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**IMPRINT DEBATE**

Read on to find out highlights of the WUSA Executive Elections debate hosted by Imprint. **P2**



**CAPITOL BREACH**

A student's opinions on the recent developments in the States. **P10**

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Thornhill teen uses machine learning and AI to treat Tourette syndrome.

# Who are this year's WUSA Election Candidates? P6-7.





# Highlights from the WUSA Debate

**Saihaj Dadhra**  
Assistant News Editor

This year's WUSA Imprint Executive Debate looked different than it traditionally does—it was held virtually, with one candidate running for each position, and thereby becoming more of a question and answer dialogue.

Team duckduck is running for the four executive positions for the 2021 - 2022 term.

Matthew Nicholas Schwarze is running for VP Operations and Finance (VPOF), and he is studying Mathematics and Business Administration in the UW/WLU double degree program.

Schwarze explained he is running for the VPOF position because it is the next level of involvement for him in WUSA.

He said one of the largest parts of his platform is making sure students are supported.

"The way I see it, [the job] is making sure our organization is in the position to be able to support our fantastic student advocates, our student volunteers, our student workers in doing the best things around them. My job as VPOF really is to empower others to do the really great work that our campus needs," Schwarze said.

Schwarze plans to support students with a 24-hour email policy, where he intends to respond to all emails he receives from students within 24 hours.

Schwarze said that a focus of his position would be to ensure value for student money rather than committing to spending a specific amount.

"I'm going to make sure that every decision we're making from a vantage perspective is about making sure that the dollars that students spend on our fee, gets something for them," Schwarze said.

When asked about environmental sustainability on campus, Schwarze stated that it will be looked at in everything that WUSA does.

"How can we actually do this more sustainably? How can we create less incidental waste...

There are going to be so many different chances at which we get to consider this. So, the big answer is, we're going to be considering this at every turn." Schwarze said,

"If WUSA isn't there for students, then no one is."

Next, questions were directed to Catherine Dong, candidate for VP Student Life (VPSL). Dong is studying Mathematics.

Dong explained that driving sustainability and equity forward are some of her biggest goals for the position, especially since she believes there is not enough attention being drawn to these issues.

"There's a lot that WUSA can be doing," Dong said. "We have the time and resources and possibility to make an impact here."

"My three biggest goals that I generally outline are integrating sustainability and equity throughout all of WUSA.

So, that means reinvesting in our sustainability project, taking a proper look at investigating WUSA's carbon footprint to identify where we can improve and then implementing those improvements and committing to the recommendations of our current equity review," Dong said. "As well as consulting and actively communicating with marginalized groups on campus to make sure we are implementing those changes that need to happen to make sure it's a safe and equitable place for everybody."

With the switch to online education, orientation events have been delivered online.

"I want to make sure that students who have spent a lot of time online aren't missing out...I want to make sure they can jump right back into what it's like to be a student on campus," Dong said.

"WUSA has begun the process of looking into a fee review, so I want to make sure that we're keeping all perspectives on the table, to make sure that nothing's tossed to the side and that everything is supported the way that it needs to be," Dong said.

When asked by the moderator, 'what will be done to support and advocate for Black students, Indigenous students and other students

of colour?'

"It is going to be: not discounting voices that have personal experiences in their own lives. It is going to be: making sure that we are actively including those voices in conversations where they will be affected," Dong responded.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure what those interactions look like right now, because I haven't been part of them, but I know that I and my team will be committing to taking all of those concerns, complaints, questions, everything, suggestions, seriously...So, we're going to be working hard to make sure that we're hearing other people's identification of them so that we can implement solutions together," Dong said.

Dong was then questioned about the misconducts that took place at the UW RAISE'S Climate Justice is Racial Justice event.

"That type of stuff should not be happening. We can do our best to prevent it from happening but in light of when it does happen, there should be strict enforcement, ideally consequences to show that it's not acceptable behaviour. If misconduct is happening, people should be removed from events, not permitted to attend again because they pose a danger to students, if not their physical well-being, their mental well-being and that matters," Dong replied.

When asked about the facilitation of orientation for the upcoming year, Dong said she would be connecting with groups that have conducted both on-campus and online events to create meaningful experiences.

Next, questions were directed to the VP Education candidate, Stephanie Ye-Mawe. Mawe is studying Knowledge Integration.

"There are two goals that I see as most important, one of them is remaining responsive to the current pandemic situation, it's definitely changed how education is facilitated, its changed co-op, its changed student housing situations," Mawe said. She acknowledges that students may be in difficult situations regarding where they are living

and having the adequate means of accessing their classes.

"One of my biggest goals, and bringing my lived experiences to the forefront, is making sure that we develop a strategic plan for that [student accessibility commission] moving forward, making sure that we understand the various barriers that students of all different sorts of disabilities experience on campus and develop strategies to address that.

I think it's time that WUSA begins taking responsibility for that, in the same way we've taken responsibility for racialized students and LGBTQ+ students," she said.

Mawe also acknowledged that BIPOC students encounter difficulties on campus, and her plans to address these issues involves engaging in consultation, collecting those experiences but also being respectful through the fact that these students have been saying these things for a while, and it's just getting exhausting for them.

The last set of questions was for the Presidential candidate, Benjamin Phillip Easton.

Easton says some of his biggest goals for WUSA include governance reform and advocacy to the university to establish an independent academic policy office.

"Currently, WUSA runs the Centre for Academic Policy Support (CAPS) under the VP Education portfolio, where we support students with academic policy grievances and so on," Easton said.

He said that it has been good that WUSA has been able to support students through CAPS, but also acknowledges "that shouldn't be our responsibility. The university should be stepping up and helping students with these academic policy issues, particularly in light of their lack of willingness to help students with compassionate grading and credit, no credit options that really only leaves us as students with the ability to grieve but that's a lot of work for a student to do," he said that working to have an independent academic policy office is his top advocacy priority.

"My third priority is to the university board of governors from divestment from fossil fuels. My teammates have talked about sustainability within WUSA, what we can control but sustainability is the issue of our time and its demands action," Easton said.

"Groups like Fossil Free UW do a lot of great organizing outside the system, what a WUSA president can do is complement that work, inside of these decision making bodies.

Being a voice at the table and saying 'this is what students demand', these are urgent issues and how I can contribute to the work that other groups are doing as well," Easton added.

Easton says governance reform is needed to address any inefficiencies in terms of the organization's operating efficiency.

One way he is planning on doing this is by establishing committee mandates for all of the student council committees.

WUSA is a large organization and requires all sections to agree for change to happen.

Easton is hoping that the breadth of the experience across the team will help address the issues.

Easton acknowledges that every position in WUSA requires a lot of work and sees burnout as a potential problem.

When asked about racism on campus, Easton responded: "white supremacy is alive and well in our communities and on our campus, and supporting groups like RAISE is essential to creating safe places for BIPOC students and allowing students to organize and talk about issues like environmental racism and racism on campus... I'm aware of the irony of me, as a white person talking about how I'm going to beat racism, so I guess listening is how I can help to address [racism]."

More information about the official campaign can be found on the team's website duckduck.ca.

Voting begins on Tuesday, Feb. 2 and ends on Thursday, Feb. 4. Votes can be cast on vote.wusa.ca using your uwaterloo.ca email address to login.



# UW joins the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

Grace Xie  
Editorial Assistant

AHLAM IBRAHIM

On Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, UW announced that they have partnered with the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) as part of the anti-racism commitments set by president Feridun Hamdullahpur in 2020 to advocate for equity and anti-racism at the school. In the statement, vice-president James W.E. Rush urged faculty members and students to claim their free membership as the site highlights many internal programs and resources available at Waterloo.

“One reason it’s significant is that it was something that when the president of the university was meeting with faculty and students, and staff and other members of the community felt like they weren’t properly represented or having the opportunities they showed on campus.

One of the things they asked for was this, and frankly, this is a fairly easy commitment for the university,” David Devidi, association vice-president, academic, said.

Devidi went on to explain the decision to join the NCFDD as an easy commitment to make – a step forward in the right direction.

“It tells us that they felt like some of the things that they think this organization could offer is stuff that we don’t have yet. Either there’s something that we need to tweak about the way we offer it, or we’re not

letting people know that’s there,” Devidi said.

Furthermore, Devidi provided insight on the types of services and resources the membership offers both students and faculty members. Specifically, he explained how it can be a useful tool for upper-year and post-graduate students in finding valuable advice and guidance.

“Some of the things that look really useful to me, that we are only starting to work on, is that we’re working on developing mentoring programs.

There’s also advice on there, tailored to where you are in your career stage... it’s really mostly for people who are grad students or hire grad students, staff, postdocs, faculty members of different career stages... How do I go about getting a job right? How do I? How do I go about it? Getting connected with others in my professional community,” Devidi said.

Devidi added that although it is a small step, it was something that the community felt was necessary and which the school could bring.

The NCFDD is an independent US-based professional development, training, and mentoring community that was founded in 2010.

The organization offers various tools and resources, including workshops and course webinars on topics focusing on career development, writing and research funding, as well as advocating for equity, empowerment, and anti-oppression.



## Grade 10 Family Night at UW

Karen Chen  
News Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 18 from 6-7:30 p.m., grade 10 students who are thinking about attending university and their parents are invited to an online information session to learn how they can prepare. In this online event, attendees will receive an overview of university and helpful tips on making the difficult decision of what program to study. Information from this virtual conference will assist students applying to all universities or programs, not just UW courses. Dr. Christine Logel, Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo, is hosting the event. She will address myths and misconceptions about what university is really like.

“People should attend so they can learn things current university students wish they had known, and so they can share that

information with other students and parents,” Logel said. Prior to creating this event, Logel conducted a study on focus groups made up of current UW students.

“They wished they had known about the reality – that lots of academic support is available, that there are bursaries, scholarships, and paid work opportunities, and that lots of students take a few years off, or start at a college and then transfer, or even work for years and then return to university to start a new career,” Logel explained.

The event is aimed at students who are influenced by these misconceptions and might decide that university is just not for them. Logel shares a personal story that echoes many of the concerns of current high school students: “When I was in Grade 10, I wish I knew that an Arts degree prepares you for so many different careers. I knew I was interested in Psychology and Sociology, but I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to get a job when I graduated. I thought I had to

have a particular career in mind already. But actually, university is a place to expand your mind and learn thinking skills that prepare for careers you didn’t even know existed.”

This event is free for registration on the UW Undergraduate Programs webpage. The information night will proceed as follows:

- 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time/EST)
- Learn about:
- Studying what you love at university
- Admissions and applying
- Financing your education
- The student experience (by current Waterloo students)
- Agenda:
- 6:00 p.m. - Welcome
- 6:10 p.m. - Keynote
- 6:30 p.m. - Student speakers
- 6:45 p.m. - Admissions
- 7:00 p.m. - Financing Your Education
- 7:15 p.m. - Question and answer session

HEATHER ECOBICHON

### 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







# sports & health



**WRITE FOR SPORTS**  
Want to go to UW games for *Imprint*?  
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For more info, email [sports@uwimprint.ca](mailto:sports@uwimprint.ca).

## Check it out: Campus Wellness Workshops and Therapy Groups

Virtual events dedicated to helping students relax and alleviate anxiety

**Tara De Boer**  
Sports and Health Editor

Could you use a little more "zen" in your life? Do you want to learn how to alleviate your anxiety? How about becoming a master of your low moods?

Between the never-ending school work, the constant flood of content on social media, and pandemic-induced stress, life can feel pretty overwhelming for students right now.

Luckily, it's not too late to check out the winter offerings for Campus Wellness workshops and therapy groups at UW.

Campus Wellness has adjusted their offerings to be virtual again this winter to ensure students are supported as they navigate the term. Participants must be located within Ontario at the time of the session to participate in live online groups, due to clinician registration requirements.

Several sessions and support circles are being offered throughout this term to help students cope with any challenges they face this year.

The wellness offerings this term include:

**Zen Out:** Learning Mindfulness to Ease Depression.

**Unhook from Anxiety:** Hone your skills to unhook yourself from your anxiety and enjoy life a little more.

**Mastering Low Mood:** Learn how to manage moods of depression.

**Grad Student Community and Conversation Circle:** Join a safe space to talk with other grad students about the stress of balancing school and life.

**Skills for Safer Living (SFSL) — suicidal ideation group:** A suicide ideation group for students who struggle with persistent suicide ideation.

**Alleviating Anxiety:** Get introduced to several strategies designed to cope with your anxious thoughts and behaviours.

**Motivating yourself through habit change:** Learn about the habit loop, stages of change cycle, how to re-shape or change habits, strategies to increase motivation, overcome obstacles and increase chances for success; and relax using progressive muscle relaxation.

**Break free from low mood:** Learn about what low mood and depression are; including skills to better manage your low mood and depression in the moment, challenge your depressive thoughts, change behaviours that maintain low mood and depression using mindfulness, cognitive behavioural therapy, and self-compassion.

**Developing your compassionate mind:** People who are hard on themselves and struggle with self-critical thoughts and negative feelings can benefit from this work-

shop. Anyone who feels they could benefit from being kinder to themselves is welcome to register. This group is intended for a student audience.

The workshops and therapy groups have varying dates that all run throughout the

winter 2021 semester. If any of these workshops or groups interest you, you can learn more about them and sign up at: [uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services/seminars-and-workshops](http://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services/seminars-and-workshops).

Stay healthy everyone!



**THIS WEEK IN  
ATHLETICS AND  
RECREATION**

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FEBRUARY 20

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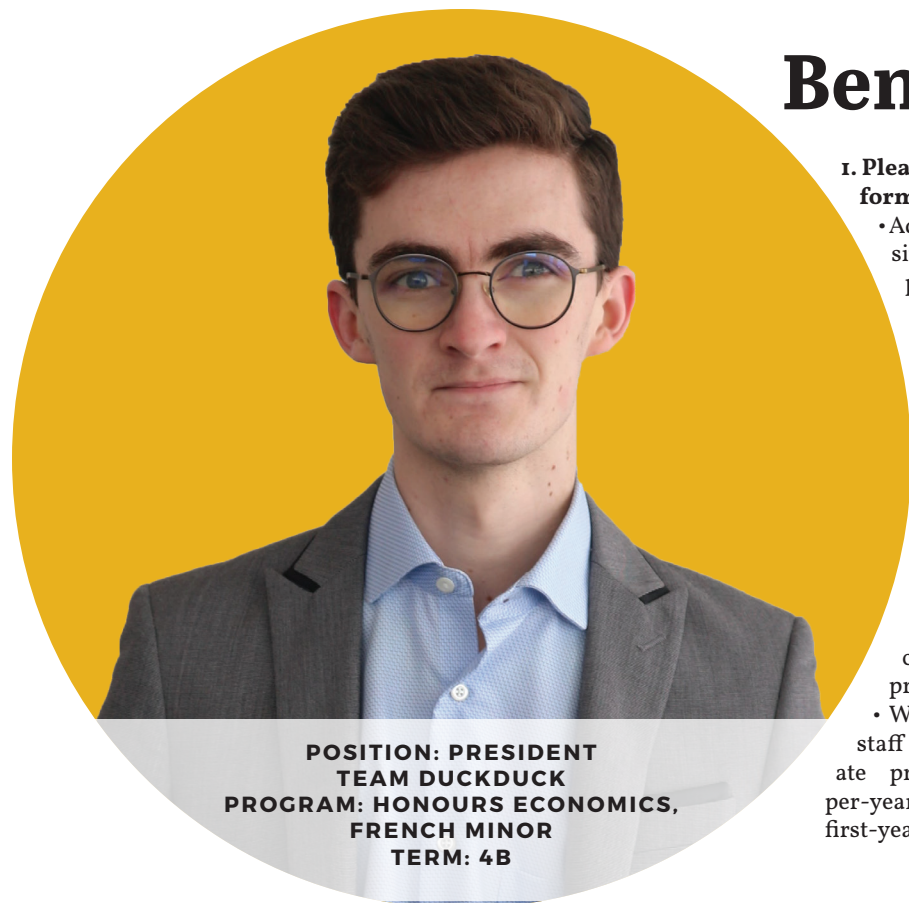
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# Meet the WUSA election candidates

Have you heard about the upcoming WUSA elections? Are you not sure who is running or who to vote for? Learn everything you need to know about this year's candidates.



**POSITION: PRESIDENT  
TEAM DUCKDUCK  
PROGRAM: HONOURS ECONOMICS,  
FRENCH MINOR  
TERM: 4B**

## Benjamin Easton (he/him)

### 1. Please describe your platform in 5 points.

- Advocate to the University to establish an independent ombuds office to support students with academic policy petitions and grievances
  - Governance reform to make WUSA more accessible for every student
  - Establish committee mandates to improve the efficiency of Students' Council's decision making processes
- Work with Orientation staff and volunteers to create programming for upper-year students who missed first-year on-campus activities

due to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Hold the University accountable to its commitments to ESG-based investing and push for immediate divestment from carbon-intensive industries

### 2. Which initiative in your platform is the most important to you and why?

Due to my experience on the Board of Directors and Students' Council, governance reform is what I hope to accomplish most during my year in office.

Currently, our governing documents are hundreds of pages long and written in such a way that they are a barrier to action in the organization.

My vision for WUSA governance is one where students and staff can understand clearly where power lies and understand how to interact with the governing bodies to

### 3. What is one thing you would want students to know about you?

I've been lucky to benefit through my participation in WUSA in the last 4 years. I am running for President because I want to pay it forward to the organization that has given me countless opportunities to grow as an individual. I hope to leave WUSA better than I found it so that the next generation of student leaders can have similar experiences.

### 4. A fun fact about yourself

I spent two summers on exchange in Quebec where I fell in love with the French language. Some of my favourite courses at UW have been taken in pursuit of the French minor.

## Catherine Dong (she/they)

### 1. Please describe your platform in 5 points.

- I have a full breakdown of my main platform available at [duckduck.ca/vpsl](http://duckduck.ca/vpsl), but here are some of the key points:
- Integrating sustainability into every branch of WUSA;
- Committing to the recommendations made by our equity review + actively listening to voices from marginalised demographics;
- Investing in support, guidance, and resources for student groups as we return to campus with a focus on making sure that students who have spent most/all of their degree online don't miss out on opportunities because of a lack of traditional on-campus experiences;
- Actively consulting with clubs and services throughout terms about the best ways to support them during this unique format of operations; and

- Working with services to create comprehensive long-range plans to set clear directions and target future goals.

### 2. Which initiative in your platform is the most important to you and why?

While I care deeply about the entire student life portfolio, I'll admit that sustainability is particularly close to my heart. I think there's huge potential for the WUSA Sustainability Project, and working on developing the second-hand clothing store has given me a particular appreciation for student-lead initiatives in that vein. As a reasonably-sized organization, there's value in investigating WUSA's carbon footprint to identify areas of improvement, and I intend to see that through as far as I can so we can get started on implementing those changes soon.

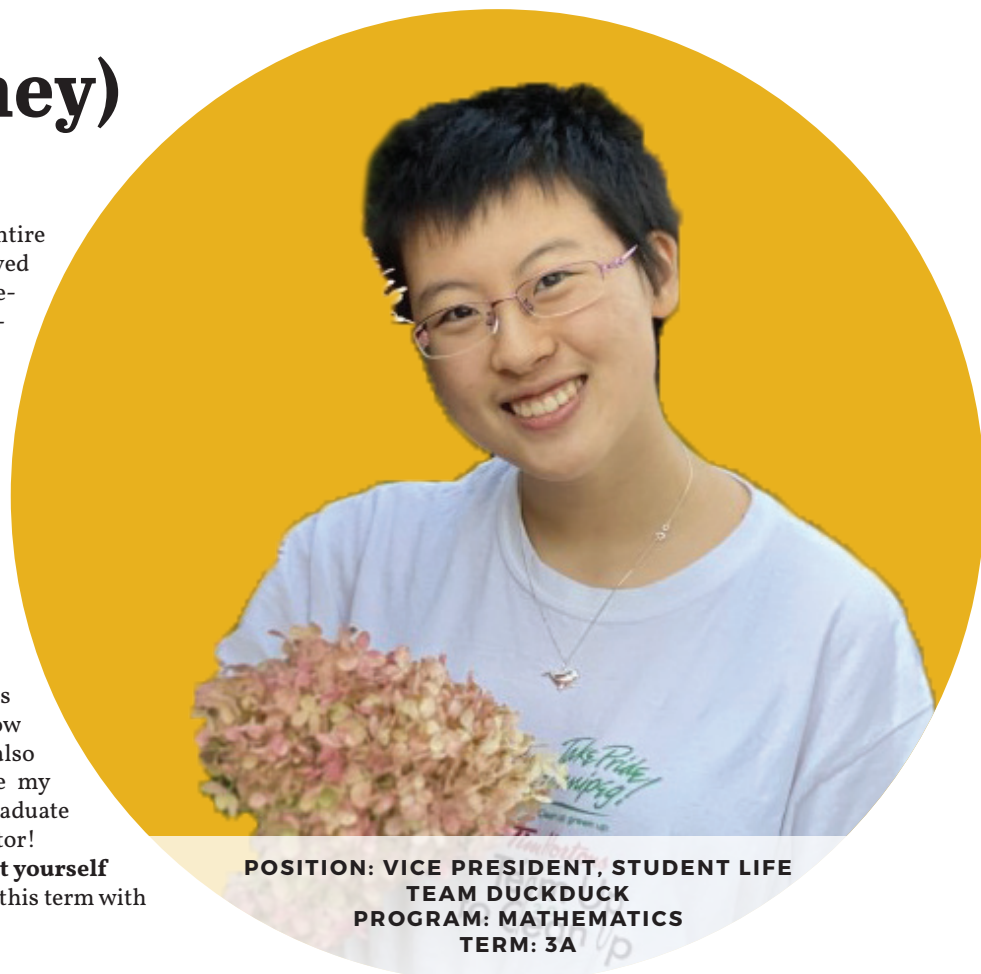
### 3. What is one thing you would want students to know about

### you?

I've spent my entire time at UW involved in student representative and governance, so I hope that you trust me to take on this important role—I'm fully prepared to give it my all, and I know that together with the rest of Team duckduck, we're going to do a lot of good for you this year. If I can throw in a bonus, I'm also running to reprise my role as Undergraduate Mathematics Senator!

### 4. A fun fact about yourself

I'm doing acapella this term with UWACC!



**POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT LIFE  
TEAM DUCKDUCK  
PROGRAM: MATHEMATICS  
TERM: 3A**

# Matthew Schwarze (he/him)



**POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE  
TEAM DUCKDUCK  
PROGRAM: MATHEMATICS AND BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION DOUBLE DEGREE  
TERM: 3B**

## 1. Please describe your platform in 5 points.

- Return the core principle of value-for-student-money to WUSA decision-making, while pursuing cost-saving strategies to respect your money.
- Actively build greater transparency and accountability across WUSA through proactive, public reporting and communications directly from me.
- Being there for students though the pandemic and beyond—including a 24-hour response time

to all of your inquiries.

- Get campus ready for your return, and not at any additional cost to students.

## 2. Which initiative in your platform is the most important to you and why?

Although unremarkable at first glance, I think that the 24-hour response policy is emblematic of what I see WUSA, and my role in it, as WUSA is here to support students, plain and simple, and that means being there for them. Whether it's concerns about healthcare, stu-

dent fees, WUSA services, or anything else, when a student emails the VPOF, it's about something very important and probably pretty stressful. WUSA provides some incredibly important services to its members, and it's unacceptable that students not get timely and meaningful responses to their inquiries. I'm very passionate about ensuring WUSA fulfils both it's basic responsibilities to its members and all the fancy new services we've built up over the years, and I'm very excited to be a part of it.

## 3. What is one thing you would want students to know about you?

I've sunk so much time into student advocacy and government over the past few years, and I've absolutely loved every second of it. It can be a real gruel at times, but it's a fantastically rewarding experience, and I'd do it all again. From my start in MathSoc culminating in President to now my long history at WUSA, I've had so many diverse experiences with so many different people that have taught me a whole lot. I'm so excited by the chance to serve as your VPOF, but I certainly couldn't be here today without my own dedication and even more so that of those around me.

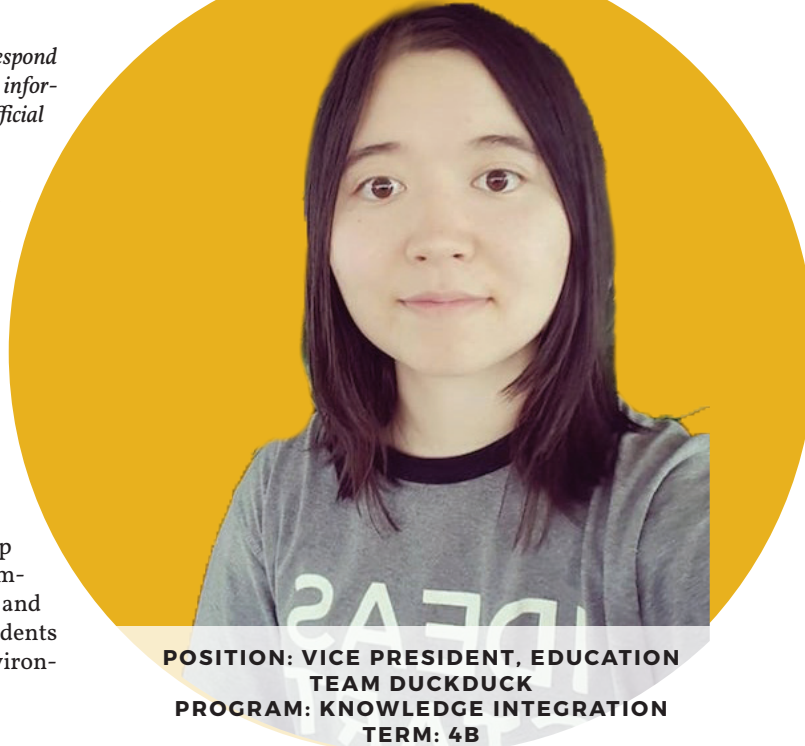
## 4. A fun fact about yourself

Normally everyone would get to see me around campus rocking my very goofy looking cowboy hat. I hope I can properly show it off later this year!

# Stephanie Ye-Mowe

*The following candidate did not respond within press time. The presented information was taken from the official WUSA website.*

- Advocate for accountable and equitable online learning.
- Work with UW, the provincial government, and other relevant stakeholders to develop supports for students left in precarious circumstances as a result of the pandemic.
- Lobby to include co-op students under the Employment Standards Act and provide resources to students stuck in toxic work environments.



**POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION  
TEAM DUCKDUCK  
PROGRAM: KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION  
TERM: 4B**

# Council Candidates

## AHS Candidates

There are two AHS seats, and one candidates running.

### Marie Jolicoeur-Becotte

Program: Health Studies Co-op; Addictions, Mental Health, and Policy Minor

Current year of study: 2B

## Arts Candidates - There are six Arts seats.

### Sahil Devani

Program: Accounting and Financial Management

Current year of study: 1B

### Rosanne Varghese

Program: Honors Arts and Business

Current year of study: 1B

### Neaa Rodrigues

Program: Honours Arts (Economics and Psychology)

Current year of study: 1B

Nuwair Akram (NUWI)

### Rebecca Dragusin

Program: Honours Arts Co-op, Major in Political Science and History

Current year of study: 3A

### Sonia Ismail

Program: Honours Arts and Business, Major in Economics and Minor in Digital Arts Communication

Current year of study: 3A

## Mathematics Candidates - There are even Math seats.

### Abhiraj Lamba

Program: Combinatorics and Optimisation

Current year of study: 2B

### Dyuti Kohli

Team Name: Pink  $\pi$ rates

Program: Mathematics/BBA

Current year of study: 1

### Kanan Sharma

Program: FARM

Current year of study: 4

### Arnav Gupta

Team Name: Math Squads

Program: Honors Mathematics/ Business Administration Co-op

Current year of study: 1B

### Vincent Macri

Program: Pure Math and Combinatorics & Optimization

Current year of study: 3B

### Jay Lan

Program: Math & BBA Double Degree

Current year of study: 1B

### Jia Hu

Candidate has not submitted information at this time.

### Kelly Shen

Candidate has not submitted information at this time.

### Yuhan Zhang

Program: Honours Math

Current year of study: 1

### Wyett Zeng

Team Name: all-100%

Program: CS/BBA Double Degree

Current year of study: 1

### Caroline Chen

Team Name: all-100%

Program: Financial Analysis and Risk Management

Current year of study: 1

## Science Candidates

There are five seats for Science, and one candidate running

### Manaswi Sharma

Program: Biology, with Coop

Current year of study: 4A

## Engineering Candidates

There are five seats for Engineering, and four candidate running.

### Frances Hallen

Program: Environmental Engineering

Current year of study: 2A

### Andy Ren

Candidate has not submitted information at this time.

### Angela Souza

Candidate has not submitted information at this time.

### Edward Yang

Program: Mechatronics Engineering

Current year of study: 3

## Environment Candidates There are two Environment seats.

### Connor Rettinger

Program: Planning, co-op

Current year of study: 4A

### Jaskaran Dhillon

Candidate has not submitted information at this time.





# Everything You Need to Know About Bernie Sanders' Infamous Mittens

Leona Kuo  
Reporter

The iconic "I am once again asking for your financial support" politician is making his rounds in popular media again, wearing the same jacket, but with an added touch this time.

## Another iconic meme

Bernie Sanders, the 79-year-old U.S. Senator from Vermont and chair of the Senate Budget Committee, was captured at Joe Biden's inauguration donning mittens and a scowl evident even beneath his mask. The inauguration was truly unlike any other in American history, due to both the COVID-19 pandemic as well as an attempted coup earlier in the month. It was, however, Sanders' casual dress and distinctive manner that stood out. Since the inauguration, Sanders has gone viral, as people on the internet have photoshopped him into famous settings, such as scenes from popular films.

Despite losing in the Democratic presidential nomination, Sanders became a key figure in helping Biden develop the platform for his election. Sanders considers himself a democratic socialist, who advocates for economic equality, climate justice, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, and assault weapon bans. Many of his social and economic policies are said to match those of the

Nordic Model.

## Meme comeback

Fun fact: During his campaign, when he was running against now-president Biden, Sanders filmed a now-infamous fundraising video, which propelled him to fame among millennial and Gen Z voters after a clip from the video was turned into a viral meme. In fact, the image of him wearing his taupe-coloured coat with the text, "I am once again asking for your financial support" became so popular, it made Time Magazine's list of the most impactful memes of 2020.

## Meme to merch to meals

Sanders took the opportunity to capitalize off this fame by selling sweatshirts and T-shirts adorned with the beloved image—but for a good cause, of course. 100% of the proceeds from his merch sales will be used to fund Meals on Wheels Vermont, a program that seeks to reduce food insecurity for seniors.

## The origin

Jen Ellis, a teacher from Vermont, created the mittens from wool sweaters and lined them with fleece made from recycled plastic. Ellis' daughter was a student at a pre-school where Sanders' daughter-in-law was a director. Upon hearing the news that Sanders lost the nomination to become the Democratic presidential candidate in 2016,

Ellis made him the mittens as a gift, along with a note encouraging him to run again.

Ellis has since received more than 13,000 emails about the mittens, though she has

expressed that she will not make more to sell, as they were a gift, unless the opportunity arose to make some for a charity auction.



SUHANI SAIGAL

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders is once again in the spotlight after his cozy appearance during the presidential inauguration.

# Campus Wellness Announces Pandemic Wellness Management Workshops

Vishal Lilman  
Reporter

It is no secret that the pandemic has taken a toll on our personal wellbeing, both physically and mentally. Campus Wellness recently announced a new series of virtual workshops called Managing Personal Wellness in a Global Pandemic.

Starting in the Winter 2021 term, this virtual series offers three sets of one-hour workshops: 'Motivating Yourself Through Habit Change,' 'Alleviating Anxiety,' and 'Break Free From Low Mood.' Students are

encouraged to take at least one of these workshops.

Students who attend 'Motivating Yourself Through Habit Change,' will learn about the habit loop and how to change it, the stages of the change cycle, how to increase motivation and overcome obstacles, and progressive muscle relaxation techniques.

The 'Alleviating Anxiety' workshop will allow attendees to learn strategies for coping with and managing stress and anxiety. Campus Wellness says this seminar is cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and mindfulness-based, and added that it's designed to help you better understand the causes of

anxiety and the factors that prolong it. Attendees will be introduced to various coping strategies designed to alleviate their anxiety in the moment, challenge their anxious thoughts, and change their behaviour.

The last workshop, 'Break Free From Low Mood,' is designed to teach participants about low mood and depression, as well as coping mechanisms that will help challenge and change depressive thoughts using mindfulness, CBT, and self-compassion.

The workshops are free and open to any students who are interested. For more information or to sign up for these workshops, visit Campus Wellness online.



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## Self-driving cars drive us into the future

Juhyun Lee  
Reporter

UW has been involved in the field of self-driving cars since late 2018, when Krzysztof Czarnecki, a UW professor in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as well as the head of the Generative Software Lab, developed a self-driving car to travel to neighbouring regions, using a driving data set from researchers in Germany.

Although self-driving cars are improving by the day, there are still challenges to overcome. While some of the advanced self-driving cars at the moment can handle rainstorms, dealing with snow is a whole other story.

What makes snow more difficult is that it affects the car's detection of its environment through the sensors, such as by covering markings on the road, which can severely impact autonomous decisions on the road.

"Snow is hard to drive in — as many drivers are well aware. But wintry conditions are especially hard for self-driving cars because of the way snow affects the critical hardware and AI algorithms that power them," Alexander Wanf, Founder and CEO of Scale AI, said. "A skilled human driver can handle the same road in all weathers — but today's AV models can't generalize their experience

in the same way. To do so, they need much more data."

To confront the heavy Ontarian snow, Czarnecki and Steven Waslander, a professor at the University of Toronto, in collaboration with the startup Scale AI, collated a data set of images known as the Canadian Adverse Driving Conditions (CADC), containing over 56,000 images of road conditions including snow. It also contains varied footage of foggy camera views, blizzard conditions, and slippery roads, which were labelled to help cars better understand these situations.

Several data sets involving bad weather conditions have been released in the past, including Linköping University's Automotive Multi-Sensor Dataset (AMUSE) and the Mapillary Vistas data set. What makes CADC special, as claimed by Scale AI, is that it is the first to focus specifically on "real-world" driving in snowy weather.

The current self-driving car industry seems to focus more on its utilization in mild weather conditions, which creates some uncertainties about its ability to manage harsh weather conditions.

"It's a very noticeable blind spot," Wang said. "Deploying autonomous vehicles in bad conditions is not really tackled, or really talked about."

"The complexity of winter weather is going to take an incredible amount of work for

automation technology to tackle," Bryan Reimer, a research scientist at MIT specializing in autonomous driving, said. "Ice-weather conditions are incredibly difficult."

Czarnecki has helped us take a step towards conquering snowy roads for self-driving cars.

"We want to engage the research commu-

nity to generate new ideas and enable innovation," Czarnecki said.

"This is how you can solve really hard problems- the problems that are just too big for anyone to solve on their own."

"It's in the interest of everyone to think about this," Czarnecki said, hoping that their work will prompt carmakers and startups to think more about bad-weather driving.



AHLAM IBRAHIM

UW professor Krzysztof Czarnecki has developed a self-driving car for people to travel to neighbouring regions.

## Thornhill teen uses machine learning AI to treat Tourette syndrome

Shaza Syed  
Reporter

Fifteen-year-old Jerry Di from Thornhill, Ontario has been working together with computer science students at UW and the University of Toronto to help millions of people that suffer from Tourette syndrome.

Tourette syndrome is a neurological disorder that causes tics, resulting in muscle spasms.

"This condition causes extreme social stigma and discomfort, especially in youth," Di said.

Di and his team have spent the last year

on a biotechnology start-up for the treatment of Tourette syndrome by developing an AI-based platform called Unitic.

"We are building a virtual therapy platform that uses machine learning to diagnose patients and treats them through specialized therapy. We hope to use it to drastically improve the treatment field for Tourette syndrome," Di explained.

The team has recently been supported by the Alberta OCD Foundation and Tourette Network, but believe they still have a long way to go in terms of assisting those that suffer from the disease.

"We're leaving millions of people without support or treatment, especially in com-

monly overlooked areas," Di said "We hope to use it to drastically improve the treatment field for Tourette syndrome."

The funding for research towards treatment for Tourette syndrome has been steadily declining over recent years, which has contributed to lowering the quality of treatment.

"We simply hope to make an innovative change in the way Tourette syndrome is treated with our platform. Our goal is to be the competition that will push the Tourette syndrome treatment industry to improve," Emily Su said, another lead in Di's team.

Di was inspired by his own experience with Tourette syndrome to help others like

him obtain effective and affordable treatment.

"All the possible methods are either outrageously expensive, impossible to commute to or just downright ineffective," Di said, "That's why I wanted to create a platform that would solve this issue, something that anyone could use at any time to better themselves."

Looking forward, the team is hoping to engage with industry leaders and professionals to bring Unitic into the market.

"We want to be able to provide the best of the Unitic platform, and the best experience to help patients," Di said.

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

**Next scheduled board of directors meeting:**  
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# opinion



## HAVE YOUR SAY

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

# No Animals Were Harmed in the Creation of this Clumsy Metaphor

Over the past four years, watching the Donald Trump presidency has felt, in many ways, like watching an unsteady camel struggling to hold the weight of a massive bale of straw, waiting for it's back to break - waiting for something, even something terrible, to end the long, slow torment of this wretched creature.

If you have ever encountered the phrase 'the straw that broke the camel's back' you might be tempted to use it to describe the after effects of the attempted coup that took place at the United States Capitol building on Jan. 6. While the insurrection occurred a few weeks and an inauguration ago (a millennium in political time), the repercussions are still rippling through the country - some of the insurgents have been arrested, Donald Trump has been impeached for the second time, and Twitter finally decided to suspend Trump's account.

It is extremely tempting to describe the coup as the straw that broke the camel's back for Twitter, for cabinet members such as Betsy DeVos who resigned Jan. 8, and for the 10 Republican House Representatives who voted for impeachment. And in many ways, it was.

And yet, for me at least, none are abolished.

'The straw that broke the camel's back' essentially describes a small action or event that prompts a more extreme reaction than seems warranted. What the idiom does not spell out, however, is the amount of straw that must already be piled onto the camel's back before that singular piece can cause the poor animal's back to break.

In the course of Donald Trump's presidency, there have been straws piling up on the camel's back every day - from the infamous Access Hollywood tape before he was even elected to his suggestion that drinking disinfectant would kill the COVID-19 virus (to be fair, it would kill COVID-- but it would also kill you), Donald Trump's actions have been consistently and dangerously reckless. Sometimes, the straw was an impeachable offence that was less of a straw and more like an entire bale that made the camel's knees buckle. Yet somehow, for many, that camel remained staunchly upright, back unbroken.

It is understandable, then, why across the internet on Jan. 8 and 9, you would find a huge number of people celebrating the deactivation of Trump's Twitter account - an actual consequence for his actions.

You would also find that many of those happy people wished it had happened sooner.

My take here is not particularly earth-shattering, because I agree. I'm glad it happened, but Twitter - or any corporation, cabinet secretary (looking at you Betsy), GOP member, or Trump supporter - does not get any brownie points from me for just now disavowing Donald Trump. Their actions are not bravery, but pure common-sense scrambling for self-preservation, because, ultimately, it was not a straw that finally broke the camel's back. Oh, no. After all this time, and all that weight on the camel, Donald Trump finally said screw it, pulled out a gun, and shot the damn camel in the head.

I understand why Betsy DeVos resigned. I understand why Twitter suspended Donald Trump's account. I do. I get it. It makes perfect sense. This is not a big reaction to a small incident, nor is it a big reaction to an equally big incident. This is a rational, if not small, reaction to a sitting President inciting an attempted coup on his own government. Of course, the camel's back is broken - the camel is dead. Republican lawmakers may not have shot it themselves, but they were the keepers of this camel who did nothing to relieve it of the straw on its back. They just kept it there, under the weight, until Trump put the miserable thing down.

I will give them marginal credit for being mildly rational after four years of wild irrationality. Good job. You figured out that supporting a man who would rather commit treason than lose power is not a smart idea, you genius you. But finally denouncing Trump now is not heroic and it is not 'taking a stand'.

I am not saying any-

thing new. There are people, particularly BIPOC, making commentary right now who are smarter than I am and who have more nuanced takes based on experiences and perspectives that I do not have. All I can say is that I, too, am glad that I (hopefully) never have to read another Donald Trump tweet in my life. But true dissidents, true heroes, do not dismiss the small straws. They do not see the camel struggling to hold the weight of so much straw and prop it up with excuses until finally the person they have supported, directly or indirectly, murders the camel.

A Postscript to be judged by the readers-Washington Post's FRIDAY headline:

"Open hostility broke out among Republicans and Democrats in Congress amid growing fears of physical violence and looming domestic terrorism threats from supporters of Donald Trump, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi leveling an allegation that dangers lurk among the membership itself".

And if that is not enough, here is an excerpt from NYT's Thursday morning briefing, which puts to sleep any euphoria:

"Trump trial: Senate Republicans rallied on Tuesday against trying former President Donald Trump, with only five members of his party joining Democrats in a vote to go forward with his impeachment trial. The vote suggests Mr. Trump is likely to be acquitted."

Erin F.  
 3A, Rhetoric, Media, and Professional Communication







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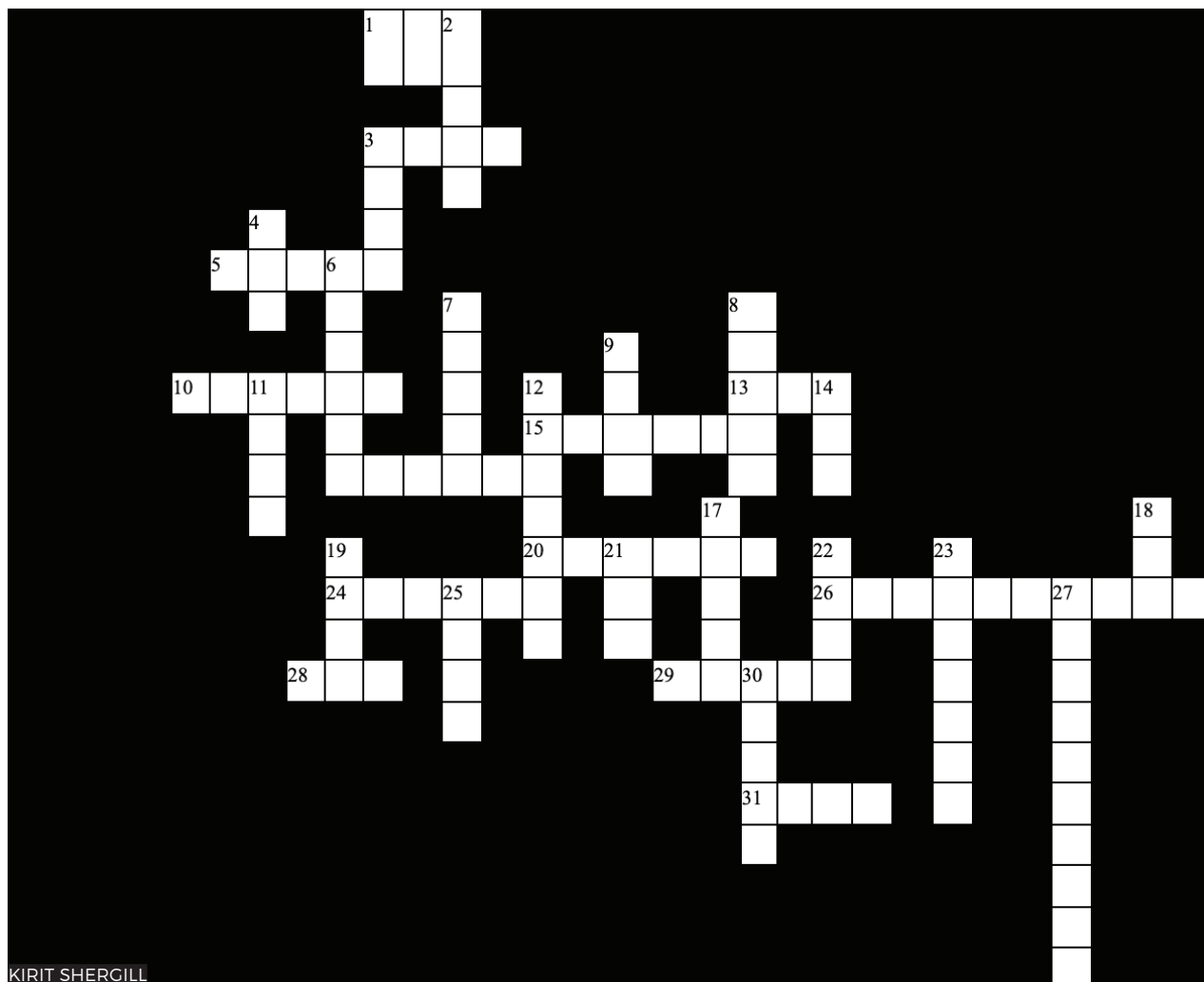
# distractions



FOR THOSE WITHOUT A DATE FOR VALENTINES DAY

I have one for you!  
It's February 14th.  
You're welcome!

## Imprint Crosswords | February fun!



KIRIT SHERGILL

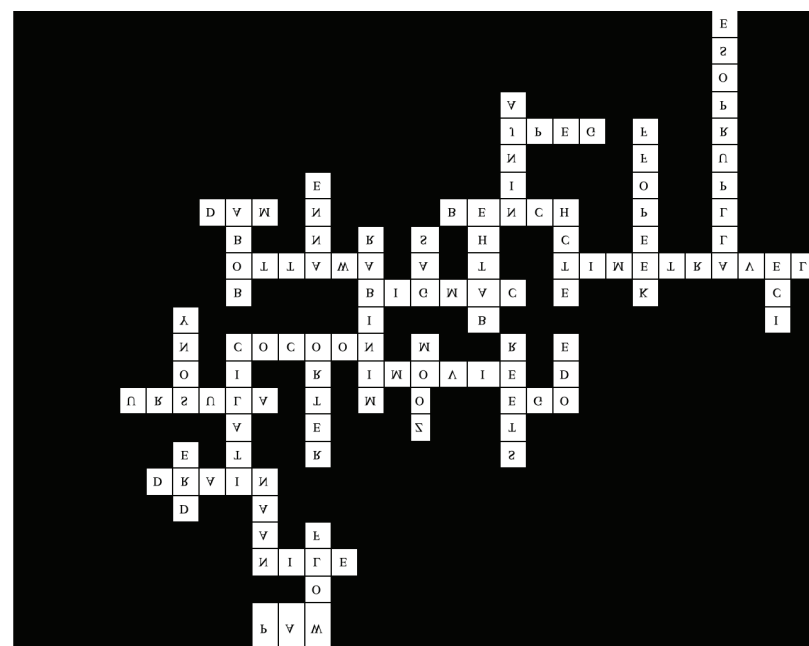
### Down

- 2. Granny eater of storybooks
- 3. Indian bread
- 4. Beats by \_\_
- 6. Slanted, in a way
- 7. Old-school
- 8. Grab the wheel
- 9. Has an online meeting
- 11. PlayStation maker
- 12. Hotel convenience
- 14. Poetry class reading
- 17. Soak in the tub
- 18. Diamonds, slangily
- 19. Taiwanese tea
- 21. You might get it with a bean burrito
- 22. Permanently mark
- 23. Lawn warning (4,3)
- 25. Hathaway married to Shakespeare
- 27. Useful in many ways, as flour (3,7)
- 30. Stealthy warrior

### Across

- 1. What a dog uses to 'shake'
- 3. Blue, Yellow, and White river
- 5. Water escape route
- 10. 'The Little Mermaid' villain
- 13. It may need a boost
- 15. Apple video-editing app
- 16. Caterpillar casing
- 20. Classic fast-food sandwich since 1967 (3,3)
- 24. Capital that was originally called Bytown
- 26. Cause of many fictional paradoxes (4,6)
- 28. Hydroelectric holder
- 29. Park seat
- 31. Photoshop image acronym

## Answers for February fun



i bet i can score on your five-hole



To:

From: