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WELLNESS DAY

Elizabeth Tulli
Staff Writer

L ast Monday marked the first wellness day of the winter semester. Hopefully, students had a day well spent. Some may have caught up on assignments, partook in fun outdoor activities or video chatted with friends. What’s better, we got a three-day weekend. It’s truly the icing on top after an intense week of online classes.

Looking back, I had a very productive day. The most productive day I’ve had in a while. I woke up early, ate a hearty breakfast, and made my plan for the day. Here’s how my plan went: complete some homework in the morning and take the afternoon off. Plus, I didn’t have to log on for classes. A stress-free schedule makes me feel pure joy.

When noon arrived, I decided to go shopping. While I was in a bookstore, I suddenly remembered a book I’ve been meaning to get. I was unsure whether I should buy it or not. I made silly excuses like not having enough time to read it and distracting me from my studies. However, there’s no reason not to reward yourself for working hard. Shoudn’t you treat yourself from time to time? Long story short, I changed my mind and bought it.

My day was simple yet refreshing. I had a balanced schedule consisting of both work and leisure. I also slept peacefully through the night because I accomplished a long list of things. It doesn’t matter how a day is spent if it brings happiness into your life.

A DOZEN ROSES

Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

J ohn Abbott College held a contest, in which they picked four winners to have roses delivered to their house on Valentine’s Day. In total, this valued to $100. How were these winners picked? Essentially, you had to put in the name of your crush, partner, or friend in a form found on Instagram, and write in what you would write in a card.

I was one of these winners. Six of my close friends surprised me, and all put my name in. Ultimately, I was picked and still had no idea, until yesterday. I got a box delivered to my door, which was almost just as tall as me (which, frankly is not too tall as I am 5’2”), but either way I had no idea what it could be. I opened it with my friends on the phone, and they explained the backstory on how they won these roses for me. Tears inevitably ran down my cheeks, as this was an incredibly kind thing to do.

Valentine’s day can be a difficult thing for single people, I know. However, our friendships and connections can be just as beautiful as romance. Whether you are dining with a partner, or drinking wine with friends, the day is simply reserved for love.

COLLEGE + COVID

Elizabeth Tulli
Staff Writer

B esides the new measures, previous protocols will remain in place. For instance, public areas are available for students to use such as the Library and Agora. Nothing else has drastically changed concerning on-campus activities. The only change is the increase of the student body within the past weeks, but students must make sure to respect the health protocols at all times. The Agora is open to the public, allowing students to attend their online classes and socialize with others. Hallways and stairwells are rarely crowded. When there are a couple of people in one vicinity, everyone maintains at least two metres apart if possible.

College life may not return to normal for a long time. For this reason, it’s important to work together as a united community. Let’s embrace the future with open arms. Miracles only happen through time and patience.

SUJAC UPDATE

We would like to dedicate this month’s Bandersnatch Update to Black History Month. This month, let us celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians and learn more about their past and present experiences. This is our duty to our fellow Canadians. Our very own Black Student Club will be hosting events all month to celebrate Black History Month. Make sure to be on the lookout for Omnivox postings for the event details!

February is also our Club Month—a month where Clubs have more activities than ever planned to promote the benefits of joining Clubs. Online school can be a challenge for a lot of students and joining Clubs can help with mental health, loneliness and just to have some fun after a long day of distance learning!

For ‘Bell Let’s Talk’ week, SUJAC and Student Activities partnered up to donate to the AMI-Quebec organization—for every hashtag and repost for a total of 500%.

In the spirit of helping students stay on top of their University program choices, SUJAC has compiled a list of helpful information and resources that was posted on Omnivox and @instasujac on Instagram. We are also hosting an E-Sports Tournament featuring League of Legends where students will be able to compete with students from other CEGEPs for a big cash prize!

Your SUJAC Executive Team 2020-2021:

President Emily Thom
VP Internal Théophile (Theo) Bourgeois
VP Academic Samuel (Sam) Wong
VP External Jonathan (Jonny) Sztainberg
VP Finance Molly Gunyon
VP Communications John Bedriyan
BEIRUT BLAST: SIX MONTHS LATER
Lara Fakhoury
Contributor

It has already been more than six months since the deadly blast in Beirut, Lebanon. Over 200 dead, thousands injured and over 300 000 people without a home. The carelessness which led to the explosion started in 1990, when the three opposing sides of Lebanon’s government came up with a temporary solution to ease the transition from conflict to peace of a 15-year civil war. Each side got control over a sector of Lebanon such as electricity, medicine and security. This temporary solution, that was only meant to last three years, has caused the tragic neglect and collapse of Lebanon.

The country’s economy heavily relies on imports, but with the main port of Lebanon in ruins, the goods that do manage to come in are multiplied in price. Food and medicine have become increasingly expensive. Their currency, the Lebanese pound, has lost 80% of its value since global investors pulled out when armed conflict around Lebanon began worsening.

Lebanon was in shambles before the blast, which only added more fuel to the fire. The explosion was caused by 2 750 tons of ammonium nitrate that was stored and neglected at the port of Beirut since 2013.

Following the explosion, donations came from all over the world, and greatly helped the Lebanese in reconstructing their capital.

Since the blast, COVID cases have risen and many residents fell into poverty. The explosion captured the world’s attention and showed that Lebanon is in desperate need of help. The only people who haven’t been paying attention is Lebanon’s own government.

ANTI-COUP PROTESTS IN MYANMAR
Michelle Akim
News Editor

Sunday the 14th of February marks two weeks since the Myanmar military coup. The two weeks have been marked by daily protests, international outcry, and much uncertainty on the future of Myanmar’s democracy.

The Southeast Asian country’s civilian government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi from the National League for Democracy, was re-elected in a landslide during the general election in November of 2020. On February 1st, as the newly elected legislature was supposed to begin a new session of parliament, the Burmese military (led by Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing) seized control of the country, put Ms. Suu Kyi under house arrest, and declared a year-long national state of emergency. Supported by the official opposition, they claim that the election was fraudulent, despite no findings of the kind by the election commission.

This marks a relapse in military rule for the country, which had a military government from 1962 to 2011.

Following the coup, there have been daily protests and civil disobedience, largely led by teachers, lawyers, students, medical personnel and government workers. In response, the army have used water cannons, prosecuted protestors, and arrested hundreds.

Despite calls of unity on the behalf of the army (who claim that to work with the military is to support democracy), neither the protestors, nor much of the international community are convinced. President Joe Biden has imposed sanctions on Myanmar’s military leaders, and the U.K., Australia, and E.U. have denounced the coup. The United Nations Human Rights Council, after increased pressure from China and Russia, passed a very watered-down resolution calling for the release of all political prisoners.

David’s Tea Bankruptcy
Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

Many businesses suffered severe financial losses under the weight of COVID-19, and many are still struggling to stay afloat. One such company is DavidsTea, which was doing well in its early days, but the strain from COVID-19 proved too much; DavidsTea had already been suffering financially before it even broke out.

Before the pandemic, DavidsTea had a total of 184 stores in Canada, with an additional 42 in the U.S.A. They were struggling financially before the pandemic due to low sales, but it was when the COVID-19 started making headlines, then things began to really escalate. The company now only has 18 stores open altogether. With every store in the U.S.A. being shut down, this makes Canada the only country to still have any DavidsTea stores. Their executive chairman, Herschel Segal, announced in June of 2020 that DavidsTea had not paid rent in any of its stores for three months because all of the stores had been closed since March 17th due to the coronavirus.

This caused DavidsTea to file for partial bankruptcy protection from their creditors. Under these circumstances, e-commerce is DavidsTea’s only chance of survival as a company.

At the moment there have been no updates as to how well they’re doing. The employees that still have a job at a DavidsTea store will most likely lose their jobs unless the stores have a major turnaround in profits. Only time will tell if that will happen.

QUÉBEC’S NEW COVID GUIDELINES
Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On February 2nd, Quebec announced new COVID guidelines which started on February 8th. The 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM curfew remains the same, as 90% of Quebec remains under a red zone (including Montreal).

These are the restrictions we must follow in red zones:

- All non-essential businesses are staying closed. Hair salons, shopping malls, and retailers are allowed to reopen at limited capacity. Restaurants are available for take out. Measures remain the same for elementary and high schools, they will remain open. On-campus classes for CEGEPS and universities are available once again, but reduced at 50% capacity. Libraries can reopen for pick-up, and museums can open with a limited capacity. Places of worship are open for a maximum of ten people, in our red zone. For funerals, 25 people may attend at a one time. In red zones, cinemas and auditoriums remain closed. Private gatherings are still prohibited, with the exception of the visitor providing a service, offering support or visiting a person living alone.

Our previous guidelines seemed to be working, as cases have been on the decline since mid-January. Over the past 24 hours, 1 049 new cases have been documented, bringing the total number of people infected to 275, 880. Out of these, 255 146 have now recovered.

We have also been making progress on vaccination efforts, as 8 675 doses were administered, for a grand total of 310 425 administered doses.

Essentially, stay home and wear a mask. We may still be able to salvage the summer if we follow these guidelines.

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BEFORE
Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Sitting on the green,
Picking blades of grass,
Dreaming about being a teen.

Falling asleep on the couch
With no worries,
And waking up in bed.

Biking around town after
school,
Thinking we were cool.
When the lights dim,
It’s time to go home.

Playing make-believe with
friends,
Being anyone we wanna be.
Everything is different through
this lens.

Sitting in a classroom,
Trying to stay awake,
The room is filled with gloom.

Falling asleep on the couch,
Anxious as always,
And waking up, on the couch.

Sitting in bed after school,
Procrastinating tasks we must
do,
Never gaining the energy.

Adults telling us what we can
become,

The make-believe is gone,
Time to make a lifelong
decision.

Smoking grass to help forget,
All the things in the past, you
left.
Adulthood is a theft,
Memories are a threat.

Wishing to go back to a simpler
time,
Before time was different.
Where every hour of every day
wasn’t spent,
Stressing about the future.
A time of innocence.

RED ROSES
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

A PEEK
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief
THE QUIET ONE
Nicole Widerlund
Staff Writer

In the midst of the crowded, white forest, there resided an abundance of feathered creatures. As the distant sun began to rise, the birds greeted the coming day with their harmonious ballads. One after the other, melodies were sung from all but one. This feathered creature could not be heard nor be seen in the light of day. It was only in the quiet night that the creature would show itself. It would flap its wings with the utmost caution so as to avoid catching attention from anyone, for this creature was diffident of its unusually round face, overwhelming large eyes, and timid personality.

It is only the nature of my being, thought the owl, to be alone and unseen. Tonight, it will go as planned and expected like all the nights prior.

But it did not...

A sudden rattling of a bush gave the impression of a movement from a small creature.

A prey, at last! thought the owl.

After plummeting down towards the prey, the conundrum of being in a helpless situation had befallen the owl's simple night of being tangled in the arms of the bush. Every attempt that was poured into escaping did absolutely no change. Once more, the sun began to rise. Once more, the morning birds began to sing. The night had already become day, and the world was going through its regular course, while the owl remained suspended and unchanging. If only the quiet one would start singing.

FRIGID NIGHT
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

Quietly, she walks.
Nothing but a whisper.
Her hair trails behind her
In the white of the snow.

Twinkling are her eyes.
Never been swifter.
She leaves you behind her
And you'll never know.

I'm sorry. Come back.
She's stronger and bitter.
You loved me too much
To ever say so.

Break me, my darling.
Oh, how I have missed her.
Embrace in the night, but
She'll still let you go.

She left me a present.
Tied up in a bow.
A jewel of her love
She never could show.

Behind me, she ran
Faster than I could throw
The remains of her soul:
My very own foe.

HORIZON
Elizabeth Tulli
Staff Writer

Tear out the whole silence.
Cut out all the din.
I'll never get to know
A horrid life so low.

Cruelly, she cries
Frigid tears of sin.
My skin crawls alive
With a fiery glow.

Tell me I'm crazy.
She'll fight to the death.
Slashes of vines fall into
The river's flow.

She darted among
The dead, frozen bank
Where she thought to reduce
Me to nothing but my throes.

To think of a love.
One that will never be mine.
She cut off my petals
And ensured I couldn't grow.

But I'll never forget.
A frigid night's peace.
Where she brought me to
Nothing, But kissed me, so slow.
A PROMISED LAND REVIEW
Andre Bernier
Staff Writer

Growing up, my picture of what a United States president looked like was formed mostly by Barack Obama. But like most kids, I had no obvious reason to be interested in politics, and I had little awareness or understanding of the events during his time as president. But as I grow older, I started to have a greater awareness of what was happening around the world and had learned and started to admire Barack’s political career.

That is why last Christmas, I was ecstatic when my family had decided to buy me a copy of Barack Obama’s A Promised Land. Most reviews that I read said that the first volume of his memoir was fantastic, extremely insightful, and very funny. Boy were they right.

Obama’s introspective account of his time before and during office was insightful to say the least. While I will never know him personally, his writing takes you inside his mind. Through his thought processes and explanations of the various major events that shaped him, Obama allowed me to have the most unfiltered account of his presidency that I’ve ever gotten from a person who held a position of power.

The best piece of knowledge Obama’s memoir gave me was simply a more informed perspective on the state of the world, which is under the foundation of hope. Throughout the book, despite the fact that some issues are extremely complex or contentious, having hope is what kept him going and I believe that memoir shows its importance.

LOVE’S A BITCH REVIEW
Gursagar Singh
Sports Editor

Eric Alexandrakis, a Grammy-nominated musician, has released a new Valentine’s Day album called Love’s a Bitch. It is heavily influenced by 60’s pop, New Wave and soundtracks and sounds like something that would play at the end of a coming-of-age film that takes place over the summertime. It feels as though it is placed in a timeline of what proceeds, the time where memories are processed and engraved. It’s a celebration, not pushing the narrative of carpe diem, instead seizing the day. It’s the end of a long summer night; the after-party.

Tuning into the lyrics, the song Mediterranean Sun perfectly captures the essence of the album, and it can be said that Eric Alexandrakis did a good job developing a stage and executing the narrative he was trying to push. The album longs to make a moment last, and dreams of the moments that are to come but also tries to hold on to what is ever escaping its reach.
AMONG US NEW MAP
Elizabeth Tulli
Staff Writer

At the 2020 Game Awards, Innersloth shared a short trailer of the upcoming map for Among Us: The Airship. Innersloth hasn’t announced the map’s release date but it is set to launch in early 2021. Due to Among Us’s recent popularity in mid-2020, the developers cancelled Among Us 2 and set on adding the sequel’s features to the original game.

The Airship will be the largest map out of the four. There will be a total of eighteen areas on the ship. Some rooms are from previous maps like Medbay, Electrical and Engine Room. A few additional rooms include Gap Room, Cockpit and Kitchen. There are also three emergency meeting rooms. After an emergency meeting, players can choose a room they want to start in.

The new map will have several new features, including moving platforms and ladders. The moving platforms will allow players to travel between areas. However, this might increase the level of difficulty for crewmates and impostors. A crewmate, for example, is doomed if an impostor is waiting on the other side and an impostor might get caught if they kill a crewmate. Although, ladders may help commute faster. The question is how will players use the traversal methods to their advantage?

What’s more, the map provides a variety of new tasks, killing animations and cosmetic items and skins inspired by the studio’s earlier series Henry Stickmin.

Among Us fans are eagerly waiting for the map to release. When Innersloth officially releases it, another game of social deduction and betrayal will begin.

Source: Slapp Memorial Library

SUPER VALIS IV
Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

When Nintendo released a handful of games on the SNES Library on the Switch back in December, many people were ecstatic about Donkey Kong Country 3 being added. This made the other games seem less interesting in comparison. Games like Super Valis IV were nearly left in the dust.

On the surface, Super Valis IV seems like your average 2D side-scrolling action game but it actually has a rather unique feel to it. The movement and aesthetics are reminiscent of Castlevania, but the style of attacking and power-ups make it feel more like Gradius, which was a very interesting combo. The power-ups give you a sense of experimentation. You have a homing attack, a triple shot, a straight shooter, and an attack that runs along the ground. All of these make the gameplay a lot more engaging and they all have their uses.

Super Valis IV’s level design is pretty simplistic, even if you move both left AND right, you’re pretty much never lost. Strangely enough the music is also a mixture of two gaming music styles, it feels like a mixture between Mega Man X and Castlevania, which sounds about as awesome as you would think.

There are a lot of awesome classic and nostalgic games on the Switch’s SNES Library that most people want to re-live but there are so many games that don’t get enough spotlight. So if ever you want to try something new, there is a huge chunk of games worth your while on the Switch’s Classic Libraries. With the save states and rewind features on both of these it may be the optimal way to play those classics.

DARK SOULS THE BOARD GAME
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

If you’ve been keeping up with my articles in Games recently, you’d know that I’m very much a fan of the Dark Souls series and other games in the Soulsborne genre. I also love board games (especially D&D), so you’d understand my elation and curiosity when I was perusing Tour de France and Castlevania: The Anniversary of one of its biggest party releases from Nintendo. Apart from Animal Crossing: New Horizons in March, Super Mario 3D All-Stars in September, and a re-release of Pikmin 3 in October, 2020 barely saw any new first party Nintendo releases.

As of the writing of this article on February 14th, 2021, Nintendo has just released a port of Super Mario 3D Land on the Switch alongside a short expansion named Bowser’s Fury. With only a week left before the Legend of Zelda series’ 35th anniversary on the 21st, there is still no word on if Nintendo has any plans for its second biggest in-house franchise.

Nintendo has been mostly quiet about its future plans throughout 2020, foregoing its Nintendo Direct presentations and opting to upload trailers onto its YouTube channel. Hopefully with the anniversary of one of its biggest franchises fast approaching it will detail some of its planned releases this year.

NEW RELEASES ARE WHAT NINTENDON’T
Marc Randy
Production Manager

To say that last year was a turbulent one for the gaming industry would be a massive understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the 2020 Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) to be cancelled, and made developers shift to working from home. But one game developer that has gone mostly quiet since the pandemic seemingly forced many of our lives into slow motion: Nintendo.

Nintendo has always played its own game separate from the rest of the gaming industry. When the Gamecube didn’t perform as well as Nintendo had hoped, it pivoted away from powerful hardware and focused more on making fun and engaging games. This unique approach has always positioned Nintendo to be in a league of its own, with the success of the Nintendo Switch being a prime example. However, 2020 saw very few first-party releases from Nintendo. Apart from Animal Crossing: New Horizons in March, Super Mario 3D All-Stars in September, and a re-release of Pikmin 3 in October, 2020 barely saw any new first party Nintendo releases.

One platform that Nintendo has not really touched into is the tabletop RPGs, considering trying it out.

The price is quite extravagant, but I’d say it’s worth it for its 27 figures alone. Enemies and bosses from Dark Souls 1 and 3 are featured (including appropriately-sized Ornstein & Smough), and they’re detailed enough to display on their own. It’s quite a niche game to be interested in, but if you’re a fan of the Dark Souls series and/or you enjoy tabletop RPGs, considering trying it out.

The music is also a mixture of two gaming music styles, it feels like a mixture between Mega Man X and Castlevania, which sounds about as awesome as you would think.

There are a lot of awesome classic and nostalgic games on the Switch’s SNES Library that most people want to re-live but there are so many games that don’t get enough spotlight. So if ever you want to try something new, there is a huge chunk of games worth your while on the Switch’s Classic Libraries. With the save states and rewind features on both of these it may be the optimal way to play those classics.
**QUIDDITCH**

Even You Can Play It!

Tammy Haddad
Staff Writer

What's your favourite sport? Soccer? Basketball? Do you want to know what mine is? Tennis! Yet, this has absolutely nothing to do with this article because I'm here to tell you about the most famous sport you never knew existed: Quidditch! Yes, yes, I do mean Quidditch, that sport from Harry Potter Quidditch. How many other Quidditches do you know anyway?

This sport was first introduced to the world in Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone in 1997. It was impossible for us mere Muggles to play, for it required us to whizz about on flying brooms which, in case you haven't noticed, don't actually exist. Yet, in 2005, students at Middlebury College in Vermont decided that enough was enough, and they created a Muggle-friendly version of the sport (which does not involve any flying, I'm sorry to say).

Here's how Quidditch works. Teams can be made up of up to twenty-one players, but they can only have six people on the field at a time: one Keeper, two Beaters, and three Chasers. The game is played on a grass field as all the players run around with brooms between their legs. There are two types of balls. One is called the Quaffle, whilst the other is known as a Bludger. There is only one Quaffle that is passed around by the Chasers as they try to throw it through a set of three hoops that act as the goal. The Keeper's job is to protect their team's hoop by blocking the Quaffle. If the Quaffle manages to escape the Keeper, and pass through one of the hoops, the team scores ten points. As to the Bludgers, there are three of those in the game. They can solely be touched by Beaters who use them to temporarily eliminate a member of the opposing team. If someone is hit by a Bludger, they must drop everything they are holding (Quaffle and broom included), race to their side of the field, touch a hoop, and resume the game.

Seventeen minutes into the game, the Snitch is released. Winged balls having yet to be sold in stores, us Muggles have opted for the next best thing: another Muggle. The golden Snitch is a person dressed in yellow with a “snitch tail” attached to the back of their shorts. The Snitch is an impartial, third-party player whose goal is to protect their tail at all cost. At the eighteen-minute mark, the Seekers of both teams are released. Their goal is to yank the tail off the Snitch. Seekers are faced with a surprisingly hard task. As mentioned earlier, the Snitch will do everything in their power to protect their tail, which means that Snitch versus Seeker wrestling matches are not uncommon. The one who manages to steal the “snitch tail” wins thirty points for their team, and ends the game. The team with the most points when the game is finished wins.

Currently, Quidditch has more than 450 teams worldwide. From high school competitions to championships, this sport has gained a lot of traction. As someone who has played a match herself, I definitely recommend giving it a try. At first, you might feel stupid running around with a broom between your legs, but you’ll soon get lost in the magic of the game. So, mount your brooms everyone, and join the fun!

Source: www.middlebury.edu/

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**THE FRESH FORGOTTEN PRINCE**

Gursagar Singh
Sports Editor

Zion Williamson is one of the most absurd athletes. His capabilities seem impossible for his size. There is no sacrifice of agility for strength. He soars when he jumps. He scores through dunks, but he has an uphill shot, room to improve but he clears the floor when he runs. His surreal ability had amassed him a large following, he was set to be the next in line, the next royal of the NBA. Being one of the most hyped players coming into the NBA he was prophesised to be king, yet he was soon forgotten. The world has been watching ever since his mind bending growth spurt in high school. His presence on the court was and still is unmatched.

However, his arrival to the league created reason for uncertainty. Many fans started to worry as he went through most of his rookie season without playing. When he did get to play he was dominant but some speculated that his injury had created diminished returns. You could hear fans arguing on whether he weighted too much, whether he knew how to even run or jump. His movements seemed off and the last thing that fans wanted was another tragedy to the likes of Markelle Fultz underwhelming development. The 2020 season was very chaotic but Zion was definitely a headline, eventually going on to nearly win rookie of the year.

This season, it seems as though fans have gone quiet. It could be that there is a new popular kid in Lamelo Ball, or the lack of team success for the Pelicans, but there is not much discussion or debate taking place on Zion Williamson. Watching his game, he has definitely improved, he seems to be back in shape, but the young king has been forgotten. It could be that he reigns over a smaller empire, with the Pelicans being in a smaller market but the attention he is getting is underwhelming to near disrespectful. He is averaging about 24 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists per game on 60 percent shooting, it can nearly be said that he is underrated.

Watching some highlights, he is the same Zion that was to be witnessed before. Maybe he cannot claim the status of royalty that was once theorized, but if he is able to have any level of playoff presence or success it should get quickly established. He is still a player to be feared, he is still one of the most dominant forces in the league, and I would personally still place him over Lamelo. So with the awkward news cycle during these times of high volatility, I encourage everyone to pay more attention to what might not be the next LeBron yet, but maybe the next Charles Barkley. It would be a tragedy to forget those who we will regret to not witness.

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Source: www.middlebury.edu/
WE’RE ENABLING SLAVERY
Palmer Krilick-Tomchishen
Opinions Editor

This past summer, an issue came to light to me through my increasing involvement with an internet friend who resides in Hong Kong. My involvement with this correspondent was predicated upon supporting people who were protesting the unlawful takeover they were experiencing from the Chinese government, which is sweeping its notorious national security law over the citizens of the once semi-autonomous country. My interest peaked further in the contemporary politics of China through this connection, and I was appalled upon my research findings; we are complicit in supporting modern day slavery and an ethnic genocide of the Uighur muslims in Xinjiang, China.

Now you may say wait a minute, how am I complicit? Well, if you own any new assets from the companies Apple, Samsung, Sony, BMW, Nike, GAP, Volkswagen or any of the other big name brands, then according to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), you have purchased products that have likely been produced by (to some degree or another) a detained or worked on by modern day slaves.

ASPI is a political think tank that disseminated the information on this disturbing phenomenon after analyzing a surfeit of Chinese government documents. Millions of Uighur muslims have been detained by the Chinese government in the name of combating islamist extremism and forced to abdicate their religious practices and beliefs whilst being assimilated; at least 80,000 have been forced to work in approximately 27 factories within nine provinces. We must do better and boycott these brands to deal with the facist chinese government.

THE WEEKND AT THE SUPER BOWL
Bryanna Wallis
Staff Writer

In a year shaped by coronavirus, we’ve all had to make some massive changes to our lives. That said, I wasn’t exactly sure what to expect for the Super Bowl halftime show, which is typically an extravagant event that cheered on by thousands of people. I feel the need to give the Weeknd a round of applause for his performance because it definitely captured my interest.

For starters, I absolutely loved the red sparkly jacket he was wearing. What I specifically found interesting was the background set, a neon cityscape with a choir, built in between the stands.

The Weeknd was extremely amusing to watch, especially when he would dance with the dancers at different parts in the performance. I would describe some of the dances as goofy, free and full of energy. Personally, my favourite part of this whole performance was the end when the Weeknd and the dancers went onto the field for “Blinding Lights” and freely danced.

One of the main noticeable aspects of this performance was the singer’s eye contact. On multiple occasions, the Weeknd would stare into the camera while singing, making the experience almost intimate. I think this was a brilliant move to connect with the audience since the majority of viewers are watching through a screen.

This halftime show was for sure completely different from the usual elaborate shows. I believe this was a breath of fresh air, being a more personal and focused performance. The Weeknd made me rethink my expectations for the halftime show and his music, in the best possible way.

HIDDEN TALENT: PART TWO
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

If you are looking for new music to listen to, there is a large number of lesser-known artists who have yet to be discovered by the world!

One group whom I think is worth checking out is KALEO. KALEO is an upbeat band from Iceland with both rock-and-roll and tender, heartfelt energy. While the group has over six million followers on Spotify, almost everyone I know has not heard of them.

Some of my favourite songs by KALEO are “Glass House”, “I Want More”, and “Vor í Vaglaskógi”. “Glass House” is a very upbeat, gruff, and feel-good song that captures some of the essence of rock and roll. On the other hand, the other two songs are more heartfelt; “I Want More” has an infinite and intense tone, and “Vor í Vaglaskógi” is a smooth, sad-toned song in Icelandic; although I am not able to understand the words, the song itself creates a beautiful atmosphere.

Another artist I like is Aries. Aries is someone who gets real with his listeners while still maintaining interesting melodies that aren’t too deep or sad. Aries connects to listeners through relatable lines that stick out such as “I left all of my demons on read” from one of his greater-known singles: “BAD NEWS”. Aries recently released “CONVERSATIONS” in 2020 which deals with talking to someone special.

His attitude in his music ranges from “I don’t care” to intense feelings which are expressed thoroughly in his songs. “RACECAR” is a song that starts off at a lower level and then creeps up to a level of intensity which speaks to the listener in distinct ways.

WASTED ON THE FIRMAMENT
Marc Randy
Production Manager

Now more than ever, the public’s attention is fixed on taking care of ourselves and the environment. Protests against the many systemic issues our society has (as well as the degradation of our biosphere and climate change) has taught us that the Earth is special, and that we only have one. We should then be diverting all non-essential resources into fixing ourselves and the planet. However, this notion seems to have created a false dichotomy that any resources invested into space exploration are wasted and are simply ‘rich men playing with their toys’. This notion is so incredibly wrong considering how space exploration has benefitted us here on Earth.

Space is very dangerous and it’s very difficult to get humans to live and perform research beyond the safe confines of our planet. This makes space cost many billions of U.S. dollars, making it inaccessible to the average person. So, it shouldn’t be of any consequence to the life of an average person, right? Wrong. Dead wrong.

Specifically because space is so dangerous, it necessitates the development of technologies to allow humans to survive a total vacuum, radiation, microgravity, and so on. These very technologies always end up coming back to Earth to be used in our everyday lives. The Space Race to the Moon during the Cold War yielded many technologies we take for granted today. Things like Velcro, water purification systems, wireless headphones, memory foam, baby formula, CAT scans, LED light, and of course, satellite imagery and satellite communication that helps make up the internet we use every single day.

Space is not the domain of the rich, it is not a escape from the planet we live on for the most fortunate. It is the cold, dark, dangerous unknown we are only just starting to understand. And the tools we develop to do so will always prove useful here back on Earth.
**RAPID UNSCHEDULED DISASSEMBLY**

Marc Randy  
Production Manager

On Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021, SpaceX’s Starship prototype serial number 9 (SN9) took off from its test pad in Boca Chica, Texas as the second high-altitude test flight in the Starship program. Like the previous test flight, it went near perfectly until the landing, where the stainless steel rocket met an explosive end.

Despite the destruction of SN9, it is a great step forward in what is an aggressive and fast-paced development program in making a fully reusable interplanetary launch system to help with colonizing Mars.

The idea of making a huge rocket to help humanity start spreading its wings beyond Earth has been talked about by SpaceX’s founder and CEO Elon Musk as early as 2012 when it was called the Mars Colonial Transporter. Since then, the design and specifications of this gigantic rocket have changed considerably.

The size, amount of rocket engines, and even the material of the rocket have changed until around December of 2018, when Elon Musk announced that they would be foregoing carbon fiber and switching to stainless steel. The rocket now had the investment of Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa in exchange for several seats on a private flight around the Moon. Soon after, the rocket was renamed Starship.

After this point SpaceX kicked its Starship test program into high gear, and over the course of a year and a half its Boca Chica test site truly became a rocket launching site. The village of Boca Chica was nearly bought out completely and SpaceX’s property saw a vehicle assembly site and launch site erected.

The small water tower-like prototype Starhopper flew twice. Prototypes Mk 1 and Mk 2 never flew, as Mk 1 exploded during high-altitude test flight in the test stand and launched on SN8’s flight (successful launch, apogee, and descent) as SN8’s flight (successful launch, apogee, and descent) and flipped itself to land, but didn’t quite stick the landing and exploded. The cause was a drop of pressure in the prototype’s header tank.

SN9 was already assembled and ready to be moved out to the test stand and launched on February 2nd, 2021. It went as well as SN8’s flight (successful launch, apogee, and descent), but didn’t stick the landing either.

Some may see the destruction of SN8 and SN9 as a failure on SpaceX’s behalf, but with every failure, SpaceX learns valuable lessons in its endeavors to make the largest and most powerful rocket in history.

**THE CHEMISTRY OF CAKE**

Marc Randy  
Production Manager

Baking is a very common hobby, and for some it is a way of life. While some simply follow a recipe they have found or that has been passed down many generations, baking is more than simply mixing ingredients together. Ingredients complement themselves and cause chemical reactions which create the delicious desserts we enjoy.

When baking a cake, the main ingredients tend to be flour, baking powder (or baking soda), salt, sugar, eggs (or an egg replacement), milk, and butter. Most ingredients, although they may seem random, play an important role in the making of the cake, as when mixed together they can help in the rising of a cake or in the texture of it. This is true for any baked good you make.

Starting off, wheat flour, which is used very often, is mainly composed of gluten and starch. Gluten is formed when the components of flour (glutenin and gliadin) mix with water. It helps the dough or batter take on the right texture when baked as it keeps it together since the gluten bonds create an elastic dough. When heated up, gluten solidifies to create the texture of different baked goods.

When using gluten-free flour, a gluten replacement has to be added in order to have the same agglutination of the dough or batter. Some replacements can be xanthan gum or guar gum.

In order for the dough or batter to rise, leavening agents such as baking powder or baking soda are used in cakes. These ingredients react with acids to create carbon dioxide which causes the dough to rise. Yeast acts in a similar way.

Although sugar seems to only make the cakes or baked goods sweet, it has another function. When heat is applied to it, sugar undergoes the Milliard reaction consisting of the action of sugar with proteins and amino acids. This reaction then causes the goods to have the golden surface that makes them so appetizing. When yeast is being used, the sugar feeds the yeast and causes an increase in its activity.

Butter does more than just add taste to a batter or dough; it helps in moistening the cake and giving it a better flavour. There are some butter alternatives such as applesauce, mashed bananas, nut butters, and pumpkin puree that can have the same effect in the cake.

Eggs help bind the batter or dough together. This is thanks to a protein called lecithin which keeps the cake from sinking. This protein also has antioxidant properties and preserves flavour.

Since eggs’ function is similar to leavening products, egg substitutes can range from commercial egg replacements to simply mixing baking soda and vinegar, which will react and create the airy bubbly texture of the cake. Flax seeds, which have been mixed to become flax egg, help bind ingredients together as they glue them together.

Next, salt is most commonly used to give more flavor and strength to the cake, however it also serves many functions. Salt controls the rate of fermentation of yeasts and reduces the oily texture of butter. It is also an anticaking agent which prevents lumps from happening in the batter. These agents function by absorbing any extra water or moisture in the dough or batter to make it less clumpy.

When baking a cake or any baked goods, one does not think much of what is happening. Baking is a whole chemical process which has steps and specific times to follow. That is why it is so hard to change certain recipes. Looking up the correct replacements for ingredients and leaving the doughs or batters to rise for the adequate time is important for the process to happen correctly.

Just like any chemistry lab, following the protocol and steps is very important. Next time you bake, don't forget your lab coat!
Hey there, I'm LOG, the editor of this section. You know, Bandersnatch as a whole works really hard to bring you this paper every two weeks. We don’t generally book ourselves too tight when it comes to what we put in the paper. Most people know that they have a lot of other class work to do. Our head editors actually prefer that you succeed in your classes over giving your articles in on time. That being said it does sometimes happen that someone will give themselves a bit too much work. I guess that's just life, it keeps you on your toes for next time. Anyway, you may be wondering why there's no joke yet...

That's because it's me. I'm the joke. I booked myself too tight for this issue and couldn't think of anything else to fill this section with, other than to add an extra panel to this comic. I have projects to do now. I give you permission to laugh at me.

Perhaps you have heard the phrase “ugh, I can’t wait for Mercury retrograde to be over”. Or if you haven’t, now you may be curious as to what this is referring to. This is often the most widely dreaded astrological event.

From January 30th to February 21st, Mercury is in Retrograde. What does this mean? Three times a year, the planet Mercury, known as the planet of communication, travels backwards across the sky. How can this affect you?

This may be the cause of the urge to text your ex, old friend, or the feeling that you are missing something. This could also increase your mental exhaustion, if you've been feeling perhaps more drained than usual.

Mercury is responsible for communication, as well as travel, mail, and shipping. When it moves backwards, it messes with these aspects. Not only verbal communication, but communication in all forms—such as reading, writing, listening, contracts, negotiations, and texting. In the sense of travel, this may lead to cancellation of plans, longer time to commute, and miscommunication between others.

At this moment, it is important to take the time to reflect, and try to keep a balanced life. Many believe Mercury retrograde is responsible for the chaos occurring in their lives. However, at this moment in time, it is crucial to step back, analyze where you are, and refrain from making any drastic changes.

That's because it's me. I'm the joke. I booked myself too tight for this issue and couldn't think of anything else to fill this section with, other than to add an extra panel to this comic. I have projects to do now. I give you permission to laugh at me.
I like to kick my reflections. Sitting with my legs over the edge, they look up at me from the dark ocean water and remind me that I’m still alive. Though my rowboat is not far behind, I sometimes pretend I’m stranded like the first day, uselessly waving my arms on the top of a submerged tower.

I hate the stillness of the sea. It says that no one else is putting up a struggle, no other being with two legs above water is making a significant effort to stay alive. After I kick my reflections I stay perfectly still, watching the ripples travel to the horizon the way I used to watch my screens.

Some monuments are still standing, of course, but the way they’re almost completely submerged brings to mind an image of a child with their hand in the cookie jar, eternally caught red-handed. It’s strange to think that these all used to be looked up to and ogled at, when I pass them by on my rowboat like a biker passes by a pretty tree.

I want more sounds. Every once in a while I’ll hear a building collapse, an abandoned machine play forgotten songs, or, if I’m lucky, a flock of birds still flying south. Once I even heard a whale singing somewhere below. The idea that, even though we’re all gone, the world below has only grown bigger terrifies. As a glorified ape with feet and lungs, the vastness of the planet’s waters has become my primordial fear. Imagine now, that instead of our world being swept away, the earth beneath our feet rose from the water. No doubt we’d make a race of it, our population divided between seeking to claim the “untouched” land and trying foolishly to protect it.

I wonder if there’s a person out that’s claimed one of these towers as their own, delimiting it with buoys and protected it with the rocks that drift to sea. I haven’t. If anyone finds me and we don’t like each other, I’d rather they kill me than I push them away. I hate a lot of people, but solitude I hate most of all.

My Slim Jims are almost out. I should do some more spelunking soon. Diving to the pharmacies and convenience stores of old is out of the question, but any of these semi-submerged monuments to arrogance can have enough vending machine snacks and home-made lunches to last me at least another month. The trek down south will be an exhausting one, so I’ll need all the sustenance I can get. Ironically, the hardest thing to find is clean water. I suppose I’ll have to uncover a purifier somewhere at some point.

After some more water kicking and another desperate scream into the empty sky, I unravel the rope attached to the boat’s nose, get on the boat and rest a bit I can pull you down a couple of miles south.

Wordlessly, I take the dripping plastic bag and retrieve the strangely warm Twinkie from within.

“You good there? I heard you scream.”

“I stay still and stare at the horrid creature floating between the building and my boat. Its voice is unnaturally human, gravelly like a young man that hasn’t cleared his throat.

“Oh.” He sighs with a frown. “You one of those lost people? The ones somehow still surviving on rooftops even though the planet is like 96% water?”

96%. That’s depressing. Wonder why my brain would want to make me more depressed.