

# imprint

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### TOWN HALL

Read to find out about UW's plan regarding fall term, in-person activity, and more. P2



### OPINION

How a UW student feels about returning to in-person activity in the fall. P10

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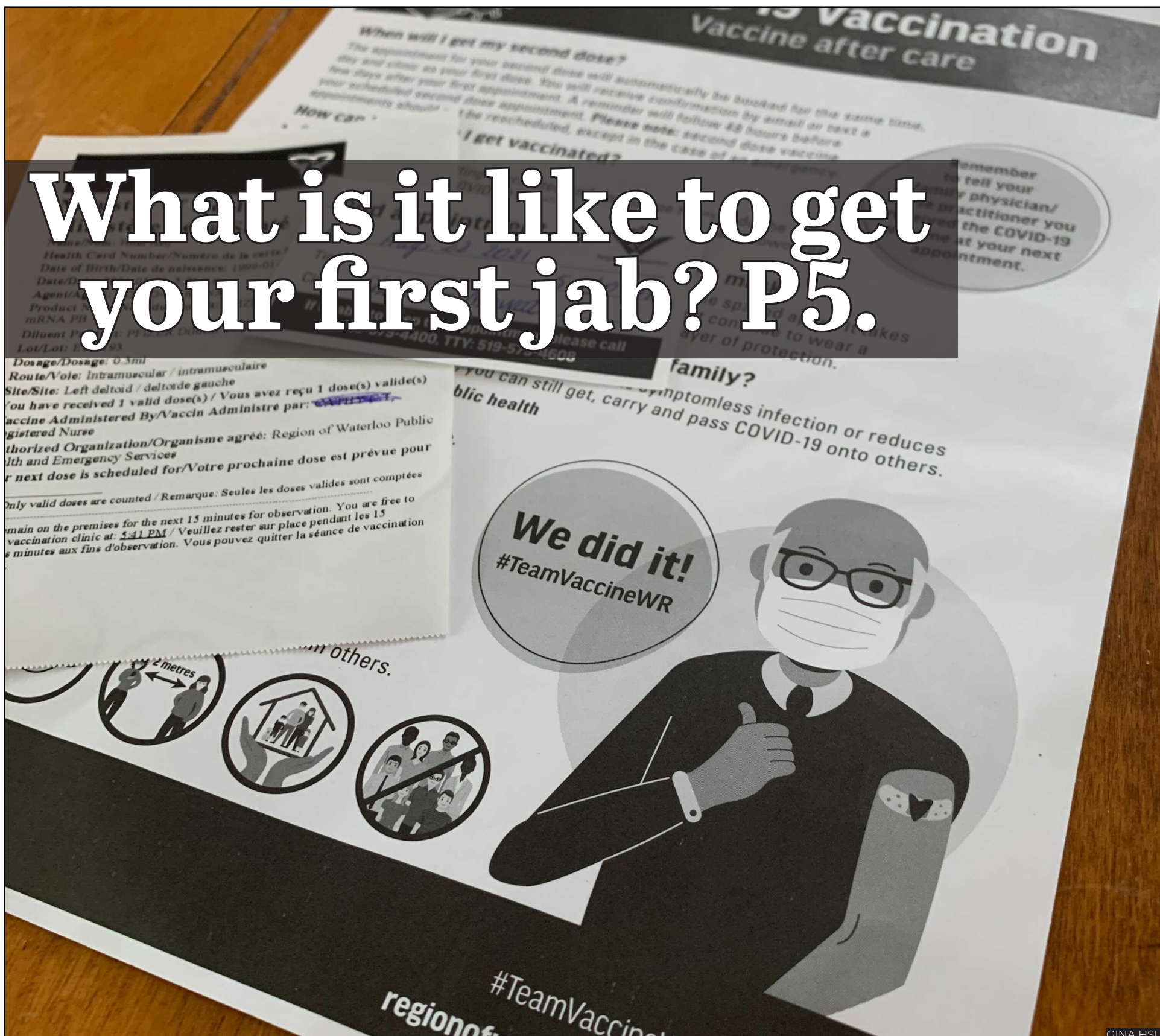
Uptown Waterloo's The Atrium and Angie's Diner and Bakery to close.

### ARTS & LIFE P7

Find out what's happening in Waterloo this summer.

### SCIENCE & TECH P8

UW researchers work to develop at-home, saliva-based COVID test.





# Virtual town hall: All you need to know about returning to campus

Suji Udayakumar  
Assistant News Editor

The University of Waterloo plans to offer as many in-person classes as possible during the fall 2021 term, announced university president Feridun Hamdullahpur during a town hall on May 11.

In-person classes are expected to be held at 50 per cent capacity, but this may be reduced depending on public health guidelines.

"If you start your course as an in-person course, you will finish it as an in-person course," Hamdullahpur said.

While the university is planning a staged return to campus, it is not confirmed if receiving the vaccine will be required for students, staff and faculty.

"I hope we won't make it mandatory," Hamdullahpur said, adding that he expects that most of the UW community will be voluntarily vaccinated by the fall. "The bottom line is...I don't want to compromise their [faculty and staff teaching in-person] well-being if the students are not vaccinated."

However, Hamdullahpur also pointed out that a vaccination clinic and an on-campus testing centre is currently operating at UW's Health Sciences building.

The university also plans to offer vaccines to domestic and international students on campus.

Masks will continue to be mandatory for the foreseeable future.

"Having the vaccine mandatory definitely is more preferred than not being mandatory, but it depends on the ability of people to get vaccinated," said Hayya Halime, a sec-

ond year biology student. "Having the university offer vaccinations would be helpful. I didn't know they were doing that."

David DeVidi, associate vice-president academic, also mentioned that the university will accommodate the needs of international students who may not be able to return to campus for the fall term.

"When we think about what to offer by what modes, we're trying to make sure that the things that are offered online are available online, are things that will allow people to progress in [their] programs," DeVidi said.

UW is also supporting international students through services visa application advice and support, as well as food services for students in quarantine who may not have their own arrangements. A quarantine program has been put together for international students and 1,000 students have been

approved to re-enter as part of the program.

"We're optimistic that we're going to have a continued influx of international students," said Chris Read, associate provost, students.

That being said, not all courses will have a hybrid option to be delivered both online and in-person, according to vice-president, academic and provost James Rush.

Rush said the faculties have taken time to plan each course's delivery, prioritizing the most important face-to-face experiences.

Therefore, some required and core courses will be delivered remotely, though other classes will just be offered in-person.

Additionally, there are several courses and faculties that may be offering a hybrid option for students. Information surrounding specific classes can be found on the UW website.

## W Store and Student Success Office launch #UWaterloolife Memories photo contest, running till June 25

Suji Udayakumar  
Assistant News Editor

The W Store and the Student Success Office have launched a photo contest in an effort to relive memories from University of Waterloo campus life.

From May 3 to June 25, all University of Waterloo community members, students, faculty and staff can share their #UWaterloolife memories with the rest of campus through the submission page.

It is recognized that there is increased difficulty in remembering favorite memories and moments of campus life from individuals who have been off campus for many months.

In an effort to help those missing campus to recall University of Waterloo memories, the W Store and the Student Success Office are offering a chance to be featured in the official 2022 University of Waterloo calendar or on the @UWaterloolife Instagram

account. Individuals who enter can indicate whether they would like their submission to be considered for the W Store Calendar Contest, the @UWaterloolife Instagram account or both.

From the submissions, 12 photos will be selected and featured in the official 2022 University of Waterloo calendar.

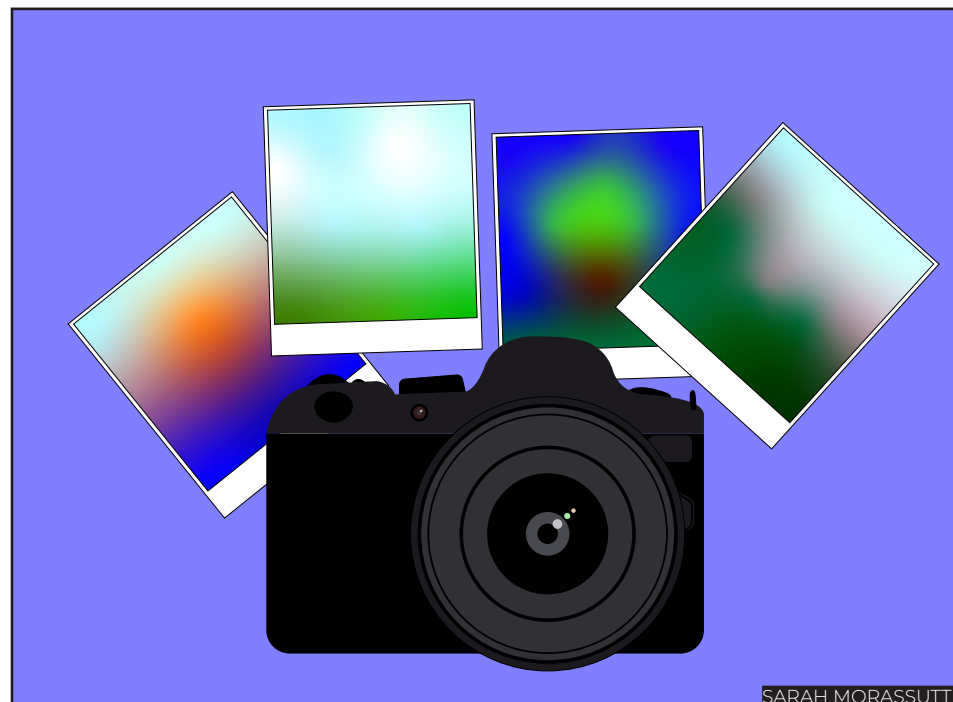
Each winner will receive their own copy of the calendar. The photos will also be printed at W Print.

Based on a popular vote by UW community members, one photo will be selected to receive a grand prize of a \$100 W Store gift card.

This submission will also be featured on the cover of the calendar.

The first and second runner-up individuals will receive a \$50 W Store gift card and a \$25 W Store gift card, respectively.

This contest is being conducted "to help us relive our favorite #UWaterloolife memories," said the W Store and Student Success Office.





# Anti-lockdown protests in Waterloo see hundreds of participants

Karen Chen  
News Editor

On May 9, hundreds of protesters walked from Uptown Waterloo to Victoria Park, rallying against public health guidelines.

Speakers at the “No More Lockdown” rally included Randy Hillier, an independent MPP for Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston and Jacob Reaume, pastor at Trinity Bible Chapel in Woolwich Township.

Charges were issued in Waterloo for failure to comply with the stay-at-home order and gathering provisions.

Tickets and court summons were also issued at Trinity Bible Chapel in Woolwich Township, which has been fined several times for exceeding capacity limits.

These rallies first started on April 18 and have been continuing every weekend since, increasing in size and number of participants.

Carrying anti-government and anti-lockdown signs, the crowds said they were claiming their right to speak freely and demonstrate in spite of the global pandemic and the Ontario state of emergency.

Some signs read: “Facts over fear,” “Communism: You Masked for it,” “Media is the virus. Compliance is the pandemic. Critical thinking is the cure,” and more simply, “No More Lockdowns.”

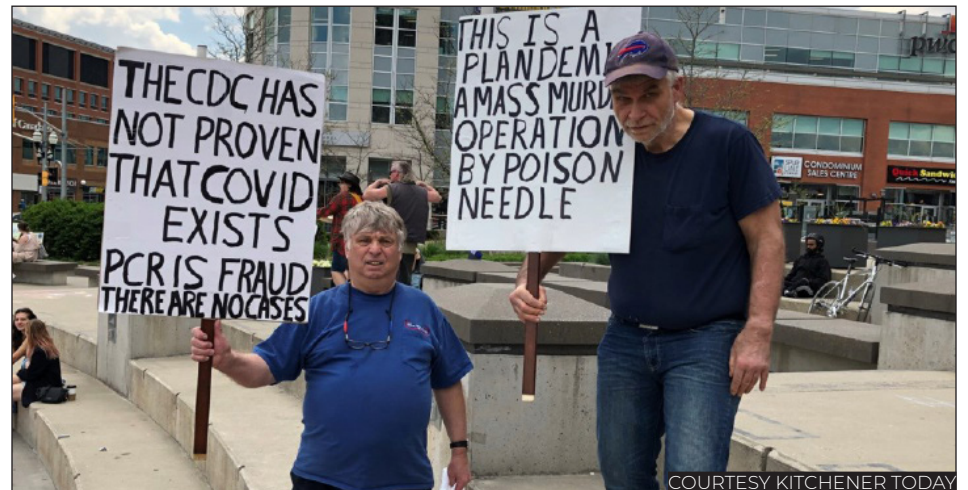
Citizens are encouraged to stay at home and avoid larger gatherings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Protesters approaching police officers to shout without masks or adhering to any safety measures are often fined, but official case numbers fall short in comparison to the size of the crowds each week. The participants ranged in age from young children attending with parents to senior citizens.

Claiming to put a greater emphasis on issuing fines to the organizers and identifying participants, officials wrote out

about 22 charges under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act as well as the Reopening Ontario Act. Of the 22 charges, two people were charged

during the May 9 gathering.

Ontario entered into a state of emergency and issued the stay-at-home order on April 8 that has since been extended to June 2.



Protesters were seen carrying anti-government and anti-lockdown signs.

## Globally Local: Plant-based fast food chain to come to Waterloo

Mahek Kaur  
Reporter

Globally Local, one of the world’s first vegan fast food chains is coming to Uptown Waterloo this summer.

The restaurant will be located on 75 King Street South at the corner of Willis Way and Caroline Street.

“We aim to bring the community an experience that is superior to old-school animal-based fast food in every way, from taste to nutrition to efficiency,” said Globally Local co-founder and CEO James McInnes in a news release.

After attending events and seeing the region’s huge demand for affordable, healthy and environmentally friendly fast food, McInnes said he considers Waterloo to be the perfect location.

McInnes believes that being close to the university would allow them to have easy access to a large population of their target market—youth and students.

Some of the most popular menu items include their Famous Burger, Maple Crunch Breakfast Sandwich and Wingalings. Additionally, it is anticipated that the new Waterloo location will create between 10 and 15 jobs.

In recent years, UW has tried to keep up

with students’ growing appetite for plant-based food options through launching their own vegan/vegetarian restaurant called FRSH, located on campus.

With meat processing centres shutting down and the general public becoming

more health conscious than ever before, COVID-19 has further boosted the demand for meat-free and vegan food options.

Globally Local Technologies Inc., the parent company of Globally Local, announced that it will be opening five new restau-

rant locations this summer in Waterloo, Hamilton, Vaughan, Toronto and London — bringing them to a total of seven restaurants in Ontario alone. The company plans to open 20 locations across North America within the next 12 months.



JIA CHEN



# Uptown Waterloo's The Atrium and Angie's Diner announce closure

Claudia Tavera-Tello  
Reporter

Uptown Waterloo's The Atrium and Angie's restaurant are closing to make way for a new development.

Angie's has announced it will shut its doors permanently by May 30. Meanwhile, The Atrium, which houses several local establishments, is expected to close in fall 2022.

According to KitchenerToday, The buildings were sold to a developer who plans to rebuild the area, though it is unknown what type of development it will be.

Several of the businesses in The Atrium confirmed that they are looking for new permanent or temporary homes in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Some, like the Aroma Café and the Duke of Wellington Pub will stay until September 2022, while others, like the Cobblestone Gallery, have already ceased in-person operations.

The closure of The Atrium and especially Angie's has been met with disappointment, anger and sadness, especially from University of Waterloo students.

Lea Rousseau, a third-year knowledge integration student, expressed her disappointment.

"I spent a lot of time there over the last three years and it's sad to see it go."

She is aware that she is not the only person who feels this way.

"There are a lot of people who went to Angie's as students and now come back as adults with their families during homecoming. It's a place that's been a staple of the community," Rousseau said.

In addition, Rousseau praised the restaurant's atmosphere. "It's the last family friendly and casual diner in Waterloo. There is Mel's Diner, but it's a different atmosphere. Angie's felt like going over to an aunt or uncle's house."

Regarding the new development, she said, "Anything that takes out small businesses, personal housing, farmland and forests is just wrong."

Rousseau wasn't wrong about the student reaction. Zofia Washington, a third-year science psychology student, also expressed her disappointment about the businesses closing.

"I'm really sad to hear that Angie's and The Atrium are closing down," she said. "Angie's has been a go-to spot for whenever I wanted to meet up with friends or take my parents to lunch when they drove up to visit."

"The service was always super friendly and the food was great. I would always bring

a cinnamon roll home with me and get to enjoy that souvenir the next day," she added.

When asked, Washington agreed that she will miss visiting Angie's because "[she] has so many nice memories there, sharing breakfast foods with friends and family."

"Angie's had a very charming atmosphere that made every visit enjoyable...Some of my favourite moments were the impromptu meals with friends and catching up with my family that had come to visit me," Washington said.

The closures also disappointed Aileen Leadbetter, the owner of the Cobblestone Gallery. She discussed the effect COVID-19 had on her decision to close.

"Unfortunately, and mostly due to COVID-19, I've had to close my store permanently. We closed on March 31, 2021, but I'm remaining online," Leadbetter said.

"I'm going to experiment with a few different things, new products and more, but realistically I can't afford to relocate," she added.

"I'm sad that The Atrium is being sold," she continued. "It's a unique building in Uptown Waterloo — it has a lot of character and it stands out amongst other buildings surrounding it. It needs better mobility access and larger, more accessible bathrooms to accommodate customers with special needs."

"Waterloo is a booming city, and there is more money to be made with condos than retail alone," Leadbetter said. "But it will be very sad to see The Atrium go and I think Waterloo will lose a little piece of its character with it."

Next door to The Atrium, popular diner Angie's is closing its doors after 59 years in business.

The owners, Teresa and Bob Huegle, discussed their decision in a May 7 press release:

"In this COVID-19 time, and people will know what I'm talking about, we've certainly had time to reflect while being alone. We've heard terrible stories and tragedies, and I don't want that. I'm glad that I'm going out on my terms."

The restaurant, which was started by Teresa's parents Angie and Bill Graham in 1962, has been popular amongst students and families since it opened.

In the release, the Huegles expressed gratitude toward the "loyal customers and staff [who] made it possible for [them] to be successful for such a long time."

The release continues, "In a non-COVID time, our goodbye could have been very different, with time to come together and reminisce. We want all to be safe, healthy and know that we are grateful for all the wonderful memories."



COURTESY CTV NEWS KITCHENER

Angie's Diner, known for its family dining experience and breakfast menu, opened in 1962 and was extremely popular among families and students in Waterloo.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# sports & health



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## UW gets vaxxed: Students share their vaccination experience

Saihaj Dadhra  
Sports and Health Editor

As of May 14, more than 1.45 billion people worldwide have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to Our World in Data. With pre-registration for vaccines now available to individuals over the age of 12 in the Kitchener-Waterloo region, vaccines bring hope of a return to normalcy and to the UW campus.

At a virtual town hall on May 11, UW president Feridun Hamdullahpur announced plans to return to in-person learning in the fall.

Hamdullahpur said he hopes that many students and staff will voluntarily be vaccinated by the start of the next term. However, it is not yet known if vaccinations will be required for community members to return to campus.

"My tendency is towards that requirement. If we can do that," Hamdullahpur said.

Hamdullahpur added that the university is currently "seeking a number of avenues, either, ethical, legal, or societal aspects of a requirement."

Disha Parekh, a second-year accounting and financial man-

agement student, received her first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in Toronto at the Centennial College vaccination clinic in early May.

"I always wanted to get the vaccine because it's so important to play a role in the community, in keeping the community safe and getting rid of the pandemic," Parekh said. "I was actually really excited when we finally got the appointment."

After seeing rollout success in other countries, Aryan Narang, an economics and business student, decided to get vaccinated and received his first dose of the Moderna vaccine.

"Honestly, right from the start, I was kind of skeptical of the vaccine itself just because of the side effects and stuff like that," Narang said.

As an international student, Narang looked forward to experiencing life in Canada in addition to getting UW education.

"My primary focus was not just to study in the university, but also explore Canada in the nearby area," Narang said.

During the town hall, Hamdullahpur said supports and services will be available to international students who may not be able to

return to campus.

"They [international students] leave home, just to be here with us, to have their education at the University of Waterloo, so we have to give it a lot of very serious consideration," Hamdullahpur said.

Akshay Saxena, a software engineering student who received the Moderna vaccine, said he recommends calling to book an appointment for the vaccination if anyone has difficulty with booking an appointment online.

"There's a bunch of numbers they can call to book an appointment, and spam calling works," Saxena said.

As of May 18, all Ontario residents over the age of 18 are able to book their vaccine through the provincial website.

Anupriya Pandey, a math/financial advisory and risk management student, said she experienced a sore arm and a fever after receiving the Moderna vaccine. According to the CDC, these are common side-effects of the vaccine.

Other side effects include: pain, redness and swelling on the arm the vaccine was administered, tiredness, headache, muscle pains, chills, fever and nausea, although some people may not experience any side-effects.

Pandey pre-registered for the vaccine and was told she would get an appointment after four-to-six weeks, however, she was able to find a phone number in the KW region to book the appointment.

"Two of my friends got vaccinated, so they gave me a number to dial...It was a very informal procedure where they just asked [for] my postal code and they gave me a slot the next day," Pandey said.

Aditya Dhanasekharan, a third-

year mathematics and business administration student, said he received the Moderna vaccine.

"Personally, I don't think there's that much to be scared about vaccines," Dhanasekharan said.

"I just want to tell them [UW students] that it's not as harmful as some people make it seem," Dhanasekharan said. "It's actually just temporary. Tolerating that pain for the first couple of days might just be really useful."



SARAH MORASSUTTI

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# UW esports earns first place at Mania Collegiate League

Eduardo Matsumiya  
Head Copy Editor

When talking about competitive esports, people will immediately think of computer games like League of Legends or Counter-Strike. Most won't even consider the possibility of rhythm gaming — a genre where music and button prompts are combined to test a player's sense of rhythm — being competitive, but for UW's *osu!* division there's nothing more thrilling.

For Quancong (Piggy) Ni, captain of UW's three-player *osu!* B team, competitive rhythm gaming was something he stumbled upon when taking a chance.

"I didn't really make the conscious decision to get into competitive rhythm gaming, it was more so the fact that 'I enjoy the game and I enjoy playing and improving with other players,'" he said.

Eventually, Piggy was selected to participate at Mania Cup 2016 — the only staff-sponsored *osu!*mania tournament — and has continued to be a top competitor ever since.

The Mania Collegiate League is a community-run tournament series dating back to 2019, open exclusively to post-secondary students from around the world. There's no major prize support here — it's all about friendly competition amongst players.

UW came into the tournament with seven players split across two teams. While the A team struggled to claw their way out of

the loser's bracket throughout most of the event, the B team under Piggy's leadership got first seed during the qualifier round, earning them a free ride straight to the quarterfinals. From there they ran through with an undefeated 4-0 match record, including a perfect 6-0 sweep against Thailand's King Mongkut Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in the finals.

"We were pretty confident when we signed up as we had the highest-ranking players across all teams, including two Mania World Cup players. Although some other teams could beat us in niches such as raw accuracy, we were definitely the best team when it came to consistency, speed, and raw skill in general," Piggy said.

The event was specific to one of many game modes offered in *osu!* — known as *osu!*mania. This mode emulates the gameplay style of more traditional rhythm games as opposed to the complex layout and motions utilized by the original game.

While *osu!* would normally have players perform all sorts of slides, quarter circles and other strange patterns with a stylus, touchscreen or mouse in order to score points, *osu!*mania only uses four buttons on a keyboard matching four lanes of notes. Press the buttons corresponding to the beatmap shown on screen, and you'll earn points based on how accurate your timing was, accompanied by a whizzing soundtrack worthy of your wildest anime dreams.

"There is definitely personal appeal in the music. I'd say I started playing because the game was fun but stayed partially because



COURTESY OSU

of the music," Piggy said.

"Personally I like electronic music, and *osu!* has a large selection of beatmaps to choose from for that, as well as virtually every single other genre. Japanese music is common in the *osu!* scene but I think there's something out there in the beatmap listings for everyone to enjoy."

The tournament itself allowed any number of teams to represent a school, with each team made up of 2-4 members. In total, 15 teams from 13 different schools faced each other in a double elimination format. Matches were played using a two-on-two format over the course of several weeks, with a qualifier round preceding the main event in order to determine people's skill level and match them appropriately.

"The two-on-two play was a staff decision, but I think it allows for more teamplay without requiring a larger team, as some institutions only had one or two players," Piggy said.

"One-on-one play would also be very one-sided and uninteresting to watch due to this being an all-ranks tournament, meaning that two-digit ranking players can go against five-digit ranking players, making matches way more predictable," he added.

The event utilized a select pool of beatmaps during each stage of the event, with each individual match being preceded by a ban-pick phase. This adds an additional layer of strategy unique to playing in a tournament setting as opposed to playing casually.

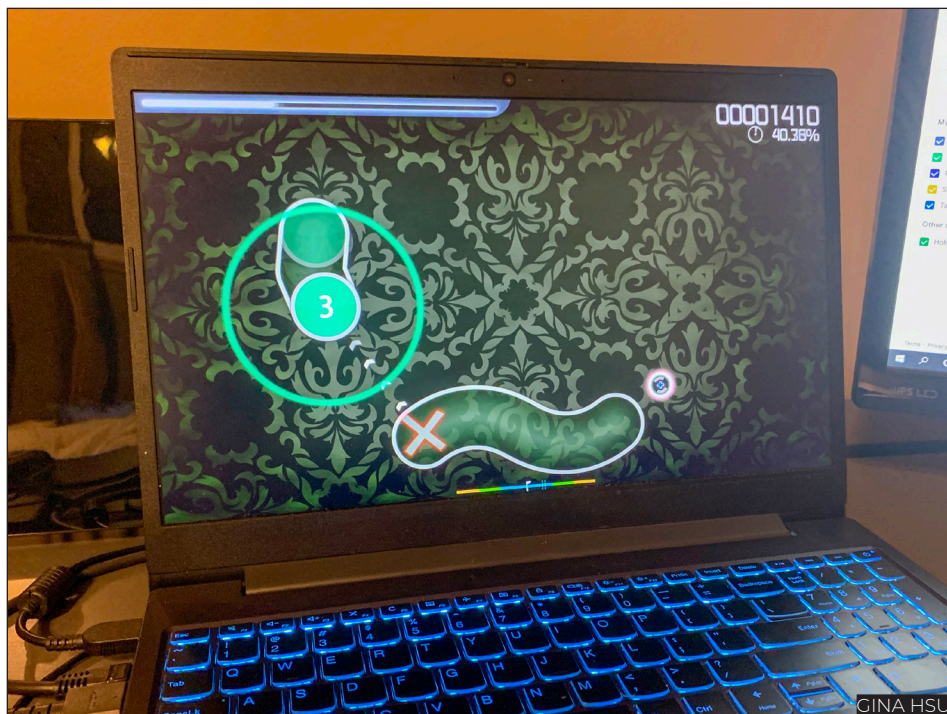
"There are a variety of skill sets within the game, and some teams are better at one skill than others. The pool for each round aims to cover a large variety of skills, so the goal for picks and bans is to try and eliminate beatmaps that the opposing team might be better at while picking beatmaps that my team can excel on," Piggy said.

Now when it comes to rhythm gaming, most casual observers are likely to associate the genre with the Guitar Hero craze from the mid-to-late 2000s, or the mobile gaming hit that was the Tap Tap series. And while the genre may have faded somewhat from public consciousness, titles like *osu!* have managed to maintain a loyal following for more than a decade. How you may ask? The secret is surprisingly simple.

"Unlike those games, the vast majority of the content in *osu!*, no matter the game mode, is user-generated. Players can create, play, and share beatmaps and skins to customize the game to their hearts' content," Piggy explained.

This free-to-play, highly-customizable, community-driven model was somewhat ahead of its time back when the game first released in 2007, and is still very unique today as the game continues to rely on donations and physical merchandise sales to stay online.

For more of their extraordinary rhythm gaming prowess follow Piggy and Arpia97 on Youtube. Not only are they two-thirds of the winning UW *osu!* team, they also represented Canada on the world stage during the Mania 2020 World Cup.



UW's three-player *osu!* B team received first place in the rhythm game tournament.

Follow @Piggy @Aipia97 on  
Youtube for more *osu!* content.



# arts & life

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JIA CHEN

Nicola Rose  
Arts and Life Editor

As the spring term sets in, rising temperatures and longer days mean even more reason to feel cooped up at home due to the pandemic. Luckily, there are a number of activities and events running in Waterloo this term, so you can always find something fun and COVID-19 safe to do.

Here's a quick guide to student-friendly summer activities in the region:

### Welcome Week

This week (May 17-21) is spring Welcome Week, which features a number of virtual events for undergrad students, all hosted by WUSA. Catch Sex Toy Bingo on Thursday, May 20 at 7 p.m. EDT or a Mood-Boosting Movements class on Friday, May 21 at 12 p.m. EDT.



COURTESY WUSA

In addition to Welcome Week, WUSA hosts regular workshops to support students during the pandemic and beyond. You can watch past workshops, like "Dating During COVID-19" and "Money Talks: Financial Wellness Basics with the Sassy Investor" on the WUSA website or attend upcoming events live.

### UW events

The University of Waterloo's events calendar lists upcoming opportunities for students, faculty and community members. Highlights from the next couple months include a virtual screening of "Picture a Scientist" hosted by Women in Engineering.



### City events

Beyond UW events, there are plenty of events hosted by the City of Waterloo that students might enjoy. From a monthly Art Market between June and August, to programming for holidays like National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), there are tons of ways to enjoy the local arts and culture scene.

Sustainable Waterloo Region also runs informative programming, such as "Serv-

ing up Sustainability: Food Systems and Climate Change," an event that will explore how modern food systems exacerbate climate change.

### The Kitchener Ripper

If you're a mystery fan, grab a group of friends (between two and six) and check out "The Ripper": an outdoor detective adventure that will have you crossing the city to solve a crime. The event comes to KW on June 5.

### Outdoor movie nights

Movie theatres may be closed, but there are plenty of options to catch a good flick in the city this summer. The City of Waterloo will be hosting Movies in the Park-ing Lot between June and September (specific films TBA), and there are several drive-in theatres near Kitchener-Waterloo.

Have a backyard? Buy a cheap projector and string up a white sheet. You'll have total control over what movie you watch and access to any snacks you want, without having to pay the movie theatre markup.

If you're really missing the popcorn, Princess Cinemas is still running their weekly popcorn pickup, where you can purchase local craft brews and traditional movie snacks.

### Clubs and other associations

If one-time events aren't what you're looking for, check out the WUSA clubs directory to find new opportunities to explore. Interested in bringing a new club to the community? The process is quite easy — there are

a few basic criteria for starting and maintaining a new club, all of which can be found on the WUSA website, along with the steps you'll need to take to get your idea approved. You can also find opportunities to connect with students through your faculty society.

### Organize your own activity

None of the options on the list sound appealing? Organize your own activity with friends. You can do a six-foot-apart picnic in the park or plan a nighttime walk to see the stars. If you want something a little more fast-paced, you can try a game of frisbee, football or soccer with your roommates.

There are also lots of hiking trails located in the region, many of which are accessible by transit. If you've got access to a car, see whether campgrounds reopen once lockdown is lifted, and consider a weekend getaway to an isolated, outdoor space.

You can also pitch a tent on your lawn, though your front yard may lack a certain serenity.

Cabin fever is constricting. Hopefully, the warmer weather and local events provide a chance for you to escape the confinement of your home and appreciate the region a bit more.

Enjoy your summer!



COURTESY CLIPARTKEY





## UW researchers developing at-home, saliva-based COVID test

Lauren Speight  
Science and Tech Editor

Researchers at the University of Waterloo are in the process of creating an at-home saliva-based COVID-19 test expected to deliver a positive or negative result in less than 20 minutes.

Throughout the pandemic, the public has faced delays in receiving test results, with most taking between two and three days to come back. “This test will provide an immediate positive or negative so that folks who are infected can isolate immediately,” said Sushanta Mitra, a professor of mechanical and mechatronics engineering and co-lead researcher on the project.

Mitra is the executive director of the Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology and has led a number

of pan-Canadian and global initiatives like Bioconversion of Coal within Nano-Bio-Energy Network. He has also actively contributed to the community and technical societies such as being the past President for Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME) and Chair of Technical Committee for American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

The Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology at UW is working in partnership with ChitoLytic Inc. and Mitacs to bring the project to life. The test is made of a strip of paper coated with chitosan and nanoparticles, which will detect the presence of COVID-19 and turn red if the test is positive.

“ChitoLytic produces a compound called chitosan, a polysaccharide made from shrimp cells,” Mitra said. Given that the test is made of paper and this naturally occurring sugar, the test is

extremely inexpensive, mass-deployable and environmentally friendly, according to Mitra.

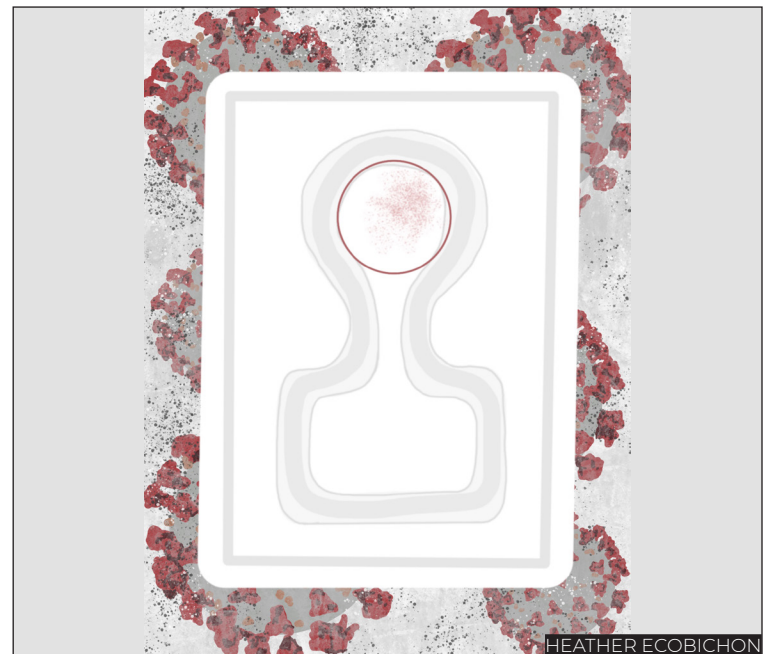
Aside from the sustainability of the test, the technology differs from current rapid tests because it can be administered anywhere and will allow for frequent test-taking if needed, which will ultimately help to monitor infections. According to the research team, it is also a more pleasant option for individuals who have to be tested often as a nasal swab test is more invasive.

“As we move into the post-COVID era of vaccinations and contact tracing, we can target hotspots and have public health measures activated quickly if there is an outbreak,” Mitra said. “This kind of rapid testing will be a vital tool in terms of a safe re-opening of the economy.”

The research team is working toward making these rapid testing

kits available over-the-counter in pharmacies as soon as possible,

targeting first-stage testing within the next six months.



HEATHER ECOBICHON

## The debated origin of coal

Hayley Austin  
Reporter

Though coal was a key player in the technological boom of the Industrial Revolution and contributes a third of global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, its origin continues to be a topic of debate among scholars.

Around 360 million years ago, the spread of vast, dense and swampy forests marked the beginning of the Carboniferous Period

across northern Europe, Asia and midwestern and eastern North America. This period led to the formation of massive deposits of peat — an accumulation of partially decayed organic material. The pressure and heat associated with tectonic plate movement turned such peat deposits into a widely used carbon-rich rock known as coal.

A well-known hypothesis for why the carboniferous period was productive ground is that while woody plants thrived, the fungi at the time had not yet evolved the

ability to decompose lignin — a substance that makes wood rigid. Instead of decomposing, these trees were preserved until they were eventually buried by sediment and pressurized into coal.

However, this explanation for the abundance of coal dominating the carboniferous period is contested by many experts. The main argument is that it seems unlikely that millions of years passed before fungi were able to break down lignin, or that there was enough plant matter in that time to result in the massive amounts of coal deposits.

A more widely accepted theory emerged from a 2016 paper by Kevin Boyce and William DiMichele, who rejected the previous hypothesis and argued that the carboniferous period was essentially “the perfect geological storm.” Many large, sinking tectonic basins were formed in present-day Europe and

the eastern United States as tectonic plates merged into the supercontinent Pangaea. These basins happened to form in wet tropics and as plants died, they fell into stagnant pools with minimal oxygen, allowing for plants to form peat due to the lack of bacteria and fungi in those specific areas.

As this peat is covered during glacial-interglacial cycles, it is preserved, its weight squeezing out water and leaving behind coal as the end product.

Maurice Dusseault, an engineer and lecturer at the University of Waterloo, said in the thickening muskegs of Northern Ontario, conditions are developing for the coalification of organic matter.

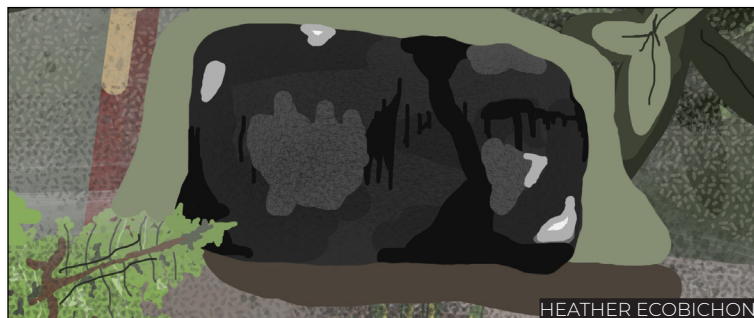
“If these thick organic layers are buried under anaerobic conditions, then the Archaea take over,” Dusseault said. “These methanogens break down the cellulosic molecules and leave behind very

low-grade coal.”

If these lowlands in Northern Ontario were buried, physical compaction would eventually turn the lignite into sub-bituminous coal or high grade bituminous coal, depending on the level of stress occurring. “If organic matter gets buried and decomposes anaerobically courtesy of archaeobacterial processes, coal of some grade ensues,” he said.

Today, coal is the biggest contributor of climate change caused by human activity. In 2017, coal generated 27 per cent of the world’s energy and accounted for 46 per cent of global carbon emissions.

Now, climate activists and scientists are urging industries to invest in renewable energy sources. The Government of Canada has committed to phasing out coal-fired electricity, effectively eliminating coal-produced energy by 2030.



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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



## HAVE YOUR SAY

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# Detriments of Techno-Orientalism

## The impact of Techno-Orientalist tropes on the Asian population

The term “Techno-Orientalism” was first coined by researcher and film critic David S. Roh in his book of the same name, *Techno-Orientalism*, where he examines depictions of Asia and East Asia in speculative fiction, history and media.

He, and other contributors to his work, acknowledged this phenomenon quickly — that the Asian population is stereotypically regarded as hyper technological but intellectually primitive, implying that they are in desperate need of western liberation.

In many ways, the Asian population is utilized as the “model minority,” which is an important topic all on its own, as this myth is extremely dangerous and is what leads to unhealthy and overwhelming detrimental fetishization of one race.

In the film and media we consume today, techno-orientalism is the subservient machines, the unfeeling inhuman robots and the apocalyptic and dystopic futures that we dismiss far too easily. Examples of this include films such as *Ex-Machina*, *The Matrix* and *Blade Runner*.

Personally, I believe that many of these tropes bloom from Yellow Peril: the belief that East Asians pose an economic and intellectual threat to the Western world. This existential threat is a belief that stems from and is rooted in poor education, but many do not recognize the root may truly be in techno-orientalism. The book itself serves to critique racist and imperialist attitudes of the East.

Geopolitical anxieties had not been alleviated and science fiction had taken advantage of this fear especially around the 1980s, during Japan's post-war economic rise, and this in turn caused a rise in violence.

Many Americans would attack Japanese cars with baseball bats — soon they continued this with Japanese auto workers, utilizing the same baseball bats as weapons, viewing the workers as dehumanized, expendable machines.

Considering the heavy xenophobia that many Asians are facing in today's climate, I would suggest and strongly urge that this is an issue not to be ignored and I believe that it should be brought to everyone's attention, particularly when increasing U.S. imperialist aggression toward China is increasing anti-Asian hate in the West.

It's terrifying to imagine that these neg-

ative Techno-Orientalist tropes had been employed in U.S. news coverage of China.

It was broadcasted that COVID-19 had been bioengineered by the Chinese government and that it was a weapon of mass bioterrorism. This inspired a wave of confusion and hatred in a time where the world was suffering from fear of the unknown, the start of a worldwide pandemic.

Noam Chomsky, an American linguist and cognitive scientist, discusses the idea of media being used by those in political power to indoctrinate the majority of the population into complacency. This is so they do not recognize the actuality — which is the overwhelming detrimental effects of it on our perceptions of East Asians and many other minority groups.

These depictions of East Asians in Western Media as subservient and unfeeling are not only terrible and cruel, but directly adhere to xenophobia.

This goes down to the very root of the term “orientalism” which was coined and heavily criticized by academic Edward Said, whose writing I am very passionate about.

Said writes in his book, “The Orient was not (and is not) a free subject of thought or action...European culture gained in

strength and identity by setting itself off against the Orient as a sort of surrogate and even underground self.” This is what is detrimental in and of itself.

I'm not advocating for awareness on one area of ignorance, since prejudice is an issue that directly affects the whole population. If we remain unaware of what is going on directly around us, influencing us and those that we care about, then it is no longer remaining neutral but choosing ignorance and siding with the oppressive and xenophobic perspectives.

Kevin Robins, an academic who defined techno-orientalism as the “phenomenon of imagining Asia and Asians in hypo or hyper technological terms in cultural productions and political discourse,” says it is not always problematic, but the perceptions of it by mass populations may be. Voices are to be used, and I think we should never hesitate to use our own.

Ultimately, if complacency is the rule, we will all suffer for it.

Saba Gharagozli  
 2A, Sociology and Legal Studies



RACHEL XU



# Mandatory vaccines should be implemented for UW's fall reopening

When the University of Waterloo announced on May 11 that it would be re-introducing in-person learning for the upcoming fall 2021 term, many students were excited at the thought of possibly returning to campus or visiting it for the first time.

I was particularly ecstatic to hear the good news because I had only spent a little more than six months on campus before restrictions hit.

I was near the end of my 1B ARBUS term when all in-person classes were cancelled. I flew back home to Edmonton immediately, as I had an off term that following spring. I thought those four months at home would be enough for the pandemic to settle over. But then those four months became eight, then twelve, and now it's been a little over a year since the

majority of campus operations shut down due to COVID-19 and I've been stuck at home ever since.

The past year has been difficult for all of us as we've had to adapt to different practices to ensure the safety of ourselves and everyone around us.

Many students are eagerly anticipating the university's reopening for a number of reasons — some of us want to truly have the college experience, some of us are desperate to move out of our parents' house and live independently and others just miss having person-to-person social interactions. But arguably one of the most prominent reasons as to why students are looking forward to the university's reopening in the fall is the return of in-person learning.

I definitely prefer in-person learning over online instruction. Yes, rushing halfway across cam-



On May 11, UW announced a reintroduction to in-person learning.

*Some of us want to truly have the college experience, some of us are desperate to move out of our parents' house and live independently and others just miss having person-to-person social interactions.*

ASHLEY TANG, 3A ARBUS

pus through a snowstorm to get to my next lecture can be a pain and sitting through a three-hour lecture without fast-forwarding can feel more time consuming. But I also dread opening up Learn everyday knowing that I have five new discussion posts due at midnight. I detest group projects even more now because there's always one person who never answers their messages; I know I'm not the only one who feels this way.

Search up "I hate online school" on Twitter and you'll get a countless number of tweets from students all over the world ranting about the difficulties of online learning — from internet issues, to difficulties managing time, to the lack of motivation and engagement. Online school just doesn't compare to physically sitting in a lecture hall and learning alongside hundreds of other students.

Needless to say, learning in a remote environment has brought forth many challenges. But, however eager we may be for fall's reopening and to get back on campus, many are still wondering if the return of in-person learning in the fall is actually a good idea.

Every day we hear stories from the media restating how serious COVID-19 is, how fast it spreads in communities and how the number of daily cases are still rising. Although there are now vaccines available, many still do not have access to them or don't want to get vaccinated for various reasons. Additionally, some health experts

advise against the reopening of schools for in-person learning because they seem to be a hotspot for outbreaks to emerge.

Despite these risks, I believe UW's plans to expand in-person learning activities in the upcoming fall term is the right decision to make. However, the university must reopen campus in a way that manages and ensures the safety and health of all students, staff and faculty.

So, how might they do this? I believe all students should receive the vaccine — whether in their home country or in Canada — and have proof of vaccination prior to entering campus in the fall. Those who choose not to take the vaccine and wish to return on campus should only be exempt from the previous statement if they provide proof to the university that they are severely allergic to any of the ingredients in the vaccine and/or they have underlying health conditions that prevent them from being safely vaccinated according to the guidelines from the FDA, CDC or Health Canada.

I understand that at this point UW is hoping not to make the vaccine mandatory, and instead is only encouraging students to get the vaccine. However, implementing a mandatory vaccine policy would not only ease anxiety among students who are afraid of getting COVID, but also encourage more of us to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

When some college campuses

in the U.S. reopened last fall, cases spread rapidly within the first few weeks. Since then, vaccines have been developed and members of the public have been strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. But despite this, how can we be certain that those returning to campus will be vaccinated?

Thousands of students will be sitting in the same lecture halls, attending social events, using public transportation, and walking alongside each other when fall comes. We need tighter restrictions to prevent another outbreak or lockdown, which is why I firmly believe that mandating the vaccine to students who are returning in the fall is the safest option.

Further, all individuals returning to campus in the fall should be tested and confirmed to be COVID-free and should be expected to follow all health and safety procedures.

We still have a few more months until the fall term starts. Until then, there is still a chance for reopening plans to change. Do your part — stay at home, get vaccinated, practice safe social distancing, wash your hands with antibacterial soap and hand sanitizer when out and always wear a mask in public settings. Let's all work together — two meters apart — to stop the spread of COVID-19 and ensure that UW safely reopens this fall.

Ashley Tang  
3A, ARBUS



PHOTO/VIDEO



REPORTING



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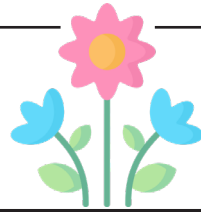
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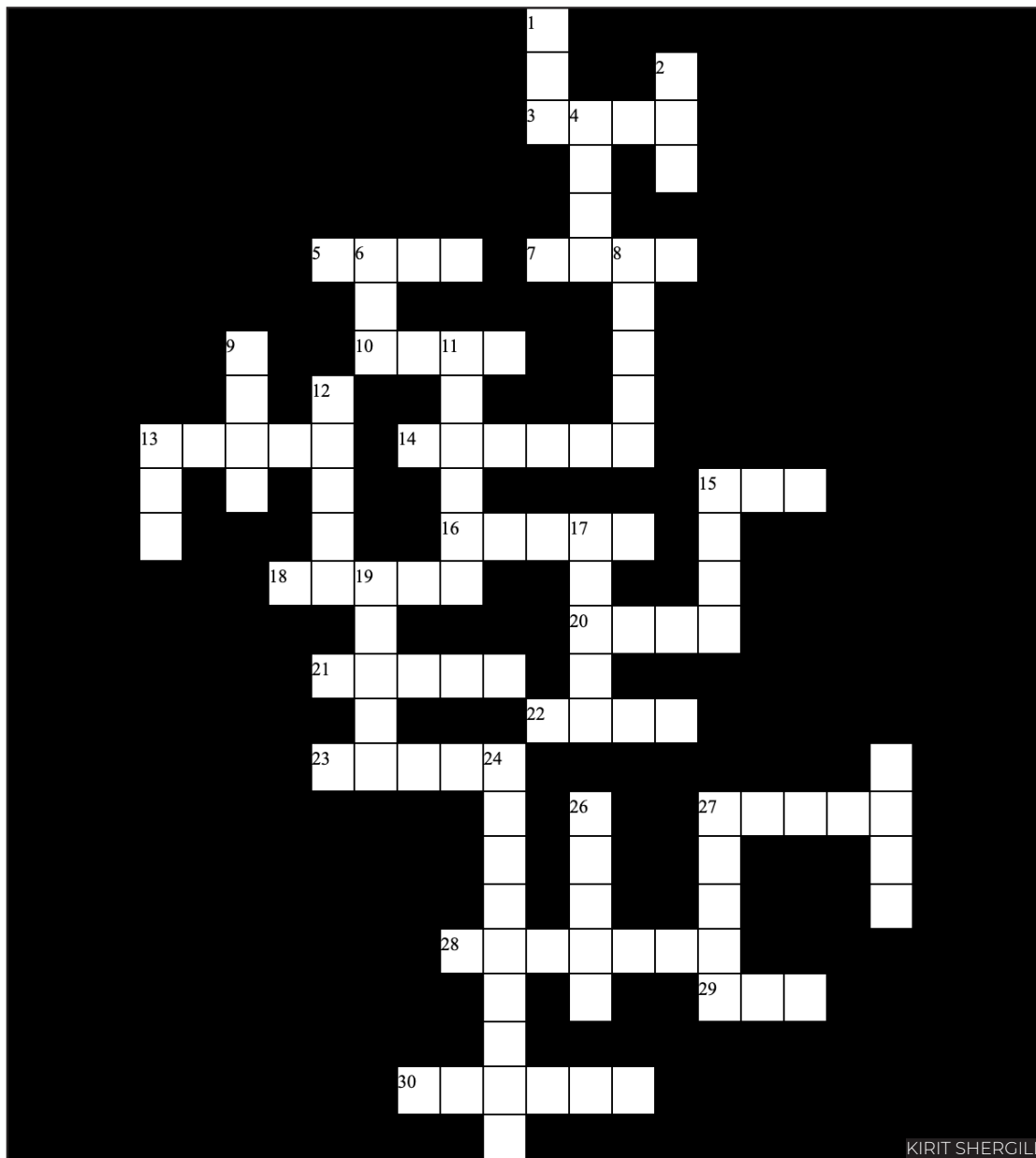
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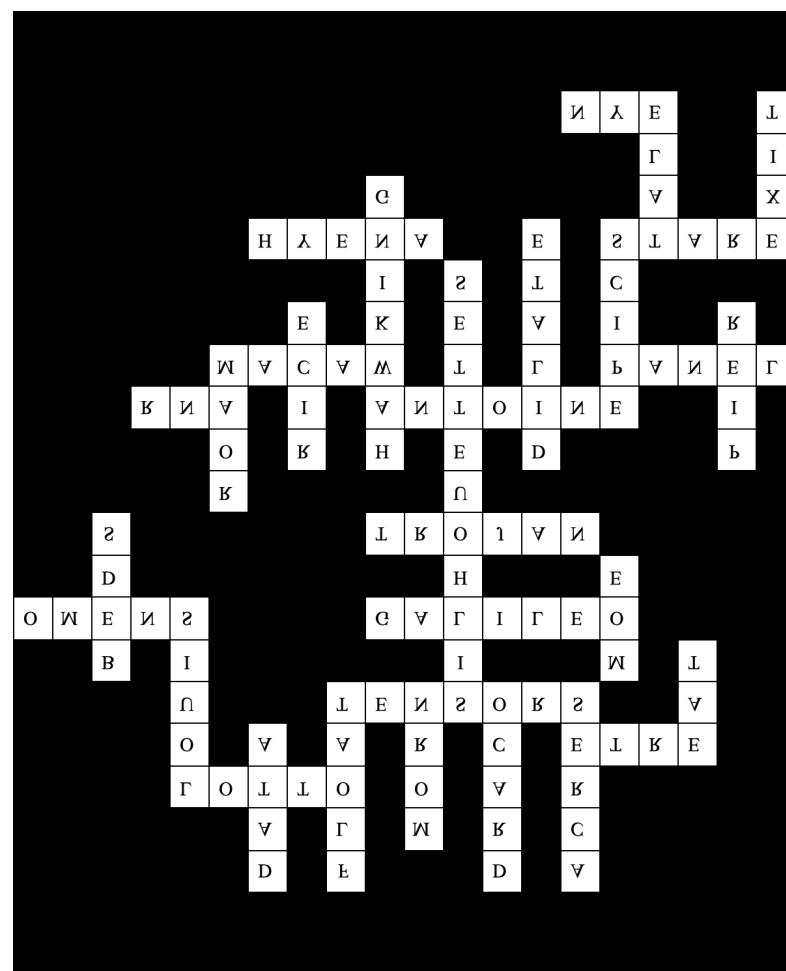
THEY ALWAYS HAVE NEW BUDS!

## Imprint crosswords | Villainy



KIRIT SHERGILL

### LAST PAPER'S ANSWERS



### Across

- 3. Causes of some head scratching
- 5. Baby in a pouch
- 7. Lavish party
- 10. Beer party staple
- 13. Workout output
- 14. Exfoliating sponge
- 15. Bare-bones sleeper
- 16. Bond villain Blofeld
- 18. British \_\_\_
- 20. Dark purple berry
- 21. Like many dad jokes
- 22. Hairy Himalayan
- 23. Development sites
- 27. King-sized
- 28. Gum with Ice and Fire varieties
- 29. "The Last Jedi" villain Kylo
- 30. Water brand

### Down

- 1. Movie villain that reads lips "Toy Story 3"
- 2. Supervillain Luthor
- 4. A light bulb may symbolize one
- 6. Spidey foe Doc \_\_\_
- 8. Kind of node
- 9. Liberate
- 11. Garden guardians
- 12. Small earrings
- 13. Bean used in nondairy milk
- 15. Spiced tea
- 17. Protect from light
- 19. Bear voiced by Ned Beatty in
- 24. Cowardly
- 25. Capricorn critter
- 26. Popeye's nemesis
- 27. Phoenix's 2019 Best Actor role