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TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION
Nicole Widerlund
Staff Writer

By this point, you have most likely encountered some (or perhaps many) of your classmates coming in late or some who cannot turn on their microphone or camera during class because of technical difficulties regarding their computer. Perhaps you have been through the struggle of trying to join a class session when there is only two minutes left until it starts, and your computer suddenly decides to update itself or turn off completely. Stress and anxiety start to build up with thoughts a student has to confront, like: “I’m going to miss some important information! What will my teacher think of me? I am utterly helpless without a functioning computer.”

Technology has certainly enabled us to do much during this pandemic: communicating with friends, killing time with long hours of binge-watching TV shows, and of course, continuing education. But what we have failed to realize is that not everything is in the computer. Your life does not revolve around what it does and does not enable you to do. When a computer stops functioning, time does not stop. Go on and do what you can with what you have. Do not let anything stop you from learning. A non-functioning computer is not the end of the world because it is not the world.

A PEEK INSIDE THE BANDER CLUB ROOM
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

As the new editor of the Arts section, I had the opportunity to discover a whole new part of the school when going on-campus to edit: the Bandersnatch club room. My initial impression was that the room was extremely cool; it was warm, friendly, and portrayed the lingering essence of the good 1990s. Overall, the atmosphere of the club room was home-like and welcoming. There were also previous copies of past editions of the newspaper on the Editor-in-Chief’s desk. If we weren’t in the middle of a pandemic, I would have definitely dropped by often between classes or when I would have been at the school for other reasons.

Is the club room vibey? Absolutely. There were little knick knacks, heatable stuffed animals, a lava lamp, and absolutely. There were little knick knacks, heatable stuffed animals, a lava lamp, and a functioning computer. Absolutely. There were little knick knacks, heatable stuffed animals, a lava lamp, and a functioning computer.

ON-CAMPUS EXAMS
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

Depending on your program and/or classes, you might have had to visit campus to do in-person exams or labs already. In my case, I had a reading exam for my French class just last week that was held place on-campus in P-204, the first on-campus classwork I was obliged to attend since March of this year.

Students may have wildly different opinions of forced on-campus activities depending on what they had to do and/or their personal beliefs. The reason I had to be on campus wasn’t to do a lab or an exam that was too complicated or important to be online. It was because the French department of John Abbott College collectively decided that it was too difficult to gauge students’ adeptness at the French language purely online, so they were cleared to have off-line in-person assessments.

I personally don’t doubt the usefulness of in-person labs or oral assessments, but perhaps it was a step too far to force students taking French this semester to be on campus to take a reading test. It’s entirely possible that I got the short end of the stick, but I didn’t find it very useful to wake up early and come in at 8:30 in the morning to read three to four pages of text and answer a bunch of multiple-choice questions I could’ve easily answered in any quiz site at home.

At the very least, the process was very safe and COVID-friendly. Every student wore a mask, had to be cleared to enter in the first place, washed their hands with hand sanitizer, and cleaned their desk and chair with disinfectant. Here’s hoping everyone’s on-campus experience is as safe and concise.

SUJAC UPDATE
Hey JAC,

SUJAC has been busy these past few weeks with the opening of Congress 2020-2021. The first meeting was held on September 14 via Teams and had a turnout of sixty-five people! At the second meeting held this Monday, Congress elected a Chairperson and a Secretary. SUJAC would like to thank the many impressive candidates who put themselves forward and to congratulate the newly-elected Chairperson, Ahana Murungi, as well as the new Secretary, Sabrina Goriani. To those who missed the nomination period, Congress voted to re-open nominations until October 7 at midnight. Check out in-stasujac for more information!

In other news, SUJAC’s Club Day is fast approaching! This event spans three days and will showcase John Abbott’s many unique Clubs to help recruit new members. SUJAC-Club Day starts Tuesday, October 6, and ends on Thursday, October 8. Don’t miss out! You can meet new people, sign up for Clubs and find out how to get involved, and participate in Kahoots for the chance to win prizes. SUJAC-Club Day will be hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams and more information can be found at sujac.com. See you there!

Your SUJAC Executive Team 2020-2021:
President Emily Thom
VP Internal Théophile Bourgeois
VP Academic Samuel Wong
VP External Jonathan Sztaiberg
VP Finance Molly Gunson
VP Communications John Bedirian
U.S. FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
Michelle Akim
News Editor

The long-awaited first presidential debate took place on September 29th in Cleveland, Ohio, moderated by Chris Wallace. If the word “moderated” leads our reader to believe that this debate was civil and formal, they will be greatly disappointed, as it was anything but that. This chaotic mess was at times incoprehensible, with both candidates and the moderator all talking over each other. Despite this, there are some of the highlights (if you can call them that) of the night:

Biden performed strongest exactly on the subjects that he was expected to: Coronavirus and the economic recovery. Oftentimes appealing directly to the camera, he called out to voters, inciting them to vote, and to consider their health and that of their close ones in the upcoming election. Despite being dubbed “Sleepy Joe” by the GOP, he was surprisingly forward yet kept his cool despite Trump’s incessant personal attacks, particularly concerning Biden’s sons.

To the great dismay of many of his supporters, Trump did not take as strong a stance as he could have concerning his strong point this election: law and order. Though at times he did squeeze Biden into a few corners on the subject, his interruptions and self-aggrandizing remarks greatly discredited him, and gave Biden the opportunity to somewhat ridicule him, responding “Won’t you shut up, man” and even calling Trump the “worst president America has ever had”.

Furthermore, Trump got some dissenters within the Republican party following the debate because he refused to openly condemn white supremacists and promise that his followers would not riot and cause civil unrest in the case of a loss, instead encouraging his supporters to “watch the polls”.

Following this extremely chaotic first debate, and discussions of changing its formula to minimize interruptions, all were impatiently awaiting the VP debate that was supposed to take place on September 7th. That is, until around 1 A.M. on Friday, when the President tweeted that he and the First Lady had gotten positive COVID-19 test results.

Following the announcement, the U.S. political scene has been in disarray. There had been talks of the president being exposed to the virus after a close political aide’s COVID test had come back positive. On Sunday, the President was transported to the Walter Reed Medical Center, as he reportedly had difficulty breathing and had to have oxygen supplements administered, as well as running a high fever. Despite his hospitalization, Dr. Sean P. Conley announced that Trump is doing very well, and on the road to recovery. On a contradicting note, Trump’s Chief of Staff, Mark Meadows, told reporters anonymously on Saturday that the President’s past 24 hours had been very concerning, and that the next 48 hours are critical to his recovery.

Though Trump was released from the hospital on Monday evening to continue his recovery from the White House, many are concerned that this decision was too rash and that the President remains at risk.

While many Republicans close to Trump (including ex-White House counselor Kellyann Conway) have tested positive for coronavirus, Joe Biden and his wife Jill have not, despite being near Trump during last Tuesday’s debate.

RBG’S LEGACY AND THE SUPREME COURT
José Moro Gutiérrez
Contributor

Last September 18th, after enduring complications due to pancreatic cancer, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg passed away, after 87 years of life and 27 years as Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. The news came as a shock for people on both sides of the of the political spectrum. For liberals, it was a time of reflection and appreciation for the role that the “Notorious RBG” played in defending and advocating for women’s rights; for conservatives, it meant the opportunity to fill the vacant seat and give the political right a 6-3 seat majority on the Supreme Court of the United States for years to come.

In fact, it was only hours after the announcement of Ginsberg’s passing that Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared he would push to confirm Donald Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court before the 2020 election. This move would contradict his efforts, back in 2016, to block then-President Barack Obama’s nominee Merrick Garland. McConnell claimed in 2016 that “the American people should have a say in the Court’s direction [...] The American people may well elect a President who decides to nominate Judge Garland for Senate consideration.”.

A week after Ginsberg’s death, on September 26th, President Trump officially nominated Amy Coney Barrett (Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit) to fill the SCOTUS vacancy. Despite opposition from House and Senate Democrats, Republican leaders will try to have Barrett confirmed by Inauguration Day 2021.

In a press conference the following Tuesday, François Legault denounced the conditions of her death, yet when probed on the subject of this being an example of systemic racism in Québec, he responded: “For me I don’t see that in Québec. But there is for sure some racism against the First Nations in Québec, and I want to fight it. I want to be the government who will do the most actions against racism against the First Nations.” Despite this, the Québec government has ordered a public inquiry into her death.

The video was uploaded to Facebook and shortly set social media ablaze. Protests mourning her and condemning the inhumane treatment that Echaquan received at the hospital were shortly organized. The two nurses who were supposed to be attending Echaquan when she died had been fired, but the Indigenous woman’s family and community are calling for more severe action, both against the hospital and the nurses themselves. On Friday, the 2nd of October, Echaquan’s family officially announced that they will be suing the Joliette hospital for damages, according to their lawyer, Jean-François Bertrand.

On Tuesday, following pressure from first nations leaders, Legault announced that he will present an official apology in parliament to Echaquan’s family and community.

JUSTICE FOR JOYCE ECHAQUAN
Michelle Akim
News Editor

On Monday, the 28th of September, Joyce Echaquan was admitted to a Joliette hospital for stomach pains. Hours later, the 37 year-old Atikamekw woman was dead. Moments before her passing, she filmed a video of her pleading for help, as the nurse and orderly treating her were jeering at her, shouting racist and bigoted remarks at her. The causes of Echaquan’s death (leaving behind seven children and a husband) is currently being investigated by the Québec coroner’s office.

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THE BASIN
Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Very spacious, there is nothing inside, The Basin where all your dreams go to die. As empty and open as a newborn’s head, Though, towards the end, it is filled with death.

The Basin is still very much roomy, Only few dreams are making it gloomy. Forgiving as the heart of a child, Hopes are not in fear of being exiled.

Rapidly, the basin fills up halfway, The once hopeful dreams run rancid all day. Just as chaos rents a room in teen minds, The regrets become easier to find.

The Basin is now nearly to the brim, The goals never achieved are shadowed with grim.

As adults often feel they never win, Aspirations are tossed, put in the bin. Overflowing slightly, the basin filled, Roaming of dreams that have been truly killed. Just as the time of an elder has passed, Mourning overtime, getting over fast, You decide how long your regrets will last.

STAR OF THE SOUL
Elizabeth Tulli
Contributor

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FAHLSTROM AND THE BODILESS KING
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

On another fog-filled evening, Viktoria’s carriage rested on the side of the road and its horses lightly shivered in the autumn breeze. The carriage’s door swung open and its bottom bounced as Viktoria stepped onto the overgrown grass. She adjusted the black bonnet on her head uncomfortably, then heaved a bucket off of the carriage. She tried her best to adopt the posture of a flower girl but what caught Viktoria’s eyes was the treasure in the middle that she’d unearthed itself from the grave, bar its teeth in an apparent bony smile.

She’d stopped her travels at the local cemetery, the only closest settlement being a small town a few kilometres south. Now the road was all she saw north and all she saw south, her left enveloped by a green field and her right overtaken by the cemetery, which was cordoned off by decrepit stone walls and overhanging vines. The pale moon was Viktoria’s only company as she entered the abandoned cemetery, liquid sloshing in her bucket as she made her way past cracked tombstones and tilted pillars. She stopped before a large tombstone in the middle of the cemetery, distinctly parted from the others by a couple of paces. On it were chiseled the words, still plainly: HERE LIES CNÁMHADIEL, ERRANT KING, and a beautiful crown laid on its perfectly level top. Looking down, Viktoria noticed at a glance that this grave was the only one with a clear dirt outline instead of being overtaken by grass. The crown was elegantly ornamented with text in both Latin and Gaelic and spade-tipped pikes, but what caught Viktoria’s eyes was the treasure in the middle that she’d come for: a dark yellow jewel the size of a fingernail with a strange arcane symbol carved upon it, embedded in the front.

Suddenly, the ground trembled beneath Viktoria’s boots and a skeleton two or three times the size of her unearthed itself from the grave, barring its teeth in an apparent bony smile. Keeping its eye sockets locked on her, the skeleton’s face yet to adopt the posture of a flower girl. Swiftly, the skeleton snatch the bucket like a cup, rose it to his mouth, then paused.

“Surely if you come here, you know the crown keeps me safe from magic. I shall drink, then pass it,” he said, then opened his jaws to drink. He gulped it down, noticed a small sizzling feeling, then handed his crown to Viktoria as she smiled and undid her bonnet.

The king laughed.

“Even worse than the curse of undeath is the curse of sobriety, yet none have given me reprieve from either in my centuries here,” he bellowed.

Viktoria pointed at her bucket and the light purple liquid swirling there.

“I have concocted a potion, King. A combination of my own potion and a hag’s brew, which will pierce through undeath. In return, I ask only a minute’s study of your crown.”

The skeleton snatched the bucket
THE ROSE
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

Nectar so sweet,
From a green stem that grows,
So gentle and neat,
Will you be my rose?

A breath when you kissed,
From as far as it goes,
So luscious with mist,
You must be my rose.

A faltering petal,
Brushing upon my nose,
At last I could settle,
With you as my rose.

I cusped in my hands,
A dew drop from the hose,
And laid it down gently,
Upon my sweet rose.

I felt your embrace,
As your petals disclose,
The tears of a trace,
Running down my loved rose.

Thorns that caused aches,
From what never you chose,
Only made breaks,
Down the whole of your rose.

But never to fear,
I’ve got thorns on my toes,
Never felt as near,
To whom I call my rose.

You are my dear,
Make sure everyone knows,
Always I’d stay here,
With you as my rose.

ROSE
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

PEPPERMINT
Suzie Deschambault
Web Editor

CALMING DISCOMFORT
Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

NERO
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief
MILLIENIUM REVIEW

Tammy Haddad
Staff Writer

Millenium is a crime series composed of three books. Or six. It depends on how you see it. The three first books were written by Swedish journalist and neo-Nazi hunter Stieg Larsson. Sadly, he died before the books were even published and would never know just how famous they would be. In 2015, Swedish journalist and author David Lagercrantz took over the series and wrote another three books. Not everyone sees the Lagercrantz contribution as being a part of the series which explains the different responses to the question of how many books are in this series.

The first three novels by Larsson are entitled The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl who Played with Fire and The Girl who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest. In all three books, we follow Mikael Blomkvist and Lisbeth Salander. Blomkvist is a journalist and owner of the periodical Millenium. He is also a proud member of the oddest love triangle you will ever encounter. Lisbeth Salander is a hacker who, according to the Swedish government, is incapable of taking care of herself. She also happens to have a photographic memory, one of the banes of her existence.

In the first book, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, you follow both characters as they work together to solve the murder (or so they have been told) of Harriet Vanger. She disappeared on an island that had been closed off to the rest of the world during the time of her disappearance. Only her family could have touched young Harriet. Related to sharks, snakes, and other similar unpleasant creatures, any one of her family members could be the culprit. When directly translated out of Swedish, the original title of the book means “Men Who Did Not Like Women”. Maybe that will help you figure out what happened to Harriet.

In the second book, The Girl who Played with Fire, everything was running smoothly for both Blomkvist and Salander until Salander decides to look through Blomkvist’s computer and finds a word that brings back unpleasant memories: Zala. Soon after, a person Blomkvist had been working with gets murdered and Salander is accused of the crime. Yet, Blomkvist is convinced that Salander isn’t the murder and the key to solving everything just so happens to be that mysterious word.

In the third book, The Girl who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest, Lisbeth still stands accused of the murder from the previous book. They know who the real killer is but it’s not so easy to prove to the court especially due to Lisbeth’s troubled past. People who were sure to have been done with forever come back to haunt her and try to sabotage her chances of proving her innocence.

Millenium is a fast-paced series that will flow through your veins. Its beautifully written and the author wasn’t afraid to talk about taboo subjects. In this piece, I did not talk of the three books written by Lagercrantz solely because they are not necessary to the series. Millenium was only supposed to be three books and Larsson rounded off the ending of the whole series rather satisfyingly. If you like the three first novels, then definitely check out the Lagercrantz continuation. Just a little heads up, they don’t read the same way as the original three.

THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES

Elizabeth Tulli
Staff Writer

Released on May 19th, The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins is a dystopian adventure prequel novel of the bestselling trilogy The Hunger Games. It lies a corrupted society where an oppressive government—The Capitol—administer the districts of Panem and children must compete in a bloodthirsty tournament on live TV as punishment for rebellion among the districts. The prequel takes place 64 years before the trilogy. It follows an 18 year-old Coriolanus Snow, a student who was selected to mentor a District 12 tribute—Lucy Gray—during the 10th Hunger Games. Throughout the story, Coriolanus struggles to overcome challenges between the Capitol and the rebels, testing his humanity and loyalty. All in all, the novel illustrates the intellectual debate on human nature.

One of the compelling elements Collins provided was an intriguing main character. The readers got the chance to find out more about Coriolanus and his thoughts. However, he isn’t your typical good-hearted protagonist. Coriolanus grew up in a family that lost all their fortune and had trouble making ends meet. He compensated his misfortunes by becoming a successful student who got top grades in school and built a notable reputation. Coriolanus is also ambitious and cunning. In the story, he faces difficult situations where he had to decide between right and wrong. He mostly choses what he believes is the right thing to do even if it means betraying others. He perceives that ambition leads to power which is the ultimate reward. In a way, he’s a character that readers can relate to: someone who struggled with his humanity and self-identity. There are both pros and cons to the protagonist. He’s as likable as he is unlikeable.

The plot was also gripping and intense. The story is divided into three parts and each part reveals the main purpose. The vivid imagery felt realistic, and the scenes were suspenseful. I couldn’t stop flipping onto the next page to see what happens next.

Power and control were other significant themes mentioned in the novel. Panem citizens live in a world where order is important to prevent chaos within the districts. Those in power control the lower ranks. The more privileged live in luxury, whereas the unprivileged live in poverty. The Capitol believes that without order, a system will collapse, that humanity gradually becomes undressed. One quote that deeply resonated with me was “I think there’s a natural goodness built into human beings. You know when you stepped across the line into evil, and it’s your life’s challenge to try and stay on the right side of the line.” Therefore, the story raises questions on peace, war, and the balance of power.

What does it mean to be human? That’s an ambiguous question we all want to figure out. I found that this novel was inspiring and emphasized common societal issues. I recommend this story to fans of The Hunger Games that are curious about how President Snow rose to power or readers interested in dystopian novels.
STEVE ROCKS THE BLOCK

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

As of just last week, it had been three months since the last fighter reveal for Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and over a year since the last general Nintendo Direct. Following these months of complete silence from Nintendo, their Twitter account announced on September 30th that the next fighter would be revealed in a three-minute presentation the following day.

As expected, the fanbase immediately exploded with speculation as to the new fighter’s identity and names were thrown around in the hopes that they’d be the ones to appear in the next day’s presentation. By now it should be understood that Sakurai’s methodology in choosing the next character to enter Smash is nigh impossible to understand fully, but fans still came up with various theories to support their personal choice. Characters like Geno, Dante, Crash Bandicoot, Phoenix Wright, and Tracer were just a few among countless others that were hoped to join the fray, but in the end the presentation on October 1st silenced them all with a single name.

Steve. The protagonist of the world’s best-selling game was revealed as the next character to join Smash Ultimate to the surprise of (presumably) nearly everyone in the fanbase. The popularity of Minecraft was never in doubt, but most thought it too difficult to integrate him into Smash due to licensing issues (Minecraft belongs to Microsoft) and the strange way he animated (or didn’t) in his original game. The initial reveal trailer not only showed Steve in action with other Smash characters, but also the incredible care and attention to detail that’s by now characteristic of how Masahiro Sakurai (the game’s director) integrates third-party characters into the game. Steve looked almost identical to his Minecraft self (with minor graphical upgrades) and animated with the same abrupt/janky way he does in his original game, quelling the fears that he’d have to be modified to properly suit a fighting game. His moveset showcased a unique range of tools that differentiated him very clearly from other fighters and paid homage to almost every facet of Minecraft. The reaction to this presentation was so strong that Twitter crashed almost immediately after Steve’s reveal.

The reveal also announced a longer Steve presentation happening only two days later, which further explained his moveset in detail, showed even more exciting details about how his unique mechanics (like how you can mine every stage in the game for materials), and finally gave us a release date for the update: the evening of October 13th (morning of the 14th for Europe).

Fan reception was overall positive, as most people had already deemed Steve a no-brainer (yet another easily-recognizable gaming icon from the best-selling game in the world) and figured it was just a matter of time before he was added in. His overall strangeness seemed to resonate well, though there was a portion of Smash fans that thought he looked a little too out of place or moved too abruptly to be included alongside the other 76 characters in the game. Regardless, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate fans are sure to be sated for the time being, and one can only hope that the eShop won’t crash as well on October 13th.

SPELLBREAK

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

In the current age of battle royale games it may be hard to know which ones may be worth your time. However, there is a recent game that seems to be gaining some traction and that game is Spellbreak.

Spellbreak was released on September 3rd, 2020 and was developed and published by Proletariat Inc. The game is on all the current consoles (PS4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox One) and Microsoft Windows and it supports cross platform play.

In Spellbreak you play as a mage and the goal is to be the last team standing in a match. The matches are split up into teams of three and the game encourages teams to play off of one another and work together. You might think you can get away with going it alone, and you can, but it’s pretty hard without the benefits of your teammates’ abilities. Barring the aesthetics, Spellbreak is unique in the many ways it differs to games such as Fortnite and PUBG. For one you always start the match with a main weapon of your choice in the form of elemental gauntlets. Every gauntlet is unique in its playstyle and they all have their strengths and weaknesses. You can also pick up a secondary gauntlet to mix up your playstyle with something new. For example, mixing Wind’s sorcery with any type of fire magic will make a flame tornado. The game also gives the players runes to use in battle which are timed abilities activated by a button push and there are some that are better for certain playstyles than others. Spellbreak encourages experimentation so it’s up to you to find your match.

Overall, the game has a lot of depth and it’s impossible to list all the best things about it in one article. So go, play Spellbreak! You won’t be disappointed!

OVERWATCH 2
What we know so far

Andréa Nikolov
Games Editor

Being a sequel to one of the most well-known PvP games in the world leads to many expectations and excitement, but since the reveal of Overwatch 2 at BlizzCon 2019 fans are still waiting impatiently for the game to be launched or at least be given a minimum of gaming info.

Since its delay this year due to COVID, not many details were made clear. From what we are able to gather, the game is supposed to come with a big expansion on PvP missions, followed by new story missions containing more dialogue, stories and cutscenes lasting for much longer than the first Overwatch. The game has put a lot of focus of cooperative story missions, putting forth old and new Overwatch heroes fighting to defend the world from the omnic forces of Null Sector and defeating new threats together. Expected changes are also said to be seen in loot boxes, with Jeff Kaplan stating: “We have made a lot of changes to loot boxes and how they work over the years, [...] we’re exploring different options that move us away from them, but I think that will be more for Overwatch 2 than the core game. I would never rule anything out.”

With the small amount of news we have from interviews, much of the finer details have been left completely to the imagination of the masses. The lack of details and the growing anticipation from international fans add to the importance of 2021’s BlizzConline, where more info is said to be shared on release dates and other game information. Many fans hold on to this hope, since confusion has loomed over them the last couple of years; so we hope that COVID will not ruin this as well.
NFL POWER RANKINGS

Cassidy Dora
Staff Writer

A fter only three weeks of NFL action, it’s no secret which teams are the best in the league. Various teams have made it very clear that they are on a mission, and that mission is a trip to Superbowl LV. Let’s look at the best teams in the NFL.

The first pick needs no explanation: the Kansas City Chiefs are the team to beat. After a dominant win over the Ravens in Monday Night Football, it’s apparent that the Chiefs are the best team in the league. Head Coach Andy Reed dialed up creative offensive formations and schemes, never allowing the Ravens defense to get comfortable. This unpredictable offence led by Patrick Mahomes picked up where they left off last season. Running back Clyde Edwards Helaire is a new threat added to this already explosive offence. Unless a team can develop a solution to slow down this high rolling offence, we may see a Superbowl repeat.

In close second, the Green Bay Packers are looking to make a splash. Although the Green Bay Packers have always been a solid team, the Packers have taken the next step this year. In the first three weeks, the Packers have scored a total of 122 points, the fifth most points ever scored throughout the first three weeks in NFL history. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers has played the best football of his career and has been doing it without nearly as many offensive weapons as Patrick Mahomes. Who would have thought that drafting QB Jordan Love in the first round of the 2020 NFL draft was just the push Aaron Rodgers needed.

Despite the loss to the Kansas City Chiefs, the Baltimore Ravens are still a promising team. The 2-1 start to the season is not what the Ravens were looking for, but nevertheless, quarterback Lamar Jackson’s skill makes it impossible to count him out. Jackson’s dual-threat style of play presents a challenge to any defense. The Baltimore Ravens also have one of the league’s best defence with talent at every position. Defensive end Calais Campbell finds a way to put pressure on all quarterbacks while cornerbacks Marlon Mack and Marcus Peters can lock up the best receivers.

Lastly, the Seattle Seahawks are a team to be reckoned with. The last time the Seahawks started the season 3-0 in the Pete Carroll Seahawks era, they won the Superbowl. Could this be an indication of where the Seahawks are headed? Russell Wilson is on a roll with five passing touchdowns in back-to-back games leading to the viral saying, “let Russ cook”. Despite this team’s powerful offence, the only thing that can hold them back is their defence.

THE RELAPSE OF A PAST PROMISE

Gursagar Singh
Opinions Editor

I t was like an addiction; I couldn’t tell when to cut my losses. My grand investment was slowly declining, and it felt like I kept pushing back on coming to terms. I couldn’t handle losing, and not just for a game. I had this greater image in my head, A destiny I was made for, a pride that got in the way, it was the thing I was supposed to reflect, but it was getting harder and harder to not look at myself and know my time was up, although it happened gradually.

It started at a relatively young age, not young enough to where the pros start, but young to where it came before many general milestones. Basketball was for the most part another game on the playground, I played when the finals were on and the other kids wanted to try what they saw LeBron do the night before. It was nothing special, but it was always thrown on me as I was relatively tall.

It only really began when I moved to Champaign for middle school. A small town in Illinois, it holds the University of Illinois which is a Big Ten school in the NCAA. The sports culture was there, not overwhelmingly, but to the point where they would play the games in the cafeteria if the Illini (the basketball team) made it to the playoffs. It was a college town. I started to grow into Basketball. I got embarrassed often, as at time I was 5’3, chubby, and couldn’t run a mile, but it was something that I came to love. I would go back to the apartment every day, and dribble in the parking lot for hours, just practicing to get better, thinking that if I could cross the crack in the road there, and drive the ball Euro stepping around the pot hole, that I could take on anybody.

It also started to come together when the team from my hometown came up as underdogs in the 2015 NBA finals. It not only solidified where I thought I was from, but where I knew I would go. Moving back to Montréal I had come to the delusion that I was bound to make it. I watched the Ball is Life videos, not admiring the next rising stars but thinking of playing against them in due time. The only thing I could see was basketball; it brought my friends, it planned my evenings and events, it took me out of the life that I was living, to the point where it lost sense.

Eventually, it came to a stop, and the when cannot be marked. I couldn’t tell that it had passed until I heard a familiar question by the cashier at the Provigo the other day. Do you play basketball? A question I got often but this time the answer was unclear. I had the relapse of a past promise and I answered out of fear. I answered no, and I questioned how something so near to me had become what I once was. I still have the posters on my wall, and the shoe rack in my room, and I can’t tell if they are there to humble me or make me double down. I guess I will find out in due time.
QUARANTINE CHRONICLES
Adopting a cat, 1 week in
Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Since July, I have been living by myself in a studio apartment. Though living alone may seem like the dream for many, as an extroverted theatre kid it has proven to be less than ideal. Many college students returned home when COVID hit, and the transition from a lively college life to mundane hours spent with family would prove to be difficult for some.

During my first couple of weeks returning to my hometown, it felt like a vacation. Spending time with family you haven’t seen in months is refreshing and lingering feelings of nostalgia. However, over time, I slowly started to once again remember the reasons I left my hometown. Overwhelmed with the craving for independence once again, four months after returning to my college life to mundane hours and the transition from a lively Scotland.

On August 30th, my furry friend finally made it down. I decided to adopt one of our family cats as my own and she became my new roommate. Suddenly, I had a partner in the morning to eat breakfast with, a study buddy, a friend. Though it has only been a week with my Stella, she has helped me in ways I never expected. A cat cannot fix your problems, but a cuddle with one will for sure make you feel better.


degrading.

Western culture has had its past of discrimination and abuse. Today, it’s normalizing abortion and homosexuality. Its politics are unstable and its morality is None. But Jesus has purchased it in its transforming work, the immaturity and irresponsibility of the youth. An example of this comes in the form of a house party in Montérégie that occurred in early July, where over 100 people were present and over 70 cases of COVID-19 were later linked to the party. According to the Québec government, 41% of total cases come from people 39 years old or younger.

Despite public unawareness, we cannot take away part of the blame off Legault and his government. After the government’s insistence on reopening classrooms across the province, last September 20th, a Québec City elementary school shut down after just two weeks of reopening, after 20 students and five staff members tested positive for COVID-19.

SJ AND THE GOSPEL
Jade Pantaleon
Contributor

It’s code red, and you know what that means: more social media/Twitter wars. With everything going on right now, everyone has an opinion. Everyone wants to be heard. Out of all these voices, the social justice movement has been the loudest. They claim to fight for minorities, saying the system is oppressive, and thus needs to be deconstructed.

But think about it, would that really help?

No, I’m not saying discrimination and power-abuse don’t exist. They do, and they are awful. I’m also not saying the culture doesn’t need change, it does!

The worst thing about their culture? Cannibalism. Their culture was so horrendous, they actually ate other humans. How would most people respond today? “It’s their choice?” “It’s their truth?” That would help absolutely no one. Hating, rioting or ‘canceling’ them is no good either. They needed help, needed change, and desperately needed to be reached. And someone did.

Two Christian missionaries, John Williams and James Harris, were killed and eaten only minutes after arriving on one of the islands in 1839. Yet the London Missionary Society endured and continued to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and in 1854, over half the population had repented and professed faith in Christ! The transformation was so great that missionary John Paton wrote in his autobiography, “Thus were the New Hebrides baptized with the blood of martyrs; and Christ thereby told the whole Christian world that he claimed these islands as His own”.

That is the transforming work of the gospel to a people. How? Because God confronts the greatest problems of all mankind — their own depravity, death and eternal judgement — and offers complete salvation through His Son. No amount of people-power or systematic reform could ever have such power to transform the wicked heart of men.

A SECOND WAVE HAS ARRIVED
José Moro Gutiérrez
Contributor

On September 30th, the Québec provincial government announced new restrictions and safety measures to counter what seems to be a second wave of COVID-19 across the province. Montréal, Québec, and parts of the Chaudière-Appalaches region were declared red zones. This means that restaurant dining rooms, cinemas, theatres, museums and bars have been closed until further notice. These implemented measures came after daily cases in Québec rose close to a thousand each day.

This is an unfortunate reflection of the lost opportunity by the people to “flatten” the now increasing curve, despite constant reminders by government officials to respect social distancing norms, use of masks while in public and constant handwashing. Although COVID-related deaths have decreased (from over 100 deaths every day in late April to single digits today), this however shows the immaturity and irresponsibility of the youth. An example of this comes in the form of a house party in Montérégie that occurred in early July, where over 100 people were present and over 70 cases of COVID-19 were later linked to the party. According to the Québec government, 41% of total cases come from people 39 years old or younger.

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Opinions expressed by authors throughout each issue do not necessarily reflect the views and/or beliefs of Bandersnatch Newspaper.
DELVING INTO SYNESTHESIA
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor
Humans are known to resort to visual aid, acronyms, and other tricks to help remember facts and stay organized. One such trick of particular interest is colour association. Most people tend to assign colours to school subjects. However, is there a deeper meaning behind associating colours to various objects?

Synesthesia is a very rare condition which affects someone neurologically, where their senses are activated and sometimes blended in response to certain information or stimuli. The statistic being around one affected person out of three thousand people, the most common example is associating colours with objects, but in order to be a true synesthete (someone with this condition), there must be a greater depth to it; perhaps when you say numbers, not only can you see them as colours, you can taste them.

Synesthesia comes in many forms: some can involve associating objects with taste, music with touch, music with shapes, numbers with sound, etc. There are no limits! There is even a form of synesthesia where people have reported physically seeing colour in supposedly black and white numbers.

I am part of the population affected by this condition. Mine is very difficult to explain, but usually centers around multiple senses blending together when I sound words out to create what I call the “sixth sense”. However, I have also seen colour in what was supposed to be black and white sheet music.

Synesthesia can be hereditary and is more common if you are left-handed, female, and have an interest in arts and music, but taking psychedelic drugs can temporarily recreate its effect. By blending senses, it creates a completely new world to discover.

PHOSPHINE: LIFE ON VENUS?
Sophia Danielle Beronilla
Contributor
Humans have long asked the question, “Are we alone in the universe?” We think of Mars as the closest planet with the highest possibility of alien life, but a new study has come to suggest that Venus has a similarly high chance of housing extraterrestrial life.

On September 14th, 2020, Greaves et al. published their article “Phosphine gas in the cloud decks of Venus” in Nature Astronomy. In it, the team reports detecting phosphine (PH₃) in Venus’s atmosphere with the use of two telescopes. There are hardly any gases that produced the same results, so they were able to conclude that they found phosphine. However, the team could not conclusively determine the source of this gas.

Phosphine is colourless, flammable, and toxic; we usually encounter it mixed with diphosphine (H₄P₂), which gives it a foul smell. It is most often produced to manufacture textiles, fumigants, and electronics. We also find phosphine naturally in anaerobic microbes.

Scientists consider phosphine to be a biosignature, because it is difficult to recreate the conditions to create the gas without these microbes, especially at the quantity found on Venus. With this, scientists believe there is a chance of life on our neighbouring planet.

However, phosphine also occurs on Jupiter and Saturn. These gas giants produce immense heat and energy, enough to trigger the reaction, but there is no life on either planet. Scientists also find that phosphine can be produced by volcanoes and lightning storms, both abiotic processes.

More research is still necessary, but to the possible organisms on Venus, we are coming for you!

TESLA’S BATTERY BREAKTHROUGH (PART 1)
Marc Randy
Production Manager
As important as electric vehicles are to transition to renewable energy and limiting of global emissions, manufacturing electric cars is still more expensive than making the commonly used internal combustion engines (ICE). The reason behind this comes down to the cost difference of storing energy in batteries versus extracting energy through burning fossil fuels.

The energy density, or how much energy can be extracted from a given quantity of batteries is currently lower than that of fossil fuels. This means that for the same amount of energy, it costs more to store and retrieve it from a battery than to burn oil to get it. In other words, batteries are more expensive than fossil fuels, and that drives up the price of electric vehicles.

On September 22nd 2020, the leading electric vehicle and renewable energy solutions manufacturer Tesla held its annual shareholder meeting. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted with a smaller live audience watching from parked cars as well as being livestreamed online. The actual shareholder meeting only lasted for a little under an hour, the rest of the event was Tesla’s much-anticipated Battery Day.

In this presentation, CEO and co-founder Elon Musk alongside the lead battery designer outlined the company’s plans to reduce the price per kilowatt-hour by 56% through multiple new manufacturing processes. They outlined their new 4860 battery that has five times the energy than their previous battery, as well as 16% more range, and six times more power.

BOTOX
Victoria Navia Via-Dufresne
Science & Tech Editor
Botox, most commonly known for the cosmetic use of reducing wrinkles, is actually a toxin originating mostly from the bacteria Clostridium botulinum.

This toxin causes muscles to be paralyzed by preventing neurotransmitters from reaching muscle cells. While it can be used to help certain health issues, it can also be a great risk to health when given in specific quantities; it is known as the deadliest poison in the world.

Botulism is a rare disease which can cause a range of effects such as weakness, blurred vision and lethargy, and in some cases, it can be fatal. It can be caused due to a sprout of the producing bacteria in soils and water and can also be found in food. Botulism was first spotted in 1700 in Germany, due to food poisoning originating from sausages. It is found in seven different types (A to G), with two very rare types (E and F). Type A is the most poisonous one of all.

The toxin can also help in treating certain diseases. The FDA approved the use of botulinum toxin (Botox) for strabismus (first used by Dr Alan B. Scott in 1980), which means they approved its use for reducing wrinkles and to prevent muscle spasms and treat for muscle pain disorders.

Botulinum toxin can easily kill a person in a matter of nanograms, but when the concentration is controlled, like many other toxins, it can be beneficial instead of fatal. As Paracelsus said, “the dose makes the poison.”

Source: Hailshadow
REJECTED HEADLINES

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

- Local student claims writing her essay last minute is an allegory for current climate change policies
- Perfect Halloween wasted on quarantine
- U.S. populace eagerly watches retirement home debate
- Trump acting "kinda sus", reports Biden
- Inktober found to immunize against Coronavirus
- Frogs hitch ride on back of crocodile, reportedly cute
- Archeologists discover dinosaurs were having a gender reveal party
- Montreal announces plans to go into code rainbow for Pride Month

HORRORSCOPES

Sophia Danielle Beronilla
Staff Writer

Aries - do you want to make money fast? do you? you can’t go out, so follow our advice: do it, sign up: it’s quick, it’s harmless, working from home has never been this easy. come on, we’re waiting.

Taurus - you know your house like the back of your hand now, you hear the creaking of your furniture, the soft padding of your feet against the floor, the dragging sound of the man inside your walls, you have already checked everywhere, placed all your traps, but you still can’t find how he enters your home, you are not quarantining alone.

Gemini - the next time you leave your house, you will get lost. you have forgotten how the roads look, you turn eastward, but you find yourself going west. there are new metro stations, new bus lines, new highways that all lead to the same dirt road.

Cancer - who added you to this video call? hello? do you think they can hear you? you can’t see their video feed, and you can’t see their names. people are typing in chat, but you cannot understand them.

Leo - you are waiting at the clinic. arrive early to get the best spot because you might get stuck next to someone with no face and someone with no mask. they call out numbers, but you never hear yours, you should have booked an appointment.

Virgo - look behind you. you have no lucky number.

Libra - there will be a package outside your door, there was one yesterday. you will bring it in. it is always so heavy. you open it, but it will once again be empty. you have never ordered anything, but tomorrow there will be another package. your lucky weed is red.

Scorpio - you will be awakened to the sound of your doorbell ringing, but you know you weren’t expecting guests. you haven’t seen anyone for five months now, the doorbell will not stop. there’s no one when you look through the peephole. your lucky colour is red.

Sagittarius - do you remember what day it is? time passes so slowly now, do you remember what time you went to bed? what time you woke up? it’s nine in the morning but the moon is in the sky. your lucky day is Monday.

Capricorn - you unlock your phone, and it opens your browser. it only shows you news. you are blinded by all the new numbers, rising and rising. your lucky number is rising too.

Aquarius - you see your neighbours outside, and they can see you. they’re all standing in the street, two meters apart, looking into your house. i hope you are wearing your lucky shirt... and Pisces - did you wash your hands today? do you have your mask? your lucky animal is hiding under your bed.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Victoria Navas Via-Dufresne
Science & Tech Editor

THE BANDERS: THE CLUBROOM QUARANTINE

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor
ACTIVISM VS. SLACKTIVISM

Christina Blake  
Staff Writer

It is no secret that we have evidently seen an uproar in activism on social media throughout the year 2020 thus far. It began with the Black Lives Matter movement increase following the wrongful killing of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, two innocent black men and Breonna Taylor, an innocent black woman, all Americans.

We have also noticed a large demographic of politicians, activists and feminists voice their respects and opinions on the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, a political activist and a feminist. She was the second woman in American history to hold that title and position. People reflected on how she should be remembered, commemorated and respected. They also expounded how profoundly she had fought for women’s rights and gender equality during her tenure. Ginsburg had encouraged thousands of women to pursue law and other careers that had historically been overpowered and dominated by predominantly white men. She also reinforced The Supreme Court recognition for constitutional equality of women in America, which created a ripple effect around the world.

However, her death was not only the one that had struck the media and a specific demographic in a drastic and powerful way. Less than a month earlier, a young black man had been hailed a hero in media and pop culture, Chadwick Boseman. He was most known for his role as the Black Panther in the 2018 hit film of the same name. He passed away at the age of 43 after fighting colon cancer all whilst persevering in his acting career. He had recently been enormously praised for undergoing chemotherapy while acting on set for weeks at a time for various films.

His career as an actor was also symbolic of the representation of the Black community in Hollywood films. It was a demonstration of progression and improvement in Hollywood that black actors were starting to receive leading and protagonist roles in film and television.

We have also recently noticed great representation of black actors in TV shows such as This is Us, starring Sterling K. Brown and Euphoria, starring Zendaya. More importantly, we have noticed an increased divided and toxic environment on social media through various platforms questioning whether the activism was performative (to follow a trend) or genuine, as a way of showing the world that you are committed to fight for the rights of visible minorities of society.

The performative form of activism that we see in the media is what we would call “Slacktivism”. It has unfortunately become increasingly present in regard to social justice movements in the media. More specifically, on Blackout Tuesday (a day where social media platforms such as Instagram were used to demonstrate a peaceful and global protest against racism and police brutality following the death of George Floyd), many engaged in performative activism to “follow a trend” and avoid backlash from their peers. People were strongly encouraged to buy from black businesses, keep the social media focus on anti-racism and read novels and articles on police brutality towards the black community. It created a great deal of controversy amongst certain social and political activists.

They began questioning why celebrities, athletes, youtubers, CEOs, and other individuals with large platforms in the media, would post a black square on social media for #blackouttuesday but would fail to educate themselves and participate in other forms of activism such as attending peaceful protests, donating to organizations and sharing information that would spread awareness on the issue. Overall, it is key to remember that being actively participatory in the fight for social justice should be instinctive, natural, meaningful, respectful and done willingly. Engaging in it simply to follow a trend may not beneficial to yourself or others.

CONSOLE WARS

Sebastian Socorro  
Editor-in-Chief

Nearing the end of the year 2020, the wave of hype and excitement preceding the release of our next generation of consoles is coming to a close. Console hardware is inching ever closer to the capabilities of high-end gaming PCs (which I would wager is why they’re also looking like PC boxes), controllers have been revealed, prices have been revealed, and most importantly, games have been announced. The second week of November will surely shake up the gaming world, as the Xbox Series X releases on the 10th and the PS5 releases just two days later, on the 12th.

To avoid the recency bias of the latest presentations by Sony and Microsoft, I’ll take an overview of the two consoles starting with the two simplest factors: the price and release date. The Microsoft consoles (Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S) have the immediate advantage in both a lower price and a headstart, as they release two days earlier at CA $599 for the Series X and CA $379 for the Series S. Comparatively, the PS5 will sell at about CA $629 for the base console and about $499 for the Digital Edition. It’s quite easy to tell here that while Microsoft has a minor advantage in price for the larger console, the price difference between the Xbox Series S and the PS5 Digital Edition is a little over $100. How much this matters in the overall race depends first and foremost on whether you prefer the cheaper line of consoles, but it’s clear that the next Xbox has won in the eyes of those who focus primarily on price.

Of course, hardware differences shouldn’t go without saying. In that regard, the exact numbers can be found pretty much everywhere online, but it’s safe to say that the Xbox Series X also has the upper hand. Apart from the fact that the PS5 has a significantly faster SSD (which Sony has put a lot of emphasis on since it vastly decreases loading times), the PS5 has hardware so similar it’s almost unnoticeable. The Xbox Series X specs are still slightly better (which is why the price undercut is both surprising and bold). However, I personally don’t believe hardware makes or breaks a gaming console. It’s certainly impressive and I always prefer when things look better or load faster, but the hardware differences between these two consoles is so minimal that I wouldn’t prioritize them. After all, I’m one among many who have greatly enjoyed their quarantine time with a console as technically primitive as the Nintendo Switch.

This brings me to (in my opinion) the deal-breaker: the games. As impressive as the hardware is or as pretty as the console box is, I’m not going to notice them as much as the games I’ll play on them. Both consoles offer a degree of backwards compatibility (which is much appreciated), but what really sells is the exclusives. These are games that can’t be played on PC or other consoles, and in that respect, it should be easy to denote the PS5 as the winner. Yes, Microsoft has bought Bethesda+ZeniMax for a staggering $7.5 billion, but that either refers to games from the previous generation or games that haven’t even been teased yet. Apart from that, their big exclusive titles count Halo Infinite and Fable 4 (both of which you can also play on PC), but that’s about it. Aside from last-gen games, the PS5 boasts the next God of War, Horizon Forbidden West, Spider-Man: Miles Morales, Demon’s Souls, Sackboy: A Big Adventure, Returnal, Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart, and a gigantic list of games that can only be played on the PS5 or a capable PC, like Final Fantasy XVI.

In the end, the Xbox Series X is still a valid choice, if you want a Halo Infinite machine that isn’t a PC, or you simply don’t care about the games that are exclusive to the PS5, but in my opinion, the PS5 wins.

Source: Xbox Wire

Source: PS5 Press Release
GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE WEEK

Valeria Krumdieck Leon, Marisol Uriza & Martha Genoveva Guerra Lopez
Contributors

Climate Change has been a pressing issue for the last decade. However, it has become extremely urgent in the last couple of years. We’ve all heard about the urgent need for action to save our planet, yet this continues to not be a priority for many people. It is important to inform ourselves on this issue as well as discover ways we can help solve it. We must not despair; now is the time to take action and do our best to save our Mother Earth.

Global Climate Change Week is coming up on October 19th. What will you do to contribute? Our advice: start a discussion with your teachers regarding how they can incorporate climate change in their class during the semester. If any of your teachers want to be part of this event, they can contact Jessica Burpee through MIO.

It’s a great opportunity to learn something new.

Last year, Global Climate Change Week covered interesting topics such as: Greta’s speech, ecophobia in literature, moral aspects of domination over nature, Victorian reports of pollution, the effects of climate change in mental health, and many more!

What will be happening in your courses during Global Climate Change Week? Ask your teachers about it! It may seem as though we have no power to stop climate change, but if we work together, we can accomplish greatness. It is up to us what happens next.

Stay tuned for more information: @imaginechangejac on Instagram and @ChangelImagine on Twitter.

What will be happening in your courses this term?