im print

VOLUME 45 ISSUE No. 2 June 1, 2022

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New study warns the chance of exceeding the 1.5 C warming limit is almost 50 per cent.



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### news

### WRITE FOR NEWS

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# How the Ontario election will impact students



Alicia Wang News Editor

ith the provincial election fast approaching, the question of who to vote for is on many students' minds.

"In the university context, the parties have focused, in different ways, on affordability," said political science associate professor Dr. Emmett Macfarlane.

Students on campus have expressed disdain for Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative government's cuts to OSAP, which occurred in 2018 as a result of the Auditor General's prediction of the high costs of grants given by the previous Wynne government. Ford's opponents have each promised additions to OSAP funding, though amounts vary between parties. The NDP, the current opposition, has budgeted \$771 million next year with around \$40 million annually to reverse the cuts, while the Liberal party has pledged \$600 million a year. The Green party promises \$1 billion annually to reverse the cuts and to cancel

interest on postsecondary loans.

Aside from student loans, the outcome of this election is also likely to impact the quality of education postsecondary students receive. "Ontario universities have, in two important ways, been slowly starved of funding. Government funding, which provides a key base for university operating budgets, has seen very real declines over the last 10 to 15 years. At the same time, the Ford tuition cut and freeze is a major problem for university budgets," Macfarlane explained.

According to an annual breakdown of the University of Waterloo's operating revenue sources, the 2009-2010 academic year was the last year in which provincial grants outweighed tuition fees, at a slim margin of 0.7 per cent. A report published in February 2009 by the Educational Policy Institute, an international think tank studying education opportunities, found that increasing costs to postsecondary institutions brought on by issues like decreasing revenues could negatively impact the education and maintenance of the school. These effects include, among other things, increases in class sizes (particularly at the graduate level), deferrals

of maintenance, and cuts to other parts of postsecondary institutions such as libraries.

"The only way universities have been able to continue thriving is through increase[d] enrollments, especially of international students, but that doesn't present much of a long-term solution to budget woes — there is not an endless supply of international students to compete for," Macfarlane said.

The number of international students at UW has more than doubled over the past decade, going from approximately 3,500 students in the fall 2010 term to over 8,800 in the fall 2020 term. The tuition international students pay is approximately triple the amount domestic students pay, meaning it has become a revenue source universities have increasingly relied on to offset domestic rates.

However, Macfarlane noted the less-thanideal options voters had to choose from, saying, "On funding, the opposition parties are a little more vague. The NDP platform, for example, simply says 'We'll work with colleges, universities, faculty, and students to ensure reliable funding and faculty renewal.' It's not clear what that means."

Macfarlane also had some words of advice for first-time student voters. "If you're deciding who to vote for, go straight to the source. Don't rely on the media to report what the parties will do, because the media doesn't — can't — pay attention to everything," he said. "Think carefully about the difference between the parties and the local candidates. If you plan to vote strategically, try to find out about your local riding instead of looking only at the province-wide polling."

To students who may not think their vote matters, Macfarlane cautioned against an overly indifferent mindset. "It's tempting to think your vote doesn't matter because it's simply not going to be the case — in any system — that one single vote will make the difference in whether someone is elected in a literal sense. But the problem is that if everyone has that attitude, then you DO risk changing the outcome of elections when you decide you just shouldn't bother voting... The reason politicians don't seem to speak to issues affecting 18 to 24 year-olds is because they're the group that is least likely to vote."

# Updates to vaccine requirements

UW urges students to upload proof of vaccination in new campus check-in tool

Faliha Mukhi Reporter

W has made changes to its health and safety policies in relation to COVID-19 for the spring term. Although vaccines are currently not required for access to campus, this may change in the near future. To prepare for this, students are being urged to upload their most up-to-date proof of vaccination in UW's new campus check-in tool at the earliest opportunity. The university has also reinstated its face covering policy, requiring all students to wear masks inside most buildings on campus.

In a memo sent on March 22, detailing the alterations UW has made to its public health restrictions, the university stated that its proof of vaccination requirements will be suspended at the beginning of the spring semester. However, UW's most recent COVID-19 update mentions that these requirements may need to be reinstated at short notice in the future if there is a change in Ontario's public health conditions.

If this policy is reintroduced, the university will need to have students' and employees' information on file in order to permit them to come to campus. Therefore, students are being asked to submit a valid Canadian or Ontario vaccination certificate with a QR code to the university's check-in tool as soon as possible.

Students are required to upload their QR code proof even if they have previously submitted it to the university, as

the new system will not use past data. In addition to providing their immunization status now, students will need to update their records if their status changes.

The campus check-in tool will allow students to check if they have provided the correct documentation and view the approval status of their files. Students that did not receive vaccinations in Canada can acquire an Ontario vaccine certificate by completing the Out of Province COVID Immunization Form.

Aside from the changes made to UW's proof of vaccination policy, the university has also updated its mask requirements. It is now mandatory to wear a face covering in most indoor spaces on campus. UW had initially intended to lift this restriction on May 1, 2022, however, after monitoring the situation in Waterloo, they decided that it would be best to keep the rule in place. In a memo titled "Face covering requirement extended until further notice," UW asked students to wear a well-fitting mask with several layers including an effective filter layer. The university also stated that this requirement will continue through the Convocation ceremonies

Students are required to upload their QR code proof even if they have previously submitted it to the university, as the new system will not use past data.

in June.

In addition to providing their immunization status now, students will need to update their records if their status changes.



## Student Question: The election

UW students discuss the election issues that are most important to them

Andrew Yang & Yousuf Afzal Photo/Video Editor & Reporter

eading up to the Ontario provincial election, Imprint spoke to students at the University of Waterloo about the issues driving them to the polls this voting season.

When asked about their main concerns going into the 2022 election, students highlighted several areas, including OSAP funding, inclusive education, Highway 413, and affordable housing.

#### **OSAP**

Two students mentioned the recent cuts to financial aid for university students in Ontario and expressed concern about proposed changes to OSAP budgets.

"OSAP and funding like that. There's [sic]

been talks about, like, cutting the funding and such," one student said.

"OSAP cuts. 'Cause I think I got a little bit of a cut in my OSAP for this semester. It helps when we have a little bit more 'cause, as a student, you need to be able to have enough money, right? 'Cause it's difficult living on your own," another student said.

#### **Provincial Finances**

One student commented on the province's finances, saying "I wanna see Ontario's funds managed better."

### Highway 413

A group of engineering students criticized Highway 413, a proposed highway and transit corridor that would run through York, Peel and Halton Regions.

"We're all civil engineering students so we don't really enjoy the 413 very much," the first student said, while the group of students vocalized their agreement.

"Basically, yeah. Screw the 413," another student added.

#### Education

For some students, education is a priority. "Education. Especially stuff like sex ed and having inclusive sex ed," the student said.

### **Alternative Voting System**

Another student expressed a desire for an alternative to Ontario's current voting system, in which the candidate who receives the most votes wins, whether or not they are supported by the majority of voters.

"I like the idea of an alternative voting

system. Because first-past-the-post is just... an issue on so many levels," the student said.

### **Affordable Housing**

Skyrocketing housing costs are another major area of concern.

"I mean, I might be a bit biased as a student but I think that affordable housing is something that really needs to be promoted," one student said.

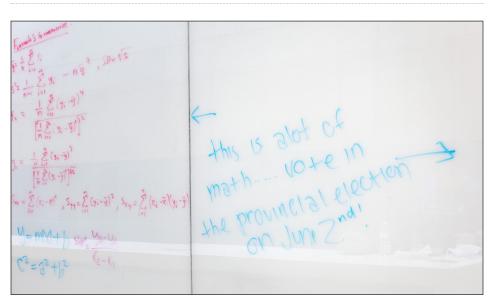
### **Transportation**

Accessible transportation was another crucial talking point.

"Transportation is a big thing that I would look for just because, like, getting to and from places as a student is harder when you don't have, like a car, and you're using public transportation," one student explained.



Messages around campus encourage students to head to the polls and make their voices heard



Settle the debate. WATER TOOTHPASTE Visit settlethedebate.ca to mark your X.

Some students have used public whiteboards to encourage their peers to vote in the election

Settlethedebate.ca outlines voter registration and the many days and ways to vote

# science & tech



#### WRITE FOR SCIENCE AND TECH

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

# Waterloo research collaboration recognized with \$2.8 million

Khalid Safdar Reporter

The struggle for a sustainable future is embedded in a challenging journey. Large carbon footprints and a rapid increase in greenhouse gas emissions due to our current ways of life are all leading causes of climate change.

To tackle these issues, a multi-institutional collaboration including University of Waterloo biology professor Josh Neufeld and his laboratory are all ready to move forward. By working with nuclear power as an alternative they aim to move towards a sustainable future. One of the main concerns that they have now is the disposal mechanism for the radioactive waste produced as a result of using nuclear power.

Focusing on nuclear power as a tenable energy alternative, this group of researchers also secured an Alliance grant of \$2.8 million

through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

'This NSERC Alliance Grant will enable a unique collaboration among several laboratories," Neufeld said.

UW is the home institution for this project, which will explore microbial communities and associated natural organic matter profiles to help identify safe repository sites for nuclear waste. The research group also includes other researchers such as professor Greg Slater from McMaster University and professor Myrna Simpson from the University of Toronto, as well as their industry partner the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). Neufeld has also been involved in three prior research partnerships with NWMO since 2016.

Although nuclear power might just sound like the next big thing, it does pose a strong dilemma – How do we safely store radioactive waste? A commonly proposed solution to this question lies in burying the waste for long-term safekeeping in underground sites known as deep geological repositories (DGRs). The research team is now working to finalize a safe and durable design for the repositories.

"We are grateful for this timely opportunity to ensure that microbiology data will inform the NWMO as it identifies a suitable host site for a Canadian DGR and builds a safety case to ensure a stable repository," Neufeld said.

As a microbial ecologist, Neufeld excels in the field of microbial diversity and communities. His research group also studies the nitrogen cycle in engineered systems, which aligns closely with the trajectory of this research collaboration as it allows him to assess the necessary conditions required for the deep geological repositories in order for them to safely secure the radioactive waste. The researchers are currently using subsurface rock and groundwater samples to build a safety case for a potential repository site. So far they are experimenting with bentonite clay to determine the possibility of microbial growth and activity under the expected underground conditions.

'Specifically, our project will test various factors, such as temperature, salinity, and moisture, to ensure that specifications for a DGR will prevent microbial growth activity over geological time frames," Neufeld said.

The main concern that they have as of right now are sulfide-producing microorganisms due to their ability to corrode the used fuel containers and glasses, which has the potential to create pathways for subsurface microbes and metabolites to access fuel containers. They tackle this through a variety of microbiology techniques such as cultivating microbes and DNA sequencing. Professor Neufeld and his research team are well equipped to handle environmental samples with very low numbers of microbes, which are enough to reach the limits of detection.

increase in extreme wet days, meaning a high percentage of the precipitation will

fall during extreme events such as thunder-

storms. Despite the increase in temperature

in the region, the length of dry spells will

To help combat climate change in Wa-

terloo, ClimateActionWR has collaborated

with community members to collectively

produce a plan to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions in the region. The goal of the initiative is to have a 50 per cent reduction in

emissions by 2030 and an 80 per cent re-

## Water in a warming world

Climate change drying up the largest reservoir in the US

Calliope Brown Reporter

Our world is currently warming, leading to more extreme weather events such as flooding, wildfires, and droughts. A recent report by the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation warns that Waterloo is one of many Canadian cities at risk of experiencing extreme heat in the decades to come.

Down south, where the Western United States is in the grips of another drought, two of California's biggest reservoirs, Shasta Lake and Lake Oroville, are at historic lows. With Shasta Lake at just 40 per cent capacity — the lowest since record-keeping began — and Oroville Lake at 55 per cent, the allocation of water will be severely restricted.

Here in Waterloo, we are not immune from the effects of climate change either. According to a recent report by the Region of Waterloo Public Health, we could see a twoto three-degree rise in the average annual temperature here by the 2050s. Addition-

ally, the number of days with temperatures over 32 C could more than double, while the number of nights with temperatures over 20 C could triple in the next 30 years.

These periods of prolonged heat added to the lack of cooler nights can increase the number of heat-related illnesses. The report also states that winters in the region are expected to get warmer, leading to an increase in floods as the snow continually thaws and refreezes in the rivers.

California relies heavily on precipitation to help keep the reservoir levels high, but the drought has meant higher temperatures and less rain. 2021 was the 43rd driest year since 1895, with only 481mm of rainfall. California is presently over

800 days into the current drought, with the

previous one lasting 2,700 days from 2011 to 2019. Another main source of water for California's reservoir system is water content from snowfall but this year it was only measured to be 38 per cent of normal.

These are not isolated incidents either, as many of the state's reservoirs are at less than 60 per cent capacity, and last year the water level in Oroville Lake was so low it caused a major California hydroelectric power plant to shut down for the first time since it was opened.

Unlike California, however, precipitation in the Waterloo Region is expected to increase in the coming decades, with annual precipitation rising by 65mm in the 2050s and another 30mm by the 2080s. Not only

will there be more precipitation in a year, but there will also be an

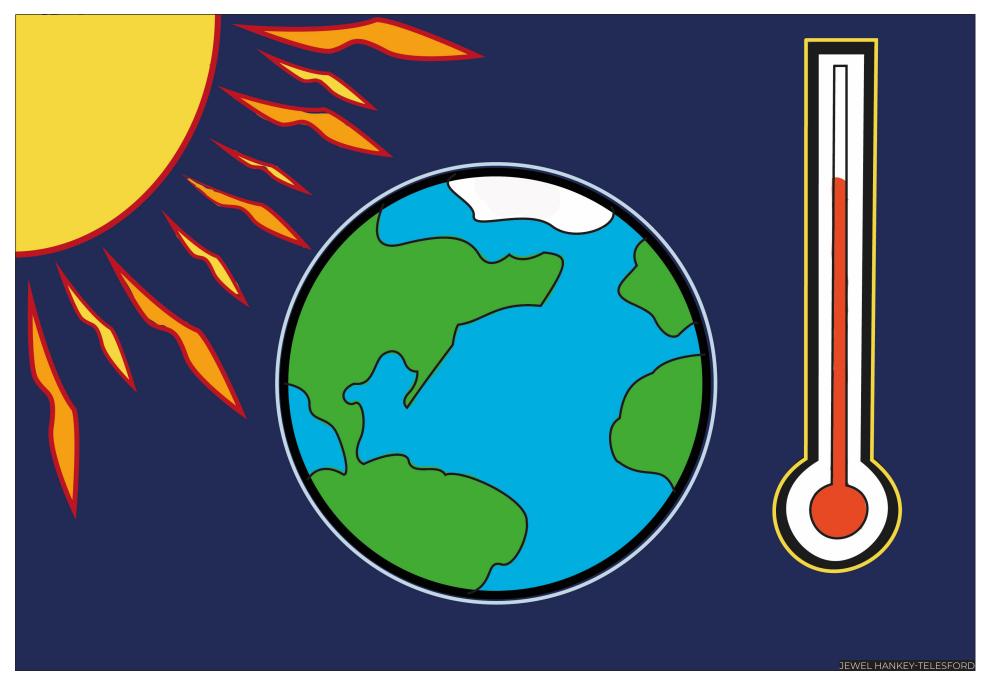
duction in emissions by 2050. Some ways to reduce emissions are to implement carbon pricing and increase building code standards for energy efficiency. In fact, between 2010 and 2015 there was a 5.2 per cent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in the region, most of which result-

stav the same.

ed from workplaces and homes becoming more energy efficient. The Region of Waterloo has multiple programs, including the Rain Barrel program, which helps to conserve drinking water and reduce the stress on storm drains during rainstorms.



# Nearly 50 per cent chance of exceeding the 1.5 C warming limit



Alessia Czerwinski Reporter

ccording to a new study, the chances of exceeding a critical global warming threshold have increased dramatically. Researchers at the UK national meteorological service (UK Met Office) suggest there's a 50/50 probability that the earth will warm by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5 C) in the next five years.

Although such an increase would only be transitory, scientists are concerned about the overall trend of increasing temperatures. They predict that the years 2022-2026 will be the hottest on record.

Global temperatures have risen in lock-

step with the fast accumulation of warming gases in the atmosphere during the last three decades. In 2015, the world's average temperature rose I C above pre-industrial levels for the first time. 2015 was also the year world leaders signed the Paris Climate Agreement, pledging to keep global temperature rises well below 2 C, while exploring measures to keep them below 1.5 C. Governments reaffirmed their commitment to keeping '1.5 C alive' during COP26 in Glasgow last November.

Dr. Leon Hermanson was one of the lead authors of the study. "The basic thing that's changing is that the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are slowly creeping up," Hermanson said in an article with BBC News. "I think people are already quite

concerned about climate change and it is worrying, it is showing that we continue to warm the planet and we're getting closer to this first threshold that was set in the Paris agreement — and we need to continue doing everything we can to cut the use of fossil fuels," he added.

According to scientists, the globe is already witnessing huge repercussions due to global warming of about I C, such as the record wildfires in North America last year and the severe heat waves currently affecting India and Pakistan. The possibilities of even momentarily exceeding 1.5 C within the next five years, as per a report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), have never been higher. The report describes how temperatures

are expected to reach between 1.1 and 1.7 C above pre-industrial levels between 2022 and 2026.

"For as long as we continue to emit greenhouse gases, temperatures will continue to rise," wrote Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the WMO. "And alongside that, our oceans will continue to become warmer and more acidic, sea ice and glaciers will continue to melt, sea level will continue to rise and our weather will become more extreme."

The report also states that the Arctic will likely be more affected by global warming in the next five years than the rest of the globe. According to experts, the temperature difference from the long-term average will be three times larger in those places.

# sports & health



#### WRITE FOR SPORTS

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Recipe: Eggplant Confit By Ingrid Au

We are being fancy this week. No, just kidding, confit \*feels\* fancy but it's nothing you can't make at home. Confit is anything preserved in olive oil through a slow-cooking method — typically eggplants, garlic, or poultries like chicken and duck. This recipe derives from Food 52's Little Big Recipes, which showcases Parisian food writer Rebekah Peppler's confit recipe from her cookbook, À Table.

Rebekah's book is a French invitation to fresh and simple ways of cooking, and I am honoured to extend that invitation to you.

A lasagna or brownie pan

- I eggplant; large in diameter and length (if you have small or slim eggplants, triple the amount and it should equate to 455 g)
- 5 garlic cloves, halved
- 5 pieces of anchovies
- 3-4 sprigs of thyme (optionally, you can add rosemary as well)
- 1 ½ cup of extra-virgin olive oil
- Black pepper
- Salt

### **Instructions:**

- I. Preheat the oven to 275 F.
- Ensure the eggplant is washed and dried, and its tips and ends are cut off. Vertically slice the eggplant into four equal parts. Salt the eggplant to draw out moisture. This should take about 30 minutes.
- Blot the excess moisture on the eggplant, and place it in the pan along with garlic, anchovies and thyme. Generously salt and pepper the eggplant.
- Pour in the olive oil and make sure the eggplant is completely submerged in the olive oil.
- Bake for 60 to 75 minutes.

This dish can be stored in the refrigerator for up to four days (make sure the eggplants are stored in the oil they were cooked in).

While reading À Table, Rebekah paints a summery scene in Provence, filled with fields of flowers and fresh produce. I know the landscape around us is nothing like what Rebekah experienced, but I promise you this dish will take you there! No matter what season I cook this dish in, it never fails to bring me the freshness and warmth of summer. Try mixing this confit with some pasta (add just the eggplants, garlic, and herbs), proteins like shrimp, spread the eggplant and garlic on a toast, or cook with its fragrant oil.

You can always revisit this recipe throughout the summer; a time this recipe was destined for.





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# arts & life

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## YOUR GUIDE

### FROM MUSIC

### Groovy tunes to blast this month and beyond

Imprint Staff

Pride month is finally beginning and it's time to celebrate! Here are a collection of prideful songs curated by the Imprint editorial team to bring you love, joy, and inspiration this June. Check out the Playlist on Spotify or listen to the songs you don't know yet on their own.

### $\begin{tabular}{ll} {\bf Jolene~by~Dolly~Parton-Nicola~Rose,} \\ {\bf Managing~Editor} \end{tabular} \label{table-def}$

Although it's not explicitly gay, Dolly Parton's "Jolene" has been hailed as a queer love story by listeners who argue the singer is clearly crushing on Jolene, not the unnamed, undescribed man she accuses Jolene of trying to steal. As many social media users have pointed out, the song remains laser-focused on Jolene's effortless, captivating beauty. If that's not direct enough for you, Reinaeiry's cover, "Jolene but it's gay" is on most music streaming platforms.

Nicola's honourable mentions: God in Jeans by Ryan Beatty, Girls Like Girls by Hayley Kiyoko, Lost on You by LP, Bloom by Troye Sivan

### Dancing Queen by ABBA — Sharanya Karkera, Creative Director

While this song isn't directly linked to any LGBTQIA+ themes, ABBA's biggest and most well-known hit captures the spirit of pride month perfectly. Joy, rainbows, supporting each other, and having a good time, wherever you are when this song plays, it's impossible to not hum along or dance along. Hopefully, the joy and solidarity extend beyond songs this month:)

### Somebody I F\*cked Once by Zolita — Jia Chen, Head Designer

An upbeat and carefree pop-rock anthem to kick off the start of summer and Pride Month. You'll definitely want to watch the music video, a whole mini movie written, produced, directed, and edited by Zolita herself. Reminiscent of late 90s and early 2000s chick flicks but with a queer twist, representation missing from most of those teen movies. If you're a fan of Clueless, Mean Girls, and 10 Things I Hate About You, you'll love this and appreciate the references!

### Montero (Call me by your name) by Lil Nas X — Mahnoor Irfan, Assistant Head Designer

This song was written the day after he went to see a guy he "liked a lot." So the song is essentially about a day he spent with this mystery guy and their interactions. This clever confection is difficult to pin down, but Lil Nas X didn't want any lingering ambiguity about his own identity, so he came out while still at the top of the charts. Montero (Call Me By Your Name) makes numerous references to gay sex slang, and any provocation is entirely intentional. "If they are offended, it is because they were never truly there for me." X Lil Nas X

### 1950 by King Princess — Alicia Wang, News Editor

King Princess' debut single, the song's lyrics highlight the singer's appreciation of her sexuality, pay tribute to the struggles of past generations of the LGBTQ+ community, and touch on themes of religion, all rolled up in a beautifully made music video with \*peak\* lesbian vibes. Might be a more basic choice, but it's a modern classic in my eyes!

### hope ur ok by Olivia Rodrigo — Abhiraj Lamba, Arts & Life Editor

This alternative pop song from Rodrigo's debut album is a story about some old friends of hers, seemingly part of the LGBTQIA+community. She talks about their difficult childhood with their overly religious parents and tells them that she wishes the best for them and is proud of them. This song, however, is not just about her friends but is also a message to all young people of the

LGBTQIA+ community, who may be struggling because of their surroundings, that they are seen, accepted, and loved.

### Not With Haste by Mumford and Sons (cover by Victor Quinlan) — Remy Leigh, Assistant Arts & Life Editor

Victor Quinlan is a Canadian musician who became well-known for his cover of Not With Haste by Mumford and Sons, which he released in 2018 as a duet with himself. Quinlan, a trans man, recorded himself performing part of the song before beginning HRT (hormone replacement therapy) and then recorded the second part once his voice had changed after months of HRT. The lyrics to Not With Haste, which speak of freedom, love, authenticity, and optimism, take on a fresh meaning once placed in the context of Quilan's story of transitioning, healing, and radical self-acceptance.

Remy's honourable mentions: Leah by Seeing Double, Moscow by Autoheart, Untitled God Song by Haley Heynderickx, Gay Sex by be steadwell, Hyacinthus by Aidoneus

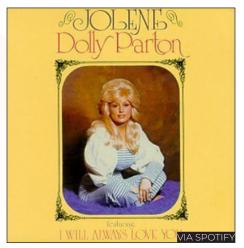
### The Story by Conan Gray — Felicia Daryonoputri - Assistant Science Editor

This song is a coming-of-age story that most of us know all too well. It talks about self-discovery and the hardships that many face growing up queer, which sometimes includes hiding who you really are under the rug. The first half of the song captures these complex emotions, Conan says, "I'm afraid that's just the way the world works," to express hopelessness. However, the song picks up in the second half, indicated by a time jump into adulthood where the individual has become more accepting of who they are and hopeful for the future. It replies to the previous quote with, "but I think that it could work for you and me, just wait and see."









# arts & life

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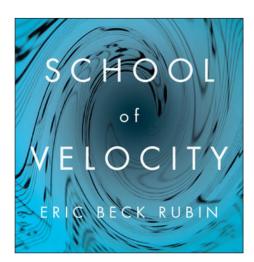
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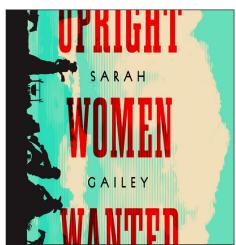
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### TOPRIDE

# **Q**

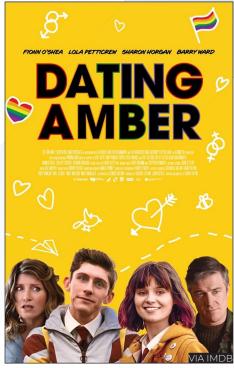
### AICE MEDIA











### **Content Recommendations**

Erin Froud Reporter

### To READ

### School of Velocity (Book) by Eric Rubin

In School of Velocity, virtuoso pianist Jan De Vries is just reaching the height of his career when he begins to experience debilitating auditory hallucinations that threaten to derail the life he's built as a successful performer. Amidst worsening symptoms and growing pressure from the people around him, Jan's mind begins to drift from his present struggles to memories of his high school classmate, Dirk Noosen, and their tumultuous relationship. Were they just friends? Or was there something more? And will they ever meet again?

Throughout the book, author Erik Beck Rubin weaves in musical references that enhance his descriptions of Jan's journey from a young student to a talented performer.

For classical music lovers and fans of heart-wrenching, beautifully crafted stories, School of Velocity is a must-read.

### Upright Women Wanted (Novella) by Sarah Gailey

Set in a dystopian future where the United States once again resembles the Wild West, Upright Women Wanted tells the story of Esther, a young woman who escapes her restrictive community and an impending arranged marriage to join the Librarians, a group of women tasked with distributing government propaganda. However, Esther soon realizes the Librarians are not at all what they seem. As she helps their efforts to challenge the oppressive, anti-truth regime, Esther begins to accept her identity as a queer woman and an important member of the resistance. Overall, Upright Women Wanted is a fast-paced, fun, and thought-provoking queer Western.

### Heartstopper (Web Series, Graphic Novels) by Alice Oseman

Alice Oseman's Heartstopper tells the story of Nick and Charlie, two young boys who fall in love and navigate the challenges of high school, family drama, and struggles with mental health along with their friends.

Heartstopper began as a webcomic (available on Tumblr, Tapas, and Webtoon), which is still ongoing, and was quickly turned into a collection of graphic novels due to an outpouring of support from early fans of the series.

Oseman has also written several novels and novellas set in the Heartstopper universe, including Solitaire — told from the point of view of Charlie's older sister, Tori — and Loveless, the story of Georgia, a first-year university student who realizes she's aro/ace.

### To Watch

### Heartstopper (TV Show, Netflix)

In April, Netflix released the first season of Heartstopper, based on Oseman's series. The show is an almost flawless adaptation that captures the heart of the story while expanding on the written material. Numerous scenes are translated perfectly from text to screen, sometimes almost word-for-word, with animated elements from the comics used to enhance key moments in the show.

Heartstopper is beautiful, heartwarming, and has a rating of 100 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes. Plus, the series just got renewed for two more seasons.

### Dating Amber (Movie)

Another British story, Dating Amber follows two queer teens, Eddie and Amber, who fake a relationship to escape the brutal homophobia of small-town Ireland in the 1990s. Together, they venture to Dublin where they bond over dreams of escaping their small town and begin to explore their sexuality.



## YOUR GUIDE

### Monthilo

### SPECTRUM EVENTS

ith a mission to "serve, affirm, and support the well-being of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in Waterloo Region and the broader community through peer support, community partnerships, education, and training, resources, and events," Spectrum has been a major LGBTQ+ community space in Waterloo since 2012. As such, they are hosting a wide variety of Pride events this June you can check out, including, but not limited to:

### Pride Month Classic 2SLGBTQ+ Movie Series

141 Ontario St. N, Kitchener, ON Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.

Hosted in partnership with Apollo Cinema, this series will showcase three iconic pieces of queer film. The first will be Moonlight, playing on June I. Hedwig and the Angry Inch will follow, playing on June 8. The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert will conclude the series, playing on June 22. Tickets for these events are \$15.04 and can be purchased through the Apollo Cinema website.

### The Importance of Queer Literature with Idea Exchange

Online

Wednesday, June 15, from 7-8 p.m.

In this online seminar, presented in partnership with Rad Riot Books and Idea Exchange, Aashay Dalvi and SJ Sindu will "discuss the importance of queer literature, representation and identity." Dalvi is the owner and curator of Rad Riot Books, a bookstore focusing on migrant, queer, and translated literature. Sindu is a Tamil diaspora novelist and 2013 Lambda Literary Fellow. The event is free to attend, though you must register online through the Idea Exchange website.

### Queer Craft Circle - Cambridge Art Galleries

Online

Wednesday, June 29, 7–9 p.m.

Contemporary textile artist Alisa McRonald, whose work is described as "a tactile fruit salad with a soupçon of the esoteric," will host this fun virtual event over zoom. During the event, participants will make "braided no-sew coasters out of repurposed t-shirts," focusing on colour and "efficient joining techniques." The event is free to attend, though attendees must register online through the Idea Exchange website. You will need to bring your own sharp scissors and tape. Additionally, those who register can pick up a free supply kit at Idea Exchange, Queens Square at 1 North Square, Cambridge, from June 22 to June 28. Space is limited, so registration is only open to 2SLGBTQ+ people in the Waterloo Region.



Erin Froud Reporter



he origins of June Pride can be traced back to the Stonewall uprising in June 1969. This series of riots, which broke out in protest against the harassment and persecution of the LGBTQ+ community, is widely considered to be the beginning of the gay rights movement in the United States. Now, people celebrate Pride by gathering for social and educational events that allow members of the LGBTQ+ community to celebrate their identities and continue to fight for equal rights. While many travel to larger cities for various Pride festivals, there are many events you you can attend right here in Kitchener-Waterloo this June.



### TO PRIDE



### NG BYENTS



#### Pride Dance 2022: The Grand Masquerade

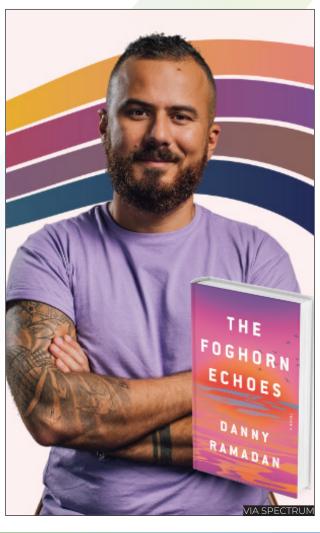
Crowne Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo, 105 King Street East, Kitchener ON

Saturday, June 4, 9 p.m. to Sunday, June 5, 1 a.m.

Hosted by Queer Night Out, a local organization "dedicated to creating in person, safe, social opportunities for members of a local 2SLGBTQ+ or rainbow community to meet and connect," and the Rainbow Coalition of Waterloo Region, the theme of this year's dance is "the Grand Masquerade." While there's no dress code, this is a great opportunity to dress up and have fun! The venue is accessible and the event is 19+ (be sure to bring ID).

Tickets are available online for \$12 until June 4 at 5 p.m. and at the door for \$15, cash only.





### WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

nectrum has a long-standing partnership with the Waterloo Public Library. The two organizations will be co-hosting several events throughout the month. These events include:

### 2SLGBTQ+ Book Club

Main Library, 35 Albert St, Waterloo, ON Monday, June 27, 7–8 p.m.

Meeting once a month to discuss a book written by a 2SLGBTQ+ author or a book that explores the 2SLGBTQ+ experience, this book club is an in-person event for adults aged 19+. This month's literary selection is Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart. According to the web page for this month's meeting: "Shuggie Bain is the unforgettable story of a lonely boy growing up with his alcoholic mother in 1980s post-industrial working class Glasgow." The club is free to attend, but you must pre-register through the library's website.

### Living Library: Rainbow Elders Edition hosted by **Miss Drew**

Main Library, 35 Albert St, Waterloo, ON Thursday, June 9, 7–8:30 p.m.

Hosted by local drag queen Miss Drew, this event is designed to "foster intergenerational connections and strengthen the community." Much like speed dating, this event gives attendees the opportunity to briefly speak with a 2SLGBTQ+ elder. They can ask the elders questions and learn more about queer history and experiences through their stories. The event is free to attend for adults aged 19+, but you must pre-register through the Waterloo Public Library website.

### An Evening with Danny Ramadan

Online

Tuesday, June 14, 7–8 p.m.

Hosted by Nic Brewer, a Kitchener-based queer writer and editor, this event spotlights author Danny Ramadan, a Syri $an-Canadian\ author, public\ speaker, and\ advocate\ for\ LGBTQ+$ refugees. He has "raised over \$200,000 for Syrian LGBTQ+ identifying refugees" and is the author of the novel The Clothesline Swing and the children's book, Salma the Syrian Chef. Ramadan also has two books forthcoming: his second novel, The Foghorn Echoes, will be released in 2022, and his memoir, Crooked Teeth, will be released in 2024. During this event, Ramadan will be reading from The Foghorn Echoes and engaging in a discussion with Brewer. The event is free to attend for adults aged 19+, but you must pre-register through the Waterloo Public Library website.

With so many event cancellations in the past few years, many have sorely missed Pride celebrations. No matter if you can only make it to one event or if you have the entire month scheduled out, take this time to learn, engage with your community, and have fun!

# Review: Happening

Sharanya Karkera Creative Director

■he year is 1963, the place is a small town in France, and the protagonist in focus is a young college woman, possibly not much older than the reader of this review or the writer. A Golden Lion awardee, Happening slots itself perfectly into the box office definition of a period drama. Yet the idea that Happening is a vestige of the past is nothing but a painfully harrowing irony. "Who cares what you feel? Can we afford to do what we like?" Anne's mum asks her, summarising the film in one dialogue. Despite being set almost 60 years

apart, it's easy — almost too easy — to relate to the subject matter, to question throughout the hundred-minute running time whether a period drama is really the perfect way to slot it. Women are unable to express their agency or exercise control over their bodies and live with being constantly scrutinized under an unforgiving microscope. Male figures morph into manipulative opportunists (so much so that at one point you find yourself seething in your seat), and medical practitioners impose their prejudices and agendas upon

> patients, against their will and, on one occasion, against their knowledge. So much for the Hippocratic

> > Oath.

As a 21st-century woman squirming in her seat just watching Anne (our protagonist) with the choice of giving birth to life versus saving her own life, I wish I could say it's a choice I don't think I'll ever have to make. Not when the United States Supreme Court appears poised to overturn Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey. Not when there are other power structures in place, universally, also in favour of this motion. Not when the odds are more in favour of socially, religiously, accessibly, economically — rather than against.

"Another directorial indulgence is close-up shots of Vartolomei's face that, true to character, divulge Anne's inner anguish and anxiety, as well as the excruciating physical pain the extremity of her strategies condemns her to. Vartolomei's open, wide-eyed countenance allows access to every flickering emotion, from terror to resolve.

There are a handful of times where the title of a film is akin to a symmetrically-shaped bow tying together a jam-packed gift box. Originally titled L'événement in French (translation: the event), the film being re-titled as Happening when presented to English speaking audiences impels one to pay a little more attention to the switch. A word is used in its present continuous form when it indicates an action that started in the past, is continuing in the present and could continue into the future. For a film centred around abortion to be titled in present continuous tense and released in the current political climate is a power move all in itself.

Speaking of power moves, it's hard to talk about them without mentioning the punches filmmaker Audrey Diwan's direction and lead actress Anamaria Vartolomei's acting pull. Both winners of several highly acclaimed awards, including two César Awards for best director and most promising actress respectively, the pair packs an impact that had me, on multiple occasions, gripping the armrests of my seat, engaged in an

> internal battle over whether to look away from or keep looking at the screen.

> > Though Happening

starts softly, the gentle pace of the film is long abandoned after the first thirty minutes. The tension racks up in progressive sequence sets neatly jammed together between clock-ticking inter titles charting how far along Anne's pregnancy has gotten. As the weeks progress, so does Anne's desperation. Diwan makes sure you fully feel the rising tension, taking her sweet time with deceptively long takes that trigger anticipatory feelings, similar to when climbing the upward slope of a roller coaster and the breathlessness of tearing back down. The pace of the film leaves you reeling, but as soon as you wish for a breather, the realization dawns that Anne can't afford a breather, so how can you crave for one?

Another directorial indulgence is close-up shots of Vartolomei's face that, true to character, divulge Anne's inner anguish and anxiety, as well as the excruciating physical pain the extremity of her strategies condemns her to. You don't have to be worried about your reproductive rights to feel like you're witnessing a glimpse of hell, the only requirement is an ounce of humanity.

The sheer amount of cinematic talent is apparent in every close-up. Vartolomei's open, wide-eyed countenance allows access to every flickering emotion, from terror to resolve. Every terse and/ or coded exchange, and every narrative left turn is what makes the film more than deserving of every accolade it has

When learning filmmaking, you're taught to show, not tell. In a film about abortion, not once is there a dialogue that explicitly states the word. Every confrontation scene is shot from over Anne's shoulder, making you look at the person she is talking to from her perspective. You can't help but feel like their expressions, their judgements, and their moral superiority are all directed toward you. The opening dialogue of the film is, "Can you help me." Throughout the entire film, you have an undeniable urge to somehow just enter Anne's world and help her. When the curtain closes and the theatre lights turn back on, you try and remind yourself that Anne's a fictional character. However as you're walking out of the theatre, you're left with a sobering reminder that the consequences of limiting access to safe medical care aren't just theoretical but existential.

Happening isn't a film you watch and forget once you leave the theatre — it's a film you experience, and some experiences you carry for a lifetime.

### *im*print

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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

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.



# opinions



#### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

# Politicians can't ignore us: Every student needs to vote

he provincial election is coming up on June 2, and it's a critical opportunity for us as youth to hold our elected officials to account. If you're worried about things like how you'll afford a place to live, how you're going to pay for tuition, how you can access mental or physical healthcare, or how we can tackle the climate crisis, you should be paying attention to this election.

I'm sure a lot of us are feeling election fatigue, especially from the last federal election. However, this upcoming provincial election is really important because provinces have jurisdiction over lots of areas that particularly affect our generation, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. You may not realize it, but the provincial government has directly affected each and every one of us, and their actions have real consequences: think, for example, of Ontario's COVID response. Ontario responded very differently than other provinces with regards to lockdowns, vaccine rollout, and mask mandates.

For those of you who need a refresher on the Canadian governmental system, recall that Canada is a democracy with three levels of government: federal, provincial, and municipal. Each level of government comprises elected officials who represent a geographic area of voters with populations of about 100,000 people. Federally and provincially, these areas are called ridings.

Each level of government is also responsible for different aspects of policy and legislation. For instance, the federal government oversees international trade, national

defense, and citizenship. Provincial governments have jurisdiction over education, healthcare, and energy. Municipalities are responsible for zoning laws, water services, and public transportation.

There are four major parties running candidates in this election: the Progressive Conservative Party (PCs), the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), and the Green Party. Right now, Doug Ford's PCs hold the majority of seats in Parliament (76 out of 124 total), with Andrea Horwarth's NDPs as the Official Opposition (40 seats). Recent polls project Steven Del Luca's Liberals will pull ahead of the NDP, with the Conservatives expected to continue to hold onto their majority. Here in Waterloo, we've been represented by NDP Member of Provincial Parliament Catherine Fife since 2012.

If elected, the Conservatives pledge to invest in Ontario's electric vehicle manufacturing sector, build highways and other car infrastructure, and cut taxes. The Liberals promise to create a universal home care guarantee, repair and rebuild schools, and introduce \$1 transit fares. The NDP pledges to expand OHIP coverage to include mental health care and dental care, make longterm care fully public, and build 250,000 affordable homes. The Green Party states they will increase mental health spending to 10 per cent of Ontario's healthcare budget, require a minimum of 20 per cent affordable units in large housing projects, and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Of course, politicians vying for our votes will promise big things to win the election, but we've seen countless examples of elect-

ed officials breaking their promises and not delivering what they campaigned on. It's easy to start to feel disillusioned with the whole system: why bother if nothing will change once they're in office anyway?

I know it seems bleak at times, but I firmly believe that elections are a crucial chance to collectively tell politicians what we want. There are definitely big obstacles to overcome, such as voter disenfranchisement or our flawed first past the post system. However, there is power in numbers: as young people (Millennials and Gen Z), we form 40 per cent of eligible voters — the largest voting bloc in the country. In university cities like Waterloo, we have an outsized impact. It only takes looking at an electoral map of Ontario to see how pockets of youth coming together to vote can make a difference. During the 2018 election, this resulted in the election of NDP and Liberal candidates amidst a sea of Conservative ridings.

There's so much that's broken in our system and so many people that get left behind. I pay attention to politics because I fundamentally care about our planet and the people on it. I want to choose politicians who will not only make our lives better now, but also make the right choices to create a better future for coming generations. I believe that when we come together, we can build a movement that's impossible to ignore.

That's also why I decided to run for the Green Party in my home riding in Mississauga this summer. I'm running because I care deeply about my community, and couldn't stand by and let another election pass without standing up for what I believe in. I'm worried about the climate crisis, rising unaffordability, education, and the mental health crisis, all issues I've heard my friends and peers express their concern about too. I want to use my platform to advocate for my community, especially for young and diverse people, drawing from my own lived experience — a perspective that's so rare to find in government.

No matter which issues are top of mind for you, I implore you to read into each party, get to know your local candidates, and most importantly, get out to vote on or before June 2. The fight for change doesn't start and end with this provincial election, but it's as good a time as any to get started.

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Michelle Angkasa Third-Year Environment and Business

## BEYOND BORDERS

## Primary Colours Part 1: Trump and the Republican Party in 2022

**T**ell, there's another American election coming up this November and if you've been paying attention to the news you may have heard a familiar name: Donald Trump.

Trump, despite his 2020 presidential election loss, has remained the face of the Republican Party. According to CBS News, as of February 2022, 64 per cent of Republicans want Trump to run for reelection. So far, he has endorsed over 139 candidates running for state and federal office.

To better understand exactly how much political power the former president still has in today's Republican Party, it's more effective to look at the primary elections happening across the country this summer than the far more popular general election in November. This is because of redistricting — the once-in-a-decade process where the 435 United States House seats are redistributed among the states and the districts are redrawn after a national population count. Politicians on both sides of the aisle often use redistricting as a tool to gain an edge over their political rivals by drawing districts that favour one party. This tactic is known as gerrymandering, and it has resulted in the number of genuinely competitive House seats being at an all-time low.

In this series, we'll be determining if Donald Trump can claim the title of 'kingmaker' by analysing the campaign themes of many of Trump's endorsements and Trumpy candidates and tracking how many of these candidates win their respective elections.

In the first three elections in Texas. Indiana, and Ohio, 42 of Trump's 43 endorsements won their primaries outright, with the remaining contestant, Ken Paxton, running for Attorney General of Texas, going to a runoff election on May 24. However, these candidates were considered to be relatively safe choices for the former president roughly 84 per cent of those endorsements were incumbents in their positions and many had establishment backing. Because these elections don't reveal much of Trump's influence, let's move on to the ever more exciting states of Nebraska and West Virginia.

West Virginia and Nebraska were Trump's first real tests of power. In West Virginia's second congressional district, the fight was between two incumbents that had been drawn into the same House district after the state lost a House seat in redistricting. Alex Mooney, a four-term congressman, acquired Trump's endorsement shortly after his opponent, David McKinley, voted for Joe Biden's signature infrastructure bill and also voted in favour of the commission to investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the United States capital. Meanwhile, Mooney voted against certifying

the 2020 presidential election results and clung to The Big Lie — the false claim the election was stolen from Trump.

McKinley attempted to position himself as a slightly more moderate choice, while simultaneously attempting to tie himself to the former president, touting his vote for a bipartisan infrastructure bill that would bring more than \$6 billion to the state over the next five years. In an ad claiming Mooney was a RINO [Republican in name only], McKinley highlighted Mooney's opposition to some of Trump's more popular plans, including the well-known border wall. Additionally, McKinley initially had the advantage because of the new district where both congressmen were running is comprised of 66 per cent of McKinley's old district, providing him with an incumbency boost — and he had the backing of most of the state's political establishment.

This wasn't enough. In the end, Mooney won the primary against McKinley, 54.2 per cent to 35.6 per cent. Political analysts believe it was Mooney's loyalty to the former president and Trump's endorsement that were key to his primary victory in a state where Trump won every county in both his 2016 and 2020 presidential races.

Nebraska's gubernatorial race was Trump's first loss in the 2022 primary season, and it has probably been the messiest contest thus far. The current governor, Pete Ricketts, is term-limited, meaning he can't run for reelection. Ricketts endorsed Jim Pillen, a pig farmer with an estimated net worth of \$221 million this past January after Trump endorsed his opponent, Charles Herbster, last October.

Ricketts' endorsement of Pillen prompted an immediate attack from Herbster who claimed Pillen had been weak on some contentious issues like Critical Race Theory and illegal immigration — issues about which Trump is particularly outspoken. Herbster has stuck with Trump steadfastly, claiming to have been at Trump's rally where he announced his election bid in 2015 and at Trump's Ian. 6 rally outside the United States. capitol building.

Herbster isn't only claiming physical closeness to Trump. His campaign platform included "securing elections," "protecting the second amendment," and "putting Nebraska first," all of which are issues that formed the bedrock of Trump's 2020 presidential campaign. Moreover, Trump has continued to be vocal about these issues.

Then, on April 14, the Nebraska Examiner reported eight women who accused Herbster of sexual assault. Herbster denied these claims and Trump had continued to vocally support his endorsement, even holding a campaign rally after the Examiners report. But in the end, these accusations may have been what led to Herbster's loss. Pillen narrowly won the gubernatorial contest, 33.9 per cent to 29.9 per cent.

Can these races verify the claim that Donald Trump is a kingmaker? While I don't think he can definitively claim this title yet, these contests do suggest that his political power is still notably strong. Trump's endorsements have won 46 out of 47 contests, with his sole loss being a candidate who was facing an incumbent, multiple sexual assault allegations, and the political establishment, and even then the candidate only lost by 4 per cent.

If this is what it takes to defeat a Trump endorsement, primary challengers across the country should prepare for tough campaign fights and substantial losses because the Trump wing of the Republican Party only seems to be getting stronger.



Matthew Bilopavlovic Fourth-Year Honours Science





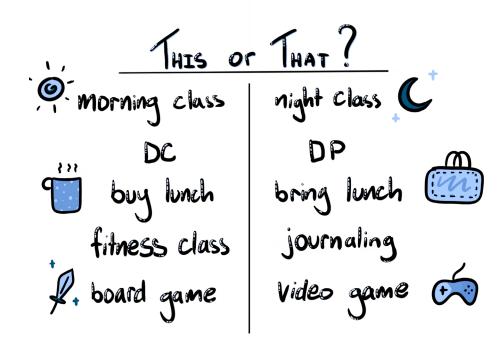
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LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS



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