



p8

MOVEMBER

Nearly 20 years of growing facial hair to raise awareness about men's mental health.



CLIMATE DELEGATES

UW team to attend global climate change conference, COP27. P4

ASTRONOMY 101 P4

Take a tour of UW's Gustav Bakos Observatory and explore the astronomy bucket list.

FLOETRY NIGHT P7

RAISE event features spoken word, poetry and songs.

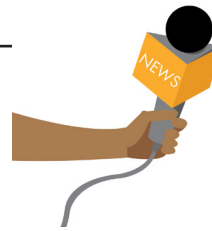
TRANSIT TROUBLE P10

What other small cities can learn from Waterloo's approach to transit.

UW honours Treaties Recognition Week



ANDREW YANG



Campus events highlight history and significance of Indigenous treaties

Alicia Wang
Editorial Assistant

This Treaties Recognition Week, Elder Myeengun Henry hopes to help community members better understand the significance of the treaties made between the Indigenous peoples and European settlers.

These treaties gave the Canadian government land to develop and settle, granting Indigenous peoples special rights and benefits. However, the Canadian government's materialistic interpretation of these treaties, compared to the Indigenous peoples' view of them as sacred, led to the Canadian government's exploitation of the Indigenous peoples and many legal disputes regarding the terms of these treaties concerning Indigenous peoples' rights.

As part of Treaties Recognition Week, Henry spoke at "The Spiritual Side of Treaties" on Monday. This event is one of several included in UW's programming for Treaties Recognition Week 2022. Other events include the launch of a new knowledge guide series, a collection of narrated seminars on topics including a timeline of the treaties and an overview of the Brantford Area, and another webinar covering the Two Row Wampum, the Haldimand Deed and the Grand River Tract, hosted by associate professor Rick Montour.

Henry explained how the Indigenous perspective is often missing from academic explanations of treaty history.

"All of our treaties were very sacred and done in ceremony, and those ceremonies included our ancestors and our Creator to be a witness to those agreements that we've had," Henry said. "So this is why I want to come from a different angle to let people know that these are sacred obligations. They're just not documents that can be null and void at some point."

Henry also described the need to overcome the misconception that treaties became void over time, as many remain valid today. "A lot of people don't understand that, and I think that's what Canada needs to know now," he said.

UW is situated on the Haldimand Tract, which was granted to the Six Nations in 1794 in Treaty Four, also known as the Simcoe Pact. The Six Nations of the Grand River include the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Tuscarora nations. The Six Nations'



ANDREW YANG

current territory is only a fraction of the territory promised to them in Treaty Four.

Henry explained the difference between Indigenous and settler understandings of land, stating that while Indigenous people viewed the land as something to respect and care for, once merchants arrived with a mindset of using land for resources, the initial atmosphere of respect changed. "[Merchants] started at that point, not respecting the original treaties that we had and wanting to dominate the land that's here," he said.

The province established Treaties Recognition Week in 2016 to respond to the National Truth and Reconciliation Committee's calls to action.

Henry stated that although long-term change will take time, he hopes that Treaties Recognition Week will "spark interest" in people's minds and encourage them to take steps to understand the significance and history of the treaties. He cited the implementation of mandatory Indigenous courses for high school students in British Columbia as an example of a step forward in fostering this understanding to build better relations with Indigenous peoples.

"That's my hope, you know, that we start recognizing the relationship between Indigenous people and the settlers...so that we can start honouring those treaties that we have," he said.

Robin Stadelbauer, director of Indigenous relations at UW, said students can explore Indigenous perspectives via the Indigenous studies minor, non-credit Indigenous courses, and through its partnership with Indigenous Workways. The project is a collaborative research effort between scholars and Indigenous research centres to sustainably solve the issue of underemployment within the young Indigenous workforce.

Henry also stressed the importance of enacting change by educating people now. "If I don't start this process and build on the sacredness of these treaties, then it kind of will sit there again for another generation. So I think that we're at a good stage of commitment at this university, with the right personalities to start focusing on this important issue." Henry also emphasized the importance of teaching the current generation to foster long-term change.

The contributions of people dedicated to

reconciliation at UW were also noted, with Henry pointing out chancellor H.E. Dominic Barton's recent donations to the university to fund various student opportunities, including a new award for community-involved Indigenous students. "The commitment ceremony here was a door opener for much of Canada to say that an institution at this size, represented by the president, will explore [reconciliation] now, and give ourselves a chance to understand how we need to educate everybody who comes to this university, on the reason why treaties were made...I'm so honoured that our president made that commitment and this university is acting on behalf of that," Henry said.

Henry also gave an update regarding Indigenous involvement in Waterloo at 100, an initiative by the university to work towards goals set to be reached by UW's 100th anniversary. He explained the current work towards a set of terms and references to help guide further progress in reconciliation and emphasized the importance of effective change, stating, "It has to be effective, and it has to be able to sustain you know, the many years of the university."

Imprint Ink: Icarus and the Lyre



My Icarus tattoo was created by Lucille Sims at Mom's Tattoo Shop in Waterloo. It was done in October 2020 — my first year of uni, just one month after moving away. I have always loved tattoos, and getting one not only felt like an 'adult' thing to do, but I knew it would become a unique and authentic part of my identity. I had no idea how healing it would become.

The story of Icarus comes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* — a beautiful and famous piece of Latin poetry. Icarus's father, Daedalus, was a renowned Greek inventor, and both of them were trapped at the top of a tower. Daedalus used bird feathers and candle wax to create wings that would enable him and his son to leap from the tower, fly away and escape. It was a success, and Daedalus and Icarus soared. Daedalus called out to Icarus not to fly too close to the sea; otherwise, his wings might touch the water, and he'd crash. Famously, he also warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun, or the heat would melt the wax, and Icarus would fall. However, Icarus — enamoured by the divine feeling of flight and liberation — flew higher and higher, breaking through the clouds. The sun melted the wax, and Icarus plummeted to the sea below and drowned.

Icarus, to me, is a metaphor for love and relationships. I got this tattoo when I was recovering from a toxic relationship. Like Icarus, I flew too close to the sun — I gave too much of myself, overjoyed by

the feeling of being seen, but in the end, I was burnt by manipulative, inauthentic love, and I crashed. I nearly drowned during my recovery. I thought I would never be able to swim to shore.

This tattoo felt like a love letter to me. It is a reminder to set boundaries and find a balance in my relationships — not to hide and give too little, fly too close to the sea or give myself away for the sake of whoever is the metaphorical 'light of my life.' It reminds me to listen to my gut and the people in my life who care about me, but above all, it reminds me to respect myself.

I love music and also have a soft, personal connection to the god Apollo. My lyre tattoo is yet another nod to Greek mythology, and it ties together all of the famous Greek figures I love — Apollo, Achilles and Orpheus. It was done by Sean Martin at Perfect Image Tattoo in Waterloo in October 2021.

Both tattoos are on my arms, which have been a source of insecurity for me. I've always worried that my arms are too big and ugly, but getting tattoos here has forced me (in a beautiful way!) to shed some of that insecurity. I worry less about people looking at me and judging me — instead, they see the beautiful art on my body.

Remy Leigh
Arts & Life Editor



MEAGAN LEONARD

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WRITE FOR SCIENCE AND TECH

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Road to COP27

UW delegation to attend global climate conference

Bethany Helaine Pöltl
Reporter

From Nov. 6 to 18, representatives from over 190 countries will gather in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt for COP27 as the world watches to see what decisions will be made on climate change, decarbonisation efforts and our future.

The University of Waterloo is sending a delegation of four official observers to COP27 through the Waterloo Climate Institute. On Nov. 2, the delegation held a Road to COP27 panel, discussing opinions, key issues and Canada's role in negotiations. The term 'COP' is short for 'Conference of the Parties'.

In 1992 during the 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted. This international treaty provides the framework for climate change negotiations of which COP is the decision making body. Every year COP is hosted by a different government and attempts to build on the work and negotiations of previous conferences.

At COP21 in 2015, the 'Paris Agreement' was reached. The goal of the Paris Agreement was to limit global warming to below 2 degrees celsius.

Going into COP27 there is an increased



sense of urgency since previous goals for climate change reduction, such as the Paris Agreement, have not been met.

"Observers play an enormously important role... the presence of observers enhances the transparency of the negotiations," said Sarah Burch, executive director for the Waterloo Climate Institute and associate professor of Geography and Environmental Management.

Burch will be acting in multiple roles during COP. At the conference, Canada's first ever National Adaptation Strategy will be launched, of which Burch was a member of the Strong and Resilient Economy advisory table. The goal of the National Adaptation Strategy is to unite all levels of Canadian gov-

ernment in shared action to build economic and social resilience to climate change.

Zahid Butt, assistant professor at the School of Public Health Sciences, emphasized during the panel, "...We talk about multi sector collaboration... I think that should be strengthened. I think we work in silos. We should be working together. Health, environment, transportation, agriculture all these sectors should be working together."

This focus on collective action was shared by the delegates. Irsa Saeed is a PhD candidate in sustainability management with research focused on the eradication of energy injustice in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her message for students is to "...consider that cli-

mate change is not only affecting the Global North and Canada specifically but it is an issue that is impacting communities everywhere across the world...COP is a space where grassroots organizations, activists from all over the world gather, exchange their knowledge and find ways to improve the conditions of their own communities."

Alexandra Ho, the fourth delegate and a Master of Climate Change student with a background in Psychology & English Literature, was already in Egypt at the time of the Road to COP27 panel.

As COP27 is currently underway and we can see the progress being made, it inspires the question: How can the UW population, specifically students, engage in these discussions?

Burch stated, "I think that there is a lot of reason for hope. There are lots of really incredible examples of progress on climate change. It seems like an overwhelming problem at times and it certainly is an enormous challenge, but we have clear evidence of actions that are working now around the world. The youth movement and youth engagement in the issue has been a real source of momentum. I think there's no action too small, engaging on campus and in your community is part of that momentum so I really hope students engage any way they can."

UW's astronomy bucket list

Robyn Clarke
Reporter

The night sky holds many secrets. The immense vastness of the universe often offers more questions than it does answers, but there is something undeniably beautiful about the mysteries of the cosmos that both intrigues and frightens us.

The University of Waterloo is home to its own observatory atop the physics building. The Gustav Bakos Observatory, named after the first UW astronomer who conducted research here in the 1960s, allows anyone to engage with astronomy in a unique environment through free monthly tours.

Cam Morgan, a physics and astronomy PhD student, explained a number of phenomena that anyone can observe in the near or far future for aspiring astronomers. "The astronomy bucket list [items] are just ideas

for anyone to add to their own list," Morgan said. "Astronomy is more about sharing these experiences with people and the overall sense of wonderment about our universe."

The list begins with a solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun, thereby obscuring Earth's view of the Sun, totally or partially. The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed, partially eclipsed, or annularly eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as "eclipse glasses." If this interests you, gather your glasses and mark your calendars — the next solar eclipse takes place on April 8, 2024.

Next on the list is a lunar eclipse. A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon moves into Earth's shadow, and this can occur only when the sun, Earth and the moon are closely aligned. The last total lunar eclipse occurred on Nov. 8.

Meteor showers and comets are two oth-

er bucket list items. A meteor shower is a celestial event in which a number of meteors are observed in one area of the sky. This year, the Leonids Meteor Shower will light up the night sky from Nov. 17–18, an event that only occurs once every 33 years. Comets are a bit more rare, such as Comet NEOWISE, which recently passed us in mid-July 2020, yet only circles Earth every 6,000 years. Halley's Comet, on the other hand, is the only known short-period comet regularly visible to the naked eye, and the only naked-eye comet that can appear twice in a human lifetime. Tune in for Halley's next appearance in July 2061.

For sky phenomena that are a bit more accessible viewing-wise, Morgan explained that the easiest planets to spot in the sky are Jupiter and Saturn, appearing as bright dots on the left and right, respectively, beside the Moon. On a clear night and with a bit of squinting, you can see

both planets looking southeast. If you can find the Moon, you can find Jupiter and Saturn, which we viewed through the telescope on the tour.

Constellations, clumps of stars that form a familiar shape, are also easy to spot in the sky on a clear night. Some of us may know the famous ones, such as the Big Dipper and its spoon-like shape, but constellations have symbolized a number of important myths for different people. For example, the Big Dipper is known to some Indigenous peoples as a weasel, summarised in the Legend of the Fisher, a creation story showing how ancient peoples viewed the constellations as animals that brought them gifts of nature.

The Canadian Space Agency's website includes a number of tips and tricks to ensure a quality stargazing experience. For more information about the Gustav Bakos Observatory email, observatory_updates-join@lists.uwaterloo.ca.



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Artist Spotlight: The Standstills

Remy Leigh
Arts & Life Editor

For The Standstills, performing music is all about love and celebration. “As much as we love being in the studio, being creative and writing songs, the other side of what we do is performing, and over the past couple of years we haven’t been able to do that as much as we love to. Being on stage is such a rush [...]. It’s a very unique feeling that is hard to describe because it’s a celebration of all of the hard work in the studio, writing, and that’s what puts us on a stage, and being able to celebrate the songs with everyone and have fun.”

The Standstills are a rock duo composed of Jonny Fox (guitar, vocals) and Renee Couture (drums). The two met in London, Ontario and formed in 2010, and are currently based in Oshawa. The Standstills cite Queens of the Stone Age as one of their biggest inspirations, and it rings through in their music. The band has been described as Queens of the Stone Age meshed with The White Stripes. They have released three studio albums, *The Human Element* (2011), *Pushing Electric* (2012) and *Badlands* (2019), as well as an EP titled *From the Devil’s Porch* (2015). The Standstills recently released a new single in collaboration with Eagles of Death Metal, titled *Motherlode*, an excerpt from their upcoming album *Shockwaves*. Currently The Standstills are preparing to tour across Canada, alongside *Three Days Grace* and *The Warning*, to promote their upcoming release beginning in Vancouver on Nov. 8. According to Fox, *Shockwaves* was born of a rather serious time and place. During the pandemic, the inspiration for the album came from an urgency and desire to produce the greatest album possible, as if it were their last.

“When we started working on it, with the state of the world at the time, it almost felt like it was going to be the last album we could ever make,” Fox said. “This needs to be some of everything we have ever done, this needs to be the most incredible thing we ever do, because this might be the last thing we put out into the world.”

This sense of finality is prominent in the writing process, but it remains con-

stant in their performances as well. “The process is always changing from day to day, but there are a few common things. I start with the music – it’s like the canvas – and then the lyrics tell the story and [put] the paint onto the canvas. It’s painting a picture of everything, and that’s how I perceive the writing process and it seems to be working,” Fox said. Fox believes it is important to devote every effort to ensuring that their fans enjoy themselves and feel like their money and time was well spent. “The people that are [at a show] are spending money to be there, and spending time to be there, and they look forward to these shows. Whatever position they’re in – if they’re working a nine-to-five, or whatever jobs they’re working at to be able to afford the time and money to be there and are looking forward to it – I want to make it like every single show is like our last show and it is as special as it can be.” For Fox and Couture, who are husband and wife, navigating music creation and the industry together can bring divisions to the surface, however they are united in their relationship by their similar goals and their love for music. “It has taken a bit for us to build a solid process together, and that’s like with anybody or any relationship,” Fox said, “It takes time to understand – or try to understand – each other as much as possible, so we find ourselves on a lot of common ground, and we know that we have the same goal. That is the most important thing, which is that the goal is the song. We try to help each other and we try to work with each other’s strengths.”

“Whenever we have any differences of opinion, we try to look at it instead of, ‘We don’t like certain things,’ it’s, ‘What do we like about certain things,’ and we press on those things more. Like any relationship, I feel like the approach is to focus on the positive as opposed to looking at the negatives.”

As The Standstills are busy preparing for tour, both Fox and Couture are heavily involved within the creation and planning of the tour, as well as their own music. However, in spite of the pressures, their dedication is for the fans. As the music industry has evolved over the years and The Standstills have continued to make music, keeping a ‘fan first’ mindset can be challenging. For Fox, however, the fans are one of the biggest reasons why they make music.

“It’s easy to let your mind run with that perspective of things that get in the way of what’s more import-

ant, and sometimes that’s just because the industry is so competitive,” Fox explains. “There are a lot of politics that get involved, and sometimes those politics push their agenda so hard in the industry you can be saturated by it if you’re looking at the social aspect of it, like on social media. There’s stuff that can get in the way of what’s most important, but what’s most important for us is why we started doing what we do which comes down to the art of it and fans.” On their upcoming tour, The Standstills welcome the rush of adrenaline that performances bring, and are excited to make an impact on their fans nationwide. After a long, global state of tumult and unrest, performing music is a refuge, and a return to their roots as musicians and performers. As a band that is grateful to their fans and one that tries to savour every moment, they hope to provide themselves and their fans with a space for love, positivity, and celebration.

Fox said, “*Shockwaves*, is a rock and roll love story. I hope that people feel the love in the story, and that they feel all of the love that comes with that, like the enjoyment, the fun of it; enjoying life, and the passion behind [the album].”

That’s what a love story is – it’s full of passion -- but also [there’s] just the fun side of it. It doesn’t have to be so serious. Life’s too short to sweat the small stuff and get into negative spaces.”

“I really hope that with the new album being a rock and roll love story that people celebrate that. My hope for everybody is that they celebrate the music and they celebrate the songs, and they enjoy what art has to offer. That’s not a tangible thing – it evokes emotion – and I hope people enjoy it to the fullest.”

Shockwaves by The Standstills was released on Nov. 4. The Standstills will be performing in Kitchener on Nov. 24 at The Centre in the Square. For more information on The Standstills and their music, visit their website at <https://www.thestandstills.com/> or their Instagram page @thestandstills



VIA THESTANDSTILLS



Flowetry at UW



Avitej Singh
Sport and Health Editor

Flowetry is a form of artistic expression through spoken word, poetry and music. The University of Waterloo's RAISE program held a Flowetry Night on November 3 at the Grad House. The far corner of the room was decorated with golden backgrounds and had a designated chair reserved for the performer. Block lights glowed in each corner of the room, creating a pleasant and relaxing environment.

The night started with poetry. The first speaker was Kelsey Mar, who performed

three poetry pieces from an upcoming poetry anthology that she is featured in titled "Scream it Back". Her first piece was centered on a Mandarin phrase, roughly translating as "to be the centre of one's heart," a phrase she cherishes because of her grandmother's adoration for her. Mar's second piece, "Truth or Dare", discussed the emotional conflict of choosing between the two. Her third piece had a phrase that resonated with the students in the audience: "Did you forget at 21, what it was like to dream at 12?"

The audience's snaps and claps were audible throughout the performances, with the audience joining in on some of

the pieces when requested. Aidan Palmer, "AP", was the second performer of the night, who performed three original hip-hop songs. He invited the crowd to sing and harmonize the chorus' melody as he took the lead on the lyrical sections himself.

RAISE's organizers and coordinators ensured that the flowetry night was a safe space for all speakers, regardless of the type of performance they chose. Jessalyn Kwarteg performed "I am them," a spoken word piece that talked about themselves as a person and what they embody as an individual.

Brianna Mann performed two songs — a cover of "Better Oblivion Community Center" and an original song titled "Strangers."

The theme of her original song revolved around "mourning a person who is still alive," and it was a song written during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Although it was her first time performing the song, Mann enamored the students in the room with her performance and received a round of applause.

The flowetry night provided students with a stage where the arts could be displayed at UW. Although there are other events planned, UW RAISE's flowetry night allowed students to perform a variety of "flows," giving them a platform to show their passion for the arts in an otherwise STEM-focused environment.



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The Movember Foundation: Raising awareness about men's mental health



VIA PEXELS

Avitej Singh
Sports & Health Editor

In 2003, Travis Garone and Luke Slattery convinced their friends in Melbourne, Australia, to grow out a moustache as a joke during the month of November. Throughout the process, they elevated the moustache from a fashion statement to a symbol of awareness around men's health. Garone and Slattery invited 30 of their friends to join the challenge, raising funds and donating them to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA). They were inspired by their friend's mother, who was raising money for breast cancer.

Since then, Movember has become one of the world's largest non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The main focus of

the Movember Foundation is to raise awareness about prostate cancer, testicular cancer and male suicide. Although frequently associated with "no-shave November," the Movember Foundation encourages men to get tested for infrequently discussed conditions and communicate openly about their health. The goal is to reduce the stigma in male communities around depression, mental health and cancer.

Movember started with 30 men who decided to reclaim the moustache — an iconic fashion statement. Movember had nearly 10,000 participants within two years, an increase from just 480 "mo bros" in 2004. In 2005, PCFA became the first official men's health partner for the Movember Foundation. In 2006, PCF New Zealand officially joined the Movember Foundation, and over 65,000 people participated in the official

Movember Foundation moustache.

The Movember Foundation exploded in popularity following this. By 2007, Movember was a worldwide organization with chapters in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Today, the Movember Foundation operates officially in 20 countries but has also inspired high school and university students to participate. The Movember Foundation has funded more than a thousand men's health projects. Over six million "mo bros" and "mo sisters" have joined the Movember Foundation.

Last year, the Movember Foundation launched a campaign called "Family Man," which claims to be the world's first online parenting program that helps fathers improve their parenting skills. The Movember Foundation also announced support for mental health initiatives in Indigenous com-

munities in Manitoba and Northern Canada, with a focus on suicide and addiction.

This year, students at the University of Waterloo will participate in official and unofficial Movember activities. UW has an official Movember chapter where students and alums can unite to raise awareness about men's health. This month, students from various faculties have declared their intention to participate in the Movember campaign. Third-year nanotechnology engineering student Karson Sewlochan is joining the movement.

"I shaved my beard off right before November 1st. My friend and I are doing Movember together, and we're excited to see how it turns out!". Hopefully, UW students, professors, and alums will see a healthier outlook toward men's mental health and cancers due to the Movember Foundation.

Recipe: Tomato Soup

By Ingrid Au

Tomato soup is one of the world's most comforting foods. As some of us wrap up midterm season while others are still in the waves of it, we can all appreciate a warm bowl of comfort.

Tools:

- Pot
- Spatula

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups of canned peeled tomatoes (about 1 can)
- 1 cup of chicken or vegetable broth
- Fresh or dried basil
- 2 garlic cloves (finely diced)
- Half of a shallot
- Olive oil
- 1 ½ tbsp of butter
- Black pepper
- Salt

Instructions:

- How you chop your aromatics depends on the texture you are looking for in your soup. If you are looking for something more chowder-like, slice your shallots. If you fancy a blended texture, finely dice your shallots.
- In a pot, heat the oil and butter to cook the garlic and shallots until golden brown and softened. If you are using dried basil, add it now. Add the tomatoes and crush them with a spatula until the juices have formed a soup base. Combine the broth with the crushed tomatoes and add a pinch of salt once the mixture boils. If you are using fresh basil, add it now. Let the soup simmer on low heat for about 10 minutes. Finish with black pepper and serve.
- Grilled cheese is tomato soup's faithful companion. Add sweet peppers, cauliflower or beets to your soup to spice things up. Whether you have just finished exams or are still in the midst of them, a warm bowl of soup can be a source of comfort amid this hectic season. Take care!



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WATERLOO WARRIORS

THIS WEEK IN ATHLETICS

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

SARAH GLYNN
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KINESIOLOGY

LEA

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 Student Life Centre, Rm 0137
 University of Waterloo
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
 P: 519.888.4048 | F: 519.884.7800
 uwimprint.ca

Publisher: Andres Fuentes
 Executive Editor: Meagan Leonard
 Editorial Assistant: Alicia Wang
 Sales Rep: Vacant
 Distribution: Vacant
 Volunteer Co-ordinator: Vacant

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Next scheduled pitch/post-mortem meeting:

Nov 9, 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.

UW INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION



opinions



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On-route to efficient transit:

As a person who has relied on transit as their primary mode of transportation throughout high school and university, I believe transit is sorely underfunded and undervalued. I am grateful to live in Waterloo most of the time, where we have the city buses, LRT, Go transit and a VIA Rail station in the region. When I am in Waterloo, I need not fret about whether there will be a bus to take me to my appointment on time or if there will be a bus at all. The LRT has been my saving grace — the longest one ever needs to wait is 15 minutes, and I can go anywhere I need to.

“Transit services are part of the public infrastructure, which provides access to basic goods and services, as well as to social and economic activities. [...] For a low-income single parent with an infant, for example, a low-floor bus may make the difference between participating in a community center program and isolation.”

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

This accessibility is only the case in some cities. When I am not in Waterloo, I am in Sarnia, where transit is limited and inefficient. A bus only passes through my neighbourhood once every hour, and I don't even live in a rural part of town. I have spent many hours waiting at bus terminals, and sometimes I must take three buses to get to the other side of town. Sarnia is not a large city; I could get to the other side of the town in 10 minutes if I were to take a car. Bus service to my house ends at 5:30 p.m., so if I want to go out in the evening, I hope I'm with

someone who can drive, as options for Uber and Lyft are practically nonexistent. There is seldom notice of route changes and delays due to construction or bus maintenance, so I have been stranded many times. It took me approximately a year of using transit every day to get to and from school before I confidently knew how to get around.

If you are someone like me who does not have a driver's license, your options are limited. Cycling is not an option either. There are bike lanes, but only in my part of town. If you want to go somewhere, your best option is to drive.

What bothers me most is the inherent car dependency in our cities. As I browse for jobs online, nearly every job posting lists a driver's license and access to a car as a requirement. It is not a preference or a suggestion — they will not hire you if you cannot drive. If the job posting is for a delivery driver, or a position involving emergency services, then I completely understand. However, simple office jobs and careers that would keep me on a consistent schedule at one location demand that I drop everything to acquire my G license.

For what? If they fear I will be late for work, I can research which buses I'd need to take to get there on time every day. If that is not possible, I enjoy cycling and will ride my bike as long as there are safe roads. If they need a license as proof of government-issued ID, I have that too — the Ontario Photo

Card is a piece of ID for those who do not have a driver's license. What does a license prove? What purpose does it serve?

I see car dependency and mandatory driver's licenses as a form of classism. Simply put, not everyone can afford a car. Bus passes and fares also cost money, but they do not come close to the cost associated with owning a vehicle, which includes insurance, gas and repairs. Many demographics use transit — students, older adults, people who are economically marginalized, people with disabilities, and new Canadians. In Sarnia, ridership is growing steadily; however, according to the Conventional Transit Master Plan submitted to the City of Sarnia, this growth has not affected investment and route network changes, meaning that transit remains inaccessible and underfunded. Sarnia has a significant aging population — according to the 2021 Census, 23 per cent of Sarnia's population is aged 65 or older — and Sarnia's Lambton College students are one of Sarnia Transit's largest captive markets.

Structuring cities around the assumption that nearly everyone owns a car ignores these demographics, even when the ability to leave one's home and get around is a right. People should not have to jump through hoops to arrive at the grocery store. This idea is enshrined by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which states, “Transit services are part of the public infrastructure, which provides access to basic



TICKLE YOUR BONES

To deal with the high price of petroleum, public transport systems are looking at alternative fuels, including grasses and herbs. The program has had some failures, but on the bright side at least the trains run on thyme.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Canada's urban transit networks carried 92.3 million passengers in July, an increase of 48.6% (+30.2 million trips) from July 2021, marking the 16th consecutive month of year-over-year growth.

the problem with car dependency in cities

goods and services, as well as to social and economic activities. [...] For a low-income single parent with an infant, for example, a low-floor bus may make the difference between participating in a community center program and isolation."

Car ownership is often associated with freedom and independence. When I was 16 and eligible to drive, this was the message I received: you no longer need your parents to drive you around! You can go anywhere you'd like, whenever you'd like! Driving shows so much maturity and independence! To a teenager, this sounds exciting. Now that I am older, I find this mindset contentious. If the ability to drive makes you an independent adult, what does that say about people who do not drive? By taking transit, I am not asking for my parents to drive me everywhere, and given that I spend most of my time in Waterloo, which has efficient transit, I can go anywhere at any time.

Is dependency such a horrid trait? We de-

pend on our governments for many things, and although capitalist ideology suggests otherwise, we are all interdependent beings. It is not childish to rely upon your city for transportation. I should not be ashamed to ask someone for a ride because it's past 5:30 p.m., and if I leave my house, I will have no way of getting home. A lack of a driver's license is not some personal character flaw of mine — it's just a choice, and I have my reasons for making that choice, yet transit users like myself are often looked down on.

In a car-dependent city, when you are a pedestrian or cyclist, you become the traffic. You're not a person taking a respectable mode of transportation — you become the congestion. In a place like Sarnia, I blame this mindset for the underfunding of transit and the lack of bike lanes. The

goal is to force people to own a car, all under the guise of 'convenience.'

Using transit should not be an inconvenience to car owners or transit riders. Only inefficient, inaccessible, unaffordable transit is inconvenient. Car dependency leaves people behind, creates a barrier for those trying to find jobs, and negatively affects the environment. I believe in clean, thoughtful cities with bike lanes, multiple forms of public transit, and efficient schedules. I believe in accessible transportation

— wheelchair accessibility and inexpensive fares, ridesharing and bike-sharing options, and bus stops with benches and shelters. I believe in a world where I do not have to acquire a license to be hireable and people can travel freely within their cities.

Remy Leigh
Arts & Life Editor



distractions

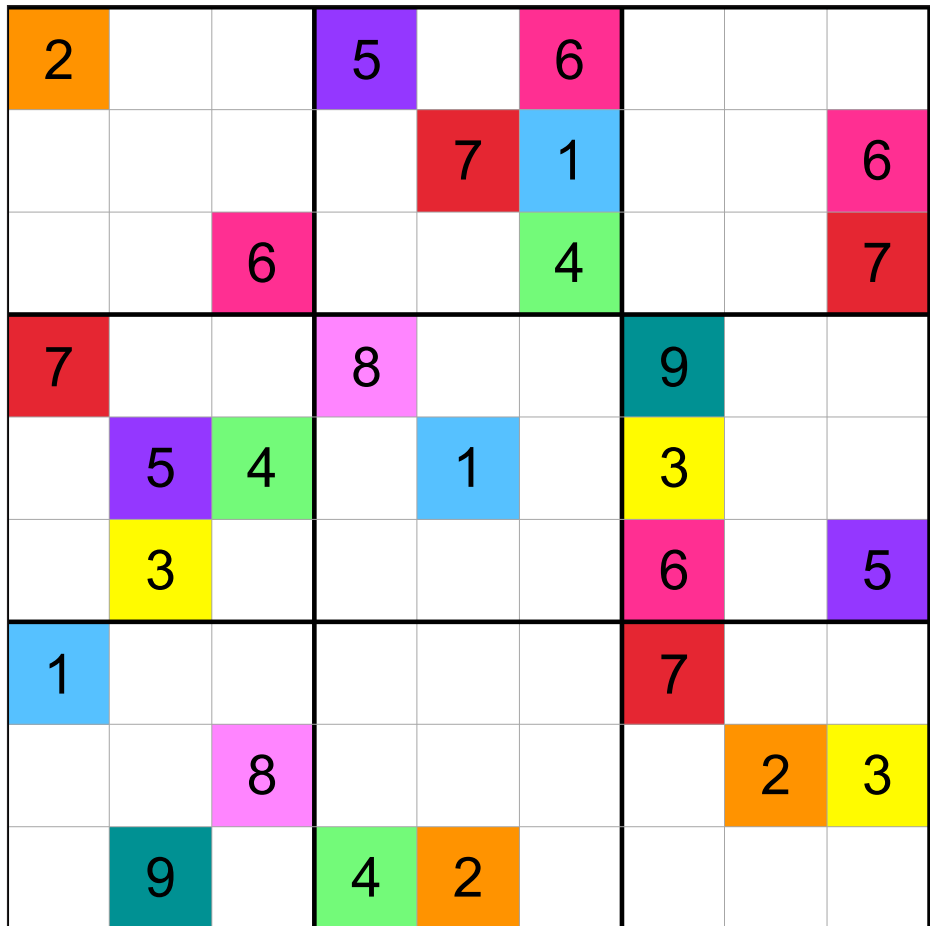


THE UK IS OFFICIALLY CHANGING ITS NAME IN HONOR OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS.

THE NEW NAME IS "U.O.K.?"

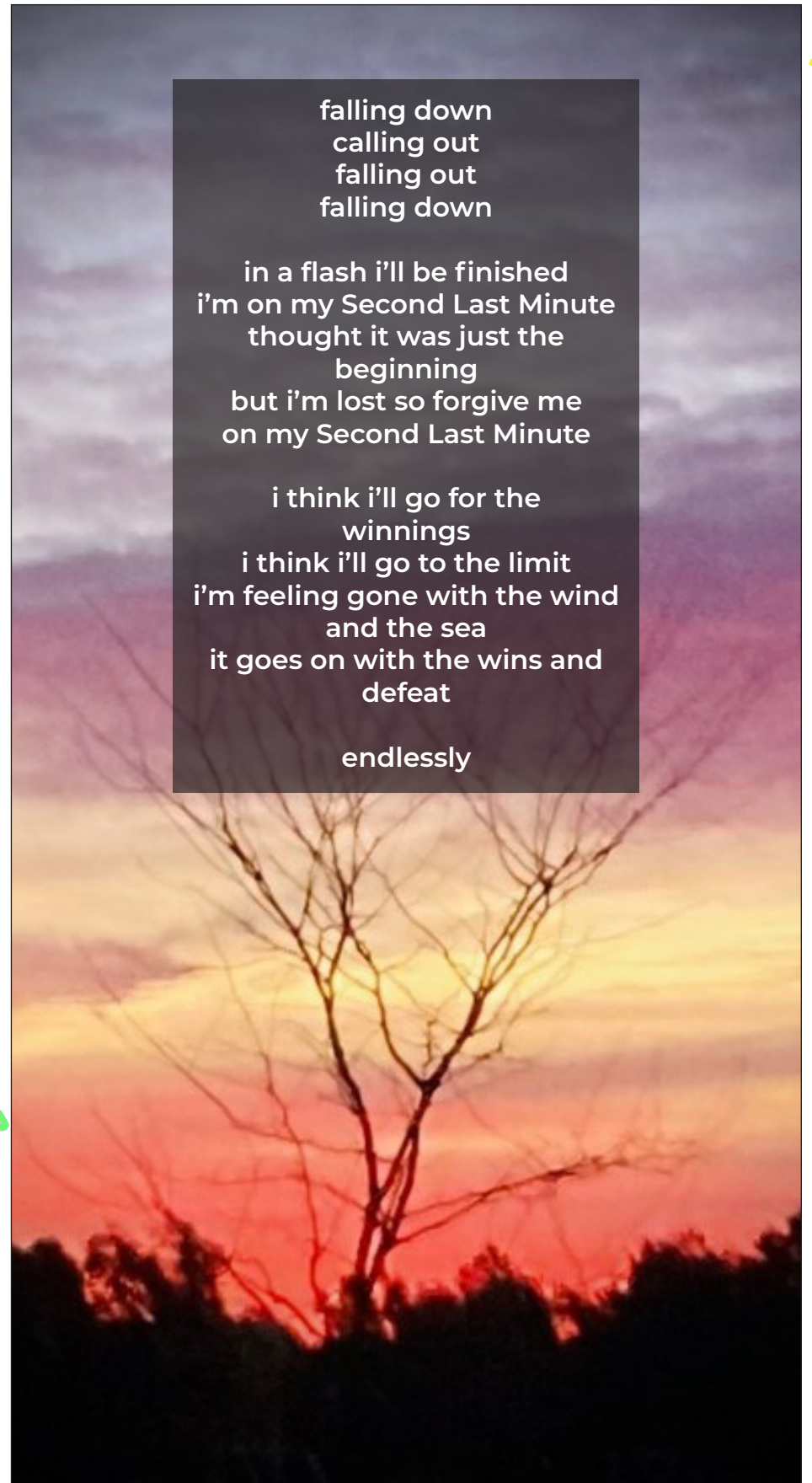
Imprint Sudoku

Level: Tough



JOHAN ALANT

Art Corner



falling down
calling out
falling out
falling down

in a flash i'll be finished
i'm on my Second Last Minute
thought it was just the
beginning
but i'm lost so forgive me
on my Second Last Minute

i think i'll go for the
winnings
i think i'll go to the limit
i'm feeling gone with the wind
and the sea
it goes on with the wins and
defeat

endlessly

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



ANNIE ZHANG

Second Last Minute by Ben Crasto (Instagram: @bencrasto)