take contract disputes to court.

Finally, the third bill is looking to "modernize" the food supply chain in India by cutting back on stockpiling goods and removing cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list essential commodities.

The bill also looks to bring in private investment to increase cold storage.

59 per cent of India's population are farmers, with approximately 80 per cent being small-scale farmers.

Global News reported that small-scale farmers will not be able to compete with corporations who run large-scale operations, allowing wealthy investors to manipulate market prices.

Private corporations will gain "complete control over how much they produce and how much they'll pay back the producers," Chinnaiah Jangam, associate professor of Modern South Asia History at Carleton University, told Global News. Jangam also said that there is a legitimate fear that farmers will lose their ancestral land to corporations operating at a greater scale.

Anureet Kaur Bajwa, a first-year Accounting and Financial Management student, said that exploitation by private corporations "will push the farmers off their ancestral farmlands, such as the ones my family and friends own in India."

The Modi government passed all three bills without consulting with farmers or farmer unions, and without deliberation from the opposition.

The opposition had requested that the bills be reviewed by a parliamentary committee, but the ruling party dismissed the request.

Prime Minister Modi and Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar insist that the bills have been put in place to help farmers. CNN reported that Modi believes the bills are long overdue.

Still, it is unclear why these bills were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, where India is facing its first recession in approximately 25 years.

The National Institute for Transforming India reported that a farming family's annual income in 2017 was 36,938 Indian Rupees, roughly \$642 CAD.

Protests

Since September 2020, farmer unions have been protesting peacefully on Pun-

jab and Haryana's highways and have been met with multiple obstacles.

Police in Haryana attempted to stop farmers from marching to Delhi, India's Capital, by digging up parts of the National Highway near the state border.

Demonstrators were met with water cannons, tear gas, and concrete barricades, injuring peaceful protesters as they attempted to enter Delhi.

Videos and images shared on Twitter by user @atti_cus on Nov. 26, 2020, show a trench, and concrete and barbed wire barricades on the highways at the state border.

Farmers are continuing to protest while they camp out on highways despite the frigid temperatures.

Delhi is facing a cold wave, reaching its lowest temperatures of the season, while also experiencing rainfall and a hailstorm on January 6, 2021.

As of Jan. 9, 2021, 102 farmers have died while taking part in the protest due to the harsh weather conditions and lack of shelter, and some by suicide.

"It has been upsetting to see the living conditions of the farmers who are currently protesting in the cold streets of New Delhi.

However, seeing our elders protest has inspired me to also stand up against injustices happening around the world," said Singh Bajwa.

Thousands of farmers participated in the tractor march from three Delhi borders. Bharati Kisan Union chief Joginder Singh Ugrah told The Times of India that over 3,500 tractors and trolleys were used in the march.

Protesting farmer unions have said that the tractor march on Jan. 7 was a practice for the tractor march planned for Jan. 26, on India's Republic Day – the day the Indian Constitution came into effect in 1950.

International Support

There have been numerous rallies in support of farmers worldwide since the beginning of the march to Delhi, including a car rally in KW on Dec. 12, 2020.

Despite less news attention, updates are being released to those outside of the protest sites through social media outlets, and a newspaper the Trolley Times, founded Dec. 18, 2020, giving updates directly from the protest sites.

"People are protesting all across the world because it creates more pressure on the Indian government to repeal the new laws but also creates safety for the protesters.

Suppose the world is aware that this is happening.

In that case, it is less likely that protesters will face violence or police brutality

– posting everything on social media and ensuring people are aware ensures no violence happens behind closed doors," said Parmar.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau showed his support for the farmers right to protest, "Canada will always stand up for the right of peaceful protest anywhere around the world."

Prime Minister Trudeau's comments were criticized by the Indian Foreign Ministry, calling his statements on the issue an "unacceptable interference in our internal affairs."

History

"My family's background has been within the agriculture sector in Punjab with many generations of my ancestors being farmers. It has definitely impacted me greatly seeing the injustices being undertaken against the farming community most recently through the new agriculture bills," Singh Bajwa said.

The Indian Agriculture Industry has been facing a crisis since the 1960s, when Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi introduced the green-revolution.

She implemented an increase in the production of wheat and rice to address the famine in India.

This event began the industrialization of agriculture in India, when new fertilization methods and pesticides were brought into the industry.

After the green revolution, wheat and rice production had doubled, and production of other rice varieties and millets decreased, leading to a loss and extinction of indigenous crops.

In the 1990s, GMO seeds were given to farmers to increase production further, causing farmers to take loans to pay for irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides. Being in heavy debt, many farmers committed suicide.

"The instability of the industry is bad enough as it is, with farmers being deep in debt and many committing suicide due to the mental stress they face," Sikh Chaplain Parmar said.

Global News reported approximately 300,000 Indian farmers have committed suicide in the last 20 years.

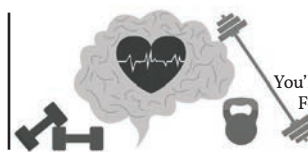
There have been eight talks between farmers unions and the government, with each ending in a deadlock.

The most recent one took place on Jan. 8, 2021. The unions have accepted another meeting for Jan. 15, 2021.

According to protestores, these bills could destroy the livelihoods of Indian Farmers.

"We die, or we win," Shuvaik Singh, a protester, told CTV News.

sports & health



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UW Partners with Sportsnet and Rogers for Hockey Hackathon

Tara De Boer
 Reporter

The University of Waterloo announced a new exciting partnership with Rogers Communications and Sportsnet for the launch of "Sportsnet Hockey Hack: Powered by Rogers 5G".

The Hackathon involves teams of students from UW collaborating to design applications to enhance the fan experience for Sportsnet viewers. They'll be doing this by using Rogers 5G technology, as well as data from the NHL's Puck and Player Tracking System used during the 2020 Stanley Cup playoffs.

Innovation is Waterloo's most reputable characteristic, and fans can certainly expect potential innovative solutions such as augmented reality, second screen experiences, and even fantasy leagues.

Bridget Moloney, Managing Director of Waterloo's Gateway for Enterprises to Discover Innovation, expressed her excitement over the partnership: "The University of Waterloo is very proud to be working with Rogers, Sportsnet, and the NHL to make the experience of watching a game on TV

more interesting and interactive for hockey fans."

Rogers also announced a new 5G program, which will be dedicated to improving sports and fan engagement through research and

development. UW signed a three-year partnership agreement with Rogers for the program, focusing on 5G research in the Toronto-Waterloo tech corridor.

How will the program work?

Each team of students will collaborate/attempt to create a working prototype of their app, showcasing their progress to a panel of judges. The winnings include prizes, job opportunities, and even

potential funding to turn the prototype into reality.

Both Sportsnet and Rogers Communications are thrilled to be working with the bright minds of UW students, who are helping to innovate the fan experience in unexpected, new ways.

"As Sportsnet continues to be a leader in sports technology innovation, we are excited to work with some of Canada's top young minds at the University of Waterloo to discover how Rogers 5G technology can change the way millions of NHL fans watch and engage with the sport," Bart Yabsley, President of Sportsnet, said.



GINA HSU

SPORTSNET HOCKEY HACK



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Staying involved with KW Arts and Culture during COVID-19

Nicola Rose
Reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic may have restricted in-person interactions, but that doesn't mean you can't stay connected with the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

If you're looking for new activities to keep you entertained during lockdown, or you want other ways to connect with the KW community, check out some of the following options.

First, make sure to join UW's **Digital Events Community** (uwaterloo.ca/housing/technology/esports). They run social and gaming based events like video game events, virtual trivia, Jack-box parties, and more. These events are open to incoming, current, and alumni students.

You can also explore the Waterloo Residences' **Virtual Activities**

Library (uwaterloo.ca/housing/virtual-activities-library), which lists safe activities in residences, on campus, and in the community to help you stay engaged with the Waterloo community. Note that some of these activities may be closed during lockdown, which began on Dec. 26, 2020.

Speaking of libraries, the Waterloo Public Library runs regular **virtual events** (www.wpl.ca/sites/default/files/in_the_loop_-_january_2021-001.pdf) like a monthly book club and online trivia. The Library also has a **play anytime** (www.wpl.ca/play-anytime) page with virtual escape rooms, You-

Tube cooking tutorials, local geocaching challenges, and more.

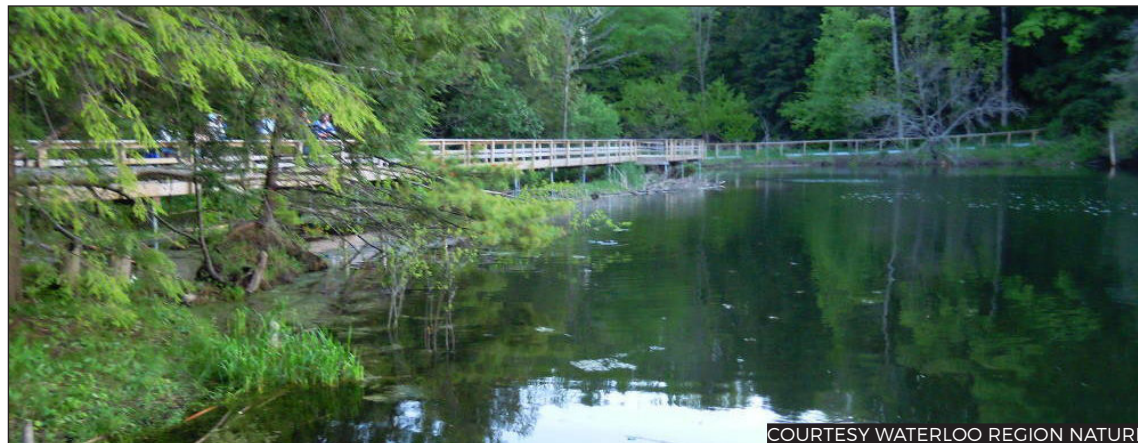
Check out the Kitchener Public Library's monthly **events calendar** (kplca.evanced.info/signup/) for even more community activities.

If you're looking for something new to read, you can search UW's

list of **books written by alumni** (<https://uwaterloo.ca/alumni/book-search>). For a non-book read, explore **edition** (www.creatorscollective.ca/edition-1), the publication put out by GBDA and MDEI students at UW. Make sure to check out the other offerings from the **Creator's Collective** (www.creatorscollective.ca/) too.

For outdoor options, see this list of **winter activities** (www.todocanada.ca/25-outdoor-winter-activities-in-kitchener-waterloo-region/) in the KW region. The region has hiking trails, public skating rinks, and even ski hills, which will hopefully reopen later in the season.

You can also take a walk to **Princess Twin Cinemas** (www.princesscinemas.com/) for their Popcorn Curbside Pick-Up. Their snackbar is open for popcorn, snacks, and craft beer sales (and they have the best popcorn in the region).



COURTESY WATERLOO REGION NATURE

The KW region has hiking trails which allow people to stay socially distanced while getting fresh air.

From Behind the Mask: A Quilt of Pandemic Experiences

Nicola Rose
Reporter

As fear and uncertainty continue to linger in our communities, we can use storytelling as a means of expressing our humanity and connecting with one another while distance separates us.

'From Behind The Mask' is a free community art project created by local UW architecture student, Brenda Reid.

The initiative was launched in October 2020 and is a part of Reid's graduate thesis, which aims to create space for pain, resilience, and care within the community.

The project is a community quilt, fashioned out of fabric blocks contributed by anyone

living, working, or studying in Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo – or by anyone displaced from the area due to the pandemic. Ultimately, Reid wants to keep the project open to anyone whose lives are rooted in these cities. 'From Behind the Mask' requests that contributors use their block to illustrate, in any way, how COVID-19 has impacted their lives.

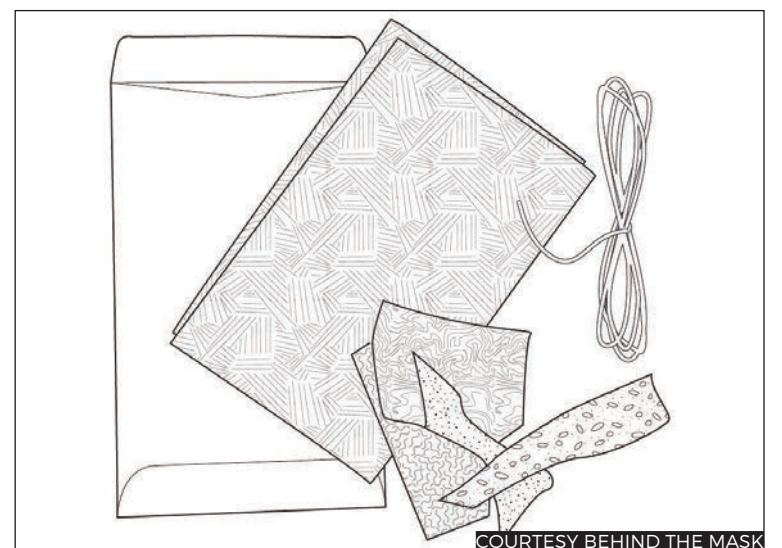
This pandemic has affected, and continues to affect, members of our community in dramatically different ways. COVID-19 has stolen lives, jobs, homes, and hospital beds — all while our healthcare workers fight the battle on the frontlines.

Our experiences of the pandemic are wildly different, and one of

Reid's goals in creating this project is to highlight these inequalities and create a starting point for healing.

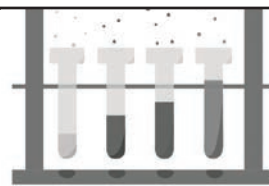
Members of the community who are interested in contributing to the quilt, can pick up a quilt block kit locally, or make a block from home, using easy-to-follow instructions. These instructions, as well as a list of locations offering pick-up and drop-off of quilt kits, are available on the project's website.

The goal is for the final quilt to travel between Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo over the course of summer 2021, so it can be displayed to the public. The locations in which the final quilt will be displayed will be free to visit, accessible, and on public transit routes.



COURTESY BEHIND THE MASK

Anyone who is interested in contributing the quilt can pick up a block kit locally or follow their DIY instructions on the website.



WRITE FOR SCIENCE AND TECH

Got an interesting science or tech story you want to write about? Email science@uwimprint.ca

UW Sun Solar Car Team to unveil the Midnight Sun XIV in April 2021

Shaza Syed
Reporter

The world is continuously evolving, hence, the need for sustainable and environmentally conscious vehicles is becoming a necessity.

The UW Midnight Sun Solar Car Team is a leader in the development of solar-powered vehicles.

Their newest project, the Midnight Sun XIV car, will be a hyper-efficient solar-powered electric vehicle capable of carrying up to four occupants.

A funding campaign on Indiegogo was created to support the costs of the aerodynamic and lightweight aerobody of the vehicle.

"We believe creating consumer-oriented solar-powered vehicles is an important step in achieving a more sustainable future," the Midnight Sun campaign page described.

The team managed to raise \$8,900 of their initial \$10,000 goal from the cam-

paign.

Established in 1998, the Midnight Sun team has led the way to a sustainable future, demonstrating the potential in renewable energy.

In 2018, the team completed the American Solar Challenge and completed a 3000 kilometer solar car race across the United States. The team has also represented the University of Waterloo in the World Solar Challenge.

Their newest model, the Midnight Sun XIV, is set to compete in the 2021 American Solar Challenge.

The Challenge is proposed to start in Independence, MO and end in Santa Fe, NM, although the locations of the race haven't been finalized.

"MS XIV is our most ambitious project yet," the Midnight Sun team shared, "With a four person capacity, an emphasis on interior design, and better aerodynamics than our previous solar car, MS XIV comes one step closer in our mission to push the boundaries of consumer-centered solar

vehicles."

The unveiling of Midnight Sun XIV is

set to take place in April 2021, prior to the American Solar Challenge in late July.



JIA CHEN

UW Startup Appearing on Dragons' Den

Felicia Daryonoputri and Ramal Rana
Assistant Science Editor and Science Editor

Last year, Sam Dugan, 22, a UW Mechatronics Engineering student and a young entrepreneur, appeared in an episode of Dragon's Den on Nov. 19, 2020.

On that fateful night, Dugan gave a three-minute pitch about his tech start-up in hopes of securing an investor. This pitch allowed Dugan to convince, not one, but two of the show's Dragons to make a \$250,000 investment for 15 per cent of his company each.

"I created the SmartPatrol, a versatile, mobile computer vision powered platform for monitoring jump landing zones in ski resort terrain parks," Dugan said.

Dugan's pitch started off with an offer of 20 per cent of SmartPatrol, for \$250,000. However, two

dragons, Lane Merrifield and Michelle Romanow, both offered \$250,000 for 25 per cent of the company. Merrifield is one of the leading Canadian tech entrepreneurs. Romanow is also a Canadian tech entrepreneur as well as a

board director, television personality, and a private equity investor.

"I started Vision Spatial Technologies one year ago with a simple goal: using computer vision to make the world a safer place to play," Dugan said.

Dugan showcased his invention live on the show by building a miniature ski hill with the help of his brother, Jeff, who appeared on screen wearing full ski gear.

"It takes more than passion to convince these boardroom barons that an idea is worth their investment," Dugan said.

The computer vision software increases visibility and safety at steep slopes by sending signals – red, indicating that it is not safe to proceed, and green, that the landing is clear and safe. Resorts can access slope activities through a web access portal, as live data is uploaded to the cloud.

"The SmartPatrol performs real-time monitoring to reduce preventable accidents while providing better incident reporting and usage statistics for resort operators," Dugan said.

Some of the Dragons, however, were not convinced that SmartPatrol was worth their investment. They believed it was too expensive to be realistic. How-

ever, with SmartPatrol, fewer safety personnel are required. The SmartPatrol reduces the need for labour in high risk-zones at ski resorts, waterparks, mountain bike runs, as well as other recreational regions. In the long run, buying SmartPatrol may be financially beneficial to the target companies.

"It is important to note that there is a direct labour replacement," Dugan mentioned during his pitch.

Prior to the pitch, SmartPatrol received positive feedback from an Ontario ski resort that implemented four SmartPatrol units. Its hardware has been designed and upgraded to withstand the harsh weather conditions of Canadian winters.

SmartPatrol also received a runner-up position from the James Dyson Award (JDA) on Sept. 17, 2020. With two experienced investors on board, Dugan's SmartPatrol device is well on its way to making ski-slopes and other recreational areas much safer.

opinion

HAVE YOUR SAY

Submit your letter to the editor or your community editorial to editor@uwimprint.ca. Find more opinions at uwimprint.ca.

The Reality of Online Classes

After living life with COVID-19 for over a year now, we have seen the world adapt in a plethora of different ways to cope with the new normal. One such relevant but major change is the migration of school and university classes to the internet. This change, I believe, has a set of its own advantages and disadvantages, and even these vary from place to place.

Personally, I experienced online classes at UW in the Spring 2020 term. Going into the term, I was very excited for online classes, since this meant that I could plan out my days to the fullest, without having to make allowance for time needed to get from one classroom to another and other distractions that might eat away at my time on campus - like meeting friends, going to a cafeteria to grab lunch, etc.

I loved the fact that I could start my day at 9:00 AM, study for intervals of 2-3 hours, and take a short break to de-stress before getting back to my books. This, for me, and I am sure for many others as well, drastically boosted productivity. Since I did not have to move around much, it also meant I was not completely exhausted at the end of the day, which allowed me to use my spare time for hobbies and other important tasks.

Furthermore, I could choose which subjects I wanted to study everyday, and if I was bored of a particular course, I could usually defer it to another day. This flexibility greatly aided my academic journey in the spring. Moreover, professors would upload all content to LEARN and I could easily revisit my "classes" and "lectures" whenever I wished. I could also watch the content videos repeatedly which bolstered my understanding of topics and naturally, helped me score higher on assignments and exams.

This brings me to an important drawback of online classes—higher difficulty of exams. For my Computer Science and Math courses, the professors were fully aware of the fact that during exams, the internet was a resource available for us to use at will. Considering this, exams were made to be either timed with greater difficulty, or considerably longer along with being considerably harder than the usual timed exams.

Although we would have a span of two to three days to submit the latter type of exams, they would take a good eight to ten hours of work, which is mentally taxing. At some point, I would just want to get the exam over with. Also, when one has many midterms in a short period of time along

with weekly assignments, having exams that take a very long time to finish pose a problem since it leaves one with less time to invest in other courses and assignments. I found myself having to drop a couple assignments for an important upcoming midterm.

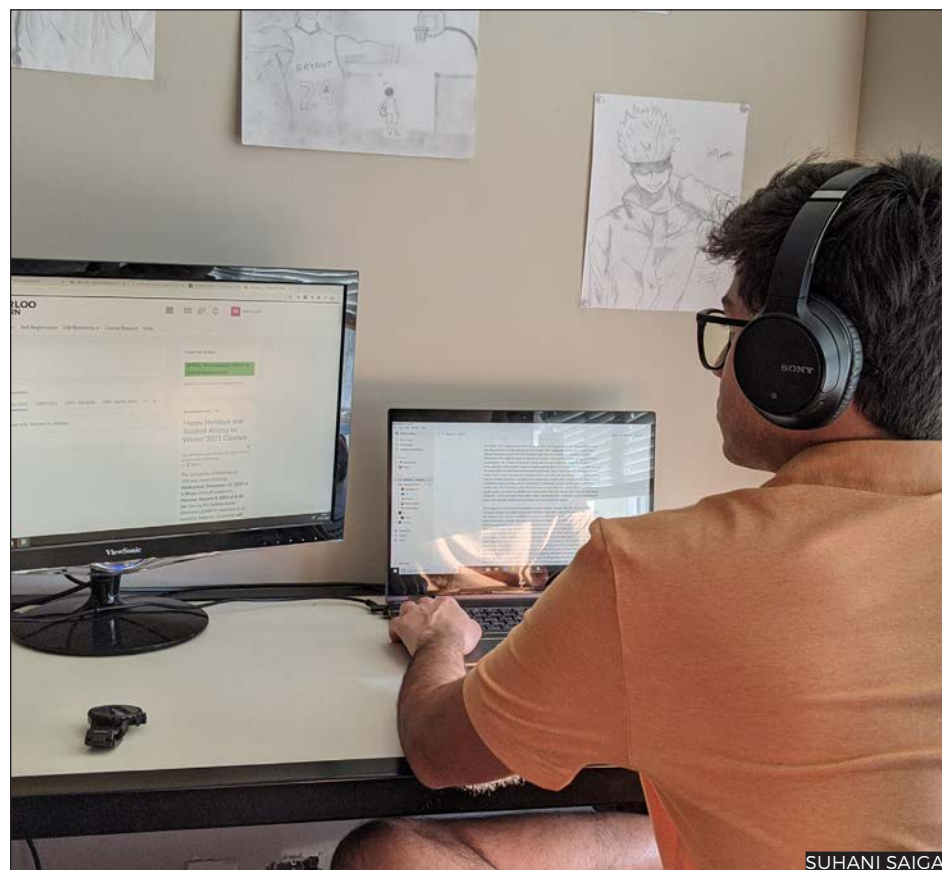
I would not say that this is a huge problem, but it was one that I was not expecting. However, situations like these need deliberate planning, well before the exam periods begin. On the flip side, having a few days to do exams allows students to take the exam at a convenient time. If one is suddenly not feeling well on the hour of an in-person exam, it becomes harder to avoid taking the exam whereas online, they can simply take the exam a few hours later when they are feeling better.

The enforcement of discipline by online classes can be a difficult change for many. Moreover, the online medium, depending on how courses are offered, can inhibit understanding of concepts as well. Since instructors have fixed office hours that are not in-person, it deters many from attending these office hours. This can happen for a multitude of reasons, including cases

where students have other commitments at the same time as office hours. This leaves many questions unanswered. Having in-person classes also reduces the number of questions that arise during office hours, since people can simply raise their hand in class for questions, which is something online classes do not allow. Consequently, office hours are more packed and allow less time for many students to clear their doubts.

That being said, the kind of support offered by UW and its professors (for online classes) is unmatched by any other university, from what I hear about online classes from other acquaintances. It might seem challenging at first, and it does take one to experience it to get accustomed to it, but online classes are the future of education in our COVID-19 riddled world for the immediate future. Therefore, it becomes essential for us to embrace it for what it is—a change full of opportunities.

Rohit Kaushik
3A, Computer Science



With advantages and disadvantages, online classes have posed as another obstacle to face during the pandemic and likely after as well.

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Next scheduled post-mortem meeting:
Virtual due to Covid-19

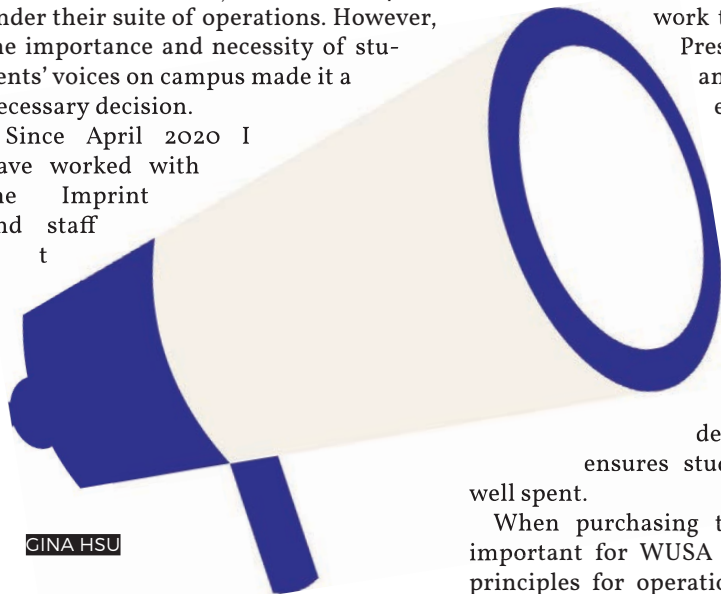
Next scheduled board of directors meeting:
Virtual due to Covid-19

Student voices need a place on campus

WUSA and the *Imprint* have spent years being on opposite sides of the table, so it may come as a shock to some that WUSA (or the Federation as some know it) would take *Imprint* under their suite of operations. However, the importance and necessity of students' voices on campus made it a necessary decision.

Since April 2020 I have worked with the *Imprint* and staff

a t



GINA HSU

WUSA to negotiate agreements to ensure student publications continue to operate on campus. Although I spent many hours working on the implementation, I owe the beginning of this

work to the former Vice President Operations and Finance, Seneca Veiling. This work was driven by the hope of saving our student publications and running it in a way that supports students' voices, encourages professional development, and

ensures students' dollars are

well spent.

When purchasing the paper, it was important for WUSA to ensure certain principles for operations, e.g., editorial

independence, were not compromised. In August, I worked with the Policies and Procedures Committee to draft and approve the Editorial Independence Policy which seeks to solidify the importance of **independence in the content of the paper**, even with operational oversight from WUSA.

The concept of student associations and unions running their campus papers is not new. Other student associations like Western's USC and the McMaster Students' Union, manage the operations of their papers without compromising quality or editorial independence. That is what we also aim to do. Interestingly, we have had some good experience running student papers including the Chevron and my favourite, the National Perspirer – the best menu/paper to ever come out of Fed Hall.

So what does it look like to operate a paper? Well, WUSA will hire staff to manage operations, fund the paper, and ensure value for money for the student

population. **WUSA will not mandate any speech in the paper, ask the paper to only speak fondly of WUSA, or unreasonably ask the paper to remove content.** WUSA believes in the need for transparency and accountability; student papers play an important role on campuses across the country to amplify student concerns and ensure student unions and universities can act to better support students.

Student papers provide excellent learning opportunities. As WUSA works to improve the way we engage and support students through their professional development, we hope to solidify the *Imprint*, or whatever the *Imprint* evolves into, as a place where students continue to learn and grow through the art of storytelling and journalism.

Abbie Simpson

President Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association

Traumatised Lifestyle: License to Kill?

Perhaps this aggravating statement “I just liked to kill, I wanted to kill” by Ted Bundy is the mental make-up of all serial killers ever born. A small incident that goes unnoticed by many, is enough to make a man kill without a motive, to kill for the urge to kill. A dilemma in the past or an unforgettable predicament may trigger their homicidal alter. Serial killers are the pure essence of moral evil in this world and that is the reason their actions are out of human understanding.

Reptiles are missing the limbic part of their brain, where memories, emotions, socialising, and parental instincts reside. In other words, serial killers are aptly described as “cold-blooded,” just like their scaly reptilian brethren.

Mentioned above is one of the most famous, horrifying and gruesome serial killers of all time, Ted Bundy. An American kidnapper, serial killer and necrophile, his appalling crimes have been the subject of countless books and documentaries.

‘A traumatised lifestyle triggers the homicidal alter in a person’, for Ted Bundy, a childhood without a father, a mother without empathy and denigrated grandparents did the same. While an adolescent, he often found himself peering inside other people's windows and thought nothing of stealing what he wanted. That is the time when the shady side of his personality aroused. His victims were mostly women with long, dark hair and his killings followed a gruesome pattern. He often lured his victims into his

car by pretending to be injured and asking for their help. Their kindness proved to be a fatal mistake. The exact number of people he killed is still a conundrum. One could say that the lack of attention during childhood, triggered him to attack women who looked like his mother, by asking for attention.

Another monster under human skin is Carl Eugene Watts who terrorised women in Houston, Texas who had “evil in their eyes.” Watts' methods of killing varied from person to person; strangling, stabbing and hanging, he had done it all. He confessed to 12 murders in exchange for a 60-year sentence which was reduced to a 24-year sentence, thanks to good behaviour. The sadening separation of his parents two years after his birth was the start of it all. He lived with his mother who later got married to a mechanic who had two daughters. Watts did not share a happy relationship with his step-sisters. Their arrogance and hostility towards him helped unfold this side of him. At the age of 13, he was said to have mental retardation and a delusional thought process. Houston was free of trepidation when Watts died of prostate cancer in 2007.

An expert on gemology, half-Vietnamese half-Indian Charles Sobhraj described himself as “Superman who didn't kill but clean.” His plan of action was to befriend western tourists trudging along the Hippie Trail in Asia. He turned his victims' stomachs with the help of pills and powder and annihilated them when they were too weak to continue. Sobhraj was charged guilty when his plan of poisoning 60 French tourists in In-

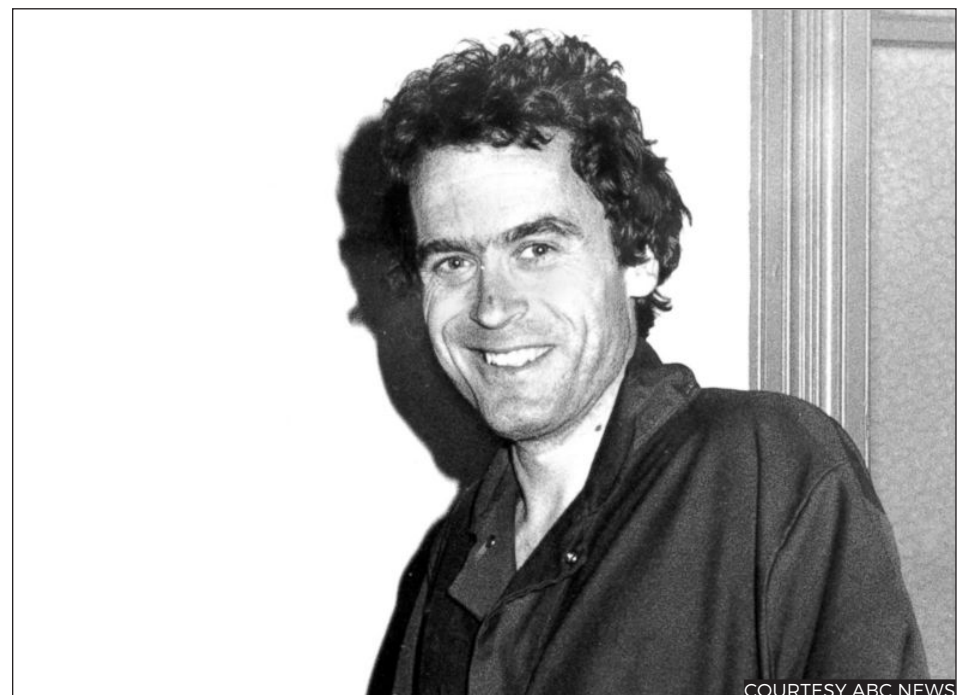
dia backfired giving them violent diarrhoea. Sobhraj's parents too, were divorced and both remarried, the father in India and the mother in France. Before moving to France with his mother and step-father, he witnessed barbaric violence due to Indo-China conflicts. Sobhraj grew to loathe India. This hatred was stronger than ever and so led to him using the country as one massive crime scene. Now safely behind bars in Nepal, the “Serpent” is surely one to know about.

Uncanny necrophilia or the urge to exter-

minate evils of the past, what drives them to such gruesome, we'll never know. But what we know is that they have the skill to inflict the most pain on an individual. They maybe evil, disturbed or just purely psychopathic but their lives foster repulsion and fascination in the minds of a major chunk of the society.

Suhani Saigal

Managing Editor



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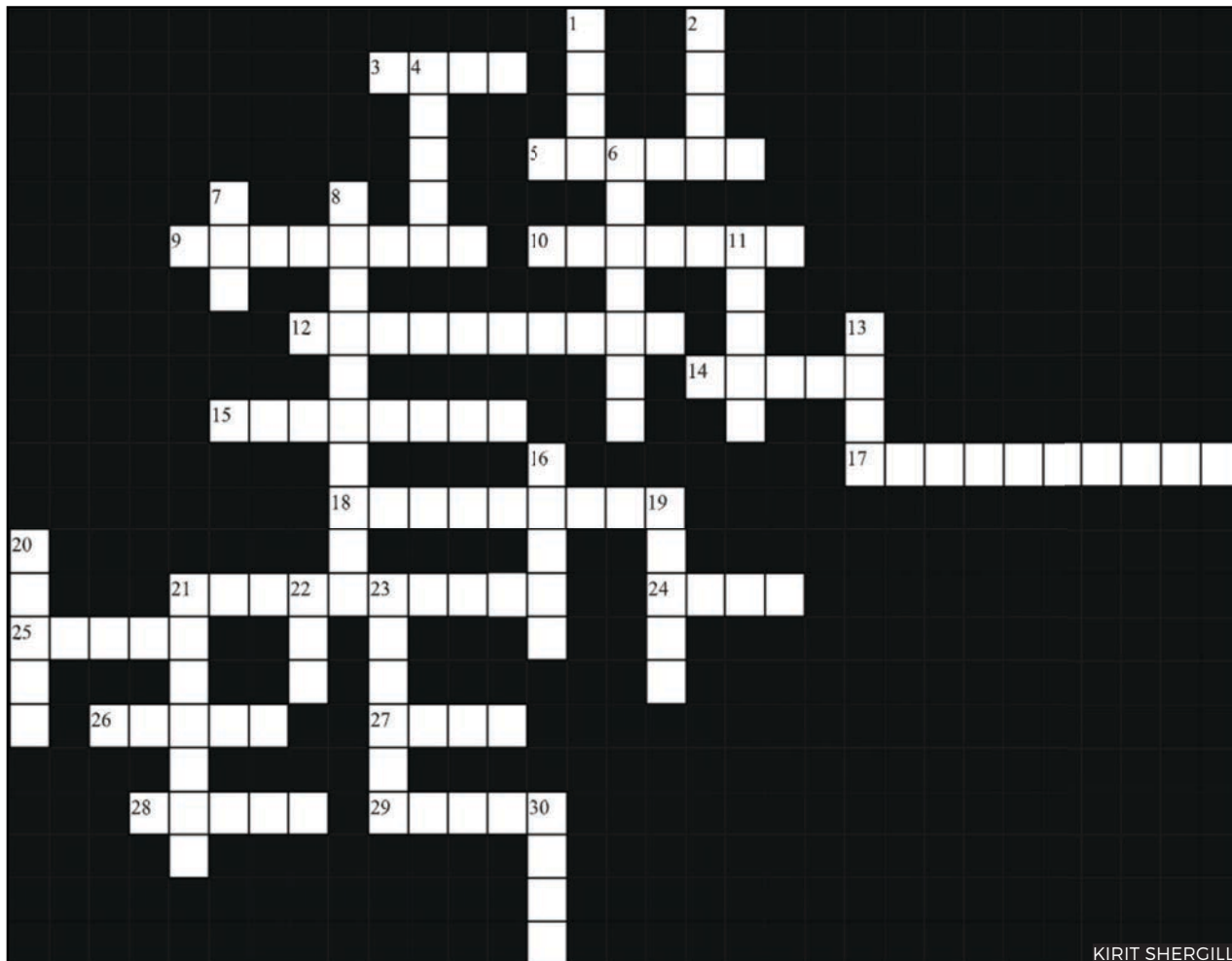
GRAPHICS

distractions



CAN WE JUST CONTROL-ALT-DELETE 2021 YET?

Imprint Crosswords | Happy New Year!



KIRIT SHERCILL

Down

1. Not good, but not bad
2. Amazon berry
4. Piece maker?
6. Apple earbuds
7. Explosive initials
8. Evil fairy played by Angelina Jolie
11. Rehab program
13. Without thinking
16. ___ Crawford, the N.B.A.'s all-time leader in four-point plays
19. Fire truck alert
20. Alpine song
21. Candidate
22. Lennon's love
23. Use money to make money
30. Folder where important emails sometimes get deposited

Across

3. Kardashian matriarch
5. Very unfortunate
9. Impartial
10. Storm often chased
12. New Year's promise
14. It's not a bear
15. One who has all the luck?
17. "Friends" catchphrase (3,3,4)
18. Quotations before chapters
21. Relative priority in hiring
24. Unruly behaviour by a mob
25. Harry Potter nemesis Malfoy
26. Light refractor
27. Greek Cupid
28. Green military symbol
29. What "x" may mean



BRIANA OENPUTERA

