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WRITE FOR NEWS

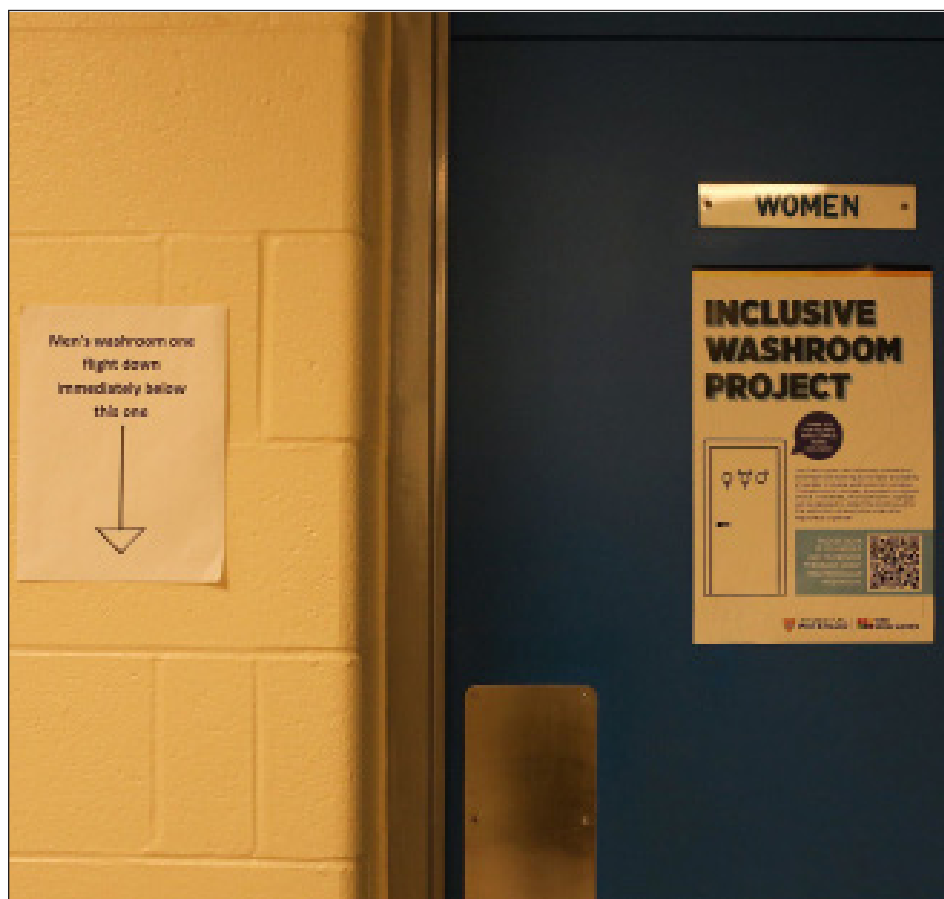
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UW lacks communication around inclusivity, students say



Alicia Wang
Editorial Assistant

The University of Waterloo recently began testing gender-neutral bathrooms on campus as part of their inclusive washroom initiative, having introduced the initiative six years ago. However, student response has been divided, with several expressing the need to better educate community members on the matter.

James W.E. Rush, vice-president, academic and provost of UW, provided an update on the initiative on Nov. 21, stating that while each building on campus would generally retain gendered multi-stall washrooms or single-stall washrooms, at least one washroom in each building is being proposed for conversion. Potential candidates were chosen due to the convenience of factors like their existing location or size. Signage outside the proposed locations prompt users to give feedback via a survey, which will be taken into account alongside other considerations when deciding which

locations will be changed. A statement from the university stipulates that “after careful review of the feedback received through this survey, a final list will be approved, and washroom signage will be changed to reflect the new status of the space.”

“I want to sincerely thank the Waterloo Undergraduate Students Association, the Glow Centre, and other trans and non-binary campus community members for their dedication in initiating and advancing this important work,” Rush said in the online statement. He then described the future of the initiative, stating that subsequent phases would include improving accessibility features, installing new single-use stalls where possible and making minor infrastructure improvements.

Ases Cheema, a first-year honours arts student, made her support for the initiative clear, but felt that the university should push the initiative more. She described overhearing conversations of those who viewed the initiative negatively or with confusion, as well as their tendency to jump to conclusions without looking into the issue first.

“I just feel like the initiative should communicate better what exactly is happening, what it’s supposed to be and why that is because I feel a lot of people lack that education about it,” Cheema said. She pointed out the impact of echo chambers on student beliefs regarding the issue, stating that “a lot of people have a very negative view about it because of their own political beliefs...they only discuss it amongst their own friend group who mostly has the same views, so they read it and they think ‘Oh, this is so stupid,’ but you’re not really understanding the depth of what the issue is.”

Another student took on a similar view of hoping to see more explanation from the university.

“I just found it about a couple days ago...I still don’t understand the full scope of it, I just saw the signs, didn’t really read it, but I just know it’s good for inclusivity,” said Oneeb Khan, a fourth-year environment and business student. Khan stated that though the change didn’t impact him, he thought it important that the university take steps past posting signage that students might not read in order to explain the initiative better to community members.

UW first began taking steps towards such inclusivity in 2016, when the university im-

plemented over 60 inclusive washrooms in several buildings on campus. While some of these are fully inclusive, being accessible to both those who are gender-neutral and those with disabilities, some are single-user gender-inclusive washrooms.

Public reports of Waterloo’s Canadian Research Chair Equity Action Plan display the phases of the project throughout the years, completing Phase I, retrofitting the 60+ washrooms to become gender neutral, by 2019, and initiating Phase II, larger upgrades to washrooms, in 2018. The current phase of the project, expanding inclusive washrooms to include multi-stall gender-neutral washrooms and proposing funding for an external contractor to “determine feasibility,” is ongoing, having been approved earlier this year. A statement from the university.

Other schools like Wilfrid Laurier University have implemented similar initiatives, with a statement from June 2021 describing some of the actions taken by WLU to move towards washroom inclusivity, including removing many of the gender symbols marking single-use washrooms and posting new signage reminding WLU community members that “everyone has the right to use the washroom that aligns with their lived gender identity and expression.”



MELISSA HUGHES



WRITE FOR SPORTS

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Warrior women top OUA stats across multiple sports



STEVE BROOKS



COURTNEY CAIRD

Vanessa Hughes (left) is third in the OUA in points per game with 21.3 PPG, leading the Warriors to their best start since 1985 with a 5-1 record. Sarah Glynn leads both the OUA and U SPORTS in kills per set (4.97). She has been the Waterloo athlete of the week twice already and was the OUA athlete of the week last week. Glynn surpassed 800 career kills this past weekend with 809 in her four years of competition.

Use music to improve your athletic performance

Avitej Singh
Sports & Health Editor

Universally speaking, music is a part of our daily routine. Most people wear earphones and headphones at the gym, listening to music that comforts them and pushes them to work harder. The Journal of Sports Exercise Psychology (SEP) studied the impact of music on motivation at the gym and found music helped people push through exhaustion during a challenging set. However, music is highly personal and influenced by

culture, exposure and genre preference.

This phenomenon is evident at PAC. Kahan Ajmera, a third-year astrophysics student, discussed his playlist as a “beginner” at the gym. “For me, it’s mostly alternative music and a lot of indie, but that’s what I listen to at home, so I don’t know if it’s going to change.” His playlist contained songs spanning six decades, starting with some songs from the Beatles and other artists in the 1960s, as well as some indie rock songs from this year. His playlist is focused on alternative music, but other students at the gym have different ideas about the music

that helps them.

Varun Venkat, a second-year engineering student, portrayed a different side of music. Venkat’s playlist started with Drake, a home favourite in Canada, but also contained EDM. “I think the beat helps. If you can find a fast song, it gets you moving.” This idea is supported by science. The Journal of SEP states that music can increase endurance by 15 per cent, and songs with a tempo of 135 beats per minute are ideal for fitness. EDM is typically a faster genre of music, frequently hitting and crossing 135 BPM.

However, the playlist heard throughout

the gym at PAC is often not 135 BPM. It is typically billboard songs which are more known to students, providing standard pop tunes to gym-goers. Most people had no complaints about the playlist other than that songs repeat every 40-50 minutes, so if you don’t have headphones, you might hear the same music two or three times during a workout. However, that is the only complaint from the students at PAC.

Music is highly personal, just like a fitness journey. With the right music, you can push yourself to do better and improve, and what better place for self-betterment than the gym?

Recipe: Sundried Tomato Pasta

By Ingrid Au

This recipe is for folks who do not fancy tomatoes. Whether it is the texture or taste that sets you off, this recipe omits all of that and focuses on the sweetness of the tomatoes with an aromatic hit. The addition of rosemary, anchovies and garlic will offer you a more in-depth flavour than simple tomatoes — like a buy one, get three free deal! These aromatics never fail to produce a perfectly seasoned dish, and this recipe is no exception.

Ingredients:

- Pan
- Tongs

Ingredients:

- ¼ -½ cup of sundried tomatoes
- 4-6 cloves of garlic (finely chopped)
- 1 shallot (thinly sliced)
- 1 anchovy fillet
- 4 tbsp of olive oil
- Basil (fresh or dried)
- 1 Rosemary twig
- Salt & black pepper
- Options: dried red peppers, parmesan
- Spaghetti (or any noodle-form pasta)

Instructions:

- In a pan, heat up the oil and combine the garlic, shallots and rosemary together. Let the aromatics cook until the garlic becomes slightly golden brown.
- Then, turn down the heat to add the anchovies and sundried tomatoes (and dried basil if you are using it) and cook until the shallots are caramelized. While the shallots caramelize, cook your spaghetti according to the box instructions. It is important that you do 3 to 4 minutes less than the recommended cook time as you want the pasta to be slightly al-dente when mixing it with the sauce.
- Once caramelized, add the spaghetti and about ½ cup of pasta water to your pan. Stir with tongs until the sauce has thickened with the pasta. If not, continue adding pasta water in small increments and keep stirring. Take the pasta off the stove and garnish with fresh basil (if you are using it), salt, pepper, and optionally dried red pepper and parmesan.

This sundried tomato pasta is a gateway to the world of tomatoes — slightly dipping your toes into the waters and trying something you don't normally like. It is all about the experience — mostly brought upon by the aromatics. Trust me, the rosemary goes a long way. This recipe could perhaps be the new thing you can try before 2022 ends or the new thing you revisit when the new year rolls around. I can promise you this pasta is one of a kind. Enjoy!



INGRID AU

im print

WATERLOO WARRIORS

GO GOLD GO BLACK GO GOLD GO BLACK GO GOLD GO BLACK GO

THIS WEEK IN ATHLETICS

WATERLOO RESIDENCES

97

MEN'S HOCKEY

DEC. 2 | 7:00 PM
CIF ARENA

VS TORONTO

DEC. 3 | 7:00 PM
CIF ARENA

VS GUELPH

HOMEWOOD SUITES
Worked In. Again.

EMPLOYEE DAY

DONOR APPRECIATION DAY

9

VOLLEYBALL

DEC. 2 | (W) 6:00 PM (M) 8:00 PM
CARL TOTZKE COURT (PAC)

VS NIPISSING

DEC. 3 | (W) 4:00 PM (M) 6:00 PM
CARL TOTZKE COURT (PAC)

VS NIPISSING

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

WATERLOO WARRIORS

WATERLOO

VANESSA HUGHES
BASKETBALL
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

LUKAS WORMALD
SWIMMING
MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING



EVERYBODY: On the Metaphysical, Mysterious, and Moral

Remy Leigh
Arts & Life Editor

The UW theatre department's production of Brandon Jacob-Jenkins' *Everybody* is a lesson in metaphysical philosophy and demands kindness and decency in a bitter world. By representing concepts and constructs, social alienation and depression are fought by reminding the audience that individual identity has no bearing on the unification of people by the same ideas — life, death, friendship, fear and dreams. *Everybody* is afraid of Death, solitude, and regretting their life, yet one must remember that despite it all, there is still love. Love is the force that can turn a nihilist worldview into an absurdist one; it can help us find meaning in a universe where there may be none.

The play, directed at UW by Tanja Jacobs, dives into the age-old question of what happens as we die. Jacobs is an award-winning director and actress with 11 Dora nominations and three other awards. Based in Toronto, she received her MFA in stage direction at York University and directed *Twelfth Night* and *Midsummer Night's Dream* for Shakespeare in High Park.

The ML Theatre was decorated with poker chips, ballots, bingo balls, and gambling iconography to represent life's randomness. Each cast member contributed one component to the display. Actor Emma-Leigh Simonot used a video of poker with bingo wheels and balls on the floor to "illustrate [...] the role of chance in our life and how we can interact with it. Chance is something we can passively observe or, it is something with which we can actively participate."

The play begins with the usher — as any play would — but she later reveals her true identity as the character God. God feels betrayed by *Everybody* because *Everybody* neglected and abandoned her. However, Death emerges from the audience, and God tasks Death with finding *Everybody* and taking them on their final journey. Death finds five people, who beg for the opportunity to find someone to take with them on their journey to the grave, and Death agrees. He says he will only give them the amount of time it takes for him to change his clothes, and he departs.

At this point, God brings out a bingo wheel. The official cast and roles are assigned to the *Somebodies* each night by having them pick a ball from the wheel,

which contains the role — this represents the randomness of life and Death and dismisses ideas about identities and appearance of the part and character. Every actor must be prepared to play any role, and have the entire script memorized. There are 720 possible variations of the show based on the randomness of casting. Connor McKechnie played the lead as *Everybody*, Colleen Ma-

task, and even the loyalties of *Friendship*, *Kinship*, and *Cousin* falter when asked. The play frequently explores ontological questions about the existence and purpose of people in the world, as the characters repeatedly ask, "What is real?" and "What is death?" On the brink of Death, all things in life seem absurd in comparison, and it uncovers our genuine fears, priorities, and feelings.

The blocking of the actors is precise and deliberate, as characters lap around the round stage, which acts as a clock. When *Everybody* progresses in their thinking and *Understanding*, they move clockwise; however, when *Everybody* regresses, they begin to step counter-clockwise. The audience is subtly reminded that time is passing, and with every minute, *Everybody* is pushed closer to Death. As an audience member, this felt incredibly clever. The attention to detail in the blocking and dialogue subtly contrasted with the play's comments on the randomness of life; however, *Everybody* expressed their lack of control over their body and life, and there was a certain intentionality to this. Within the lack of control we, as humans, possess in the grand scheme of the universe, there are still some things we can control — our words and actions.

Characters most commonly introduce themselves from the audience, making vomitory entrances, a reminder that the concepts they represent are everywhere and in everything. Additionally, the play exhibits self-awareness as the fourth wall breaks several times, increasing immersion. It is not simply a work of fiction — it is a rich, theoretical commentary on society's worldviews, and the theatre walls cannot constrain that.

The play possessed a light, witty sense of humour, which contrasted the deep dives into the inevitability of Death and our fears of the unknown. I laughed at its sparks of playfulness and colourful costumes and was moved to tears by the comments on the power and presence of Love. My feelings were summarized by the poet Kahlil Gibran in his poem *On Love*: "For even as Love crowns you so shall he crucify you / Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning. / Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, / So shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth."

Everybody is a play that implores its audience to consider the ways in which we live our lives, to be kinder to one another, and to make one's life worth watching before it flashes during our final moments of consciousness. To quote *Understanding*, "Be nice to each other, and I'm talking about *Everybody*."

EVERYBODY will be performed from Nov. 22–26 at the Modern Languages Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for students and can be purchased at <https://www.uweverybody.ca/>



Display showing a mannequin surrounded by Mr Potato Head accessories with a sign stating: 'The chances of having been born male or female.'

caulay played *Stuff*, Emma-Leigh Simonot played *Kinship*, Jamie Borremeo played *Evil Deeds*, Lilian Adom played *Friendship*, and Quinn Andres played *Cousin*. Each night, Ada-Marie Nita plays *God*, the Usher and *Understanding*, Matthew Wiebe plays *Death*, Zaniq King plays *Love*, and Nadia Khan plays *Girl* and *Time*, respectively. Nita says the audience will always see a show that has not been done before.

Everybody is dying, and they are terrified. Through long existentialist monologues, they reflect on their life with intense fear and anxiety, as they do not want to die alone. Finding someone to accompany them is a difficult

task, and even the loyalties of *Friendship*, *Kinship*, and *Cousin* attempt to provide support as *Everybody* panics in the face of an irreversible journey. *Everybody* even turns to *Stuff*, believing their material possessions will suffice if they cannot find accompaniment with friends and family. Light and colour swell as the audience plunges into *Everybody*'s recollections of their life and dreams on their deathbed.

ME!

Women's Centre celebrates night of poetry and music

Abhiraj Lamba
Managing Editor

As a way to present members of the UW community an opportunity to share and celebrate their unique experiences and quirks, Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association's Women's Centre organised ME!, a poetry slam where students could come share their personal stories in verse.

The Women's Centre is an entirely student run intersectional feminist service which "aims to provide... a supportive environment on campus for all women and trans folks."

For ME!, the Student Life Centre's Black and Gold room was setup to create an environment fit for a poetry meet. One lone mic faced the audience allowing the performers to not only share their words but also use their entire bodies to give their performance. The lights were dimmed and everyone's focus was on the performer.

The night began with a performance by Tanmayi Jandhyala, who recited a Harry Potter inspired poem that she had written, "The thing about the stars" while her friend and roommate, Shreya played chords on the guitar to accompany her. The poem was written from the perspective of the character, Remus Lupin when he was a young teenager at school and was developing his understanding of love and friendship.

Jandhyala's performance was followed by Jessica Smith and Emaa Schuster who performed their self-written poems, "Keep going" and "Hands."

The final planned performance of the night was by Kelsey Mar who performed two of her poems, "Home invasion" and "Yesterday you forgot to remember." Mar shared that the first poem

was about a personal experience of hers from when she was a child. One of the heavier pieces of the night, the poem transported the audience to a young Mar's world.

Mar's second piece was one which encouraged the audience to think about childhood and adulthood and what changed in between, asking them, "Did you forget at 21 what it was like to dream at 12?"

All four performers were able to enthrall the audience who responded to every performance with resounding rounds of applause.

After all four poets had shared their work, Women's Centre's literature director, Sudiksha Desai invited interested members of the audience to perform. Some students used this as an opportunity to express themselves musically and share some of their favourite songs with those present. A pair of students performed Anuv Jain's hindi song "Riha" followed by a performance of Laufey's "Street by street."

Women's Centre used this event as an opportunity to promote Voices, their annual anthology magazine of student work. Voices has been a Women's Centre publication since 1995 and has been a space for students to share their different artistic expressions and experiences. Their official website describes the publication as "a space where students could voice their beliefs, share their hearts, as well as a corner of celebration and mourning."

Women's Centre is currently accepting poetry, artwork, photography, short stories and other creative submissions for Voices 2023. Submissions are expected to be open till the middle of Winter 2023 term. Interested students can submit their work by emailing the Women's Centre literature director at literature.wc@wusa.ca.



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ECO SUMMIT 2022 WHAT WE CAN DO

A reflection

Bethany Helaine Pörtl
Reporter

On Nov. 23, the UW Sustainability Office held its ninth annual Eco-Summit at Fed Hall, bringing together over 120 people, 12 speakers and 15 booths to celebrate and further discuss the future of sustainability on campus.

The theme of the Eco-Summit was “what we can do,” emphasizing the importance of collective action and coming together as a campus across faculties, departments, and disciplines to work toward sustainable change.

The Environmental Sustainability Report was released during the Eco-Summit and is available on the sustainability office’s website.

“I’m thrilled to launch this year’s annual Environmental Sustainability Report. We use it to demonstrate our progress against the University’s sustainability objectives for 2025 and to build a common understanding of what and how we are doing as a campus community,” said Mat Thijssen, Director of Sustainability. “We have seen a lot of activity over the past year, with more of our targets working toward completion and some key investments being made in projects and programs. We also have a lot of work remaining before 2025, and making further improvements will require broad support across the campus.”

During the summit, there were two panels. The student panel fo-

cused on “connecting students with sustainability opportunities,” and the employee panel discussed “integrating sustainability into campus roles.”

“The sustainability community is extremely diverse and welcome. There is a cause that you will identify and is worth fighting for. There are so many challenges for the world’s climate, and they can be solved when people from all professions work towards sustainability together,” said Saad Arif Qadeer, student panellist and MealCareUW co-founder, regarding student engagement in sustainability on campus.

Along with the student and staff panels, the Green Office, Green labs and Living Planet Leader Awards were presented.

“We know that we cannot meet our campus sustainability goals without engaging people: our students and employees are critical in this mission. While we still have a lot of work ahead of us, I’m really inspired by our amazing students leading the charge,” said Andrea Bale, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator. “Through our Green Residence program, Living Planet @ Campus program, clubs, societies, and various organizations, our students are making a difference on campus and creating opportunities for others to join in. I’m also excited to see strong participation in our Green Office and Green Labs programs – despite the many setbacks and challenges of the last few years – and am optimistic that we’ll expand both of these in the year ahead.”

The summit concluded with an interactive visioning activity where everyone was encouraged to reflect on their unique roles on campus, how sustainability connects with these roles, and the support others need to work toward sustainable action.



New quantum tool developed in groundbreaking experimental achievement

Vansh Wahi
Reporter

For the first time in history, scientists have created a device that recreates the properties of light using neutrons: the neutral subatomic particles found in the nucleus of an atom. This breakthrough provides a new modified platform for researchers to study the development of next-generation quantum materials with applications ranging from quantum computing to identifying and solving new problems in fundamental and applied physics.

Dr. Dmitry Pushin is an associate professor in physics and astronomy at the Institute of Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo. He and his team of experienced scientists created a device that generates twisted neutrons with well-defined orbital angular momentum. Dr. Dusan Sarenac, a research associate with IQC and technical lead of Transformative Quantum Technologies at the University of Waterloo, better explains the concept. He says, "Neutrons are a powerful probe for the characterization of emerging quantum materials because they have several unique features" and "they have nanometer-sized wavelengths, electrical neutrality, and a relatively large mass." All these features mean neutrons can effectively pass through materials that X-rays

and light cannot.

While methods for the experimental production and analysis of orbital angular momentum in photons and electrons are well-studied, a device design using neutrons has never been demonstrated until now.

Due to the neutron's distinct characteristics, the researchers had to construct new devices and create novel methods for working with them. In their experiments, Pushin and his team constructed microscopic fork-like silicon grating structures. These devices are so minuscule that in an area of only 0.5 cm by 0.5 cm, there are over six million individual fork dislocation phase gratings. As a beam of single neutrons passes through this device, the individual neutrons begin winding in a corkscrew pattern. After travelling 19 meters, an image of the neutrons was captured using a special neutron camera. The group observed that every neutron had expanded to a 10 cm wide donut-like signature. The donut pattern of the propagated neutrons indicates that they have been put in a special helical state and that the group's grating devices have generated neutron beams with quantized orbital angular momentum, the first experimental achievement of its kind.

The team published a paper on the experimental realization of neutron helical waves in *Science Advances*. The research was funded through TQT, a Canada First

Research Excellence Fund Initiative. Experimental devices were created in the Quantum Nano Fabrication and Characterization Facility at the University of Waterloo.

Dr. Dmitry Pushin uses his broad background to apply quantum information processing methods to improve neutron interferometry to make it accessible to the general scientific community.

He explains, "In these experiments, our group has enabled the use of orbital angular momentum in neutron beams, which will essentially provide an additional quantized degree of freedom. In doing so, we are developing a toolbox to characterize and examine complicated materials needed for the next generation of quantum devices such as quantum simulators and quantum computers."



Dr. Dmitry Pushin

Science TLDR: This week on campus

Meagan Leonard
Executive Editor

NOV. 10

UW researchers have discovered a river underneath the Antarctic ice sheet that could drastically change current climate change predictions.

The 460-kilometre river was identified by Dr. Christine Dow and her team using airborne radar surveys, and they suspect the water flow is why the ice seems to be melting faster than anticipated at the South Pole. As air temperatures continue to rise, Antarctica could become more like Greenland, with larger volumes of freshwater entering the ocean. The region where the river is located contains enough ice to raise sea levels over four metres. Discoveries like this one help improve the accuracy of climate change predictions and their

long-term impact.

Source: UW Media Relations

NOV. 20

The world's first fully electric plane is in Waterloo. Students and faculty from the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Aeronautics are currently conducting tests and research on it with the hope of getting flight certification from Transport Canada.

The plane was manufactured by a Slovenian company and can fly for around an hour before needing to be charged again — roughly the distance between Toronto and Hamilton. The plane runs on two batteries — one as the primary power source and the other as a backup. The upfront cost of the aircraft was around \$300,000, but this is offset by a motor that requires less maintenance and a flight cost of approximately \$2-3 for charging versus \$100 for fuel.

Source: Yahoo! News

NOV. 25

The University of Waterloo ranked the highest of all Canadian universities on Pitchbook's annual list of institutions most likely to produce founders of venture-backed start-ups. UW moved up in ranking one spot to 21st out of 100. Other Canadian universities in the top 50 included McGill University, the University of Toronto, and the University of British Columbia. To compile its list, Pitchbook looked at 144,000 venture-backed companies that received funding between 2012 and 2022. UW has produced nearly 500 founders of venture-backed companies, including Databricks, Instacart, and Netskope. These start-ups have raised some \$19 billion in funding in the last 10 years.

Source: betakit.com

NOV. 26

Six UW research projects dedicated to solv-

ing environmental challenges received financial support from the Canadian government to the tune of \$15.8 million. The donation comes from the Environmental Damages Fund and is part of an initiative to support sustainable net-zero emissions by 2050. Maria Strack's work to protect and restore global peatlands is one major project that will get a boost from the funding. Peatlands are some of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on the planet and play a key role in maintaining Earth's temperature by containing potential greenhouse gases. They also provide essential habitats for wildlife and help purify water and prevent flooding. According to Strack's research, global peatlands are being lost at a rate 10 times higher than their formation. As human activities destroy these peatlands, their stored carbon is released into the atmosphere. Preserving and restoring even the tropical peatlands can reduce global annual emissions by two per cent. Source: CityNews Kitchener

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Next scheduled pitch/post-mortem meeting:
 Nov. 30 at 6:30 pm in SLC 0137

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

You need to care about the WUSA elections

Most students are not engaging with WUSA elections and many of those who are are not necessarily doing so because they care about student governance. This is a worrying trend.

Nomination period for the 2023 WUSA general elections starts on Dec. 1, but the vast majority of undergraduate students will probably not care. The voter turnout in the 2022 elections was just 4.63 per cent. While some have attributed this to the fact that the elections took place in summer this year, the 2021 turnout was not much better at 5.09 per cent.

This has not always been the case. 2020 saw a voter turnout of 12.2 per cent. While the sudden drop around this time could be because of the pandemic, it is clear that there has been a downward trend since before that. Between the years 2016 and 2019, the voter turnout remained around 15 per cent each year, with the exception of 2018. In 2018, all executive positions were acclaimed so there was no WUSA election in which all undergraduate students voted. While 2015 did see a low voter turnout of 7.34 per cent, that year the elections website broke down. In 2014, the turnout was almost 30 per cent.

One of the top 2 reasons that students who voted gave for voting both this year and last was that they had a friend running in the elections.

Admittedly, it is natural for me, as a student journalist, to take an interest in stu-

Admittedly, it is natural for me, as a student journalist, to take an interest in student politics and others may not share that inclination. However, as a student journalist who has spent a considerable amount of time covering WUSA, trust me — you need to care about the WUSA elections.



VIA WUSA

dent politics and others may not share that inclination. However, as a student journalist who has spent a considerable amount of time covering WUSA, trust me — you need to care about the WUSA elections.

As our undergraduate student association, WUSA advocates for us not only to the university, but also to the various levels of government. Whether or not you think WUSA has done a good job at it so far, WUSA is definitely the most well equipped organization to engage in student advocacy. Therefore, it is vital that we elect student leaders who can understand our needs and present a strong case for why those needs should be addressed for the coming year.

With the governance change that WUSA went through this year, our student government is still very much in a transition period. We need effective leadership for this transition to be successful, so that WUSA remains well equipped to advocate for students.

Moreover, the new governance structure also increases the responsibilities of the directors. Whereas earlier, elected student councillors were expected to advocate for their constituents within WUSA and help decide WUSA's advocacy priorities. Now, with no council, elected student directors not only sit on WUSA board committees to decide these priorities, but they are also expected to sit on university committees where they will be actively carrying them out. So with the bigger role that directors play now, it is even more important for students to educate themselves and vote in these elections.

In particular, next year, WUSA is also expected to take on an equity audit and the officers and directors next year may have to implement recommendations from that to ensure that WUSA is an equitable organization. We need student leaders who we can trust to do this well.

If you or someone you know will be a good fit for these roles and can afford to give WUSA and the student body the needed time, register to be a candidate. WUSA has had far too many uncompetitive elections in recent years. All my arguments about why students should vote are moot if the elec-

tions don't have enough candidates. This year we had a single candidate for President who dropped out because of which our then Vice-President elect became President. Unfortunately, we also only had one candidate for VP so there was no one to fill that role.

At Imprint, we have done our best to keep students updated on WUSA elections with regular updates each year as well as our annual Imprint WUSA officer debates, and we will continue doing that so that you are informed about your prospective leaders and representatives.

At Imprint, we have done our best to keep students updated on WUSA elections with regular updates each year as well as our annual Imprint WUSA officer debates, and we will continue doing that so that you are informed about your prospective leaders and representatives. We will continue reporting on what WUSA is up to. As a student newspaper, it is our responsibility to hold WUSA accountable, and we do that — most recently, we reported on WUSA's board meetings not being open to the general membership. However, there is only so much that we can do, if students don't show up to the polls so this year, please care about the WUSA elections.

Abhiraj Lamba
 Managing Editor



Imprint Op-Ed: Society's fascination with women's pain

From celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Amber Heard, and even Princess Diana it is clear that society is fascinated by female trauma. Arguably, this fascination has turned into a form of “pain porn” where female suffering is glorified rather than understood, reduced to a form of mass entertainment, and something that is capitalized on. It is evident that “pain porn” only furthers the power and status of the men who inflict it on these women, as ultimately, it is these men who profit from the exploitation of trauma. Worst of all, these men often evade the legal or social consequences of their actions, as they are protected by the corporations that they are attached to and how they are perceived by the public.

In 2018, Amber Heard wrote an op-ed for the Washington Post detailing her experience of being harassed and abused as a young woman and how the institutions around her protected the men that perpetrated this abuse. She became a leading voice in the #MeToo movement, becoming a public figure chosen by the ACLU to represent domestic abuse. It was after this that she experienced the extent that both public opinion and institutions would take to protect the men who she claimed had participated in her abuse. She was later sued by Johnny Depp, her former partner, for defamation over a line in the article where she stated that she was a “public figure representing domestic abuse.”

It is clear that Amber Heard sustained a majority of the consequences both socially and financially.

While there could be a whole discourse around whether or not she was the abuser, or if the relationship was “mutually abusive,” what is clear is that Depp is 23 years her senior, significantly more famous, and for the majority of their relationship, made more money. Out of the two of them, it is clear that he had substantially more power. Further, during the UK libel trial, the court found



JANELLE GUNARATNAM

Depp to be the perpetrator and aggressor, something that is challenging to prove, especially in the UK where courts are known for being more plaintiff-friendly. It was no doubt a traumatic event for both parties, and abuse was perpetuated and sustained on both sides. That being said, it is clear that Amber Heard sustained a majority of the consequences both socially and financially.

The 2022 trial was sensationalised, with many people hosting viewing parties to watch the proceedings, viewing this woman's emotional pain as entertainment. Yet her pain was further exploited by the many companies and individuals who profited from it. Depp was awarded \$15 million in punitive damages due to defamation, and aside from the entities who profited from merchandise made for the trial, content creators on platforms such as TikTok and YouTube made money spreading false allegations about Heard by taking clips from the trial out of context. Not to mention, Heard's role as Mera in Aquaman was recast by Warner Brothers, exercising how institutions use their power to leave victims vulnerable and powerless.

Depp, on the other hand, was only ordered to pay \$2 million in damages, facing limited legal ramifications for his actions. Furthermore, since the trial, he has been able to obtain high-paying advertising contracts with brands like Dior.

This pattern is also present in the recent dispute between Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. The dissolution of their highly-public marriage was brought on after the FBI conducted an investigation into evidence of domestic abuse. The report obtained by the New York Times describes how Pitt grabbed Jolie by the shoulders and shook her before pushing her into the bathroom wall. While

the abuse escalated during a private flight from France to the United States, and ended when Pitt choked one of their children and struck another in the face, who were not named for legal reasons, pouring both beer and red wine onto them.

Despite this being a documented investigation conducted by the FBI, the tabloids exploited the trauma in the name of entertainment. NBC launched an investigation into this issue after discovering 12 YouTube channels that made direct comparisons between Jolie and Heard in video thumbnails hours after the Times' article was published in October. The investigation showed how quickly individuals seek to profit from celebrity pain, which is only incentivized by the scaling of views for such content and the advertising money that comes with it. This does not take the court of public opinion into consideration, where individuals on Twitter deemed Jolie deserving of the incident, judging her on her former “wild child” reputation. In contrast, Pitt has not been reprimanded for working with Harvey Weinstein, a convicted abuser, on two projects despite being aware of Weinstein's reputation. Not to mention there has been limited discourse online regarding these abuse allegations, seen by his intact professional reputation as he is still able to obtain acting roles like in Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, showing little impact on his public perception.

Society's fascination with women's pain is not limited to the living. The recent Netflix movie *Blonde* directed by Andrew Dominik is a two-hour and 46-minute horror flick that essentially reduces the life of Marilyn Monroe into a fetishized porno of trauma and heartbreak. The film focuses only on the physical and emotional pain

It reduces her life down to these moments, suggesting she wasn't a strong and capable woman with interests outside of her abuse.

Monroe endured through many miscarriages, sexual assaults, and her exploitation in Hollywood, leaving viewers to question the intentions behind the movie. It superficially relays her trauma, consciously not acknowledging her psyche behind the experiences. The issue here isn't that the film references her trauma, instead, it is that it reduces her life down to these moments, suggesting she wasn't a strong and capable woman with interests outside of her abuse. The fictional nature of this movie furthers this misconception as it only works to diminish her real-life experiences and accomplishments, reducing her to a shell of a woman who is exploited beyond the grave to line the pockets of the men behind its production.

The reality of this situation is women today are afraid to speak up about their abuse in fear of not being believed, despite false allegations representing less than six percent of all reported abuse claims. It is especially problematic when even women with power and influence like Jolie and Heard are treated with limited credibility. It leaves regular women asking if society is willing to discredit these women, despite their evidence, resources and public influence, why would anyone believe them? In Jaclyn Friedman's article for the Guardian, she writes that “women's pain is expected, part of the wallpaper of life” as we live in a culture that views female pain as normal, and male pleasure as a right. But if we continue to re-exploit women in the way we tell their stories, we only perpetuate the idea that women do not deserve the respect we willingly grant powerful men.

Do you care about **barriers**
faced by **students on campus**,
quality student spaces and
an increase in student support?

Be a **part of the change**
you want to see at Waterloo.

Run for a position on the
2023-2024 WUSA Board of Directors.



These are 12-month positions.
Hours per week vary between roles
and an honorarium is available.
The 13 elected positions include:

11 Directors

1 President

1 Vice President

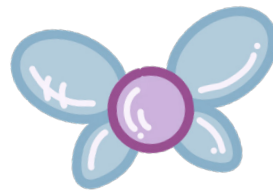
The nomination period opens
December 1st, 2022 and closes
January 25th, 2023.

Visit wusa.ca/elections for details.

Have any questions? Email cro@wusa.ca



distractions



Q: HOW DID MR. GOOSE FIND HIS WAY THROUGH PANDORA?

A: WITH A NAVI-GATOR!

Imprint Word Hunt

Avatar (The Blue One)

- PANDORA
- UNOBTANIUM
- NAVI
- HUMAN
- AVATAR
- NEYTIRI
- HOMETREE
- TREE OF SOULS
- EYWA
- OMATICAYA

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- JAKE
- TULKUN
- POLYPHEMUS
- WOODSPRITES
- VIPERWOLVES
- XENOBOTANIST
- SECOPS
- CAMERON
- WAY OF WATER
- QUARITCH

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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



ANNE ZHANG

JOHAN ALANT