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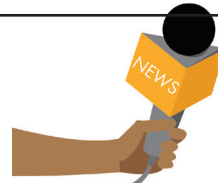
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Vice President of Advancement Joanne Shoveller to retire this year

Karen Chen
News Editor

Joanne Shoveller, Vice President, Office of Advancement, will retire from the University of Waterloo at the end of the year, completing her five-year term on Dec. 31, 2021.

"It is with sadness that I'm letting you know that Joanne Shoveller has informed me of her decision to retire from the University," President Feridun Hamdullahpur wrote in a memo circulated to employees this week. "Due to personal circumstances, Joanne wants more flexibility to spend time with her family and pursue new professional interests," Hamdullahpur continued.

Known for her empathetic, passionate,

and steadfast leadership, Shoveller is valued and well respected. She will be making the most of the next ten months leading the Advancement strategy team.

Her role at the University of Waterloo has been- to create a culture of philanthropy at the institution, working with Alumni and donors to support faculties, departments, and their initiatives.

Shoveller relishes working with the supportive community, as each individual contributes to how well UW can make a magnanimous and exciting impact.

UW's Office of Advancement actively reaches out to, and works with, Waterloo's alumni, friends, and community partners to engage them in conversations about the University's bold vision for the future.

Currently guided by the University's

strategy plan – available on the Office of Advancement Webpage on the UW Official Website – Shoveller is leading preparations for the launch of the largest fundraising campaign in UW history.

The Office of Advancement aims to share this message everywhere they go:

"Believe in the future of Waterloo. Believe that the Nobel Prizes, the breakthrough research discoveries, the upstart startups, are just the beginning of our story – and that the best is yet to come.

Believe that a 60-year-old institution, with fiercely loyal alumni and incredibly generous donors, is capable of taking on global challenges – not just those of today or next year, but 10 and even 20 years from now – to shape a better future for everyone."



COURTESY UW

Joanna Shoveller, VP, Advancement.

UW-led team receives funding for advanced telescope

Karen Chen
News Editor

A team of Canadian researchers, led by University of Waterloo professor Dr. Michel Fich, has been awarded \$4.9 million in funding, from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, to build a next generation telescope.

Officially announced on Mar. 4, 2021, the project - that has been in the works for some time - will now be able to take more steps forward.

Dr. Fich is an astronomer specializing in studies of star formation, the interstellar medium, and the structure of galaxies. He will be representing Canada, as he leads the international partnership building this telescope.

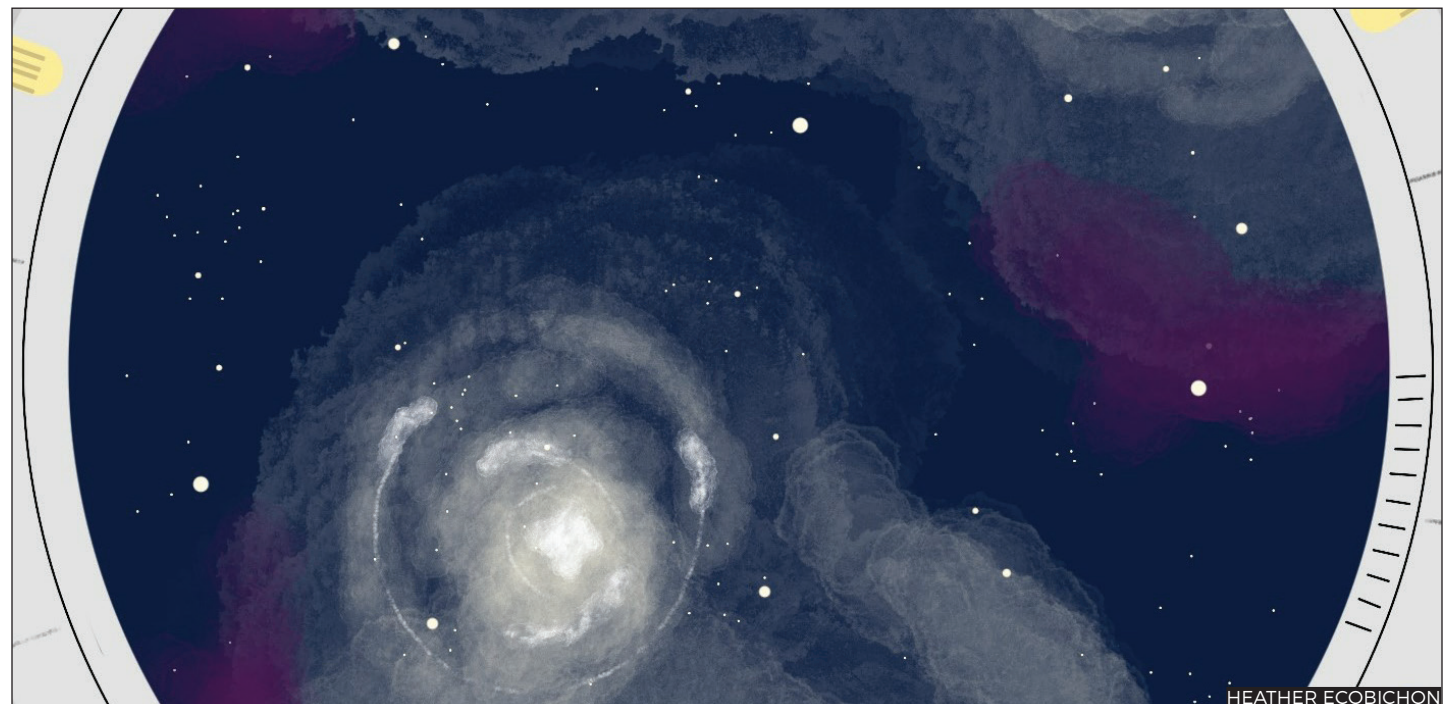
The new Fred Young Submillimeter Telescope (FYST) will deliver a high-throughput, wide-field of view telescope, capable of mapping the sky very rapidly and efficiently.

With an innovative wide-field design optimized to measure light from the earliest moments after the Big Bang, the FYST will give astronomers insight into how the stars and galaxies in our universe formed.

Located in Chile, this revolutionary telescope will enable Canadian scientists to continue their leading role in discoveries in topics such as dark energy, dark matter, neutrino mass, and gravitational-wave physics.

This project will be an international collaboration between: Cornell University; the Canadian Atacama Telescope Consortium, led by the University of Waterloo, and including Dalhousie University, University

of Alberta, University of British Columbia and University of Toronto; and a German consortium of the University of Cologne, the University of Bonn, and the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics.



HEATHER ECOBICHON

Examining Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion at UW

Karen Chen
News Editor

The Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion (HREI) panel shared their progress, after a series of interviews conducted in Dec. 2020 and Jan. 2021.

This panel, working closely with Michelle Hollis, Director of Human Resources and Client Services, takes student, faculty, and community input into consideration for making decisions, which will be shared publicly by the end of May 2021.

Feedback and written submissions to the HREI will not be released to protect the confidentiality of community members.

Requests for meetings and accommoda-

tions, to participate in the process, should be sent to Michelle Hollis, Director HR Client Services, by email to mhollis@uwaterloo.ca, or by phone at 519-888-4567 ext. 41127.

The HREI has provided questions as a starting point for review:

- With which HREI units (Equity Office, Indigenous Initiatives, Conflict Management, and Human Rights Office, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, and Education and Awareness) or individuals have you engaged?
- What does HREI, or individual units within HREI, do well? What can HREI/the units within HREI do to strengthen existing services and programs?

- Is there anything HREI should start or stop doing?
- Do you have any observations to share regarding the structure of HREI, and how it could be improved?
- Do you have any observations to share about how HREI develops and sustains community partnerships and collaborations?
- How can the University Administration better support HREI and the units within HREI?

To learn more, the Equity Office has training workshops that cover the essentials of equity, anti-racism training, LGBTQ2+ and making safe spaces, as well as equitable recruitment and selection training.

The Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) also has education

and training workshops. Additionally, the SVPRO supports those impacted by sexual violence.

The Conflict Management and Human Rights Office (CMAHRO) is a resource for faculty and students at the university for matters of harassment, discrimination, and other general forms of conflict.

The HREI also works to highlight Indigenous Initiatives on and off-campus for Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action as well as long-term decolonization for the University. The Indigenous Initiatives Strategic Plan (IISP) looks to strengthen excellent Indigenous research and initiatives, already taking place on our campus and grow new initiatives and partnerships, to expand community, support, and resources in the future.

Imprint Feature: Matthew Schwarze

Meet your new Vice President, Operations & Finance

Matthew Schwarze was elected as the Vice President, Operations and Finance with 682 (81.677%) yes votes in the recent WUSA elections.

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

I'm very excited for my coming year serving students as VP Operations & Finance! It's been quite a journey to get here between my time at MathSoc, WUSA, and elsewhere, but I'm so thankful for the background those experiences have given me to approach this role. I hope that my time at WUSA will create as much value for students as possible, and demonstrate what our student association is capable of.

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

The initial task of the VPOF is prepping WUSA's budget for the coming year so I'll likely have my hands pretty full from the get-go, but I'm also very excited to hit the ground running on concerns students expressed to me throughout the campaign, including improving student reimbursements, implementing a 24-hour response time to student concerns, and other issues that aren't hugely flashy or glamorous but are vital to WUSA's

mission to effectively support and serve students.

What are you most excited about?

I'm very much looking forward to building relationships with stakeholders and members across the organisation. It'll be a little harder than usual seeing as we're all still online, but the people that make WUSA work are some fantastically driven and motivated individuals, and I can't wait to start pushing the organisation forward with them and my team.

What is something you will do differently this year compared to last year?

One of WUSA's long-term weaknesses for many years has been maintaining and enriching our relationship with our student membership. It is my very honest opinion that WUSA provides immense utility to our student body and adds significant value to undergraduate education at the University of Waterloo, but I also believe that we haven't done the best job communicating our value proposition or providing avenues for our members to engage with leadership and voice their concerns effectively. Increased "town hall" events were a great addition by the previous exec team, and I'm looking forward to extending that as

I promised during the campaign to more proactively report WUSA's operations, situations, and opportunities to the membership. That means going to the places students like to hang out—Reddit, Instagram, or elsewhere—and having meaningful dialogues about issues with students care about, rather than just being reactive to student concerns.

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

For the foreseeable future, I will be working remotely. While this presents a challenge and I'd of course prefer opportunity to work with the fantastic people at WUSA in-person, I'm appreciative that I'll get to work under the same circumstances as the students I represent, and that through working and studying from home now, we get to enjoy a healthier and safer future campus. I have some perspective on my own strengths and weaknesses regarding remote work from my time as MathSoc President, and I definitely look forward to the chance to do the best I can under the circumstances.

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

While I know some will consider the fact that I was elected unopposed to be

a limiting factor in my tenure and mandate as VPOF (and I very much understand and appreciate this perspective), I also see it as a testament to the difficulty students are facing learning and working online, and how weary we all are from it, myself very much included. I'm very excited to take on this role, but I also take very seriously the responsibility I have as caretaker of vital student services including healthcare, transit, mental health supports, and others. I will have a lot of power to fundamentally improve the student experience at this university, as well as to severely damage it, should I make mistakes. I want my time and effort to be in the category of improving the student experience as much as possible, and for that I need your help. I have a lot of different experiences and perspectives as a student, person, and citizen, but I don't have yours.

If there's something you think I or others should, shouldn't, can't, or need to do, I want to hear about it. If there's something wrong or right in your student experience that could be improved, I want to hear about it. I'm here (and paid) to work for you, and if you've something to say, you can reach me at matthew.schwarze@uwaterloo.ca, or vpof@wusa.ca once I start serving you this May. Thank you so much for your confidence and support, I'm really looking forward to the coming year with you!



Kitchener Famous: A New Podcast Promotes Community Artists

Nicola Rose
Assistant Arts and Life Editor

Two local musicians have created Kitchener Famous – a podcast that promotes artists hailing from the KW region.

Hosts Jay Carraro and Jesse Webber wanted to provide a platform for musicians, comedians, and venues that have been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every episode features appearances from community guests, connecting performers with venue owners as they share their passions, experiences, and future goals. Artists are also able to address any upcoming releases or merchandise they're looking to sell.

The podcast format is very laid-back. The hosts and their guests cover topics related to their careers, such as memorable fan interactions, and humorous questions, like what actor would play them in a biopic.

In some ways, Kitchener Famous pokes fun at the idea of being locally famous. According to Webber, he

and Carraro enjoy making fun of local artists with inflated egos.

At its core, the podcast is about community. The hosts have created a space for artists to make new memories, develop new connections, and attract new fans from the region.

The first episode features singer-songwriter Jesse Parent and Shan Bricker, the co-owner of Lana's Lounge. Both guests have praised the podcast. Parent highlighted the importance of connection through the arts, and Bricker emphasized the role Kitchener Famous has played in keeping the local scene alive over the past year.

Music has been a key element of KW's culture since the region was founded. Carraro and Webber are making their own mark on this community, creating a legacy of support for new artists to continue throughout the pandemic and beyond.

As of March, Kitchener Famous has around 2,000 monthly listeners. The podcast is available "everywhere you listen to podcasts," and you can find more information and merchandise at kitchenerfamous.ca.



AHLAM IBRAHIM

Ready For Your 15 Minutes of Fame?

Nicola Rose
Assistant Arts and Life Editor

Want to see your name in lights? Princess Twin Cinemas in Uptown Waterloo is renting out its marquee space to anyone with a message.

If you have a 'special someone' you want to celebrate, a social cause you want to support, or even a new business venture you want to promote, you can share your message on the Princess Cinemas marquee.

Since opening its first single-screen location in 1985, Princess Cinema has been a staple of the Kitchener-Waterloo community. The original location at

6 Princess Street West maintains a "calendar art-house" programming model, exhibiting "the best in international, independent and Canadian cinema, as well as festival hits, documentaries, mini-festivals, Hollywood classics, cult films and special series," according to their website.

The Twin location, which opened in 2005 at 46 King Street North, screens new choices regularly, including some of the world's biggest blockbuster hits and most-loved awards season darlings. Between the two, audiences can catch high-quality mainstream

cinema as well as a curated selection of specialty films.

The marquee rentals are yet another initiative launched to help keep Princess Twin Cinemas afloat during the pandemic. Previous offers included private bubble rentals, seat-naming privileges, and an auction of their extensive poster collection.

Want another way to support the Twin Cinemas? Check out their weekly popcorn pickup (King location) on Fridays and Saturdays from 4-7 pm to get some classic cinema popcorn.

Marquee rentals start at

\$150, for a whole lot longer than 15 minutes. Email manager@princesscinemas.com for more information.



COURTESY FREEPIK



WRITE FOR SCIENCE AND TECH
Got an interesting science or tech story you want to write about? Email science@uwimprint.ca

Plastic Straws v. Alternatives: Are the Alternatives Really Better?

Hayley Austin
Reporter

Plastic pollution is choking our oceans. Since 2015, there has been a massive movement to switch to alternatives for our day-to-day single-use plastic items including straws, bags, bottles, containers and cutlery. Plastic straw alternatives have become increasingly popular, but are the alternatives really that much better?

Why Plastic Straws are a Problem

Plastic straws are a single-use plastic which make up 0.025% of the 8 million tons of plastic which flows into the world's oceans every year. They quite literally suck. Like all plastics, plastic straws are not biodegradable, which means that they do not naturally break down in the environment. They are also difficult to recycle after use. Not many recycling facilities accept straws and they are accepted, they are so small they may be removed off to a landfill.

Once in the ocean, whether transported by anthropogenic or natural means,

plastic straws may be consumed by wildlife mistaking plastic for food. As they do not biodegrade, straws may stay in their stomachs until death. They may also affect wildlife through entanglement. In 2015, a video of a sea turtle having a plastic straw removed from its nose surfaced and contributed to more media attention around the issue of plastic straw use.

Plastic straws and debris from straws may also accumulate in the ocean and form garbage patches with other plastic waste, contributing to "plastic islands" such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which floats between California and Hawaii. Debris can also prevent sunlight from reaching algae and plankton on the water's surface and may stop them from transforming light into essential nutrients, which may further impact the marine food web.

The Alternatives, What Makes Them "Worth" It

In a video by Now This Earth, Lucy Biggers interviewed Takunda Chitaka, a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, who focused her thesis on researching alternatives to single-use plastic straws.

Stainless steel straws are perhaps the most frequently used reusable alternative to single-use plastic straws. Chitaka notes that they are also less likely to be littered and end up in the ocean. However, with the mining, refining, and shipping required in production to make this alternative viable, a single stainless steel reusable straw needs to be used 37 times. This is known as the break-even point and Chitaka describes it as the point in which an alternative eclipses the

impact of the original product or material.

Paper straws are another widely distributed alternative to plastic straws as a biodegradable, single-use option. While they may be a greener option, they are not a one-and-done solution. Chitaka explains that these straws have a short lifespan, as in the time it takes to have one drink, you may require more than one paper straw, as they get wet and soggy very quickly. This defeats the purpose of the alternative, and Chitaka reasons that you might as well use a plastic straw and ensure it gets properly disposed of, rather than consume more than one paper straw for one drink.

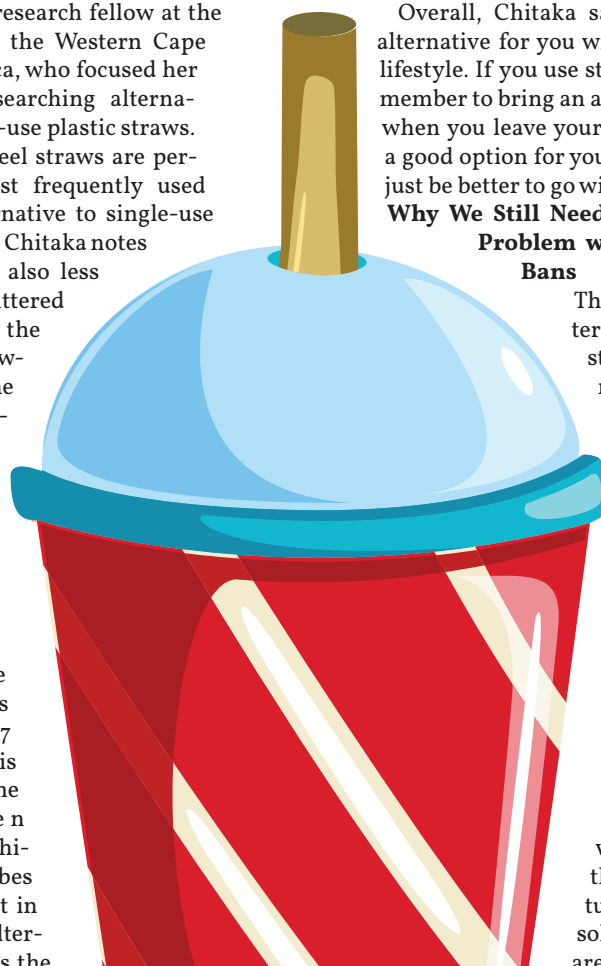
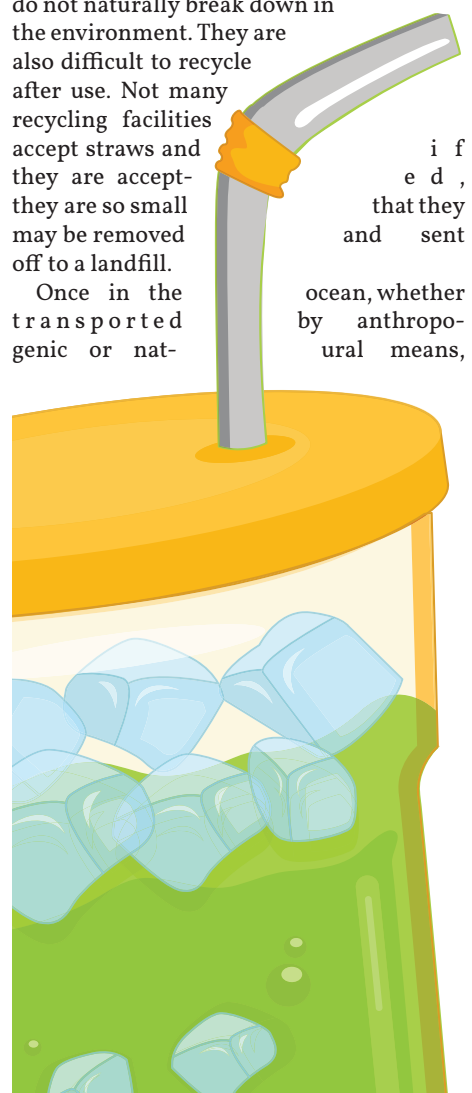
Chitaka's conclusion is that glass straws are the ideal reusable alternative to single use plastic straws. This is mainly to do with their break-even point, which is 23 times for one single-use straw. Seemingly the only disadvantage here is that they may break, though they have been known to last for at least 40-100 uses before becoming degraded.

Overall, Chitaka says that the ideal alternative for you will depend on your lifestyle. If you use straws often and remember to bring an alternative with you when you leave your home, then that's a good option for you, but if not, it may just be better to go without.

Why We Still Need Straws and The Problem with Plastic Straw Bans

The obvious ideal alternative is to ditch straws all-together, reusable or not. However, that doesn't work for everyone, and this is the intersectionality of the issue. Many people with disabilities require single-use plastic straws to drink and eat. The alternatives are not necessarily accommodating to everyone, whether it be that they are temperature sensitive, dissolve quickly, or just aren't comfortable.

This is also where plastic straw bans and other bans on single-use plastics have the right intentions but may be ineffective solutions. Instead of banning products, many encourage governments and businesses to invest in alternatives and systemic change redesign plastics and improve recycling infrastructure.



COURTESY FREEPIK

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

A year in Review: Covid-19 in Waterloo

“We know that this is a significant step for Waterloo, but one that we believe is necessary to do our part in keeping our students, faculty and staff safe.”

FERIDUN HAMDULLAHPUR, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Grace Xie
Editorial Assistant

A year ago on Tuesday, Mar. 17, 2020, the first COVID-19 lockdown was enacted in the Waterloo region. The following months were filled with heartbreak, panic, and public health restrictions as the pandemic grew in severity. Today, the pandemic still continues to impact lives, but there is also resilience and hope.

On Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2020, Waterloo Region reported its first case of the virus. On Mar. 10, the city experienced its first pandemic-related cancellations and its first temporary testing clinics.

Two days later, with an increase in COVID-19 cases, the Ontario government announced that students will not be returning to class for two weeks after March Break.

By Friday of that week on Mar. 13, the university announced that in-person activities were to be suspended. The following Monday students received the confirmation of what seemed inevitable,

TLDR: COVID-19 and UW

2020

13
mar.

University of Waterloo closure announced. Students and staff are told to work from home in order to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

16
apr.

Following provincial orders to close non-essential businesses, UW shuts down all academic buildings. Only SLC remains open.

11
jun.

Non-essential businesses and buildings in Ontario reopen following a three-phase framework: protect and support, restart, and recover.

13
jul.

Regional Council makes face coverings in indoor public spaces mandatory. The right to deny entry to those without a face covering given to businesses.

23
sept.

UW announces course delivery for Winter 2021 term remains online for large classes. Clinical programs, labs, and tutorials will be available in-person.

the term would be finished remotely.

“We know that this is a significant step for Waterloo, but one that we believe is necessary to do our part in keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe and also help limit the growth of the coronavirus within Canada.” said Feridun Hamdullahpur, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waterloo, in a statement to the University community.

The following weeks consisted of a staggering increase in cases both in the public and hospitals, pushing the Waterloo Region to introduce stricter public health guidelines and restrictions such as banning visitors in hospitals, closing restaurants, and limiting occupants in open spaces and in social gatherings.

On Monday, May 11, 2020, the Region reported that the number of resolved cases surpassed the number of active ones allowing the province to lift certain public health restrictions.

Cases continued to stabilize until June, which allowed the Region to move into Stage 2 of the province reopening plan. This included the reopening of businesses such as the opening of patios for

dining and the reopening of hair salons.

Throughout June and August, the Region continued to experience relaxed public health guidelines and fewer restrictions, such as allowing indoor dining in restaurants as well as welcoming visitors in long-term care homes, allowing university class students to return to in-class, and opening COVID-testing centers, however, with a new bylaw mandating the use of masks mandatory.

In the next following months, the number of cases increased moving the city into the Red Tier restriction category, putting the city under stricter public health restrictions especially for businesses such as bars, restaurants, gyms, and closing schools again.

On Monday, Dec. 21, 2020, the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, announced the commencement of the second lockdown reenacting almost all the restrictions in the first lockdown. The second lockdown was to begin on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 and go until Jan. 23, 2021.

Currently, the Waterloo Region is still in the Red-Control Category, meaning strict public health measures and re-

strictions are in place. However, small businesses are allowed to operate with additional public health restrictions such as limiting occupants and using masks. This includes certain restaurants to allow for indoor dining, malls, and personal care services.

The hope for things to return to more familiar operations, including students being back on campus, now lies with the rollout of the vaccine.

Canada has now approved four vaccines, the Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Oxford/AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are now all in use as the vaccine rollout looks to ramp up.

UW has partnered with McMaster University, Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre, and the Andrew Street Family Health Centre to have the Health Sciences Campus in Downtown Kitchener be a vaccination site as part of the Region’s vaccination efforts.

Currently, vaccinations are being offered by appointment to those who are 80 years or older with the Region having fully vaccinated 2.33% of its population as of Mar. 15.

2021

01
oct.

COVID-19 Testing Assessment Centre opens at Health Services, UW. Testing available for symptomatic students, employees, and postdocs.

05
oct.

First confirmed case of COVID-19 reported at UW. Individual required to self isolate and those in close contact told to self monitor for symptoms.

05
nov.

Public Health declares COVID-19 outbreak at CMH. Students who tested positive or in close contact with someone who tested positive told to self-isolate.

26
dec.

Ontario announces second state of emergency. Non-essential businesses shut down. UW residences and certain in-person subject matters remain open.

16
feb.

KW moves into red zone. UW Library and Athletics facilities open. In-person courses and research resumes. Food services continue with limited seating.


WRITE FOR SPORTS

Want to go to UW games for *Imprint*?
You'll be able to talk to players, coaches, and fans!
For more info, email sports@uwimprint.ca.

U Sports and Swimming Canada host Virtual Swimming Challenge

Tara De Boer
Sports and Health Editor

U SPORTS has announced a virtual University Swimming challenge taking place this year between February 27 and April 4th. The new challenge was created in partnership with Swimming Canada, and was organized by

member programs

Over the course of the five week challenge, swimmers eligible under U SPORTS will have the chance to post their times in any of the 41 swimming events. These events include the 38 events in the U Sports Championship program. While the other races include the 100m individual medley, 200m freestyle, and the 4x50m individual medley relay.

As this is a virtual competition, participating U SPORTS swimmers are responsible for organizing their races safely, and within the 5 week window of the challenge. Swimmers also are required to set up their events

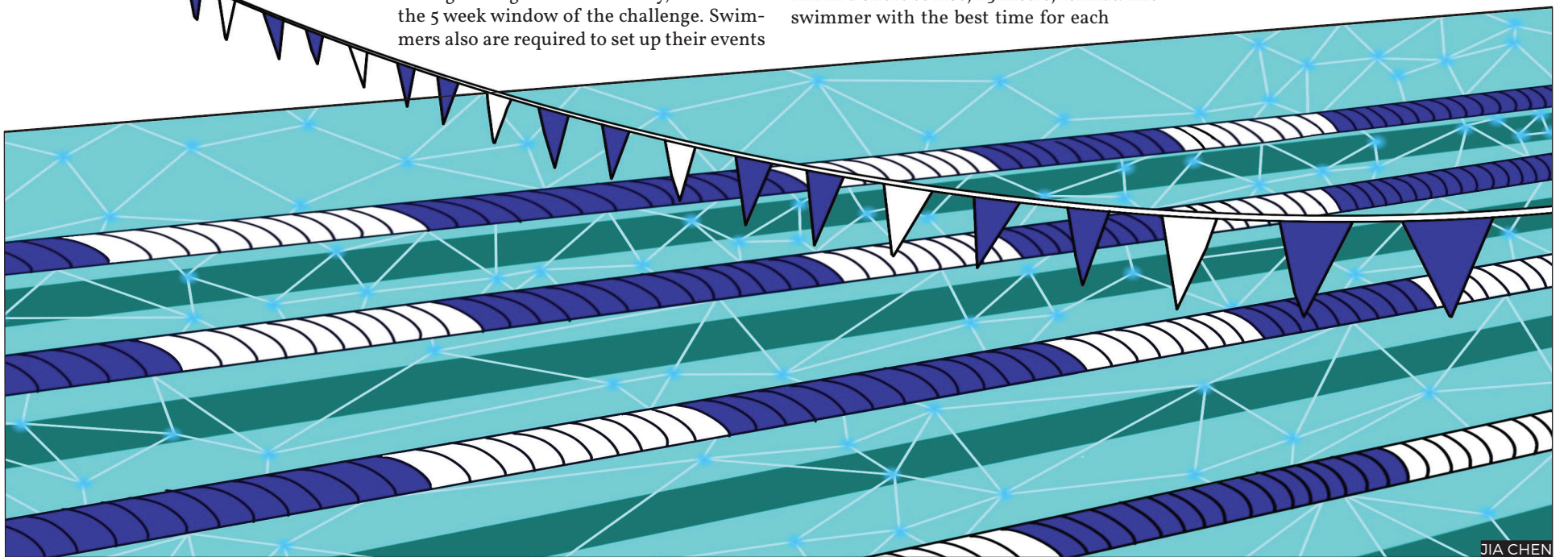
in a format fitting to each team's circumstances, such as location, time zone, and resources. Depending on the province the swimmers are located in, swimmers must adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines determined by their facility and location.

All are welcome in this U SPORTS event. As it is not considered an official national championship, swimmers aren't limited to a qualifying time in order to compete. There are also no limits to the number of participants per school. All swim races will be run in a short course, 25 metre, format. The swimmer with the best time for each

race will be counted in the final rankings.

Although there will not be any major awards offered, to recognize swimmers and their accomplishments, Swimming Canada, one of the founding partners, will be posting weekly updates online. These posts will cover team standings, most successful swimmers in each race, and will put a spotlight on the individual top-performing swimmers as a way to showcase the efforts of the athletes.

Full updates and results of the competition can be found at swimming.ca.



JIA CHEN




THIS WEEK IN
ATHLETICS AND
RECREATION

 | **imprint**









WARRIOR REC
FITNESS CLASSES

ONLY \$4/CLASS - CIF

Monday - Kickboxing - 5pm
 Tuesday - Yoga - 5pm
 Wednesday - Zumba - 5pm
 Thursday - Warrior HIIT Workout - 5pm
 Friday - Yoga - 5pm
 Saturday - Zumba - 9am

Sign up today or secure a reservation for one of the Open Rec and Fitness Centre times at CIF or PAC by visiting warrior.uwaterloo.ca



WARRIORS
INSIDER

Stay up to date with Warrior Rec programs, events, job opportunities, tips and tricks on how to stay well, facility information and more. Visit gowarriorsgo.ca/warriorsinsider to sign up for our *NEW* newsletter.



Racism Running in the Royal family

Many news channels have been buzzing with the latest startling news that was brought to light through Meghan Markle's interview with Oprah Winfrey. Those in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Canada, amongst many others, have been questioning whether the claims made by both Meghan and Harry are plausible.

That being said, I find it interesting that the conversation is avoiding focusing on another facet: whether the allegations voiced are condemnable.

It is incredibly strange to me that the blatant racist remarks Archie faced prior to his birth are being ignored by many. This is not something to push off for later – this is a serious statement that brings to light the differential treatment of those of colour (in particular, those who are Black and Indigenous) living in predominantly Caucasian countries.

Many of the claims Meghan brings up highlight how her treatment was different compared to that of others in the Royal Family. The clearest example of this is the media perception, with tabloids depicting Kate and Meghan in opposite lights regarding the same topics.

For instance, Kate constantly touching her baby bump was a sign of an affectionate and loving mother, whilst Meghan doing the same was labeled as a display of vanity and self-absorption.

These media tabloids seemed to have made Meghan's life incredibly contradictory: she was told not to leave the palace, as she was seen everywhere (in gossip), but she was essentially nowhere, since she was restricted by the worry of the institution.

This entrapping paradox kept Meghan isolated from the world while all they could discuss was her. The mental trauma this caused is something she has brought up previously as well. Meghan has discussed how there were points where she even questioned whether she was meant to exist anymore.

It is clear that Meghan was struggling to adapt to the media pressure she was facing, but this was not the only concern she was being bombarded with. It was, from what she said, not her nor Harry's decision to ultimately leave, but something they felt they had no choice but to resort to.

There were discussions early on whether Meghan should be provided security, and this sentiment was also extended to Ar-

chie. Now, security is definitely something that should be reserved for those remaining working members of the Royal Family, since it is funded by UK taxpayer dollars.

However, it is worth noting that, at the time of these discussions, Meghan claimed that both she and Harry were still executing their royal roles. If this truly was the case, it makes the origin of the discussion questionable.

Why was the security of Meghan Markle questionable? What factor related to her made it worth questioning? When there is a pattern of strange behaviour related to the one individual of colour, it brings about the question of whether this discrepancy is fueled by race. This seems to be a part of the issue, since Archie's skin tone was so heavily contemplated.

As a result, we find ourselves looping back to the core issue I have with this interview: the racist undertones.

Why was Archie the first descendent whose title was questioned, especially when the discussion was so heavily focused on his skin tone? Why was this being debated during this colourist contention? Why was it suggested that Meghan continue acting, instead of receiving any royal funds? Most importantly of all, why were these discussions happening before Meghan and Harry made the decision to leave the Royal Family? There is one common theme across this narrative, and it continuously goes back to race.

With all of this in mind, although I cannot say definitively what my opinion is on this entire debacle, since I will never truly know anything beyond this royal he-said-she-said, I do think there is one clear issue at play amongst this conversation: racism.

This is a topic that has to be further discussed beyond simply debating whether Meghan and Harry blindsided the Queen or not – the most alarming of the issues is being dismissed, an issue that only this summer was sparking outrage amongst members of our communities.

It is only by truly addressing the damaging roots our countries and ideologies are built on that we can make progress, and this interview clearly illustrates this large-scale issue.

(De)constructing Feminism

How does one define feminism? For some, it is empowering and supporting women in what they want to do. For others, it is nothing but misandry. And this is exactly where the whole concept goes for a toss.

Feminism is synonymous with equality, not sexism. Feminism operates on the grounds that women should be equal to men, both in regards to their social standing and their rights. But the term is so misunderstood that people take it to mean that women should be of higher rank than men, and thus should be held in higher regard.

Misandry, on the other hand, is the exact opposite of misogyny.

As a feminist, one expects equality, not superiority. Women have been fighting a long battle just to be viewed in the same regard as their male counterparts. Like many other “-isms,” feminism is more difficult to understand because it does not encompass a completely unified set of ideals, but all feminists have one thing in common – they want to work together to bring about a better society for all genders.

This concept works to topple the patriarchy, which establishes men in a dominant position. The idea



of feminism is to raise women to power while letting the men keep their power.

Feminism is not just a movement for the liberation of women, but a broad social movement striving for the equality of each individual.

Feminism emphasizes the importance of values such as co-operation, tolerance, and freedom for each person to achieve their potential.

Feminists are not against men as individuals. What they are against is the oppressive and outdated social structure that forces both men and women into positions that are false and antagonistic.

Thus, everyone has an important role to play in the feminist movement. It is a fight against sexism and inequality, not a hunt against men or a movement to hate men and treat them as lower beings in society.

This is the crux of the misunderstanding, and hence makes the whole idea more controversial than it should be.

Suhani Saigal
3B, Psychology

You're not alone and it's not too late

During the fall of 2020, I was supposed to be on a co-op term.

Throughout those four months, many of my peers were working remotely for Big Tech companies and living in beautiful condos.

Instead, I'd elected to collect CESB. When people would ask me what I was doing, I would simply answer: “surviving.” And I was.

I spent my time volunteering, reading, writing, taking a fine arts course, and doing some research work. My activities were eclectic, at times entirely unfocused, and in the eyes of some, pointless.

However, my fall term was the most exciting and enlightening term I have experienced since starting my undergraduate degree. For the first time in nearly four years, I'd given myself time to breathe and engage with things I'd been longing to do outside of the frenetic pace of university life.

There is no doubt we are living

through particularly disorienting times.

Yet, the fervent pace at Waterloo hasn't stalled. In fact, it seems to have almost accelerated with more job rounds and more competition than ever.

The silence borne of COVID-isolation hasn't allowed much time for meditation. Instead, it seems to have amplified the social pressures booming in the aspirational echo chamber at Waterloo.

Things are further confused for upper-year students experiencing “graduation panic.” As a 3B student, I see this in myself and in my peers as people weigh the validation of receiving an “impressive” final internship or full-time job offer while trying to parse out what they really want from life.

A friend of mine, considering two job options, felt that the one they really wanted wasn't as much of a “sixth co-op” as the other.

I think most LinkedIn-perusing

students at Waterloo can understand what they meant.

It's for that reason that I had to remind them, and myself, that such a statement is inherently meaningless. Even in the pits of co-op's culture of comparison, the highest level that peer-judgement rises to is simple indifference.

This might seem a bit daunting. After all, in our minds we are the most important people in the world. But it's also incredibly liberating.

Other people simply don't care about us as much as we think they do.

Once we stop trying to keep up with the expectations we think others have of us, the pace of life slows a little, and it can be easier to discern what we are actually racing toward. Furthermore, it can be easier to distill what we want to be racing toward, if anything at all.

The uncertainty of our times pushes us to find refuge in per-

ceived certainty.

“If I do internship X, then I'll be able to get a job full-time at Y because John Smith did the same thing, at least according to his LinkedIn. And then, I'll have that kind of life.”

This is a form of linear thinking commonly found at Waterloo and elsewhere. We draw upon referents to assure us of certain life outcomes in making decisions.

The issue is that life is far from linear.

As we are witnessing now, life is cyclic and deeply uncertain. Just like grappling with the indifference of others, this is a frightening reality.

And once more, it's entirely liberating.

It's great to have role models or aspirational figures who have woven interesting paths inspiring to you. But it's also important to remind yourself what has happened is not all that there is.

The point here isn't to sanctimoniously extol what I think to be meaningful work, or a good life. Everyone has their own philosophy and approach on how to live.

All I want to do is remind you that it's never too late to chase a dream that's been sowed slightly below your subconscious. If nobody else has done it before, remember that you could be the first to inspire others like you.

So if you can, between the interviews and the exams and the eye-blurring Zoom lectures, try to slow your pace and breathe. Try to embrace the silence, rather than run from it. Hear your voice. You have to decide for yourself what you believe to be true, because ultimately you have to live your life.

After all, there is no path until you walk it.

Conor Truax
3B, Systems Design Engineering



PHOTO/VIDEO



REPORTING



PROOFREADING

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LAYOUT/WEB



GRAPHICS

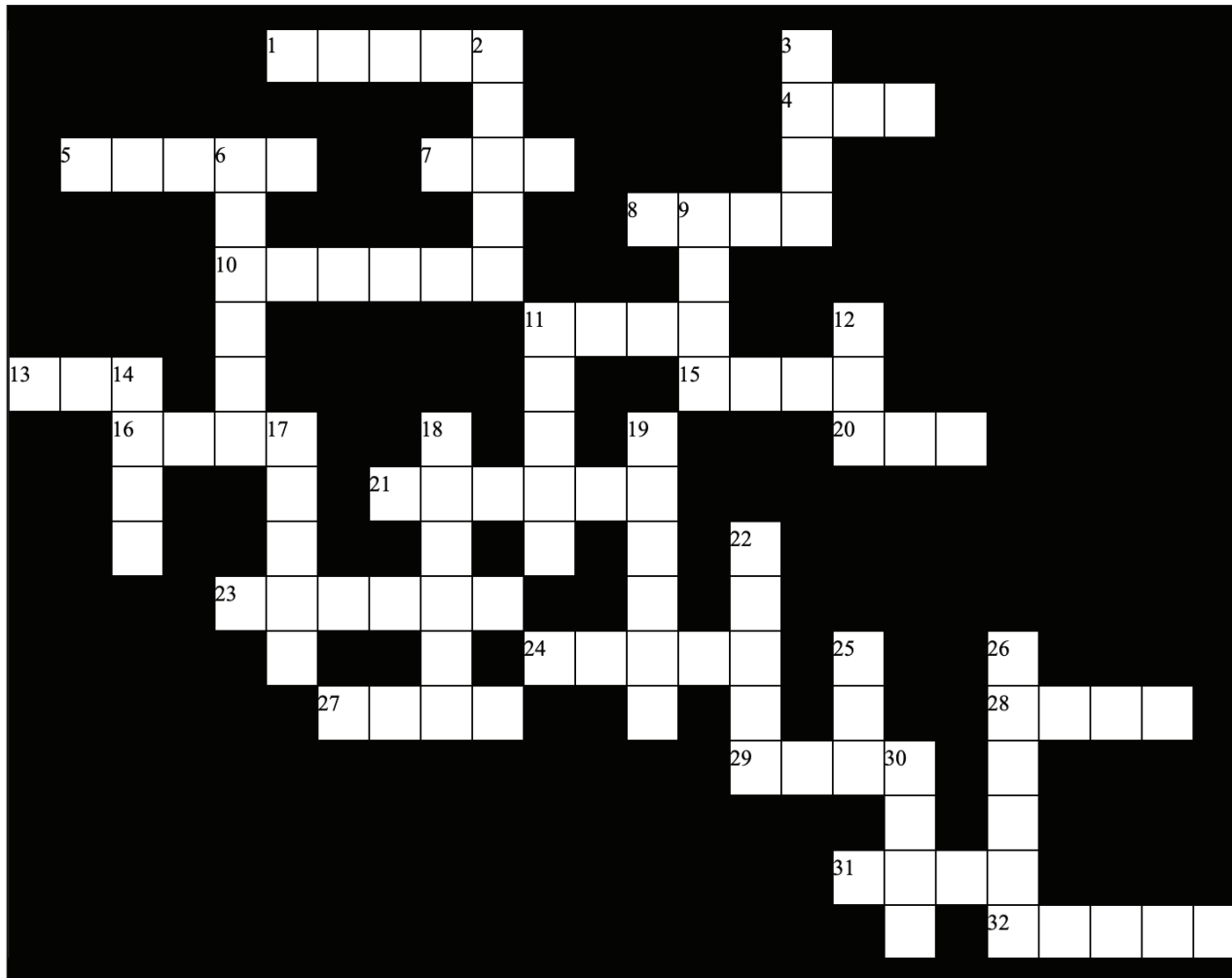
distractions



Q: WHAT DO YOU CALL A FAKE IRISH STONE?

A: A SHAMROCK

Imprint crosswords | Bust your Boredom



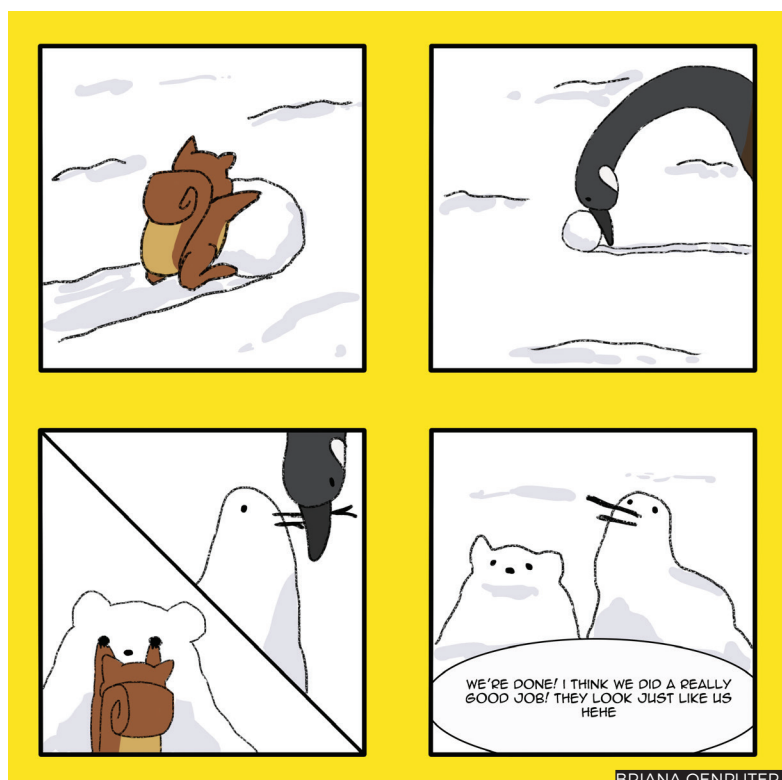
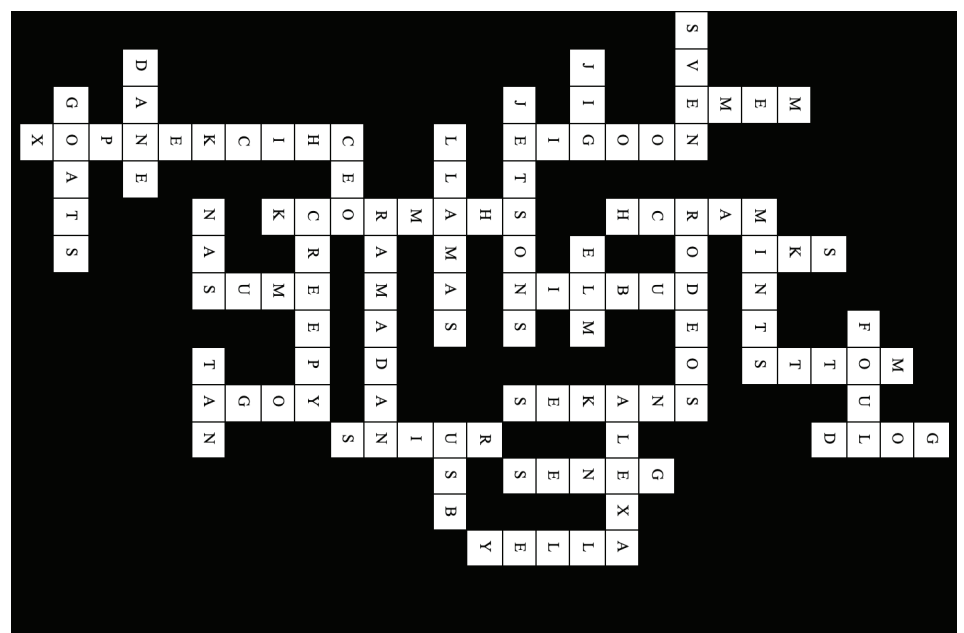
Across

1. Sauce with basil
4. Seasonal drink
5. Big name in fairy tales
7. Dynamite stuff
8. Cherokee on wheels
10. Ruling period
11. Voice below baritone
13. Major Web portal
15. New Haven Ivy
16. Distinctive vibe
20. Antlered Yellowstone beast
21. Dry-eyes solution
23. Popular electric cars
24. Water filter brand
27. Carpet type
28. Colony members
29. Vegas rollers

Down

2. Gold unit
3. First of a cereal box trio
6. Funhouse fixture
9. Site for handmade gifts
11. Thai cuisine herb
12. School contest
14. "Breaking Bad" agent
17. Disney princess with red hair and a green tail
18. Caribbean metropolis
19. Dog on a bun
22. Dahl who wrote "Fantastic Mr Fox"
25. Chest muscle, briefly
26. What a voter fills out
30. Furry Endor critter

LAST WEEKS ANSWERS



BRIANA OENPUTERA