

im print

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DATING ON CAMPUS

Is it possible to balance love and academics, or is UW simply a 'virgin sanctuary'?



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WRITE FOR NEWS

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Imprint TLDR: This week on campus

Abhiraj Lamba
Managing Editor

JAN 31

Conrad Grebel prof nominated for Juno Award

Mark Vuorinen, associate professor and chair of music at Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo, was nominated for a Juno Award for Classical Album of the Year (Large Ensemble), along with The Elora Singers.

Vuorinen is the artistic director and conductor of The Elora Singers. They have been nominated for their album, *Radiant Dawn: Music for Advent and Christmas*.

The Juno Awards will take place in Edmonton on March 13.

Source: junoawards.ca

FEB 7

GRADflix winners announced

Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (GSPA) hosted its annual GRADflix showcase, an event featuring the best 60-second videos made by graduate students to describe their research.

Andrew Stella, a chemical engineering student won first place and the people's choice award for his video, *Robust*, wearable sensors for firefighters made using conductive polymers.

In second place was geography student, Caitlin Laidlaw, followed by electrical and computer engineering student, Ben Zhang in third place and public health sciences student, Kiran Dhuga in fourth.

Amy Tai, a systems design engineering student won the first ever social impact award for her video on improved treatment of breast cancer.

Source: UW Daily Bulletin

FEB 9

WUSA board votes to request an interim plan for the bombshelter space

WUSA board votes to request an interim plan for the bombshelter space

At the last meeting of the WUSA board of directors, there was a unanimous vote to request an update from staff regarding the bombshelter lounge plan as well as an interim plan to allow the space to be used by students for events and clubs.

Directors brought up the lack of bookable student spaces as

WUSA staff clarified that the space is in the process of being reopened and tentatively expects to have it reopened by March.

Source: Youtube (@yourwusa)

FEB 13

WUSA election period begins

WUSA's election period for its 2023-24 board of directors is running from Feb. 13 - 15. Undergraduate students at the university will be electing 11 directors, a vice-president and a president of the board.

There are 21 candidates running for the director seats, who will be elected using instant runoff voting. Both the president and vice-president races have only one candidate each, and will therefore be decided by a binary approval vote.

Students can vote at vote.wusa.ca.

Source: wusa.ca

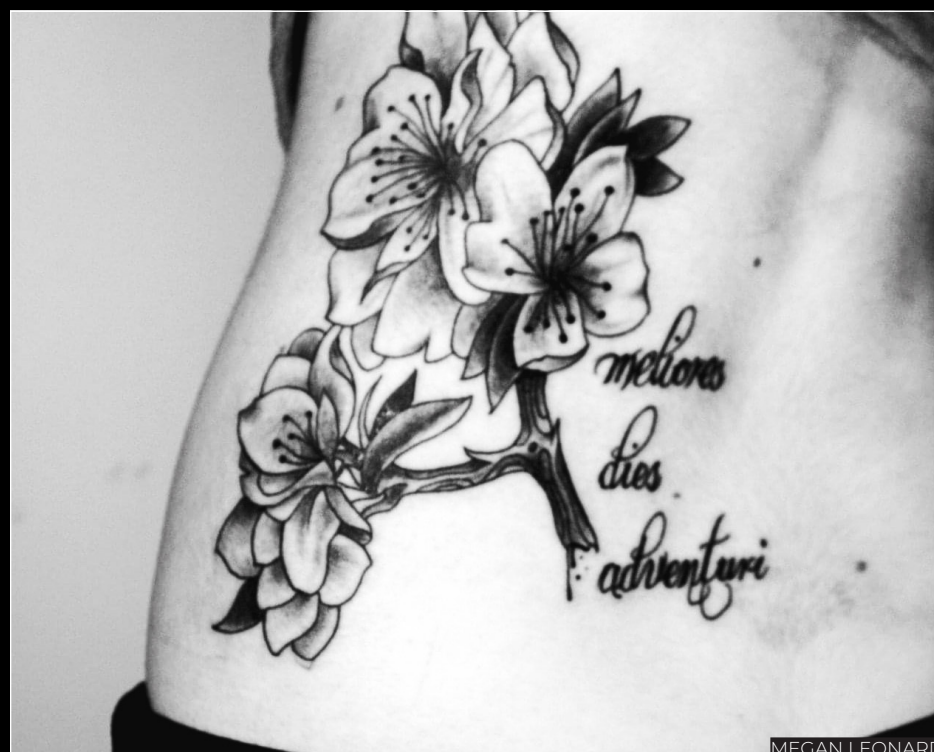
Imprint Ink: Better days ahead

It's hard to condense the story of my tattoo into a few hundred words because it represents a person, a relationship, and an event that forever changed me. But I'll try my best. I got this tattoo in 2010 — one year after my grandpa was tragically killed in a tree-cutting accident. Suddenly, my favourite person was gone, and my favourite place in the world was a constant reminder of what I'd lost.

It was one of those mid-summer thunderstorms that appeared on the horizon late in the afternoon and descended with torrential rain and high winds, bending the young trees and claiming the old with the crack of splintered wood. One of the ancient trees in my grandpa's front yard was one such victim, and during the clean-up, the storm ultimately claimed him too. Grandpa was a gardener — his large backyard was filled with grape vines, pumpkin patches, raspberry canes, blackberry bushes, rows of peas, beans, corn... and apple trees. The apples were always sort of sad looking — small and filled with worms, but the trees, blossoming in spring and twisting and austere in winter, were always beautiful. I spent many hours in the garden with grandpa, talking about various things, often complaining about this or that. He would listen silently until I reached the end of my diatribe, then offer the same piece of advice each time: "Cheer up, Meagan. There are better days ahead."

In folklore, apples represent hope, strength, wisdom, and death. The broken branch on my back represents the broken branch that took my grandpa, but it is in blossom, symbolizing the hope and rebirth that inevitably comes after every descent into darkness. Beside it are his words to me translated into Latin: *Meliores Dies Adventuri* — "better days ahead."

Meagan Leonard
Executive Editor



MEGAN LEONARD

It's time to cast your vote for the 2023-2024 WUSA Board of Directors.

Voting Period

February 13th – 15th, 2023

Scan here to vote!



vote.wusa.ca





Using AI to envision a sustainable campus

Students use DALL-E 2 to design a sustainable future for campus

Bethany Helaine Pöltl
Science & Technology Editor

What will the University of Waterloo campus look like by 2025? Students in PLAN 211 are using the AI program DALL-E 2 to create futuristic and sustainable visualizations to answer this question.

PLAN 211: Design Studio Foundations is a course taught by Dr. Katherine Perrott. The course has partnered with the Sustainability Office to explore what the UW campus could look like in the future, keeping the university's sustainability goals at the forefront.

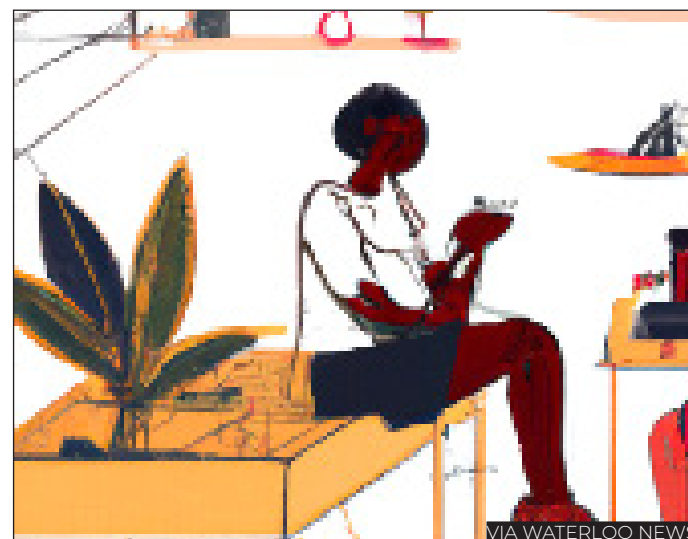
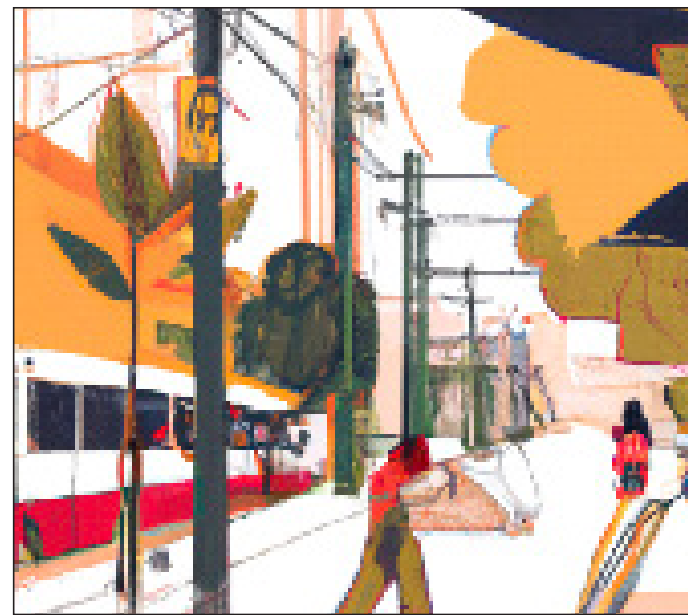
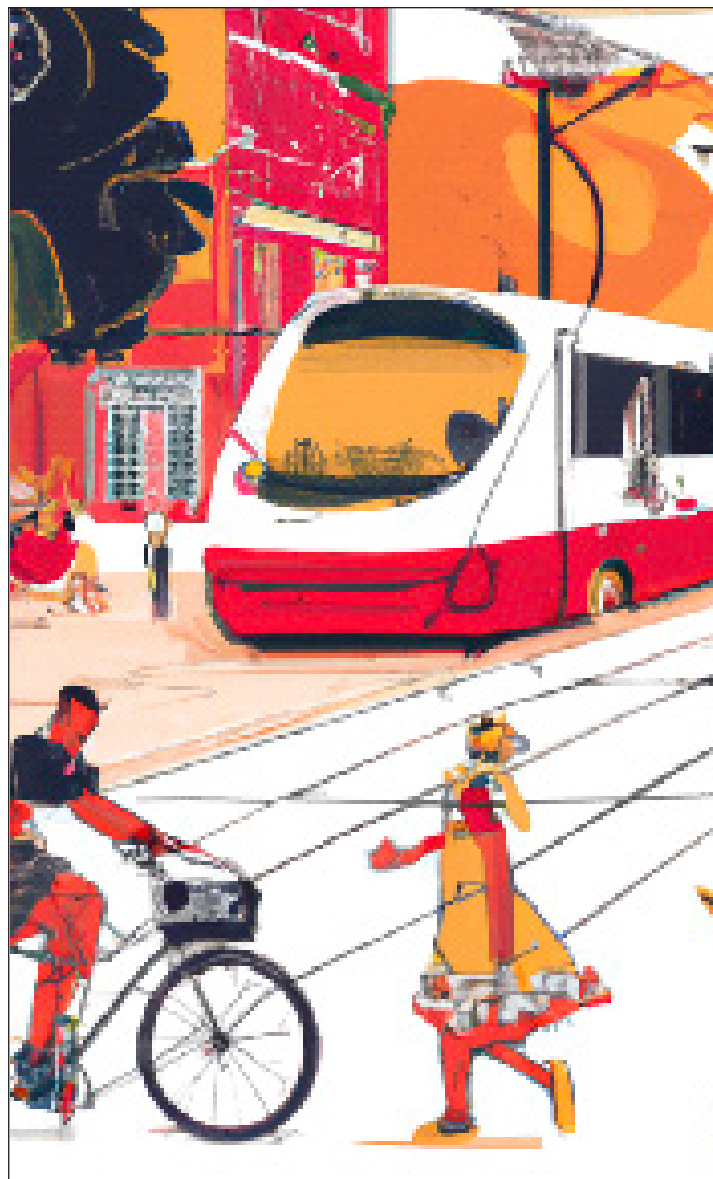
DALL-E 2 is an artificial intelligence (AI) system that was created by the same developer as ChatGPT. DALL-E 2 can design whole images based on written prompts. It recreates art and photos in various artistic styles or can create new designs. As it is a new platform there is still more to learn about the potential of the platform and possibilities for creation.

"We started [using] DALL-E 2 as a way to envision sustainable campuses. Through envisioning what it [campus] will look like through an AI you have the ability to see spatial imaginaries," said Katie Traynor, a 2B planning student. "Spatial imaginaries are a way of envisioning different perceptions of reality. When we think of sustainability sometimes we think of eco-friendly, green infrastructure, people walking or cycling instead of taking vehicles. Through this project we wanted to encapsulate the idea of possibly making changes and renovations to the University of Waterloo."

For this project, students started with an initial command for DALL-E 2 that included components of a sustainable campus. Then they added commands until the image generated by the AI resembled their sustainable vision. The image created was turned into a poster.

Traynor's project, 'Techno Utopia,' was based on the objective of a "sustainable future within a university campus" and Danish architect Jan Gehl's words, "Life, space, buildings — in that order."

Green is a prominent color in Traynor's poster as the AI has interpreted "lush vegetation" and created trees and green space. A water feature is also present. People sitting in these outdoors spaces and biking along the path show how spaces could be reinvi-



VIA WATERLOO NEWS

sioned and used on campus. The Sustainability Office released a draft of the Sustainable Landcare Standard in fall 2022. Part of this standard is biodiversity. Looking at the posters created using DALL-E 2 there is a variety of different green space designs. When approaching changes to campus with a sustainable mindset, understanding the diversity of species on campus is important in developing strategies to protect them while transforming our campus landscape.

After using DALL-E 2 to generate an image, students reflected on their idea of a sustainable campus and their stance on the future of AI in urban design.

"I believe AI has a big role to play in the future of urban design. It can be super help-

ful in developing ideas and making concepts, as it has the entire internet's worth of precedents to draw from. It is nowhere close to rendering human urban designers obsolete, at least in its current form, but it can certainly be a very useful tool for planners," said Khalil Heron, a 2B planning student.

Heron's project 'The Future of Our Urban Street Scapes' was inspired by the objective of creating an "attainable sustainable future for our cities."

Their poster stands out, vibrant red and orange colors used to compose the scene of a city street. The train, a focal point of the image, is reminiscent of the TTC, or the local ION. People biking and walking are also seen. These forms of transporta-

tion coexist to communicate the idea of people-centric streets. This concept can be applied to the future of campus, by reviewing the accessibility of biking and walking infrastructure.

All 30 student posters are on display in EV3. Looking at each unique concept and image created offers a variety of opportunities for sustainability, future campus design, how nature can be integrated with buildings and the continued use of AI.

The projects are on display for the next two weeks in the studio gallery, located in the corridor beside the Design Studio (EV3 2402). Interested students can visit the second floor of EV3 to see more future possibilities for a sustainable campus.

World's smallest camera

Changing the scope for stroke victims in medicine

Khalid Safdar
Assistant Science & Technology Editor

With the advancement of medicine and technology, new discoveries are pivotal for mankind's sustainable future. This new potential life saving news is pioneered and honed by two graduates from the University of Waterloo: Michael Phillips and his roommate Phillip Cooper. They both graduated in 2017 with a bachelors in mechanical engineering with an entrepreneurship option and co-founded Vena Medical.

Termed as the Vena MicroAngioscope and the Vena Balloon Distal Access Catheter (Vena BDAC), these two inventions strive to save stroke victims by removing blood clots in the brain. The Vena MicroAngioscope provides physicians with the world's smallest camera, flexible and capable of going inside veins and arteries. It was invented for their Capstone Design project which ended up securing support from the Esch awards, the Engineer of the Future Fund, and the Palihapitiya Venture Creation Fund, for a total of \$50,000.

Vena BDAC, their other, relatively new invention recently acquired Health Canada's approval. Combined with the balloon guide catheters and distal access catheters that are currently used in thrombectomy, it allows for closer removal of clots from the stroke victims' brains. This improves the key metrics like first pass success rate, allowing for the removal of the clot on the first try leading to significantly better patient outcomes. "First pass" is defined as the insertion of the laryngoscope blade into the oropharynx — a part of the throat at the back of the mouth, behind the oral cavity — regardless of whether an attempt was made to pass the endotracheal tube. First-pass success is crucial for reducing adverse events such as hypoxemia and aspiration. Their method also reduces the number of devices needed to treat each patient which, in turn, reduces the overall cost of the procedure.

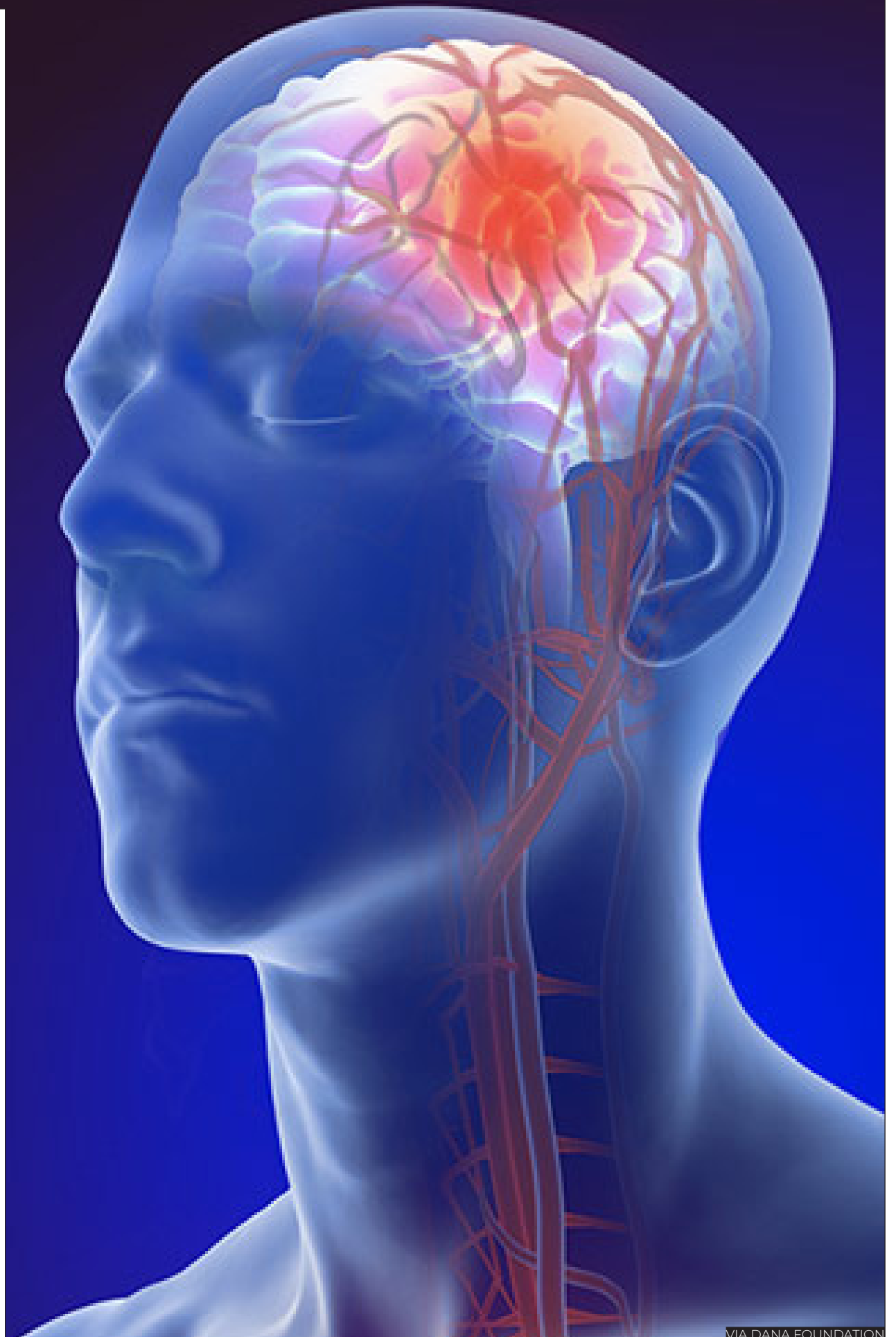
In an interview with GlobeNewswire, Phillips expressed his thoughts on Health Canada licensing their innovations as follows:

"The issuance of our first Health Canada Medical Device License shows that we're capable of bringing innovative solutions to the neurovascular space. The Vena BDAC is the result of intensive collaboration with physicians who perform these procedures every day. The addition of pivotal team members is a sign of our commitment to bring devices like the BDAC to market and ultimately get them into the hands of the clinicians performing these life changing procedures."

Vena Medical's head of commercial operations, Adam Karamath, told GlobeNewsWire expressing his thoughts on the team's trajectory.

"Obtaining important regulatory clearances like this one, coupled with the expansion of our team through key senior hires is allowing us to transition from a start-up to a scale-up,"

Phillip and Cooper started Vena Medical in 2017, and now have a team of six people helping them achieve the goals that they have set for themselves. They have also recently announced the successful treatment of five patients in the World at London Health Services Center (LSHC) University Hospital and The Ottawa Hospital. Their pre-clinical trials have been published in the American Journal of NeuroRadiology and the Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery as they soar to make a change in the medical world.





Virgin Vibes, Meet-Cutes & Love in the Loo

Exploring campus relationships post-pandemic

Georgia Berg
Reporter

After 'academics' or 'coop', the University of Waterloo might be best known as a virgin sanctuary. A stroll through campus presents questions abound: Is anyone here getting any? What do couples (if they exist) even do here? Study together quietly? I sat down with students to hear about UW virgin vibes, dating recommendations, and campus love stories.

When students at the Pure Math Club office were asked if they would like to comment on sex and dating on campus for Imprint, they erupted into laughter. Like any other stereotype, we see a disparity in behaviour between those who wish to accept, reject, or subvert expectations. Subversion of expectations might explain the fascination with sex among math students — legends of MC basement orgies, the 'Escort Dude Redemption Arc' on r/uwaterloo, and the recent mathNews article "RATING EVERY UW RESIDENCE FOR HAVING SEX." The fixation with sex seems to be fueled by the allegations of mass virginity, taking on a new level of taboo.

When asked if the virgin stereotype is true, Sandra Irek, a 1B legal studies student, said, "Yeah, I think so... I'm here, it'd have to be." We shared a laugh, and she continued, "... I hear at other universities, it's just a lot easier to be social and make friends, and obviously that would go with dating as well."

Reliance on online dating seems to be falling out of fashion as we return to our pre-pandemic habits. Janine Louis, a 4A psychology and legal studies student, talked about the changes to the dating scene as we move out of COVID measures. "I feel like just something has changed. Like especially being back in person, you're craving that increased sociability."

Maitea Soto, a 3A AFM student, sees value in meeting organically, especially as you move from your teens into your early twenties. "I think that there's something really special about meeting someone organically and just having the guts to be like 'Hey, you're cute. What's your number?'"

Despite the fact that most people who I spoke with wanted more in-person interaction, there's a lot of perceived social pressure stopping students from actually acting on this. "It's a nerve-wracking thing to talk to someone even platonically; asking someone out romantically is even bigger," said Rasleen Pannu, a 4A psychology & SMF student.

She still encourages people to get out there. "At the end of the day, the way you walked in would be the way that you're leaving. If they reject you, it just doesn't really make a difference."

Sebrina Joergensen, a 3B literature & rhetoric student, had her own meet-cute story. Joergensen explained how she spotted her boyfriend at the Glow Centre: "On my left at a different table was a guy with a chewlery necklace and tie-dye crocs,

and I thought 1) he's autistic, like me! and 2) this is the cutest guy I have ever seen. So of course I wanted to strike up a conversation, and I did it the only way I know how — commenting on a shared thing — autism — and infodumping about a special interest. Turns out he was also trans, like me." A couple weeks after this meeting, the pair made it official. "It's been a little over three months since then and I'm so happy with him. Moral of the story, I suppose, is to be authentic."

To couples on campus, Jordan Litt, a 1B honours biology student, advises, "Make sure you make time for each other every day." Litt says of her boyfriend, "A lot of our relationship was spent online during lockdown, and we did not have many chances to go out on dates or physically see each other. Now I get to see him all the time! Even if it's just getting a quick lunch from Tim Hortons or going for a walk through the Peter Russell Rock Garden, it's important to us to hang out despite our busy schedules."

Making time for informal dates in between classes at more aesthetically pleasing campus spots such as Funken Cafe,

the EV courtyard, and the Conrad Grebel campus, all of which come highly recommended, seem to be the key to success for couples on campus.

While walking around campus interviewing students for this article, I found myself faced with awkward little rejections over and over again. I soon found that they did not bother me: I was completely comfortable with this low-level rejection. While meeting new people and hearing about their dating lives, thoughts on love, and advice for others, I began to have a little more faith that love — or at least friendship — is out there for everyone, so long as you're willing to get comfortable with rejection.



VIA PEXELS



Review: *The Other Side of the Story*

Silliness alone does not strengthen a play

Remy Leigh and Nyah Schaefer
Assistant Arts & Life Editor and Reporter

University of Waterloo's FASS theatre company performed their production of *The Other Side of the Story* — a musical comedy intended to tell the true stories of several famous cartoon villains. The performance was a bright, lighthearted endeavour that was resourceful in its production yet forgetful of what makes a story 'tick.'

Directed by Allan Beldan and R. Brent Clements, and produced by Thomas Broadley, *The Other Side of the Story* aimed to flip the stories of The Three Little Pigs, Harry Potter, The Legend of Zelda, Jaws, Super Mario Bros, and Little Red Riding Hood on their heads. Through puns and parody, the show set out to display a sympathetic portrayal of the Big Bad Wolf, Voldemort, Ganondorf, the shark from Jaws, and Waluigi. The show also featured a different cameo on each night — on Feb. 2, a brief cameo from Ward 6 City Councillor Mary Lou Roe; on Feb. 3, faculty of mathematics lecturer Dan Wolczuk, and on Feb. 4, Waterloo MP Hon. Bardish Chagger.

There is certainly value in the creation of art for art's sake — producing something that is proudly unpolished with the purest intentions of having fun, expressing oneself, and performing without the expectation of perfection. Artists and creators of all crafts are likely to understand the pressure to make something that is professional, without flaw or error, and even marketable. Amateur theatre deliberately strips away these pressures and accepts itself as a craft that values the process of production and performance; the sheer love, passion, and hard work that goes into making a show, regardless of artistic ability or funds.

That said, our critiques of this play have very little to do with the actors themselves, the costume or set design, or anything superficial. Rather, 'amateur theatre' — if at all possible — should not be used as an excuse for weak characterization and playwriting.

The Other Side of the Story intended to retell classic stories of 'good versus evil' from the perspective of evil, and yet there were many moments when that perspective felt detached from the original characters and source materials. Parody is meant to mock, tease, and subvert, but it is fair to say that a strong parody will understand the pillars of the material it is parodying and flip them upside down. In order to know precisely where to take creative liberties and add a unique twist, one must know exactly what makes the original material what it is. What makes it feel so recognizable, familiar, and iconic to its audience? What are the sto-

ry's foundations, what values and ideas are embedded into the story, and why are they there?

The characterizations of several important characters were too far removed from the original source material to be considered 'creative liberties' taken for the sake of parody. At times, the characters felt detached beyond irony, as if little time was given to researching the stories and characters from which the original script was borrowed. In "The Only Thing Threatening Hyrule was Climate Change," an act about The Legend of Zelda from Ganondorf's perspective, it is acknowledged that Princess Zelda (played by Alice Cai) is only a 12 year-old girl, yet a considerable portion of her lines revolve around her feelings of sexual attraction and frustration towards the other characters, such as Link. The classic trope of the snobby, rich princess is leaned into, showing very little respect for the behaviour and personality of the original character. This was not a one-off situation, with characters such as Luigi from the Super Mario Bros franchise exhibiting personalities that had no connection to the original characters. There were moments when certain characters were not recognizable, even though they

were listed in the playbill, due to the lacklustre attempts to establish the character through costume and behaviour, which led to confusion.

The humour within *The Other Side of the Story* relied too heavily on sheer, unfiltered silliness, and silliness on its own does not complete a joke, let alone strengthen a play. Silliness in comedy can add flavour, but pure randomness and juvenile humour can crumble a decent foundation for a joke if used too generously. The script was littered with jokes about substances and sex, which may be a problem in and of itself, as they tended to be bland at best and insensitive at their worst. Substances and sex are often the 'low-hanging fruit' of comedies, and even if you expect the majority of your audience to be university students, integrity and creativity are perhaps more valuable to the creation of a joke than all that is dirty, raunchy, and edgy.

There is a difference between media that is funny, and media that is deliberately trying to make you laugh. Personal tastes in comedy differ, and in our opinion, the best humour is that which feels organic. Sometimes, you just know when a show is trying too hard to be funny — the jokes feel contrived, forced, and in some cases they reach

for the low-hanging fruit and try to juice as much out of it as possible. It is easy to take something you don't fully understand and find a joke in it, but when the thing you do not understand becomes an entire group of people, or a social issue that affects a group of people, you need to tread lightly. A joke about Kirby, the Nintendo character, having an eating disorder sounds incredibly funny when you have never understood or suffered the experience of an eating disorder. Substance abuse seems laughable when you have never had family members struggle and pass away because of it.

On a brighter note, Chagger appeared on the stage to joke that UW deserves to be granted the zoning laws to build an eighth engineering building, because, "it has only been four years since the last one," which sparked a genuine laugh out of me — an arts student.

To reiterate, amateur theatre does not have to be 'perfect,' but within the realm of comedy and parody, it does have some level of responsibility. In this case, refusing to acknowledge this is not a dire situation necessarily, although it can and did lead to some inconsiderate jokes. That being said, acknowledging this responsibility certainly can not hurt.



VIA FASS

sports & health



WRITE FOR SPORTS

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Warriors bring home bronze in OUA Swimming Championships

Avitej Singh
Sports & Health Editor

This past weekend, the University of Western Ontario hosted the OUA swimming competition, a three-day tournament with 42 events; 21 different events over the two gender categories of the OUA. The competition was won by the Toronto Varsity Blues, who took their ninth consecutive double banner victory by winning both categories in dominant style. The Waterloo Warriors were not to be ignored though, with event wins and podiums all throughout the three days and a competitive qualifying performance for the USports Swimming competition, the final swimming tournament of the year.

The Warriors Men's team started their three-day tournament with a third-place finish in the 4x50 meter freestyle relay. The four-man strong relay team had a decent start, with Raymond Duong only a 10th of a second adrift from the eventual winners, Toronto's Varsity Blues. The Blues increased their gap to the field in the second leg of the relay, with McMaster also in the hunt for gold. The final 50 meters saw Lukas Wormald complete his relay sector in 21.63 seconds — the fastest individual sector time of the Men's category.

Wormald put in another brilliant effort in the Men's 100 Short-Course Meter Butterfly, in which he placed second with a time of 54.45 seconds. He was only beaten to the line by Alex Boden, another varsity swimmer

for the Waterloo Warriors. Boden, a second year student, beat Wormald by less than a 10th of a second, swimming the 100 meters in 54.38 seconds. The Warriors brought home a 1-2 finish with Kent Goni Avila of the Laurier Golden Hawks completing the podium for Event 10. Avila was 3/10ths adrift of Wormald's second finish, clocking in at 54.74.

The Warriors Mens continued their day with more podium finishes. In Event 14, the 4x100 meter Medley Relay, the team finished in third place — two seconds slower than Western university Swimming, and two seconds faster than the University of Guelph. The event, however, was won in dominant fashion by the Toronto Varsity Blues, who won with a five second lead in a 3:40 second race. This third-place finish was later followed up with Wormald also winning the 50 Short-Course Meter Butterfly. Wormald won with a 0.26 second margin to Eric Ginzburg of the York Lions, finishing the sprint in 24.34 seconds.

Over the weekend, the Men's team got more podium finishes. Boden finished third in Event 24, the Men's 200 Short-Course Meter Butterfly. Boden's finishing time of 2:01:24 was nearly two seconds shy of the required 2:03:02 to qualify for the USports swimming tournament. His efforts were only superseded by Michael Sava and Benjamin Loewen of the University of Toronto, who finished with a 1:59 and a 1:58 respectively.

There was also the extremely impressive display of balancing endurance with speed by Aidan Iapicco, who took a brilliant second-place finish in Event 38, the 1500 Short-



Alex Boden (L) and Lukas Wormald (R) brought home a 1-2 finish in the 100 Meter Butterfly

Course Meter Freestyle. Iapicco's time of 15:45:75 was 10 seconds faster than the required qualifying time for the USports championship, meaning Iapicco will be taking part in the upcoming championship. Iapicco only lost to Quinn Matteis of the Varsity Blues, who clocked in at 15:39:26. However, Iapicco was 15 seconds clear of third place Hayden Bartoch of Western University Swimming.

The last event of the tournament was Event 42, the Men's 4x100 Short-Course Meter Freestyle Relay. The UW Warriors took

second place one final time for the weekend, with the team of Raymond Duong, Gavin Lusby, Samuel Pei, and Lukas Wormald finishing the event in 3:25:45. The Western University Swimming team took gold in the final event, coming within three seconds of the OUA record with a time of 3:21:70.

There were other highlight performances and qualifiers, and the UW Warriors will be looking to maintain and improve on this form moving into the USports competition.

im print

THIS WEEK IN ATHLETICS

WATERLOO WARRIORS

GO BLACK GO GOLD



BASKETBALL
FEB. 15 | (W) 6:00 PM (M) 8:00 PM
CARL TOTZKE COURT (PAC)
VS YORK



WOMEN'S HOCKEY
PLAYOFFS
FEBRUARY 22
7:00 PM | CIF ARENA
OPPONENT TBA
Limited free student tickets will be available
gowarriorsgo.ca/tickets



VOLLEYBALL
FEB. 17 | (W) 6:00 PM (M) 8:00 PM
CARL TOTZKE COURT (PAC)
VS QUEEN'S
FEB. 18 | (W) 4:00 PM (M) 6:00 PM
CARL TOTZKE COURT (PAC)
VS QUEEN'S



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Go Blue Go Gold

STORE | imprint

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

HILLARY CLARK
TRACK & FIELD
OPTOMETRY

ALEX BODEN
SWIMMING
COMPUTER SCIENCE

imprint

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Pitch/post-mortem meeting:
 Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in SLC 01377

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.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

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

opinions

Best places to study on campus this winter

As assignments and tests begin to roll around in the winter term, you'll need to find the perfect spot to get your studying done on campus. In the freezing weather many want to find somewhere cozy, so get inside away from the cold and tune into this list of the best places to study this season.

Dana Porter Library (DP)

You can't go wrong with a classic library — DP offers a range of study environments in the 10-floor building. This includes three study zones that change depending on the floor you are on. There's nothing better than going to one of the top floors and grabbing a seat to look out through the window. DP also includes the Browsers Café, which is usually open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Davis Centre Library (DC)

DC is another library that offers a range of study environments just like DP, with silent study and group study rooms. DC also includes a Tim Hortons location that is usually open longer from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays. Be aware that DC can get busy, especially with the long lineups at the Tim Hortons in the building.

Classroom Spaces

If you want a private space to study with friends, you can also use empty classrooms. Use the university's Portal app to check what is available, and be mindful as some spaces might already be in use.

Student Life Centre (SLC)

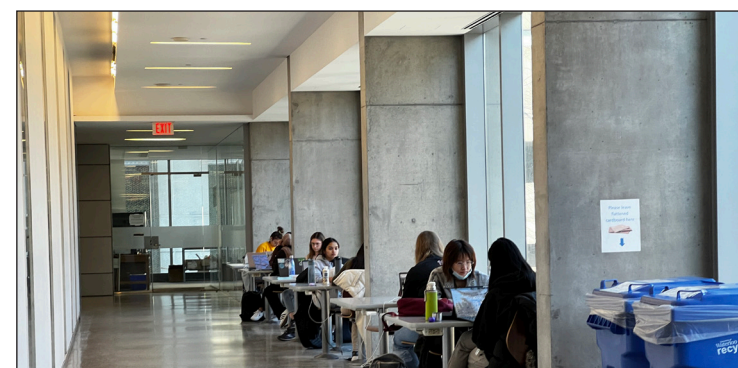
There are many spots to study within the SLC. This includes space for silent study on the third floor, as well as many tables and couches on the second and main floor. SLC is also a great place for late-night studying, as the Flock Stop (formerly International News) offers coffee and quick snacks normally 24/7.

Science Teaching Complex (STC)

STC has many tables scattered around the building and couches in the cafe area. While it is not a silent study space, some may find the atmosphere of low level noise to help them focus. Additionally, the building is home to a Starbucks that is generally open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the week.

**Quantum Nano Centre (QNC)**

Just like STC, QNC offers tables that are scattered around the building and often fill up quickly.

**Hagey Hall Hub (HH)**

HH Hub offers round tables and couches that are perfect for group study. Don't forget about the Liquid Assets Café that is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays as well!

If you are someone who likes some nice background music to help you study, HH has a piano and there is often a student playing it! For the rest, the second floor of Hagey has a silent study room where you can focus on your work.



ANDREW YANG

Michael Kershaw
IB Arts

Galaxy Cinemas: An Overpriced Experience



VIA IMDB



MELISSA HUGHES

On Jan. 10, I received an email that has a 100 percent success rate for putting a smile on a student's face — it read, "Class is canceled tomorrow." My immediate instinct was to book a ticket to watch *Avatar: The Way of Water* — a much-anticipated film for casual viewers and thirteen-years coming for its fans. The first film was hailed by both critics and the general audience for its jaw-dropping visuals and the immersive cinematic experience created by director James Cameron's use of cutting-edge technology. Hence, I wanted to have the intended immersive cinematic experience, and the best Waterloo has to offer (keeping up with industry tech standards) is at Cineplex. But my experience of the movie on the 'best screen of the theatre,' supposedly equipped with the latest technology, was underwhelming and disappointing.

Cineplex's website lists a bunch of cinephile buzzwords like UltraAVX, 3D, HFR, and ATMOS®. But what do these buzzwords really mean and how much do they truly impact the audience's experience?

According to Cineplex, UltraAVX (Ultra Audio-Visual Experience) is the combination of "superior picture quality," "comfortable seating," and Dolby Digital surround sound. Cinephiles or film directors generally agree that UltraAVX is the ideal setting for film viewing. 3D is a well-known term in

cinema and a technology popularized by the first *Avatar* movie, even though James Cameron has been shooting films in 3D since 1996, and released his first IMAX 3D film in 2003. According to Distractify, HFR stands for high-frame rate, which means the movie runs at more than 24 frames per second, and the underwater scenes in *Avatar: The Way of Water* were shot using HFR for the 3D version of the film. Lastly, ATMOS® is a surround sound technology that uses the spatial position of the speakers and Dolby audio to provide an immersive cinematic experience. All these technologies complement the movie and are offered by Cineplex; therefore, Cineplex Waterloo was the best choice to watch *Avatar: The Way of Water*.

I was happy that class was cancelled and ecstatic to watch *Avatar* the next day. I took a seat in the middle of an almost-empty high-tech Cineplex theatre to indulge in the buzzword experiences in all its glory. The first thing I noticed was that the chairs were uncomfortable and squeaked like Victorian-Era industrial machines; they must not have seen a smudge of grease or a drop of oil in ages. But that was just the prequel to a major letdown. I was eager to be hit with that crisp Dolby testing sound and subsequently be teleported to the fictional *Avatar* universe of Pandora. I wanted to swim with the whales, fly with the banshees, and sing

with the Na'vi, but tragedy struck as the audio in the theatre was a major let down.

The promise of the highly-coveted Dolby ATMOS® experience was disappointing and underwhelming. Audio plays a crucial part in the film-viewing experience. Various bodies of research within film and media studies have emphasized its importance, and illustrate how sound design evokes emotions in the viewer, and how when combined with visuals, can completely enthrall them. But I was far from enthralled; I could see the explosives going off, people swimming with whales, waterfalls, and melodies on the screen, but the audio did not surround me, nor did it teleport me to Pandora. This was not my experience watching Dolby Atmos enabled films at other theatres. Hence, Cineplex Waterloo is providing a substandard experience for virtually the same price as that offered by other theatres in the region.

However, it was not all doom and gloom when watching the film. HFR did enhance the viewing experience and put the "visual" in UltraAVX. The underwater scenes in the movie were smooth, visually pleasing, magical, and overall had the "made by James Cameron" imprint. The theatre did also deliver when it came to the 3D experience — the images on the screen seemed like they were jumping out and bleeding into reality.

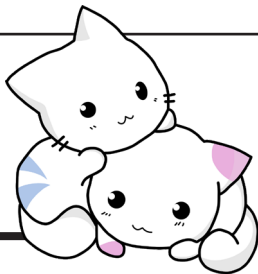
Even though there were some positives to the experience, at the end of the day, this underwhelming three-hour and 12 minute experience cost \$20. Was it worth it? Absolutely not. According to Statista, this experience is coming from a corporation that raked in \$1.67 billion in 2019, shortly before suffering an almost 75 per cent decrease in revenue in 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, revenue increased by 57 per cent, promising a return to peak revenue levels. The film industry as a whole also suffered a blow to its revenue in 2020 but is starting to recover. On Feb. 7, Cineplex released its revenue for Q3 of 2022, and it has raked in \$918 million in 2022 so far. On this accord, Cineplex is definitely returning to pre-COVID revenue levels and can definitely do better by investing in better seating and better audio equipment for the Waterloo location.

For now, Cineplex Waterloo is charging top dollar for a mediocre cinematic experience, with uncomfortable seating and bad audio in their 'best screen of the theatre.' Is it worth the \$20 to watch a movie on the big screen, backed up by empty promises of comfort and immersiveness? Or, are there better entertainment outlets or experiences that our \$20 could go toward?

Vinson Prakash
4A, Sociology & Legal Studies



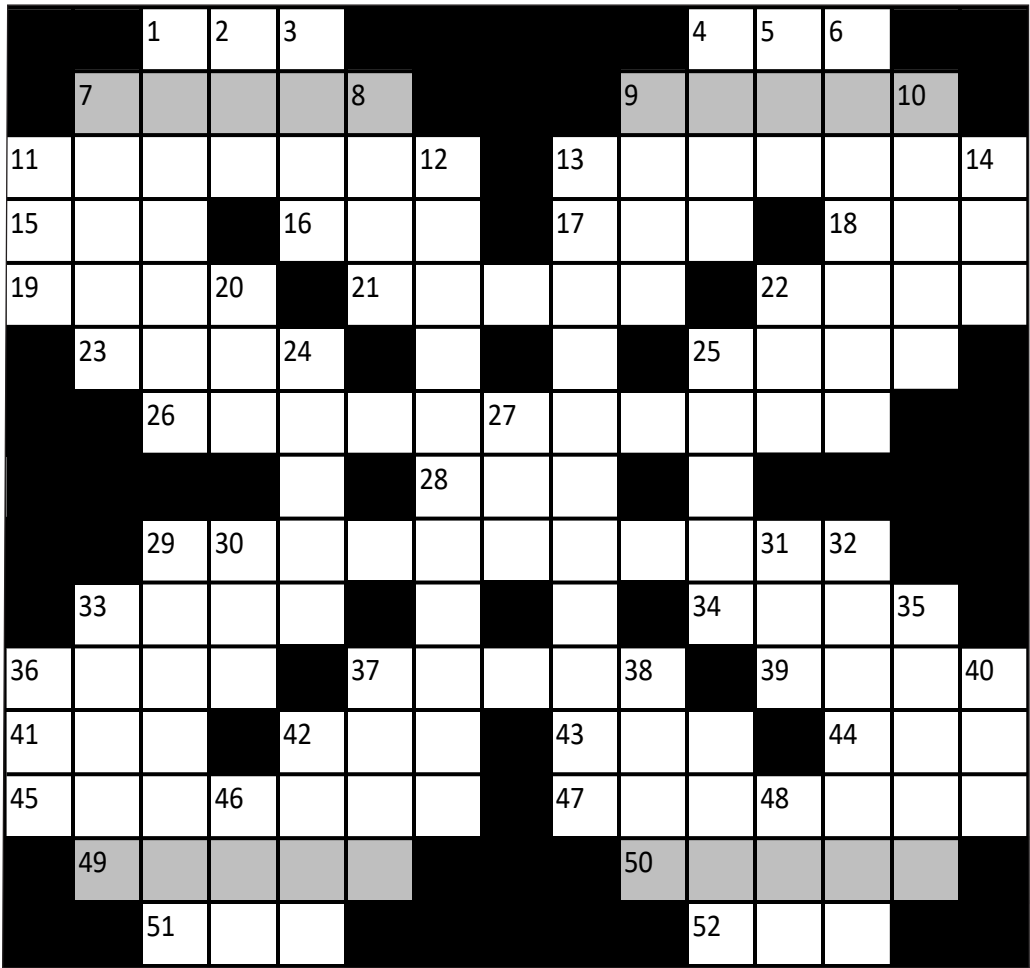
distractions



Q: WHAT DO DORA'S SIDEKICK, SHREK'S CAT, AND MSCHF HAVE IN COMMON?

A: BOOTS

Imprint Crosswords



Across

- 1. Dora's friend inside a friend
- 4. Expression after "golly" or before "whiz"
- 7. Fried Tortilla Chip
- 9. Portmanteau of "fries" and "onion ring"
- 11. SI unit of electric charge
- 13. Latched onto
- 15. ___ for one and one for ___!
- 16. ___, yes, ___!
- 17. Word directly after "black" or "white" or "wite"
- 18. Nucleic acid containing an extra oxygen
- 19. Staple food of various colours
- 21. Microsoft application neglected by thousands of Waterloo students
- 22. "Care", in French
- 23. Word preceding "pan" or "bunny"
- 25. Acid counterpart
- 26. Chalk canvases
- 28. Apple operating system
- 29. To genetically modify something
- 33. "My", in German
- 34. Profound
- 36. "Machine", in Mandarin
- 37. Possible photo after a core workout
- 39. Bait
- 41. Shiba ___
- 42. Arts degree, hons.
- 43. SI unit of electrical resistance
- 44. See 40 Down
- 45. What the fingernail lies on, or, an uncomfortable place to lie on
- 47. Requiring
- 49. "Jessie" homophone
- 50. Acetaminophen colour
- 51. Toronto Dominion Canada, The Discovery Channel, etc...
- 52. School of Optometry student's second favourite letter, phonetically***

Down

- 1. The answer's MAULCUB, I have no idea how to make a quirky clue for this one
- 2. Ligament often torn by athletes
- 3. Vietnamese noodle soup (plural)
- 4. Boiled cornmeal porridge (singular)
- 5. "A", in German
- 6. To completely consume one's attention
- 7. Disadvantage a cup has to a bottle (two words)
- 8. To leave out
- 9. Contagious respiratory illnesses
- 10. Lamp prisoner
- 11. "Because", in French
- 12. Two-time Primetime Emmy winning show, or, what each word highlighted in grey is related to
- 13. A work of art, or, something's physical makeup
- 14. Wolczuk, for example
- 20. English as a second language
- 22. The average Waterloo student (anecdotally)
- 24. Bird toe
- 25. Animalistic verb for sex
- 27. Type of wetland
- 29. "Shut up" alternative (two words)
- 30. Roman three
- 31. "Unagi", in English
- 32. To bring or come together once more
- 33. Perhaps the most famous Nicki
- 35. Adjective following accident or disease
- 36. One of the Kims of BTS
- 37. First animal in the alphabet, literally
- 38. One is recommended to do this around 32 times
- 40. With 44 Across, spiced/spiked beverage
- 42. Sci. degree, hons.
- 46. Sticky hallucinogenic
- 48. Dices

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

***I can't believe I didn't even realise that "I/eye" was an option like how did I not see that but now it's too late to change bro that would've been awesome

