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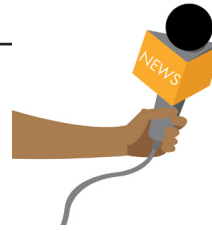


ANDREW YANG



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# Women's Centre pushes menstrual product initiative

Alicia Wang  
News Editor

The Women's Centre's currently seeking to implement what advocacy director Stephanie Hand calls a "menstrual product accessibility program."

"It basically is providing menstrual products like pads and tampons, particularly in women's bathrooms and gender-neutral bathrooms," Hand said.

The Women's Centre originally ran the project as a pilot program, meant to record and analyze data that volunteers collected on the amount of menstrual products used. These results were then used to

summarize the success of the program.

"We were originally going to do the program as a pilot program for the month of June, and the program was so successful we thought we shouldn't pull it," Hand stated.

The Student Life Centre (SLC) is currently the only building in which the program runs, with the Women's Centre offering free menstrual products by their office. "We originally were only allowed to implement [free menstrual products] in the Women's Centre particularly, and not a lot of people know about it, so having this program implemented is really beneficial for a lot of students," Hand said.

The Women's Centre has been looking to plant operations to help advance the pro-

gram further by having staff restock menstrual products throughout buildings on campus. The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) has also reached out to plant operations, something that Hand stated could further their initiative.

Hand also described several setbacks to the program. "Our problem right now is, first of all, we don't have the funding for it. And second, we don't have enough volunteers to implement this program," she said. "We can't have our volunteers running all over the place on campus."

The Women's Centre has put out a petition to garner support and volunteers for the program to convince the university to provide funding. "The more support we

have, the more availability we can provide across campus for this program," Hand said.

Stickers with the QR code to the petition have been posted on the Women's Centre's bins, and students can email [advocacy.wc@wusa.ca](mailto:advocacy.wc@wusa.ca) for more information on the initiative, or talk to volunteers at the Women's Centre directly. The Women's Centre has also been looking to collaborate on funding opportunities with the Physical Activities Complex (PAC) due to its connection to the SLC. Several other locations on campus provide free menstrual products in women's washrooms, including the Grad House and Columbia Ice Field (CIF).



## Free Tampons and Pads — Take as needed —

Please email [advocacy.wc@wusa.ca](mailto:advocacy.wc@wusa.ca) if the basket is empty or if you have any questions!



This is a part of Women's Centre's Menstrual Product Accessibility Project. If you think the University of Waterloo should provide free menstrual products, please scan the QR code and sign our petition.



# “I don’t think the answer is jail time” says victim of CMH stabbing

Meghana Anthannagari  
Reporter

On July 7th, Ryan Miller, a first-year nanotech engineering student, was attacked by his roommate at Claudette Millar Hall. The attacker, another UW engineering student, is currently on bail and is living outside the Waterloo community. He was charged with aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, with his first trial date set in August.

The two students were randomly selected to be roommates and first met in May this year. Miller described their relationship as quiet, with both having different schedules and mostly keeping to themselves.

That Wednesday evening, Miller was playing video games in his room when his roommate stabbed him in the neck with a pair of scissors. He recalled being shocked and surprised by the attack but stated that his previous First Aid training and experience in Scouts helped him. “I knew how to deal with these situations where there’s an emergency,” Miller said.

After being stabbed, Miller rushed to the common area to find his floormates and asked them to call 911, while his roommate fled the scene. When paramedics and police arrived, Miller was able to walk himself to an ambulance.

Miller was released from Grand River Hospital a few hours after being admitted. “I got really lucky, [the weapon] didn’t hit anything important. The worst that happened was getting air in my throat, which made it hard to swallow,

talk or eat for the first two days,” he said.

Miller’s friend, first-year engineering student Nathan Frey, spoke to Miller while he was at Grand River Hospital. “It was very relieving to know he was mostly fine,” he said.

Frey coordinated with his mother to send information to Miller’s parents, who had not been contacted about the incident at this point. Miller’s father flew out from Alberta the next day to see him.

According to Miller, there wasn’t any specific motivation that provoked the assault. He noted that a few days before the attack, his roommate had been acting differently, saying, “I could kind of tell something was wrong and some of his friends noticed he wasn’t attending classes, handing in labs (assignments), or hanging out with them that week.”

Miller believes what happened was a result of a mental health breakdown and thinks the incident could have been prevented. “Seeing something was wrong, I could’ve reached out to my don about it, some of his friends or classmates could’ve reached out to him or to counseling services about it,” he said.

Alex, a first-year engineering student living on the floor of the incident, was coming home to CMH when he first saw police cars and paramedics surrounding the entrance of his residence. He later discovered that two of his floormates were involved in the incident. “The floor was talking about it, right after it happened. Some people were uncomfortable staying in their rooms for the night and spent it with their friends in other residences,” he said.

Farzan, another first-year engineering student who lived on Miller’s floor, saw multiple police officers on his floor that evening and was instructed by the police to remain in his room for a few hours while they were investigating the scene. He also learned about the details of the stab-

bing through his floormates. “[Miller and his roommate] lived three doors down from me. I didn’t know them well but I did not expect anything like this,” he said.

The following morning, Special Constable Services located the alleged attacker in the common area of his floor at CMH. The suspect was arrested by Waterloo police and upon investigation, was charged with aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose. His academic consequences with the university will be determined based on a case judgment following Policy 76 for Student Discipline.

Reflecting on his roommate, Miller said, “I don’t feel any worse about him, I’m not angry at him.” He added, “I don’t think the answer to this is jail time.”

Alex was also acquainted with Miller’s roommate. “It’s a sad situation because I don’t think there were any bad intentions,” he said.

Frey remained surprised the incident happened, “It’s still surreal, I can’t believe [Miller] got stabbed. Especially [Miller] of all people. He’s super friendly, everybody likes him and nobody has a problem with him.” He stated that it was unusual for something like this to happen in UW residences, especially at CMH.

Following the incident, Campus Housing organized a meeting with all students from the floor the incident happened on, their Residence Don and other Residence Life staff. During the meeting, they checked in to see how students were feeling, offered dedicated counseling resources within residences, and individually contacted students who were most impacted.

Nick Manning, the Associate Vice-President of Communications, was involved in coordinating and sharing updates between key groups to address the stabbing. Manning worked with Chris Read, Associate Provost for Students, the Waterloo Regional Police Communications, UWaterloo Special Constable Services, and Campus Housing to determine what information about the stabbing would be shared with

the UW student community.

Information was kept close to communities that had been most affected by the incident. Multiple sources influenced their decision, including student reactions expressed on the UWaterloo Subreddit and in social media posts, and information shared with Campus Housing staff.

“Our don was really friendly about it, she let us know that she was there for us if we ever needed to talk,” Alex shared.

“Residence Life offered us support and counseling services. But what we would’ve liked to hear as well was that the person was arrested and that he won’t be allowed in residence anymore,” Farzan reflected.

Farzan’s sentiment is reflected in an article from The Waterloo Record, which reported that updates about the incident didn’t reach many UW students. The Record interviewed approximately a dozen students the night of the incident, some of whom felt unsafe on campus and emphasized their desire to be kept updated.

When Manning was asked about the decision to limit communications with the larger student body, he responded, “The risk of creating fear is much greater than the need to inform everybody. This is an isolated incident...there was no additional systemic risk to other students’ safety, so we decided we shouldn’t worry people.”

According to Alex, by a few days after the incident, things had mostly returned to normal. “People on the floor came outside their rooms, sitting around or studying in the Common Areas,” he said. “The day of and the day after, people seemed a bit uneasy and uncomfortable. But now it’s back to the same as before.”

Miller heard about students feeling unsafe on campus because of this incident and shared that these types of situations don’t often happen and that his experience is rare. He has also returned to his academic and work commitments.





# Pro-abortion rally at the Willow River Park



Helen Kim  
Reporter

On June 29, hundreds stood in solidarity with American women at a pro-abortion rally organised by the KW Shore Centre. The rally, which took place at Willow River Park, was a response to the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the case establishing abortion as a fundamental right protected by the American Constitution.

T.K. Pritchard, executive director of the Shore Centre, said, “We wanted to show some solidarity to the folks in the U.S., but we also wanted to shine the light on some narratives surrounding abortion in Canada as there has been limited access.”

Pritchard emphasized how the Supreme Court’s decision not only concerns women and the transgender community in the United States but also affects stigma, attitudes, and, in turn, access to abortion in Canada.

At the rally, local politicians, musicians and members of different social service organizations came together to express their

support for abortion rights. The speakers highlighted the importance of protecting pro-choice laws that exist in Canada today, as abortion access has already been limited, particularly for Indigenous, Black and racialized people.

Laura Mae Lindo, the MPP representing Kitchener Centre, opened the rally. She repeatedly stated, “abortion is healthcare.” She explained the importance of accessible abortion and voiced how abortion rights are human rights.

“A lot of people will try to justify gatherings like this around reproductive health, saying what if you were raped? What if you were molested? etcetera, etcetera. But if abortion is health care, there’s also a notion of me being allowed to make healthy choices for myself,” Lindo said.

Ruth Cameron, executive director of the AIDS Committee Of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo & Area (ACCKWA), spoke about how laws and authorities restricting bodily autonomy hurt Black and Indigenous women the most.

“We’re talking about what happens when you erase one group of people Indigenous

to all of these territories on Turtle Island, and this portion that is also now called Canada. We are talking about what happens when you create a fake country fueled with the funds of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. We are talking about what happens when you sterilize women and Two-Spirit individuals in the name of genocide. On-going genocide. We are talking about what happens when you label Black women as fungible,” Cameron said.

Restricting abortion and forced sterilizations are two sides of the same coin in terms of taking away bodily autonomy.

The speakers’ presentations were followed by booths where many lined up to write love letters to abortion rights, signed petitions held by Shore, and participated in community arts projects, such as one by Colleen Mellinger, a mixed media artist whose work takes great inspiration from other feminist artists.

A group of UW students, including those from the Women’s Centre and Glow Centre, participated in the rally, holding up signs that expressed their support for abortion rights.



ABHIRAJ LAMBA





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## Disability Pride Month: My journey to an ADHD diagnosis



VIA EXCEPTIONAL SC

Abhiraj Lamba  
Arts and Life Editor

After almost two decades of incomplete projects, missed deadlines, and harmful impulsive decisions, I finally got diagnosed with ADHD — interestingly during Disability Pride Month.

As soon as I ended the call with the psychologist, I cried. That moment felt so cathartic because for the first time, it felt like someone acknowledged that this entire time, I had been trying my best.

**“Every time I was asked to explain if my actions were those of someone who cared, I had no answer.”**

Growing up, I was often told that I “wasn’t living up to my potential” and was labelled lazy by the adults around me. Even though I could tell that I was putting in significant effort, the evidence seemed to point in the other direction. My peers were able to prioritise their tasks well, consistently manage multiple activities and still be able to find time for themselves. I, on the other hand, performed unpredictably in most areas of my life. Academically, for example, I have, in the same year, scored exceptionally well on certain exams while failing others.

I found it hard to focus on certain activities but there were other times when I would be so focused on a task I would tune out everything else. After days or weeks of procrastinating

assignments just hours before the deadline, I would somehow be so intensely focused that I would not even take a break to eat or drink.

**“The inattention became so functionally limiting that I knew I needed to seek help.”**

It was because of those cases of hyperfocus that I never even considered I might have an attention “deficit” disorder, which really tells you how much of a misnomer “Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder” is.

Honestly, if the deadline induced hyperfocus continued to work for me, I might never even have considered that there was any issue at all. After all, the fact that I was motivated by a fear of consequences seemed to confirm the “attitude problem” so many people thought I had. But that fear of consequences helped... until it didn’t. Every few months, I would reach a stage where the consequences stopped being an incentive and instead turned into a source of anxiety.

However, because I had been experiencing this since I was a child, I had become really good at masking it. Instead of seeing an anxious, overwhelmed student trying their best, the neurotypical students and adults around me saw an insolent child who did not care about the consequences of his actions.

Part of me used to wonder if they were correct. I would always say that I cared, and I really did, but every time I was asked to explain if my actions were those of someone who cared, I had no answer. Turns out, there was a good reason, and I just didn’t know it. My

brain simply wasn’t designed to function in the same way a neurotypical person’s would.

Things got particularly bad over the pandemic. I wasn’t seeing my professors in person regularly, so it felt like I didn’t have anyone to be directly accountable to. That lack of accountability sped up the process of consequences turning from a motivator to a trigger. There were other signs of a problem as well — I couldn’t even regularly focus enough to read casually — something that had previously been easy for me. Even while watching movies, another activity I love, I needed to do another task alongside it because I couldn’t sustain my attention towards one activity. The inattention became so functionally limiting that I knew I needed to seek help.

**“The [ADHD] diagnosis was one of the most cathartic experiences of my life.”**

This January, I reached out to Counselling Services, who advised me to get assessed for ADHD after our very first session. I reached out to Health Services to inquire about a diagnosis but unfortunately, they did not refer me to a mental health professional so I was compelled to pursue a private assessment.

Admittedly, I was luckier than most. I got an appointment within six months and was diagnosed a month later. As I mentioned, the diagnosis was one of the most cathartic experiences of my life. It confirmed my lifelong suspicion that not only was I trying my best but that I was also putting in more effort than a lot of my peers for a much lower output.

The diagnosis gave me the validation that it was not my fault.

The diagnosis was also a source of hope. It was the first step in the healing process. Over the next few months or years, I will be working with therapists to see how to manage my symptoms. I will also be trying medication for ADHD to see whether that will help with the symptoms.

**“For all the challenges and roadblocks that ADHD brings, it has also helped me become the person I am today — someone of whom I can always be proud.”**

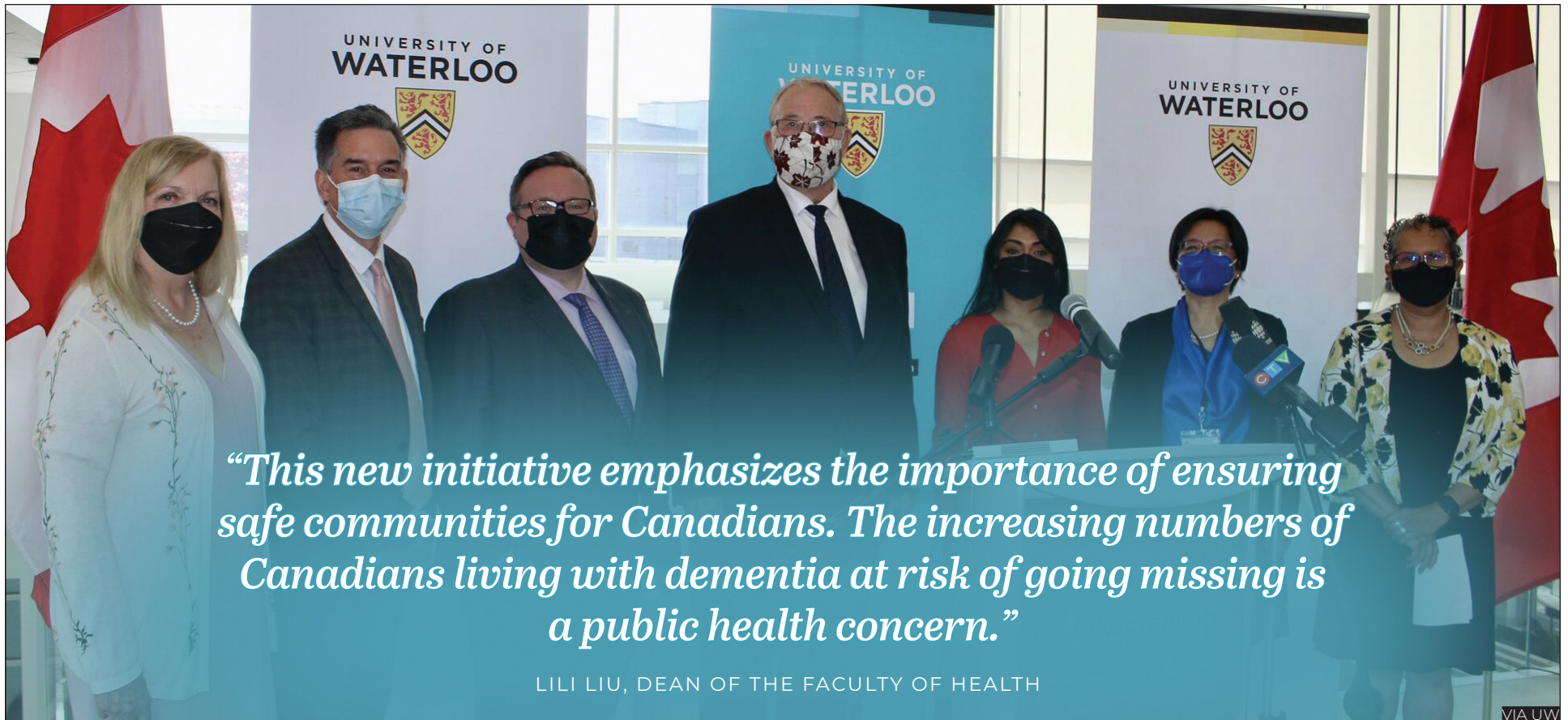
Honestly, I don’t completely hate that I have this disability. Being neurodivergent, and more specifically, being undiagnosed, has certainly made my life more difficult than my neurotypical counterparts. At the same time, ADHD has also given me some of my favourite qualities in me. Having too many thoughts in my head does make it difficult to focus but it is also the reason, I have an “active” imagination and is why I am creative. Impulsively speaking without thinking has created many awkward moments for me, but it has also made sure that I always stand up for what I believe in.

Difficulty regulating my emotions may be a reason that I easily cry or lose my temper, but it is also why I feel such intense empathy for those around me. For all the challenges and roadblocks that ADHD brings, it has also helped me become the person I am today — someone of whom I can always be proud.





## UW secures \$2.1 million funding for dementia search-and-rescue initiative



*“This new initiative emphasizes the importance of ensuring safe communities for Canadians. The increasing numbers of Canadians living with dementia at risk of going missing is a public health concern.”*

LILI LIU, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF HEALTH

Khalid Safdar  
Reporter

A dementia search-and-rescue initiative initiated and led by Lili Liu, Dean of the Faculty of Health, recently secured \$2.1 million-dollar funding from the federal government under their Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund (SARNIF).

The three-year funding will allow Liu, together with her co-investigator, adjunct assistant professor Antonio Miguel Cruz, and her team, to advance their project called “Managing Risks of Going Missing among Persons Living with Dementia by Building Capacities of SAR Personnel, First Responders and Communities.”

While dementia is a broad term, some of its symptoms refer to a loss of memory, language, and other thinking abilities that interfere with daily life. While dementia is more common among adults over the age of 65, it can still affect people as young as in their 30s. Dementia typically has three progressive stages, each more severe than the previous one.

Liu’s project aims to build partnerships and increase coordination with various establishments and build capacity within the search-and-rescue community while managing the risks of missing persons living with dementia.

In addition to developing partnerships in seven provinces — Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, and Nova Scotia — the team will also work with the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba and with Kahnawake Search and Rescue in the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory in Quebec. First responders in these two Indigenous communities will observe some enhanced protocols developed by the project as the impact of dementia in Indigenous communities is approximately 34 per cent higher than in non-Indigenous populations.

The Honourable Bill Blair, President of the Queen’s Privy Council and Minister of Emergency Preparedness, acknowledges that the population is aging and along with it, the number of people who go missing due to dementia is increasing.

“Through this partnership with the University of Waterloo, we will be able to build

capacities, partnerships, and coordination of search and rescue personnel, first responders, and communities to manage risks among persons living with dementia, and keep these vulnerable members of our communities safe,” Blair said.

According to the Alzheimer’s Society of Canada, there are over 500,000 Canadians currently living with dementia. This number is projected to reach 900,000 by 2030.

Liu believes that the increasing number of Canadians living with dementia at risk of going missing is a public health concern.

“This new initiative emphasizes the importance of ensuring safe communities for Canadians. The increasing numbers of Canadians living with dementia at risk of going missing is a public health concern,” Liu said.

Research also shows that if a missing person with Alzheimer’s disease is not found within 24 hours, the situation becomes an emergency as there is a 50 per cent chance that they will be found injured or dead from hypothermia, dehydration, or even drowning. This makes it one of the predominant factors on why the first 24 hours are crucial

and integral to their safety and well-being.

Marria Khalid, a third-year UW biomedical student and co-president of Brain Exercise Initiative, a club that works with local retirement homes and Alzheimer’s patients, is working with Liu. She strongly acknowledges the need for such initiatives and hopes to spark a change in her community.

“Missing individuals with dementia is a growing concern. Working with a team filled with enthusiastic individuals on this important initiative is rewarding. We hope to contribute to ensuring safe communities through informing and developing preventive strategies to reduce these incidents and keep this population safe,” Khalid said.

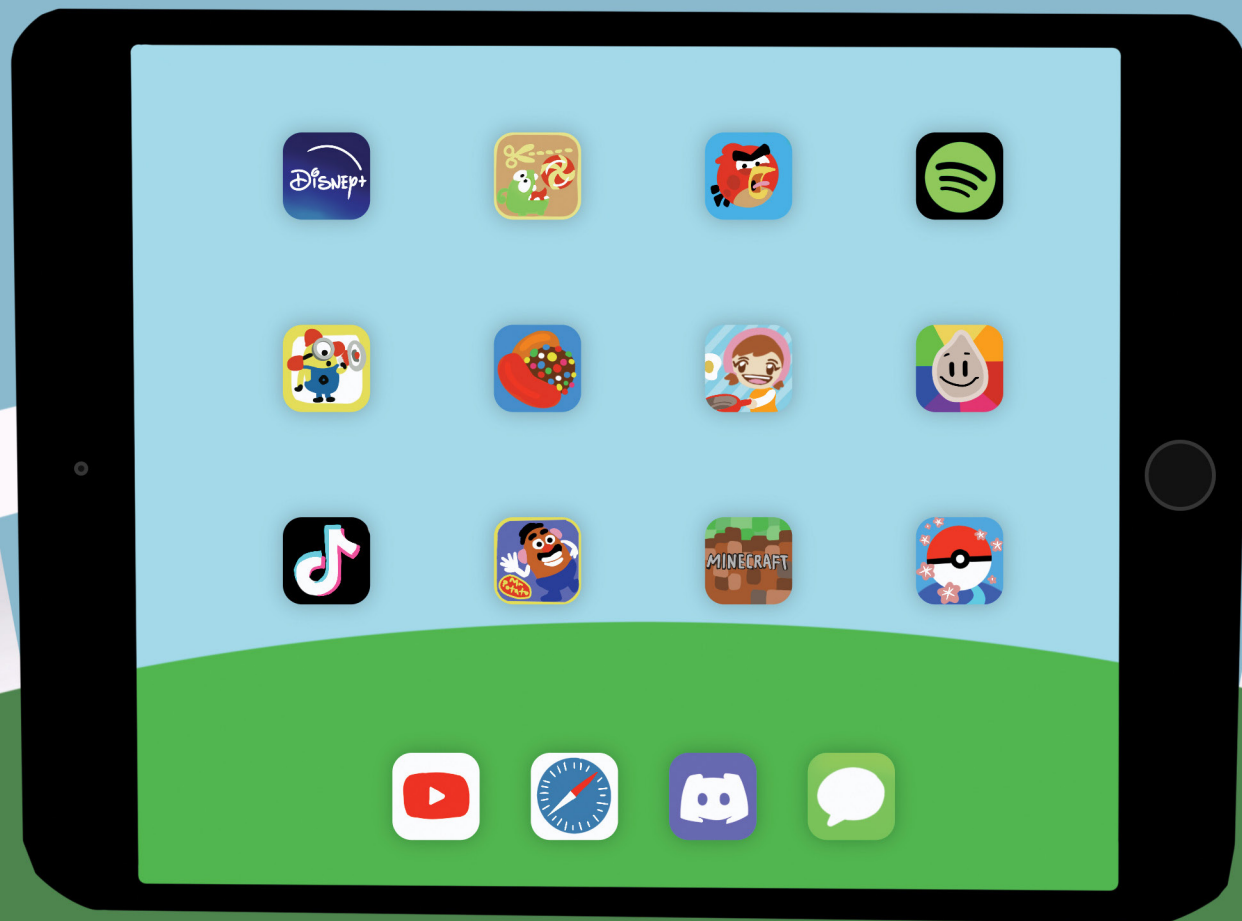
Under this new project UW is aiming to work with partners and affiliates to evaluate and implement four initiatives: a rapid response protocol for first responders in seven provinces including the two Indigenous communities in Manitoba and Quebec, toolkits for communities, guidelines for return home interviews to prevent missing accidents and data collection approaches to monitor the issue.

VIA UW



# When screens replace backyards

UW researchers explore reduced connection to nature among children



JIA CHEN

**Felicia Daryonoputri**  
Assistant Science & Tech Editor

As screen use increases, children's Connection to Nature (CTN) is decreasing, which poses major concerns for their social development and overall wellbeing.

Researchers at the University of Waterloo published a paper titled "When screens replace backyards: strategies to connect digital-media-oriented young people to nature" which discusses the implications of reduced CTN among children and potential solutions for this problem.

The paper noted that children's CTN has been declining with each generation, as nature-based play becomes increasingly replaced by screen time. This is concerning because CTN is positively linked to environmentally responsible behavior and healthy development in children.

"If people aren't connected to nature, then they don't grow to be concerned about it," said Dr. Brendan Larson, a co-author of the research paper and professor at UW's Faculty of Environment.

Building a connection to nature early in life is critical for a child's development. A loss of this connection is referred to as Nature Deficit Disorder with symptoms such as sensory anesthesia, directed attention fatigue, place blindness, and more. A lack of CTN has also been linked to a lower sense of environmentalism exhibited later in life.

However, society's dependence on technology makes finding an appropriate solution to a declining CTN more complex.

"Aside from using [technology] less, what are the ways that we can use it to perhaps facilitate connection to nature?" Larson asked.

The paper lays out five key recommendations for increasing CTN amongst digital-media-oriented youth: appealing marketing techniques, mentorship, strategic

location selection, gamification, and appropriate learning approaches.

According to Larson, the purpose of this approach is to engage people who aren't connected to nature and eventually "grow beyond just looking into a screen to actually going out into nature."

The gamification approach to tackling declining CTN, in particular, has become popular in the past decade through the success of Pokémon Go, which has accumulated approximately 1 billion downloads since its 2016 release. In terms of conservation, it is estimated that Pokémon Go players could capture 400 years of wildlife sightings in just six days.

Pokémon Go's success can be attributed to its user-friendly interface, meaningful personal narratives of each character, as well as the competitive aspect of the game.

A 2016 paper titled "Pokémon Go: Benefits, Costs, and Lessons for the Conservation Movement" said that the lessons and take-

aways from Pokémon Go's success can be applied to conservation "through the development of new conservation-focused AR games."

"Conservationists shouldn't just discount Pokémon GO," Larson said. "How do we turn that [success] into a benefit for conservation?"

The "When screens replace backyards" paper was initially published in the summer of 2020, early into the COVID-19 pandemic. There is now room for further research, focusing on the impact of the pandemic on CTN.

"I think it's pretty well established that [the pandemic] reduced connection to nature, because people, for a lot of it, weren't allowed to get outside, at all perhaps at an extreme," Larson said.

Increasing CTN amongst children is a crucial but often overlooked aspect in the fight against climate change. This research plays an important role in highlighting the importance of re-introducing nature-based play in our daily lives while also seeing technology as an asset, not an enemy.





## What to do in Waterloo this August

Erin Fround  
Reporter

Whether you will be studying all month or you only have one final exam and are facing a long, well-deserved break, this August is the perfect time to take a day to relax. Napping and bar-hopping may be your go-to free-time activities, but if you're looking to vary your routine, the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo are offering plenty to do this coming month:

### Movies at the Market

Kitchener Market  
300 King St E, Kitchener, ON  
Thursdays in August, 6–10:30 p.m.

Many are familiar with the weekly farmer's market hosted by Kitchener Market, but fresh produce is not all the market will be offering this August. Sponsored by Apollo Cinema, Kitchener Market will be showing a popular film in the covered parking area near Eby Street (unless otherwise stated) every Thursday this month. Moreover, these events will also host a street food market with local food vendors, a full bar, and various artisan vendors. The films will be as follows:

Aug. 4 – Dune  
Aug. 11 – West Side Story  
Aug. 18 – Free Guy  
Aug. 25 – Crazy Rich Asians

The featured food and artisan vendors will vary every week, but will include The Pulao Gals, ROW Ice Cream, The Grazing Table, Phaedra Handmade, Kbonita Jewelry, Trevor Clare Art, and Mizzy Designs. The specific vendors for each date can be found on the event website. The event is free to attend and does not require pre-registration.

### Pussy Whipped Wednesdays! Rock n Roll takeover at the Jazz Room!

The Jazz Room  
59 King Street North, Waterloo, ON



VIA KITCHENER MARKET



VIA VIXENS AND TEASE



VIA RAGNAROK

Saturday Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Vixens and Tease, this show promises to feature burlesque, drag, and debauchery. Normally operating out of the Bovine Sex Club in Toronto, Pussy Whipped Wednesdays are a burlesque performance group described as “the LEGENDARY crew from Toronto’s trashiest rock n roll parties.” The show will feature the talents of Annie Moore, Daffi, Dolly Berlin, El Toro, Lucy Sphincter, Optimal Tease, and Tanya Cheex, the fire tassel queen. Melody Bijou and Rinna Malone will be the featured drag performers, and the show will be hosted by “local ghost” Rando. Tickets are \$25 in advance on Eventbrite and \$30 at the door. Tickets are guaranteed seating, but it will be first come, first serve for tables.

### Ragnarok 2.0

DoubleTree By Hilton Kitchener  
30 Fairway Road South, Kitchener, ON  
Aug. 20, 8 a.m. – Aug. 21, 6 p.m.

If you are a game enthusiast, this is the perfect event for you. Featuring board games, RPGs, tabletop games, miniatures, and card games, as well as a whole host of vendors, this gaming convention is the perfect place to play, shop, and meet other gamers. You can sign up for individual slots for games run by a GM, or you can check out the “play to win” library, the Ragnarok lending library, and the open gaming space to play independently. Attending vendors will include Civilian Printing, Dan the Dice Guy, Oak Forge Woodworking, and Artisan Maille. Ragnarok uses an entry badge system, in which you purchase a badge to enter the convention and game tickets for individual games. Game tickets are free — you just need to register. Badges for the whole weekend are \$27, while tickets for individual days are \$15. Kids 12 and under can attend for free. Badges and tickets are available online or at the door for \$5 extra.

Add these events  
to your calendar  
for a fun month!



### THURSDAYS

Movies at the Market  
at 6:00pm

### SATURDAY

The Jazz Room  
at 7:30pm

### THE WEEKEND

Ragnarok 2.0  
from 8am - 6pm





# Toronto Fringe 2022: Life as a tragic comedy

VIVIAN GUO

Sharanya Karkera  
Creative Director

Dear reader. No, wait. Sorry, a content warning is needed before you read ahead. This isn't going to be a scandalous piece like *Lady Whistledown's*, but it will be intriguing all the same. Proceed at your own risk. Anyway, continuing —

Sometimes life is the biggest tragic comedy. This might sound dramatic to you, but I implore you to think about it for a second. What are some most popular topics amongst comedians? Relationships? Exes? Family? Racism? Intrusiveness masked by curiosity? Annoying people in airport lines? — life? Don't take my word for it, but as someone who has recently been to (and is now expertly reviewing) two back-to-back stand-up comedy shows at this year's Fringe Festival in Toronto, I claim myself to be a regular (not) on the stand-up comedy scene. So you might as well take my word for it.

Coming back to my point about life being a comedy, what's amusing to me is whom I ended up going with to see these shows. Let's just give them shape names for the sake of this piece — a heart and a square. Make what you want of that. Much like the Fringe's lottery system where shows are picked at random from a fishbowl, the shows I went to see were too. The night I went to see my first show, Aliya Khanani's 'Where are you From, From?' My heart ended up happy for more than one reason.

A fellow citizen of the world (we are an exclusive group of eight), Aliya's sketch is primarily about being a brown, Muslim woman. She begins with a keen observation of the claimed randomness of secondary airport searches — "Eeny, meeny, miny, Mo... hammed?" And then

movies on to ask a question that I, as an international student, get asked every day, "Where are you from?" Apparently, being non-white gives you an automatic un-subscribable subscription to this question. For Aliya, however, having grown up with a nomadic rhythm while moving from one city to the other, the answer to this question isn't so straightforward. However, child Aliya seized the opportunity to spin stories about where she's from, her genealogy and her heritage, only to watch people squirm and try and get to the answer their unconscious bias oh so clearly wants to confirm. As a fellow storyteller, I felt both validated and sheepish sitting in my seat. Unfortunately, the venue's mask requirement did not allow my (or anyone else's) expressions to be communicated with the charming, creatively interesting artist in front of us.

What I loved the most about Aliya's show was her subtlety and charm in approaching problematic topics that at one point would have been frustrating, irritating and even hurtful. From her childhood experiences of being teased about her last name (word play on "punani"), and being bullied as the new kid in school, to her adult experiences of show organizers asking her to include anecdotes of her family and race in her sketch or the pleasant cohort (not) of passengers she had to deal with as a flight attendant, everything was something either directly or potentially relatable. Remember what I said about life being the biggest tragic comedy?

Like Aliya's exclusive citizen of the world status, there are only a handful of people I know who can make a room diverse — in more ways than one — feel, laugh and move together, especially when the central theme of the conversation is 'otherness.' Almost as much as I loved Aliya's show, the audience on Sunday night at the Tarragon Theatre had my heart too. Especially this one man sitting in the second row whose heart-warming guffaws intoxicated with honesty, confidence

and self-surety (much like Aliya's fearless niece) boomed across the theatre long after everyone else's polite laughter had died down. There were jokes I (and my fellow patrons) ended up laughing at a lot more because of this man's contagious laugh. Partial credit to which I'll happily give Aliya, who, in an interview with Kieran Eaton, stated that she wanted everyone to relate, regardless of "where they are from."

Branching off the same interview, Aliya challenges perceptions in a way that feels like you are on a date — being gentle and gradual — unlike some male approaches to intimacy she gets. Maybe it was serendipity that discount-loving Aliya's tryst with comedy writing began with cashing in a Groupon. Maybe it was serendipity that I went for her show with the heart. We've seen how it worked out for the former, but for the latter, time will tell.

As for night two, fate had me seated on the seventh row at Anesti Danelis' "This show will change your life" on Tuesday night. For a comedian who went viral in 2019 with a video of him singing his resignation from Starbucks — the song is called "F- This, I Quit," I should have expected something drastic. During the 50 minutes of run time, Anesti targeted the lofty claims self-help books make, and touched upon (an understatement) his life experiences — including having arguments with people in his mind (the only part I related to), stealing from work (funny, but also extreme), trying to date while living at home with Greek immigrant parents (a little disturbing), how being bisexual opens up new ways of getting dumped (not what you'd imagined at all), and last but definitely, definitely not the least — ways of coping after being dumped (I am still a little traumatized). You may say I have a weak stomach, but I'm sorry, the idea of my ex potentially — excuse my language — fucking my entire family (each member named explicitly), is not something I want

to digest, let alone put in my mouth. Pun not intended. Rumour around the grapevine is that a couple of people left midway through the show the previous night, and as they were leaving, Mr. Danelis very politely cautioned that he would fuck all their families. I checked the content warning of the show after it ended, and PG 13 is not an accurate rating. Sometimes, life is simply tragic.

The saving grace of Anesti's show was his cheerfully misanthropic series of songs that he sang between every set, constantly changing his instrument of choice. Again, pun not intended. Playing the keyboard, guitar, violin and tambourine, sometimes simultaneously, by the end of the night, it was clear to me that Anesti's musical talents were a lot less troublesome and problematic than his comedic talents. I also appreciated the light design of the show, which was dynamic and perfectly adapted to suit the mood. This is except for the photographs of different family members' faces being circled repeatedly blown up on the giant screen behind the artist (because adding a visual to the already traumatic content was the cherry on top).

Having gone to see this show with the square, who'd just broken off a long-term relationship, there were moments I wanted to shrink into my seat and disappear for having dragged her along with me. We didn't talk about it after, but when I sheepishly asked her to accompany me to a different show on Thursday evening, she politely declined. My brain refuses to think about what it would have been like if the shows and shapes were swapped. Let's just say that if I ever find myself on stage, an anecdote of my first fringe festival will be sure to come up, because whether you're convinced or not, tragic situations make for great comedy.



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 University of Waterloo  
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1  
 P: 519.888.4048 | F: 519.884.7800  
 uwimprint.ca

Publisher: Andres Fuentes  
 Executive Editor: Vacant  
 Editorial Assistant: Suhani Sehgal  
 Sales Rep: Vacant  
 Distribution: Vacant  
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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.

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# opinions

## Learning, Labour & Legislation

### Unionisation and how the government affects student workers

The provincial government has considerable influence on universities and can use its power to cause harm to both students and university workers (instructors, TAs, RAs, etc). On one hand, The Ontario government is responsible for both incorporating Ontario universities and certifying labour unions. Universities are also partly funded by government grants. Altogether, it seems that university workers should feel gratitude toward the provincial government.

On the other hand, many undergraduate students have struggled due to recent cuts in OSAP funding. For workers, Ontario has killed legislation that would protect vulnerable employees, such as the Pay Transparency Act (PTA 2018). Ontario also has the power to legislate workers back into poor working conditions. Using police force and fines, workers in universities can be forced to work for low pay, and have their right to collective bargaining stripped away.

This is exactly what happened in 2018 at York University. After the administration refused to meet union demands for better job security, funding, and workplace equity, CUPE Local 3903 — York University's graduate student union — began a strike. This became the longest strike for a post-secondary institution in Canadian history, lasting 143 days. It was expected that the strike would be resolved when the administration suffered enough financial losses to feel compelled to bargain, or the striking workers would become fatigued enough to soften their demands.

This did not happen. Instead, the new Ford government used its parliamentary majority to push through the Urgent Priorities Act. This bill imposed a fine of \$2,000 each day for any striking worker and \$25,000 each day for the union. Basically, a standstill was forcibly resolved by attacking vulnerable, largely poor, graduate students, rather than the multimillion-dollar uni-

versity. To this day, many of the issues that caused the strike remain unresolved.

With increasing cuts to education and OSAP, the provincial government is less justified to intervene in labour affairs between universities and its workers. Tuition fees constitute a large part of university funding, so undergraduates are the only other stakeholder besides the university administration and workers. The right to self-determination for workers should be protected. When Ontario wishes to interfere in disputes between universities and their workers, our response should be to collectively fight that intervention.

Currently, UW workers are trying to unionise their TAs, RAs, and sessional instructors. When such a union forms, will UW workers be vulnerable to similar attacks from the provincial government? The York University strike indicates yes, but this isn't an argument against union efforts. When collective bargaining and striking reach the point where provincial intervention is necessary, this indicates that considerable pressure has already been placed on the university administration. Back-to-work legislation is only able to prevent strikes temporarily. Workers will eventually be able to return to the bargaining table, and previous strikes will be remembered.

Strikes aside, legal protections exist for union workers that currently don't exist for UW graduate workers, in any capacity. Namely, all workers have their work conditions dictated by a collective agreement, rather than the demands of their employer. This collective agreement codifies work practices such as overtime pay, benefits, and training. Without one, UW students are currently subject to very inconsistent standards across departments.

So what actions are available to members of UW? Most would suggest that participating in provincial elections is the most important way to enact change. However,

pro-labour parties are already very successful in Waterloo and Kitchener Centre — the two ridings where UW members are most likely to live. First-Past-the-Post elections mean that there's no benefit to "winning more" in these ridings. Furthermore, this is not a viable option for the many international students, who also have a right to advocate for their own working conditions. Protests and demonstrations offer a way to apply pressure to governments outside of the election cycle, but these options are limited in how much leverage they really have.

Real change will need to stem from grassroots efforts, beginning with the university. First, UW needs a union for its graduate student workers and sessionals. After the formation of a union, we must elect representatives who will stand firm against both the administration and provincial government.

Support from undergraduate students is also critical to ensuring Ontario can't undermine bargaining efforts. A common tactic in the past has been to claim that strikes are intended to harm undergraduates as a way to pressure university administrations. In reality, it is often the administration's unwillingness to bargain in good faith that leads to striking as a last resort. Graduate student workers are students themselves. Losing courses during strikes harms them as well as undergrads. Such strikes are necessary to ensure that graduate students have sufficient resources to be effective teachers for undergraduates.

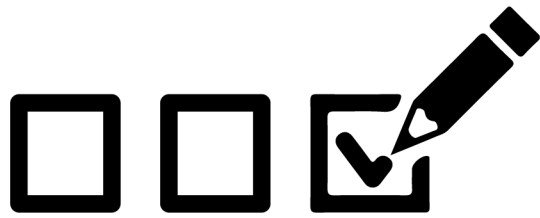
Ultimately, it is a long but worthwhile battle to get graduate students the working conditions they deserve. This battle may find the provincial government in opposition to student workers. If so, we must be prepared to stand strong against a much more established institution than just the university administration.

Nolan Peter Shaw  
 PhD Student, Computer Science



VIA BEST LAWYERS





Vote for your student representatives

# WUSA General Election

## 2022-2023

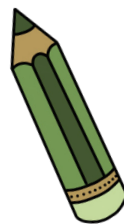


Voting period  
July 26 - 28  
[vote.wusa.ca](https://vote.wusa.ca)





# distractions



**Q: WHY DOES MR. GOOSE WRITE EVERY EXAM WITH A LUCKY PENCIL?**

**A: BECAUSE PASSING WAS MEANT 2B!**

## Imprint Sudoku

Level: Moderate

								1
	7					8	6	5
			8				7	
		9				2		
	5		6		3	7		
6	8			1				
9				7			8	
	4	3		8	2			
	1		5		4	3		

JOHAN ALANT

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

E	F	A	H	H	K	H	V	X	W	G	N	M	C	H	E	U	A	O	U	J	V
N	H	E	F	P	O	V	Q	M	U	L	T	I	G	R	A	I	N	V	N	C	J
L	O	T	A	T	O	P	W	A	T	I	Y	E	T	O	H	S	A	Y	I	V	R
N	C	T	K	O	L	X	N	A	S	W	J	S	O	U	R	D	O	U	G	H	T
M	U	E	B	R	M	B	C	Y	U	G	B	K	S	S	J	L	S	L	Y	V	O
I	B	U	Q	T	B	A	N	A	N	A	N	J	G	B	V	N	U	E	M	D	T
B	L	G	R	I	T	R	O	N	F	J	L	A	I	U	N	T	J	S	C	I	Q
A	L	A	Y	L	O	C	I	A	B	A	T	T	A	O	E	G	H	N	A	N	W
I	O	B	D	L	U	H	A	O	Y	W	F	W	H	N	Y	K	D	S	D	N	L
Z	R	H	A	A	F	C	M	D	C	B	G	Q	F	V	U	G	Q	B	M	E	U
I	T	B	U	M	S	B	F	M	F	H	M	R	A	B	M	S	D	X	C	R	Y
J	N	A	V	N	D	S	Q	G	A	D	E	R	P	L	E	G	A	B	Q	R	X
M	E	S	G	R	O	T	I	U	I	E	Q	F	A	J	K	I	C	B	X	O	J
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ANNIE ZHANG



ANNIE ZHANG