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UW ESPORTS JOINS COMMISSION

To promote gaming programs within the region, KW has begun investing in its own esports program with numerous camps already ready for joining. P12



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Join Maliyah Bernard on her digital art journey to empower Black women. P7

WASTEWATER TESTING P9

UW professor leads the team in charge of detecting traces of COVID-19 in wastewater.

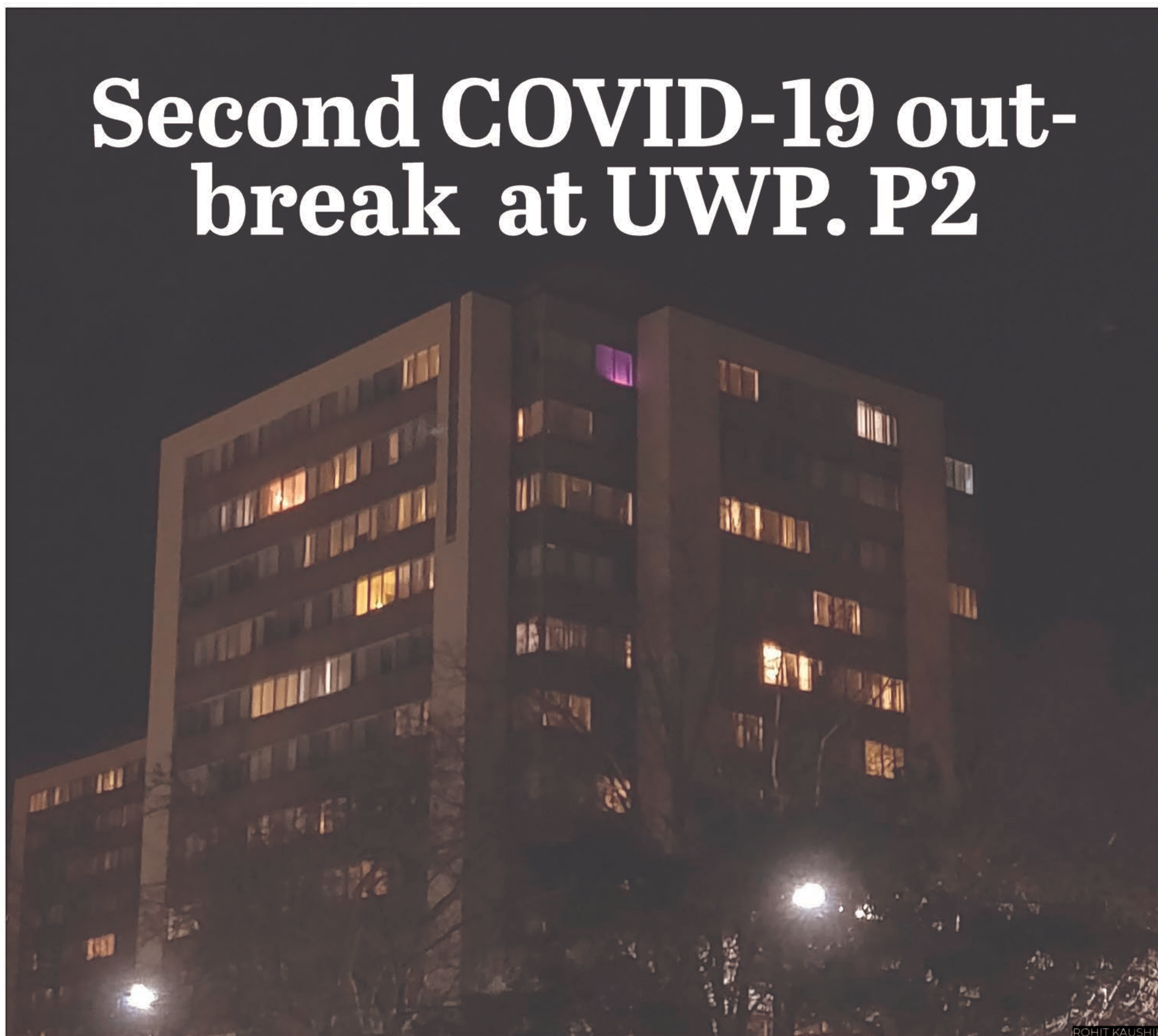
EARTH DAY CHALLENGE P2

Take action towards saving the planet by participating in the Earth Month 2021 challenge.

BITCOIN SIMPLIFIED P10

Learn about what Bitcoin is exactly and why it's so expensive.

Second COVID-19 outbreak at UWP. P2





Earth Month challenge with UW Sustainability Office

Karen Chen
News Editor

Earth Day is coming up on Apr. 22—a day of stewardship, empowerment, and conservation. Communities around the world take part in sustainability initiatives such as tree planting, yard clean-ups, or rallies, and many extend these activities for the entire month of April, globally known as Earth Month.

To commemorate the annual occasion, the University of Waterloo's Sustainability Office is holding an Earth Month 2021 challenge, happening from Monday, Mar. 29 to Friday, Apr. 23.

This four-week challenge aims to encourage participants to take action on four different weekly themes: sustainable food,

waste reduction, connecting with nature and promoting wellness. Here's how community members can participate:

- Register for the challenge to stay in the loop.
- Take action each week from a list of five themed actions. The list will be shared via email and social media.
- Track your impact through the weekly reporting form to enter into a draw.
- Get rewarded by contributing to collective impact and being entered into the grand prize draw.

Participants will be entered to win one of 15 \$50 gift cards that support local businesses including: Four All Ice Cream, Gifted and Zero Waste Bulk. You can watch for the #EarthMonthUW on popular social media.

Earth Day isn't about protecting the planet for one day, week, or month—it's about sustaining these actions and creating a life-

style that supports and protects the environment for the long-term.

Students can also join a club on campus that promotes sustainability within the university, such as Sustainable Campus Initiative, Campus Compost or the ESS Coffee Shop and take part in their events.

Here are a few simple ideas for anyone to get started:

- Shop at your local farmer's market for produce, meat, and bread, and look for less-packaged alternatives when shopping
- Use less electricity by turning lights off in vacant rooms and unplugging unused chargers
- Make a donation or volunteer your time with a local environmental organization, like Sustainable Waterloo Region or Reep Green Solutions
- Go outside and reconnect with nature

There are many ways for community members to promote sustainability in everyday life and Earth Day is a great way to start living a more sustainable lifestyle.



JIA CHEN

Peter Fulcher to retire after 36 years

Saihaj Dadhra
Assistant News Editor

Peter Fulcher is retiring this year after 36 years of service in UW's Plant Operations. Plant Operations is the university's largest support department with over 350 full-time staff.

The department is responsible for the maintenance, repair, renovations, and improvements for the 70 buildings that make up the UW campus, spread over 1,112 acres of land and totaling 8 million square feet.

Fulcher began working at UW in 1984 as a carpenter, and has since taken on many roles, including foreperson and supervisor of roofing, masonry and painting services. Throughout his time at the university, Fulcher has displayed technical knowledge, leadership and endurance while supervising the building services team. He has witnessed great campus expansion, thriving enrollment numbers, and the addition of new buildings, all while handling the daily challenges associated with being a supervisor and working with an aging campus.

"His smile and support will be missed by

many in our campus community," a message from Plant Operations said. "Peter's friendly and helpful approach has been very much appreciated by his colleagues, as well as many faculties and researchers."



HEATHER ECOBICHON

COVID-19 outbreak declared at UWP

Saihaj Dadhra
Assistant News Editor

Region of Waterloo Public Health has declared an outbreak at University of Waterloo Place (UWP) after three individuals living in the residence hall and two others who recently visited tested positive for COVID-19.

The news comes shortly after the university's announcement of plans to return to in-person learning this fall.

An emailed statement sent out on Mar. 25 states that the cause of the outbreak "appears to be a result of students ignoring our protocols for social safety."

The university maintains strict policies to manage outbreaks of COVID-19, including cleaning and disinfection policies that exceed public health requirements and protocols prohibiting visitors from campus and residences.

Public health officials have reached

out to all high-risk contacts of those who tested positive. The emailed statement advised those on campus to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and be tested if needed.



COURTESY UW

UWP residents have been asked to self monitor for symptoms.

Eight campus buildings to be assessed for RHFAC

Phoebe Wolfe
Reporter

UW is planning to make campus more accessible.

To ensure the university's facilities are universally inclusive, eight buildings on the main campus will be reviewed for physical accessibility.

According to a 2017 study by Statistics Canada, one in five Canadians aged 15 or older identifies with having one or more disabilities.

The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) is a national rating system that determines the level of meaningful access to a site.

The system was developed by the Rick Hansen Foundation, a Canadian charity whose mission is to "create and deliver innovative solutions that lead to a global

movement to remove barriers and liberate the potential of people with disabilities."

The Government of Ontario partnered with the foundation in January 2020, providing \$1.3 million in funding for 250 sites across 15 municipalities to be evaluated.

The buildings receiving assessment are B.C. Matthews Hall (BMH), the Physical Activities Complex (PAC), South Campus Hall (SCH), the Student Life Centre (SLC), Columbia Icefield, Mathematics and Computer (MC), Claudette Millar Hall and Dana Porter Library (DP).

A rating will be assigned to each building based on relevant criteria.

To become certified, a building must meet the minimum certification requirements and score above 60 per cent. The rating scorecard can then be used to identify areas for improvement.

The certification process typically takes 10 to 12 weeks. COVID-19 safety measures

and campus visitation guidelines will be followed during assessment.

In late 2020, the Pharmacy Building was the first UW building to become RHF Accessibility Certified with a score of 71 per cent.

Since the launch of the RHFAC program,

at least 790 sites across Canada have become RHF Accessibility Certified. The foundation also offers awareness programs, professional training, accessibility grants to positively influence perceptions of disability and eliminate obstacles to inclusivity.

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



Imprint Feature: Benjamin Easton

Benjamin Easton was elected for the position of the WUSA president with 729 (77.968 per cent) 'yes' votes in the recent elections.

How does it feel to be elected as a WUSA Executive?

It's exciting! I feel grateful to have the chance to give back to WUSA for all of the opportunities I've been provided through my four years with the organization.

What is the first thing you will do when you start your term?

The top priority come May 1 will be working with my team, the new Students' Council, Board of Directors and WUSA staff to develop our annual plan. Catherine, Steph, Matthew and I are starting our transition into the roles and hope to hit the ground running with our annual plan goals to propose to Council and Board for approval.

What are you most excited about?

As an admitted process nerd, I am most excited by the opportunity to make WUSA's governance more accessible to every member. I look forward to working with elected student representatives and the Board to make tangible changes that align with the goals outlined in WUSA's Strategic Plan for 2020-25.

What is something you will do differently this year?

Writing this response on the one

year anniversary of the pandemic declaration, I think we have all learned a lot about how to run a student association online.

Alongside this year's president, Abbie Simpson, I hope to run a robust transition for our Students' Council and Board of Directors to help build a culture of co-operation and set clear expectations for all our governance volunteers. In the optimistic case that we see a safe return to campus during our year in office, I look forward to seeing in person the faces I've met through my laptop screen in the past year.

Will you be working remotely? If yes, how do you feel about it?

This decision is made by the Campus Safety Office, and it's really hard to say how the public health situation will look by the start of May. Obviously, my preference would be to work on campus in a virus-free alternate reality. In the meantime, I am content to follow the public health guidelines as they exist.

What is something you would like to say to the student body?

I encourage all students to get involved with campus life, be it through a club, service of faculty society. WUSA isn't a monolith, it's the sum of a community of tens of thousands of students. We all get out what we put in.

Waterloo Region residents scammed out of more than \$700K by Bitcoin fraudsters

Saihaj Dadhra
Assistant News Editor

Waterloo Region Police issued a warning to community members earlier this month after 120 residents were scammed out of more than \$700,000 collectively by scammers, as reported by CTV Kitchener.

The warning states that 14 cases of fraud were reported from January to mid-February with an average loss of \$62,000.

According to Global News, the RCMP stated that cryptocurrency fraud has grown by 400 per cent from 2017 to 2020 alone. Last year, it was reported that Canadians lost more than \$11 million between January and August. Police in many Canadian cities such as Vancouver, Winnipeg, Red Deer, Alta. and Toronto have issued similar

warnings to residents about cryptocurrency scams within the last year. The scammers have been contacting individuals via phone call impersonating government employees, law enforcement agents, and immigration officials. They have also utilized spoofing to appear as a police phone number to make their calls more convincing to victims and hide their identity.

Through these phone calls, scammers ask victims to verify personal information and they are pressured, by the scammers threatening imprisonment, into withdrawing money and making a Bitcoin transaction using a QR code.

Anyone who has fallen victim to the scams is asked to file an online report with Waterloo Regional Police. Those who have received calls of this nature but have not lost money are requested to contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



HEATHER ECOBICHON

What is World Consumer Rights Day?

Mahek Kaur
Reporter

Consumers International—an organization created to ensure everyone in the marketplace is treated fairly—held its annual World Consumer Rights Day events this month with a focus on tackling plastic pollution.

Consumers came together to address and tackle plastic pollution through the #NoPlasticPollution photo action, a global photo activity sharing examples of themselves and other consumers tackling plastic pollution in their daily lives using the 7 R's Model of Waste Management: replace, rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and repair.

Every year, Canadians throw away 3 million tonnes of plastic waste, only nine per cent of which is recycled, meaning the vast majority of plastics end up in landfills and about 29,000 tonnes finds its way into our natural environment.

On Mar. 9, Consumers International hosted its World Consumer Rights Day 2021: Leadership Perspectives webinar. Leaders from the consumer movement, businesses and civil society discussed the importance of sustainable consumption, future targets and the essential role of consumer advocacy in the fight against plastic pollution. Some of the participating organizations include The Body Shop, Polymateria, Greenpeace

and the Danish Consumer Council.

World Consumer Rights Day was originally enacted by former U.S. president John F. Kennedy on Mar. 15, 1962. At that time, he outlined four basic consumer rights: "The right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose and the right to be heard."

Consumers International continues to cel-

ebrate World Consumer Rights Day and has been selecting a different theme for its events every year since 2014 based on an issue that is important to consumers everywhere.

"It's a day, Mar. 15, every year where we celebrate consumer protection and consumer empowerment," said Helena Leurent, director general of Consumers International, in her

special message released on World Consumer Rights Day 2021. "We celebrate and we thank the people who work in consumer protection, to make sure that we have a fairer, safer and more sustainable marketplace for everyone."

Consumers International intends to achieve global impact for consumers and continue to advocate for sustainable consumption.



JIA CHEN

sports & health



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UW to take part in esports camp

Claudia Tavera-Tello
Reporter

The Kitchener-Waterloo region will be investing into its own esports programs, events and initiatives. This will be the first investment of its kind to promote gaming programs in the region.

Allister Scorgie, the director of the Sport Hosting Office at Explore Waterloo Region describes esports as "a global phenomenon, on track to surpass \$1 billion in global revenues in 2021."

He added, "Waterloo Region is already having local endemic gaming and tech-

nology companies. We believe esports will play an integral role in the future of our tourism efforts and will have a positive economic impact for years to come."

The goal for the investment plan is to have the Waterloo Region Sports Commission (WRSC) gather regional municipalities, local enterprises and gaming industries in the area. The WRSC will also use Waterloo as a destination to support, host and promote tournaments and programs.

Their first initiative is to promote local and regional talent via numerous camps hosted by Esports Camps Canada, which will also include certified esports coaches

from the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College.

Jeremy Dueck, manager of The Aud in Kitchener stated that Waterloo Region has always been a site of outstanding sports, education, training and technology.

"Esports is not just a new sport. Esports is also a new career path, an economic driver, community bridge, and global connection that will have a positive impact in our region," Dueck said.

Scorgie added that during Spring Break, he is hoping that young people will participate in a series of esports camps. They've created a contest giveaway to offer 30 registrations via Twitter and their official

website, which they hope will enable young players to participate.

The UWaterloo Esports team will present a virtual League of Legends camp from Apr. 13 to 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET.

This camp consists of training for young players with a variety of tactics and tools to improve not just their gaming skills but improve their life skills simultaneously. With the anticipation of Waterloo Esports Camps growing and enhancing both physically and mentally, Imprint asked Steve Quach, one of the leads for the UWaterloo Esports team who is also running the League of Legends camp at the University of Waterloo, to give his thoughts about the news.

Q: What new experience would youth players learn from Esport Camps?

SQ: The esports camps are meant for not necessarily university students—they are targeting more youth from ages 13 to 18.

The idea with these camps is to use esports as a medium to help the youth understand and develop life skills in a way that is more genuine to them and it helps them be more passionate and express themselves the best.

So these are valuable soft skills that people can think of, things like teamwork, communication, having the right mindset.

Q: In your opinion, what would Esports Camp teach youth players to help them perform better?

SQ: The esports camp, in my opinion, would help youth to perform better because it recognizes what these players

are missing from their play and what exactly they need in order to improve.

I know this sounds vague at first, but it helps identify what skills or what things they might not understand – it's less about the technical aspects of each game per se but more about developing the right mindset and being able to have the right habits in order to create a better environment for yourself in order to improve.

Q: Would therapy and counseling with a psychologist be helpful and essential for esports, especially at this time when mental health is becoming a concern?

SQ: Maybe not specifically with the camp because there are resources already available to support the mental aspect of the game. However, on a general basis, I do believe that having a psychologist is really helpful for players and different athletes because for a lot of players, they might not have a full un-

derstanding of why they are feeling a certain way or what emotions affect their thinking.

Therefore, having an external person to help identify those things for them is extremely helpful and keeps them grounded. It allows players to perform better because they are understanding how their mind works so they can use that and then twist that in a way that helps them perform a lot better.

Q: Are you hoping that Waterloo's tournaments and programs will become a success?

SQ: Of course. I am very much hoping that the esports program continues to grow at the rate that it has been.

It's huge at the school, but it's still relatively good because of how many potential players there are and the kinds of things that we can be doing at the school or to better engage students.

Having to support people in the competitive scene is a really great start, with a lot of

events for casual players that are looking to use it as a social medium or connect with new people or have a social activity with their friends.

I do want to expand on catering to the needs or wants of as many students as possible. There are a lot of steps for me to take and there are a lot of different ways we can go about it so we'll see how continuing events will go and take up from there.

Q: Anything else you would like to say?

SQ: I think Waterloo is taking a lot of initiative in trying to make sure that the students' experience of esports is a genuine one. We are looking to help improve students' experience through esports and meet their needs. At the same time, we're trying to help the university staff and the faculty understand the value of esports.

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

MALIYAH BERNARD (@MALIYAHMADETHIS)

Lauren Speight
Arts & Life Editor

Maliyah Bernard was born and raised in Kitchener-Waterloo and is a recent graduate of UW's Master of Arts program in English rhetoric and communication design. Bernard now works as a content writer at a local company called Axonify.

Despite being a writer by trade, Bernard picked up digital art at the beginning of quarantine and created an Instagram account called @MaliyahMadeThis. The pandemic brought out a new desire to create visual art, and it has been a creative outlet that ensures a balance between work and home life while she works remotely.

The events of the last year have pushed Bernard to think more critically about the art she creates

and the voices that may be left out of certain narratives and spaces.

"As a Black woman, I've always cared about this, but my passion for diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism has grown exponentially since the reignition of the Black Lives Matter movement last year," Bernard said. "My work went from small, abstract paintings and drawings to trying to make sure people that look like me are fairly represented in this digi-

tal art trend."

Right now, Bernard is most influenced by her diversity, equity and inclusion work. In her style of digital art, Bernard said few artists take into consideration that there are skin tones, hair types, body shapes and genders missing from their accounts and how this impacts their audience.

"Representation normalizes the fact that this is what our communities actually look like," she said.

Bernard creates her pieces using an Apple pencil and the app Procreate on her iPad. "I'm a big pen-to-paper type of person and I feel like that helps me get a bit of that even when creating something digital," said Bernard.

Her favourite part of the artistic process is sharing the final product with the world. Before publishing, she makes sure to credit the photographers, models and artists that inspire her work. Sometimes, she catches the eyes of the influencers and poets that she illustrates -- creating her account has allowed her to connect with these creators she admires in a way she wasn't able to before.

Bernard mentioned that one of her favourite pieces of work she's done is a digital illustration she made of influencer @niathelight

on Instagram.

"She was the influencer that showed me how important embracing your natural curl pattern and features—including acne—can be for your self-confidence and wellbeing," Bernard said. "After discovering her in my undergrad, I kept my hair natural for a full year and had never felt better about my self-image. I think her mission and mine are very similar in this way."

The local art and small business communities in KW are also sources of inspiration for Bernard. "These people motivate me to keep creating, which is really important as someone who has felt burnt out before," she said.

"I've been fortunate enough to have taken on many commissions and I've even been able to donate a portion of my funds back into our community."

Bernard also said she hopes that people are able to see through her work that there is more than one type of beauty.

"It's empowering to see people that look like you being celebrated and recognized, and it's something I especially want my younger siblings' generation to see all the time so they know they're appreciated."



Maliyah
Made This

COURTESY MALIYAH BERNARD

Imprint review: carried away on the crest of a wave

Nicola Rose
Assistant Arts & Life Editor

For their final project, UW's theatre and performance program senior capstone students produced scenes from the play *carried away on the crest of a wave* written by Canadian playwright David Yee.

The play, which was live-streamed for three performances (11:30 a.m. Mar. 25 and 7:30 p.m. Mar. 26 and 27), is centred around themes of global tragedy, trauma and togetherness.

Thematically, the play is related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the performance aimed to capture the impact of a global event on humanity.

Due to the pandemic, the creative team had to adhere to numerous safety measures. Throughout the production process, the team

did an exceptional job of navigating the necessary restrictions, and the final performance demonstrated their hard work and creative ingenuity.

The planning process began in the summer of 2020, several months into the pandemic. Over Zoom, the capstone students along with Director Andy Houston and Production Manager Janelle Rainville selected their final play.

The group wanted to address the trauma and grief of a global event like the pandemic, without telling a story about COVID-19 specifically. They decided on David Yee's *carried away on the crest of a wave*.

Yee's work explores the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami — one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. The play consists of a series of vignettes that tell nine stories

about people around the world who were affected by the devastating event.

Through these stories, "Yee captures vividly the process of moving from trauma through the various stages of recovery over days, weeks, months, and years," Houston wrote in his Notes on the Production.

At its core, *carried away on the crest of a wave* is a story about connection.

"Yee's approach to the 2004 tsunami is to script a series of stories that represent glimpses of the human spirit, facing enormous adversity yet driven by a will to come together for reflection and sharing — a desire that our own pandemic-impacted world knows all too well," Houston wrote.

At the start of the planning process, the theatre and performance team established a set of goals they wanted to achieve with their

project. On the list was a desire to have an in-person person experience and increase connection throughout the play.

The team relied on stringent and regularly updated safety protocols to ensure that they could include the in-person aspect. Actors wore face coverings, the production space was sanitized routinely, and the choreography was adjusted so that the cast members remained six feet apart at all times. Every moment of the show was reviewed by a safety team.

The team also relied on digital communication tools, from video conferencing to social media, to restore the connection that was absent due to the pandemic.

Although the final production had no in-person audience, the team used real-time live-streaming to help recreate the sense of togetherness that is born from live theatre.

The prevalence of digital media offered another benefit—the audience for this year's production spread much wider than in any previous year. Theatre and performance students from around the world were able to share their work with their families and friends in real time.

Yee's play centres on the idea of global connectedness.

The pandemic has demonstrated that our world is deeply interconnected. Through their production of *carried away on the crest of a wave*, the capstone team has reinforced these ideas, both on and off-stage.

Just as the pandemic connected us through tragedy, UW's theatre and performance capstone team connected audience members through art. Through that connection, they provided us with a chance to reflect on the pandemic and begin to heal.

TheMuseum plans to reopen in April

Claudia Tavera-Tello
Reporter

TheMuseum is reopening its doors after five months of closure on Apr. 9, according to a statement released by CEO David Marskell on Feb. 23, 2021.

"After much consideration, I have determined for the safety of our guests and the mental health of our team, that we will reopen our doors and outdoor programming in April 2021," the statement read.

In the statement, Marskell listed several achievements made by the museum since the start of the pandemic.

These include a partnership with D2L to deliver provincial curriculum, a selection of virtual programming options and several drive-thru experiences. Now, TheMuseum is hoping to bring back their traditional in-person offerings.

However, since the Kitchener-Waterloo region remains in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, safety protocols must be respected to ensure that staff and

visitors are protected.

Aside from common practices such as social distancing, wearing a face covering and hand sanitization, TheMuseum will also enforce additional rules, including screening questions before allowing entrance into the exhibit; timed tickets as a way to monitor traffic and enable contact tracing; directional signage to encourage physical distancing; a preference for contactless payments instead of cash, with ticket purchases made ahead of time; hourly cleaning of spaces by the staff; and limiting washroom use to one household at a time.

Some of TheMuseum's upcoming events include two new exhibitions, "Dinosaurs: The Age of Big Weird Feathered Things," and "Sonica: The Sound Experience," leading to the anticipated "The Rolling Stones: Unzipped," which opens in the Fall of 2021.

Dinosaurs: The Age of Big Weird Feathered Things (April 9)

Take a selfie with the dinosaurs or "feather-saurs" as we call them nowadays. Dinosaur fans will love to discover the latest science in this

exhibition. Attendees are invited to revisit their favourite dinosaurs and learn more about them than what they heard before. They aren't the dinosaurs your parents or grandparents remember, but make sure to bring them along to learn something new and unique at this year's Dinosaur Drive-Thru.

SONICA: The Sound Experience (April 9)

Do you love music? Then look no further than Sonica, a wonderful sound exhibition with engaging and reflective works from eight artists and groups.

Each member will have their installation and band together in TheMuseum to perform and explore sound. Some of these installations include James Kirkpatrick's Discuss Matters, Scott Lindsay and Richard Burrows's Ocean

Drum and Mary Abdel's The Sounds of The Region. Attendees will be immersed in each unique installation, able to express themselves and share personal experiences with or without sound. Sonica takes what you know about sound and redefines what is important for you.

TheMuseum will reopen on Apr. 9, 2021, Fridays to Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.



Located in Downtown Kitchener, TheMuseum will reopen their doors with two new exhibitions.



Rogers agrees to buy Shaw Communications

Claudia Tavera-Tello
Reporter

On Mar. 15, 2021, Rogers Communications Inc. announced a \$26 billion, debt-including agreement to purchase Shaw Communications.

Rogers will pay the holders of both Shaw's A and B class shares \$40.50 in cash per share, and some payment is being received by Rogers' shares. As of Mar. 26, Shaw's Class B shares closed at \$23.90 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

According to the company, Rogers is going to invest \$2.5 billion in 5G networks throughout Western Canada in the next five years. They will also create a new one billion dollar fund to provide high-speed internet service to rural, remote and Indigenous communities across Western Canada.

Rogers CEO Joe Natale said combining two major companies will extend more job opportunities with more investments in Western Canada. He added that this will bring more people and firms together, providing the best-in-class services and infrastructure in Canada, and give the consumers and businesses more competition and choice.

However, Brian Paul Cozzarin, a professor at UW's Faculty of Engineering, thinks this acquisition, though marketed as good, can actually be detrimental to consumers.

"Rogers' acquisition of Shaw is a good move for the corporation and a bad move for consumers. Even though Rogers says they are 'helping' customers, this is a market share game. Oligopoly is the most prevalent form of market structure. The higher the barriers to entry the harder it is for competitors to enter the market," Cozzarin said. "Because of massive infrastructure costs, the wireless industry has high barriers to entry. Oligopolists can affect market prices but are limited by their rivals' reactions. Thus, their market power is not as strong as that of a monopolist."

In a morning conference call, he told analysts that it is too early to determine if other national wireless and rival companies are forced to dispose of all of their operations before the federal regulator and the Competition Bureau approves.

However, Natale said that the transaction is going to be approved. Therefore, they should feel confident about it. "This transaction does not get done without regulatory approval. It's our responsibility to make that happen. And we're going to sit down with regulators and just work through the pieces," Natale explained.

Aravinda Galappathige, an analyst at Canaccord Genuity, said "If the transaction can go through without a divestiture of wireless, it would be a key positive for all three [national] wireless names [especially Rogers of course]."

Cozzarin, however, is unsure about whether this transaction will be approved or not.

"Rogers wants to merge with Shaw to reduce competition and increase market power [market power meaning greater ability to influence prices]," Cozzarin said.

"Most countries have antitrust laws to regulate the market power of proposed mergers and acquisitions. This includes Canada, however, historically our Competition Bureau has been very weak in terms of protecting consumers. It remains to be seen if they have the temerity to block the Shaw-Rogers merger."

The Canadian Wireless Technology Association recorded that as of Sept. 30, 2020, there were about 33.8 billion users in Canada. Rogers gained the most users with an approximate total of 10.9 million subscribers, whereas Freedom—Shaw's mobile subsidiary—gained 1.8 million subscribers.

When comparing the two networks, Rogers gains subscribers ten times more, which makes sense as to why they want to purchase Shaw.

According to Galappathige, if Shaw were pressured to sell Freedom by regulators with little to no east presence in Ontario, then it is likely that they will lose to Videotron owner Québecor Inc.

There are, of course, some that do not want the agreement to be signed, such as Laura Tribe, the Chief Executive Officer of the OpenMedia Consumer Protection Group. Tribe said the government should

not consent via a tweet that reads, "We need more competition in Canada — not less."

Tribe claimed that each competitor has been consumed by Rogers, Bell, or Telus over the years.

"The outcome is always the same: more profits, bad plans, and less choice for Canadians for the Big Three. This contract we can't afford."

The joint venture will build headquarters in Calgary, where the Western operations' president and other senior executives are located. Together with another director, Brad Shaw was appointed to the Rogers board by the Shaw family, and is set to become one of Rogers' biggest shareholders.

The deal also applies to closing conditions and authorizations from Canadian regulators, which require the shareholder's permission. It is expected to close in the first half of 2022.



COURTESY THESTAR

UW professor Brian Cozzarin believes the acquisition of Shaw by Rogers could be detrimental to consumers.

UW professor awarded over \$1 Million to test wastewater for COVID-19

Simone Abdillahi
Reporter

Mark Servos, biology professor at UW and a member of the Water Institute was awarded over \$1 million in provincial funding to test wastewater for the presence of COVID-19 in more than ten regions of Ontario.

This funding is part of the \$12 million initiative towards testing wastewater systems to detect, identify and monitor COVID-19 outbreaks. The funding was announced by Jeff Yurek, the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks on Mar. 18.

"The University of Waterloo has been one of the pioneers in Ontario doing wastewater testing," Servos said,

"Since wastewater is a collective sample of an entire area, this approach provides a complimentary tool for regional public

health units to identify influxes in COVID-19 cases."

Servos said he believes that SARS-CoV-2 can be detected in wastewater.

When his team was asked how COVID-19 can be detected, they explained that as the virus is introduced into city systems from sources such as stool, it can break down and degrade as it enters wastewater collection systems.

According to Servos, these viral fragments can be detected in municipal wastewater and can be amplified. Though he said this can be difficult as COVID-19 fragments are hard to find in large amounts of complex wastewater, with novel approaches it can provide valuable information about community outbreaks.

The province partnered with 13 different academic and research institutions to create a system that would allow for the testing of wastewater in hopes of detecting and managing COVID-19 out-

breaks across Southern Ontario.

Servos and his peers began their research in the Summer of 2020, a few months after the first COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.

Servos currently runs a research laboratory with a focus on ecotoxicology and integrated water resources management.

The majority of the researchers' work revolves around developing new tools and approaches to risk assessment, along with novel technology for water treatment.

Testing wastewater for COVID-19 allows Servos and his team to provide an alternative method to understand how COVID-19 is transmitted through communities. This approach allows for the monitoring of millions of individuals within a community at any given time.

Servos believes this is an advantage that public health agencies did not have with individual testing, and this work advances our understanding of this pandemic.



COURTESY UW

UW professor Mark Servos and his team test wastewater for COVID-19.

UW alumni company raises \$159 million in investments

Richard Jounq
Reporter

Two UW engineering alumni who co-founded an online

education company secured \$159 million back in January to help accelerate the company's growth.

Prodigy Education is an EdTech company launched by Rohan Mahimker and Alex Peters, both of

whom graduated from the mechanical engineering program in 2011. The Oakville-based company aims to deliver math education through video games for students in Grades 1 through 8 in an attempt to increase engagement.

"From our beginnings as an undergraduate project nine years ago to today's exciting announcement, we have always operated with a simple yet compelling mission: to help every student in the world love learning. It will continue to be our guiding light as we transform into a truly global leader in education," Mahimker said.

Since its launch in 2011, Prodigy Education has grown from 3,000 local users to over 100 million registered users worldwide, making it one of the fastest-growing EdTech companies in North America.

They have a strong presence in North America and have recently expanded to the U.K., India, and Australia.

The investment was led by

U.S. private equity company TPG Growth, which also has current investments in other disruptive tech companies such as Airbnb, Spotify and Uber. Prodigy Education is one of the largest investments in North American EdTech history.

"Prodigy's impressive growth is underpinned by a truly differentiated, game-based, and adaptive platform that is well-aligned with the core curriculum for Grades 1 through 8," David Trujillo, a partner at TPG said,

"We believe that Prodigy's unique value proposition for teachers, parents, and students — through advanced technology that fosters a love of learning — positions the company to connect with users across the world."

As part of the investment, Trujillo and TPG growth principal Jacqui Hawwa will join Prodigy's Board of Directors.

The investment represents a new era for Prodigy, with meaningful capital to accelerate its mar-

ket reach, push for advancements in its video games, and further strengthen their math education. Prodigy plans to hire 400 employees this year.

"We have come a long way as a company, and it's a true testament to the strength and dedication of our team," Peters said.

"Together, we will continue to deliver the best products and experiences as possible to hundreds of millions of users across the world who love learning because of Prodigy."



COURTESY CNW GROUP

UW alumni Rohan Mahimker and Alex Peters launched Prodigy.



COURTESY PRODIGY

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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

opinion



HAVE YOUR SAY

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

A Bitcoin breakdown

What the cryptocurrency is and why it's so expensive

I would like to see the day when I don't need to carry cash, credit cards or any form of government-issued currency.

Instead, I'd just walk into the grocery store with my phone and pay for my groceries using my digital wallet. We keep on calling this the digital age, yet we still depend on physical cash for a lot of things in our lives. Although we already have the concept of digital banking and tap our cards to pay for goods and services, nevertheless such banking cards are infamous for charging high-interest rates when you don't pay back in a predetermined period of time.

However, since Bitcoin was introduced back in the year 2009 by Satoshi Nakamoto, hence the first implementation of 'cryptocurrency', I felt that it was the initial step towards fully digitizing money. Let me start by giving a 10,000-foot view of what cryptocurrency, and bitcoin itself, is.

According to Investopedia, cryptocurrency is defined as a form of virtual currency that is secured with cryptography, making it difficult to counterfeit. These cryptocurrencies are then supported by a technology known as the 'blockchain', a digital ledger publicly available for anyone to view. The blockchain acts as the key to bitcoin, keeping track of all the transactions made.

Bitcoin is just one form of cryptocurrency. As an analogy, think of our mobile phones as blueprints for some handy device used for talking and texting—an iPhone is just another form or brand of this concept of mobile phones. While a bitcoin somewhat sounds like a loonie or toonie, it is not itself a physical coin; rather, it purely exists in its digital form.

To give you a better idea of what a Bitcoin is, imagine a new and made-up continent called the "Cryptopia." As we would know, if you are interested in travelling to this continent you would have to exchange your money for the currency accepted in Cryptopia—just like any other country's government-issued currency.

Say you arrived at the airport of Bitland—another made-up 'Cryptopian'

country—ready to exchange your money for Bitcoins. When you do so, they do not actually give you any physical paper that shows some value, nor do they give you credit cards. Instead, they hand you a small device, almost like a smartphone and tell you that this device is all you need to pay for anything in Cryptopia, and such money is called the 'cryptocurrency'.

The core difference between regular physical money and cryptocurrency is that cryptocurrency is decentralized, beyond the control of banks, and is immune to any sort of inflation, at least for the time being.

The reason that I feel Bitcoin, or any other form of cryptocurrency, has a slight edge over regular money is because it is backed by cryptography—a process converting any data into an obscure and secure message that can be converted back to its original form using specialized techniques. Hence, it is very hard to counterfeit, and most transactions made are also public and permanently etched into the ledger.

By public, it doesn't mean that each transaction has your confidential information revealed, but it is instead done in a fully anonymous manner. However, this is a double-edged sword. Being too public can also make it easy to trace it back to you, the owner. There are certainly ways to protect yourself from this, but these details will not be provided here since I am not a full expert on the matter myself. But at least this openness is what makes cryptocurrency interesting and free from a single entity's control.

Reiterating the fact, Bitcoin is a huge, stable network made up of the individual contributions of a large group of people known as "Bitcoin Miners" scattered across the world. In this way, nobody has a say on how the value increases or decreases, though you will still be taxed in case you decide to sell your Bitcoins for cash.

Before you begin investing in Bitcoin, I urge you to learn the ABC's of cryptocurrency and proceed at your own risk. You should

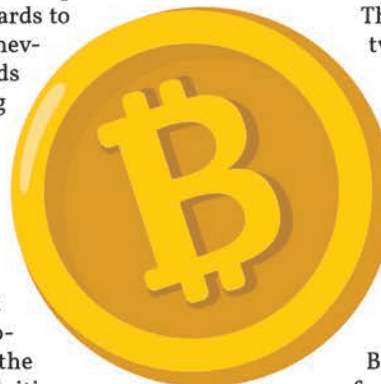
be ready to lose all your money if you decide to invest in Bitcoin since it is very volatile and keeps rising and dropping unpredictably. Moving on, let's talk about why Bitcoin prices are so ridiculously high.

The total number of Bitcoins ever to be available in the entire world is 21 million. Currently, there are only 2,331,325.0 bitcoins left to be mined. That said, as the number keeps decreasing, its value will keep increasing because people would like to pay just about anything and everything to acquire some Bitcoins. It is important to note that this is only one answer to the question about the price of bitcoin—there are several other economic reasons involving the laws of supply and demand.

The final question is: "Would I invest in Bitcoins myself, or just stick to the same routine of waiting in line at the bank for hours just so someone can greet me and offer a new credit card with the old trick of paying now to obtain a 15 per cent discount for the card fee later?" The answer might not be straightforward.

As I stated in the beginning, I would like to see the day where I could buy a shirt worth 0.001 Bitcoins. However, not all countries are ready to accept Bitcoins as legal tender—for instance, you can't pay student loans with Bitcoins at the moment.

It's not a bad idea to start investing in Bitcoin today, since all you're doing is spending your own money on a platform like Coinbase or other computing resources if you're a Bitcoin miner and are trying to obtain some Bitcoins for yourself. Who knows, maybe one day the Bitcoin that you purchased after reading this article can buy you a brand-new luxury villa or a private jet.



COURTESY CANVA



Vyas Anirudh Akundy
 Fall 2019 UW graduate



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distractions



WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE TIRED ON APRIL 1ST?

THEY JUST FINISHED A 31 DAY MARCH.

Imprint crosswords | To Solve or Not to Solve

Down

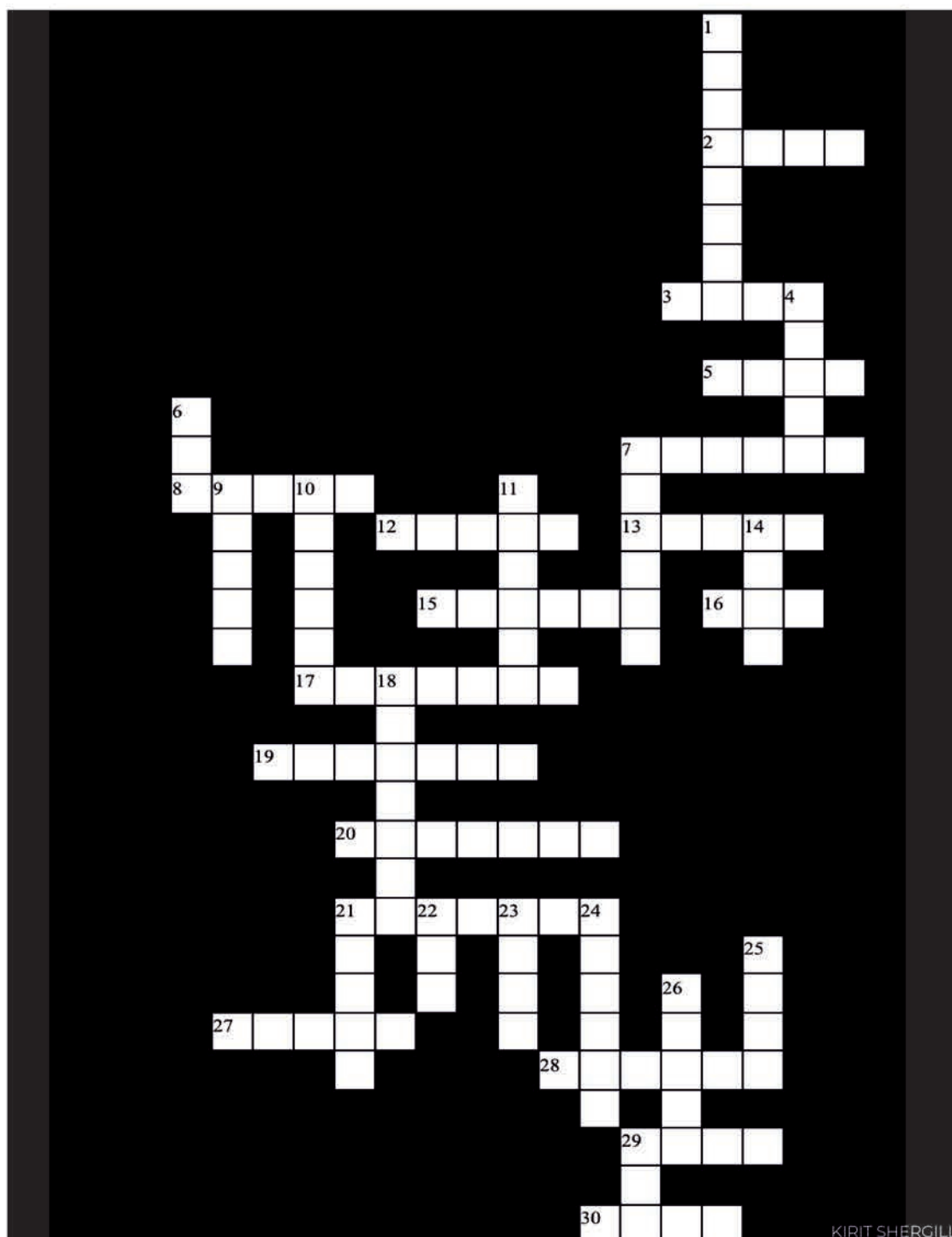
- 1. Irregular
- 4. Actress Witherspoon
- 6. Letters replacing a list
- 7. Nighttime party
- 9. Compensate
- 10. Stand at lectures
- 11. Shakespeare's Danish prince

- 14. Good enough
- 18. By the seashore
- 21. Portraitist's prop
- 22. Earthbound bird
- 23. Good listeners?
- 24. Colourful bird
- 25. Unfreeze
- 26. Absorb
- 29. Tree with elastic woo

Across

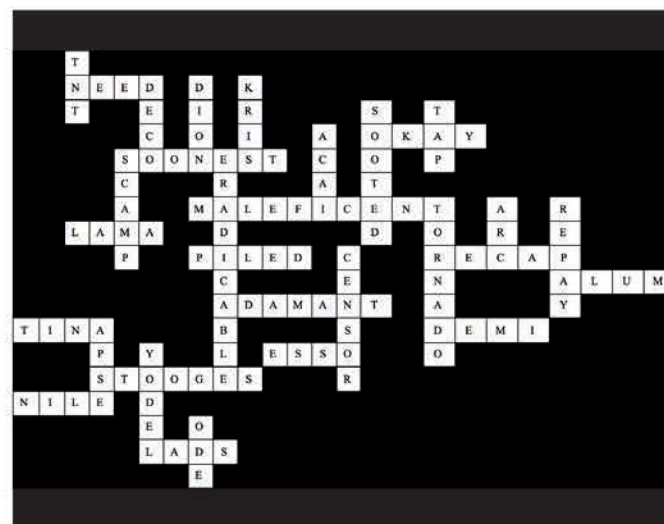
- 2. Fairy in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
- 3. Insult
- 5. The "Y" of YSL
- 7. County on the English Channel
- 8. French pancake
- 12. Winged, perhaps

- 13. Mail collector
- 15. Photo taken backwards?
- 16. Pay or pen follower
- 17. Shakespearean tragedy whose first scene features three witches
- 19. Purse in "A Bug's Life"? (4,3)
- 20. Betrayed by Iago
- 21. H or O, in H₂O
- 27. 'Wherefore art thou' guy
- 28. Unoccupied
- 29. Short mystery writer?
- 30. Cold-shoulder



BRIANA OENPUTERA

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



KIRIT SHERGILL