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Logan Macdonald  
Procrastinator Editor

Bandersnatch is a student run newspaper at John Abbott College. It is published biweekly and is partially funded by the Student Activities Committee and by advertising solicited customers. Submissions are welcome and become property of Bandersnatch. Submissions must be sent via MIO through John Abbott College’s Omnivox to the respective editors, and must be in Microsoft Word Document format (.doc). All submissions must include the full name of the contributor, as well as the e-mail address if applicable. Bandersnatch reserves the right to reject submissions or to edit any submissions for length, legality, or clarity. Submissions should be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 500 words. Articles lower or above these parameters may be printed at the discretion of the executives. If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact us at our e-mail indicated above or visit us at the Bandersnatch office, located in the basement of Herzberg, room H-001 (Located in Herzberg basement, on the hallway to Hochelaga basement).
WELLNESS DAYS

Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

During the pandemic, it is certain the mental wellness of many has declined. As we are isolated, the longing to see friends and family grows stronger. Our future goals are now indiscernible, as what the future holds is blurry. To make plans is difficult, as how can we plan when we don’t know what will be. Perhaps this isn’t the case for some, there may be other difficulties they are dealing with. The fear of catching the virus, problems with living situations, employment, the loss of relationships, have all been affected by the pandemic. A simple day to acknowledge the students, and give them a day to breathe is fundamentally appreciated.

However, Wellness days are not a new thing. Many schools have different versions to integrate them into the curriculum. D’Arcy Mcgee High School (located in Gatineau), the school in which I attended, has a different way of integrating wellness time.

WILL YOU GET YOUR VACCINE?

Bill Mahon
Student Activities Department

COVID-19 has dominated our lives for over a year now. Vaccines may prove to be part of the solution on how we can get back to our new normal.

How do you feel about the vaccine rollout? What are some of your concerns about taking the vaccine? Is there one better than another? What are the side effects? These are just some of the questions many students are asking themselves. Finding the right answer for you is not easy. With so many conspiracy theories out there, it can be confusing.

Student Activities and SUJAC are sponsoring a question and answer period with Dr. Christopher Labos on Monday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m. on ZOOM. Dr. Labos is seen regularly on CTV Montréal and CTV nationwide answering questions people are concerned about when it comes to COVID-19 and the vaccines available to Canadians.

Get your questions ready and join us. More information will be made available on the Omnivox portal the week prior.

SUJAC UPDATE

Hello Bandersnatch readers!

SUJAC has been up to a lot in the past couple of weeks and we have some exciting things coming up!

First of all, the SUJAC Executive Elections are underway and the candidates will begin their campaign April 6. To help people choose which position to run for, John created a Buzzfeed quiz: “What SUJAC Executive Position are YOU?!” which you can find at the link in our bio of @instasujac.

SUJAC also announced our partnership with LinkedIn Learning, a service offering students free courses to assist them along every step of their professional careers. Make sure to check out this amazing opportunity!

On Wednesday, April 21, students are welcome to join us on campus for Stress-Free Day. This event will feature activities aimed at reducing stress and will also be a great opportunity to see the campus and meet new people. Stay tuned for more details on Omnivox and our Instagram account.

Enjoy the nice weather and stay safe everyone!

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 Bedirian
A SIGN OF THE TIMES
Biden Calls Putin a Killer

Andre Bernier
Staff Writer

Last week, President Joe Biden stepped away from the conventional and safe diplomatic language many are used to. During an interview with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos, Biden insinuated that Vladimir Putin was a “killer”. The comments are being seen as damaging to US-Russian relations after, as expected, Putin and other government officials inside the Kremlin were furious over the remarks.

The Russian foreign ministry recalled its ambassador to the US for “consultations about the future of US-Russian relations.” Putin responded by saying “it takes one [a killer] to know one.”

Though some might brush off this scuffle as a mere sign of the times we are living in, others are regarding world leaders calling each other names on the public stage as a sad day for foreign diplomacy.

THE SUEZ CANAL CRISIS
Reconsidering our Global Supply Chain
Michelle Akim
News Editor

Sunday, the 28th of March, marked five days since the Ever Given, a Japanese-owned container ship bringing goods from the district of Yantian in China to the Netherlands, got stuck sideways in the Suez Canal. Over this time, as shipowners and companies already rerouted most their vessels, many have pointed to the Suez Canal as another weak link in the global supply chain.

Since its construction in the mid-19th century, the Suez Canal has revolutionized maritime trade between Europe and Asia. Instead of rounding South Africa, ships could now pass through the Suez Canal, and shorten their travel time by days, if not weeks. Since then, its use has grown every year, with over 18,000 ships passing through the waterway in 2018, equating to approximately 10 percent of international commercial maritime traffic. With its considerable daily flow, the Ever Given’s hold-up had been blocking approximately 9.6 billion USD of goods from passing through the Canal every day.

Authorities have ascribed the Ever Given’s grounding to strong winds and bad visibility, though they have left human error as a possibility. Even with the use of tugboats pulling the cargo ship and attempting to dislodge its hull, the ship remained stuck for almost a week. On Sunday night, the full moon rose the tide by approximately 18 inches, and around 3 p.m. on Monday, the ship was finally freed, leading to hopes that traffic through the Canal might resume.

Though this is not the first time that a ship has run aground in the Suez Canal and halted passage through the waterway, the longevity and uncertainty of this crisis had already caused some serious repercussions. Though some container ships were waiting at the Canal in hope of its opening, many have already been rerouted around Cape Horn in South Africa, a much longer and more perilous journey. With many of the affected ships carrying fuel, cars, and other merchandise, countries had already implemented contingency planning. The government of Syria announced that it will start rationing fuel, with Lebanon’s government considering a similar course of action. Shipping companies are already lamenting the increase in turnaround time for ships that this will cause.

As absurd as it may seem that a single ship can halt the global supply chain, this issue brings attention to what some are calling an overdependence on “just-in-time” manufacturing, with which companies, rather than stockpiling goods, have been relying on quick worldwide shipping. Though this has had the effect of increased dividends for shareholders, many are saying that the financial gain is not worth it. Ian Goldin, professor of globalization at Oxford University explains this to the New York Times, saying that “as we become more interdependent, we are even more subject to the fragilities that arise, and they are always unpredictable.”

This expectation of speedy arrival has already begun to falter in part because of the coronavirus pandemic. Many countries have suddenly found themselves severely lacking the necessary personal protective equipment to arm their healthcare and essential workers, and were very unpleasantly surprised when their orders took months to arrive.

As the Ever Given resumes its journey on Monday, and traffic returns to the Suez Canal, the effects of this crisis will likely be felt for a long time. Not only will it take days for many of the backlogged ships to be cleared, but the flaws that this crisis exposed in the global supply chain will not be forgotten anytime soon.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Last weekend, for the first time in over a month, Québec reported over 1,000 new COVID cases. This was on Saturday, where we saw 1,099 cases. This is very shortly after Premier François Legault lightened the restrictions in red zones.

For red zones in Québec, the curfew has been pushed to 9:30 PM. This affects theatres, gyms and spas, stores, auditoriums, etc. Restaurants remain closed, and gathering remains prohibited, unless the individual lives alone.

As for orange zones, they opened restaurants, allowing a maximum of two people from different addresses sitting at the same table. Notably, museums, cinemas, libraries, stores and spas are also now open. Essentially, many of the same places have recently reopened in red zones. Except, they are also allowing a return to full-time classes for secondary 3, 4 and 5 students.

Three regions in Québec turned yellow: Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands, the North Shore and Northern Québec. This also means they no longer have a curfew. They have also opened bars, casinos, auditoriums, and certain tourist places. They are also permitted to have infrequent small gatherings with a maximum of 12 people. The same goes for outdoor and indoor sports.

Five regions in the province may see tighter restrictions, as their COVID-19 cases are rising. These regions are Outaouais, The Beauce, Québec City, and The Lower Saint-Lawrence and Lac St-Jean. Coupled with this Legault also said they would shift to supply more vaccines to harder-hit places.
A LETTER
Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

I still remember the exact moment. I knew you didn’t care about me as much as I did about you. It was late at night, and I was crying. I was upset. I think I may have cried for six hours straight that day, it was unstoppable. As I was silently sobbing in my pillow you told me to be quiet so you could sleep. You didn’t really comfort me, as much as complain and joke about the situation.

I convinced myself I was irrationally thinking, until the apathy you had for me became a repeated pattern. Trying to tell you how I felt became something you could hold against me. I would drop anything to support you, but I was only there when you needed me. The love we once showed each other faded, all I could see now is somebody trying to pretend they care, but not taking the actions to show it. The more I tried to grip back what we had, the more I was disappointed. I tried to communicate with you, and you told me you’d try to do better. But I could see right through you. I could see you didn’t care.

I’m not sure how this transition happened ’cause I had so much love in my heart for you. I was sure it was reciprocated. Perhaps it was, until it wasn’t. Perhaps you found someone more worthy of your time. I guess it’s time to realize, you aren’t worthy of mine.

THE PAGE OF WANDS
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

Reversed Judgment, Wheel of Fortune, Ace of Pentacles.

She had reshuffled the deck a dozen times, thrown them randomly on the floor like dominos, bought another deck, repeated the same sequence three times over, yet the cards she flipped over were always the same.

Reversed Judgement, Wheel of Fortune, Ace of Pentacles.

Nia Ardreth-Cambria had always been somewhat superstitious, but you’d find her dead before you caught her consulting horoscopes or looking at the cycles of the moon for guidance. Even the tarot card deck she used the first time had been a gift from her seclusive aunt, and she tried it out more because the card designs were cool than for any other reason.

By now, she was sitting on her knees in her room, four different sets of tarot cards strewn around her like the aftermath of an unfortunate card-shuffling accident. The sets were mixed to the point where she wouldn’t know where to begin matching them together. Slowly, as if trying not to wake a baby, she flipped three different cards: one behind her, one to her left, and one diagonally to the right.

Reversed Judgement, Wheel of Fortune, Ace of Pentacles.

“Nia?” called out a voice from behind her room’s door, followed by three quick knocks. “You decent? Drugs all hidden?”

Nia flipped the cards back over and answered with a “Yep, all good!”

One of her fathers, wearing black running pants and a dark red sweatshirt, opened the door and immediately looked down at the mess his daughter was sitting in. His black hair was slightly longer than hers (she always cut her hair diagonally to the right).

Fortune, Ace of Pentacles.

“Ah,” he replied, not really paying attention to her words. He looked somewhat concerned with the cards at first, then looked back at her as if it was nothing.

“Hi, my favourite Lord doing?” he joked, setting his coat beside him.

Bastian narrowed his eyes and immediately looked down at the cards. One by one, just to make sure again, she flipped a card in front of her, to her right, and diagonally behind her to her left.


James went through the menu at Ettrick’s, thinking more about his job than what he fancied for dinner. Winter gave him more time to work with, as night set in earlier, but he wasn’t a huge fan of the weather. Maybe he should’ve chosen somewhere warmer to live.

The front door opened with the sound of the bell ringing, and a man wearing a large red coat walked in. He pulled back his hood to reveal a mess of black hair and to look around the restaurant.

“Bastian!” James called, causing him to turn around and smile. All Bastian had to see was a blue suit and short blond hair to know it was him.

Bastian made his way to his table, gave James a quick kiss on the cheeks, then sat opposite from him.

“Yikes! He called me Jemison’s tonight for dinner. You want me to make you anything before I leave?”

Nia shook her head again. What she was having for dinner to-night hadn’t even crossed her mind. Still, she appreciated the opportunity to have the house for herself until they came back.

“Nah, I’m good just making myself a tomato sandwich.”

As her dad threw a thumbs-up and left the room (closing the door behind him), Nia looked back at the cards around her. One by one, just to make sure again, she flipped a card in front of her, to her right, and diagonally behind her to her left.


James suddenly furrowed his brow at him, like he’d just been caught cheating in a game of Blackjack.

“Yes, a better cook than I, Bastian, she deserves better food than tomato sandwiches for dinner.”

Bastian rolled his eyes and shrugged.

“Yikes! Who’s a big girl now, she can cook something herself if she really wants to. Besides, she’s more focused on school right now.”

James frowned.

“School? You’re talking about the same Nia who skipped school to visit the pet shop because a turtle was set to arrive that day?”

“Yeah,” Bastian laughed. “She’s doing this probability thing for math. I walked in on her with cards around her like a summoner.”

Suddenly Bastian felt James grip his hand as if it was a stress ball.

“Cards?” he repeated. “Were any of the cards purple?”

Bastian narrowed his eyes and looked up, struggling to remember.

“I think yeah, one of the sets was purple and gold.”

As soon as Bastian had confirmed his suspicions, James stood up and pulled Bastian to his feet as well.

“We have to hurry. Those were Viktoria’s cards.”
IN THE DARK
Nicole Widerlund
Staff Writer

Not many people are savvy
Of what it is to know
The water needed to bloom
A rose
An everlasting glow
For you and I are
Two sides of the same rainbow.

Gushing
As one’s cheeks flush
With the swish of the ocean’s slush.
Shush,
It’ll all be over soon.
Tides flow in at night and out at noon.

Throughout your mind,
Diamonds and desires.
The suicidal sweep of song.
You long
For you to feel like you belong.

Please, prepare my departure.
The sutures from an astute suitor
Are too premature.
All this will ever feature
Are tribulations from an invisible brooder.

Eyes close.
Experience the whisking to another galaxy
Full of shimmering stars.
None of them shimmer like you,
But proof is long overdue.
Force me to smile sweetly and swoon.
I pray to the stars, the sun, and the moon
That you’d call too.
Witness the metamorphosis
Of the matters that consume your ability to be true.

Alas, you’re no good.
Mix it all up,
But nobody wants you more than I do.
SHADY NOMINATIONS?
Elisabeth Beauzile
Staff Writer

This year, many said that the 63rd annual Grammy Awards were a reflection of the year... and they flopped. The viewership fell 53% from last year's ceremony, collecting only 8.8 million viewers. Was it a loss of interest due to the prospects of a pandemic show, or was it rooted in the exhausting snubbing of artists?

The Recording Academy has been accused of favouritism and disregard for POC artists for many years. This year's cutting example was the absence of The Weeknd from the nominations. Despite producing the record-breaking album After Hours and its song Blinding Lights, strong contenders for either the song or record of the year awards respectively, the artist was totally excluded, and has responded with the decision to boycott the Grammy's from now on.

The nominations may have been spotty, but for the most part, the winners themselves weren't. Notably, Megan Thee Stallion, who'd had a breakout year, won best new artist. Dua Lipa took home best pop vocal album with Future Nostalgia, which embodied the genre brilliantly. Taylor Swift broke a record as she won album of the year with Folklore—her third time winning that category. To many people's surprise, Doja Cat returned home with empty hands. Her song Say So was without a doubt the beat of 2020, and her performance of the song exceeded expectations.

BTS were nominated and performed at the Grammy's for the first time, opening the door to their recognition as influential artists by the Recording Academy. We can only hope that next year's Grammy nominations will show an improvement and won't feel as out of touch. After all, having artists disregarding them as an institution certainly isn't in their favor.

VLOG SQUAD ALLEGATIONS
Vanessa Marion & Elisabeth Beauzile
Assistant Editor-in-chief & Staff Writer

Over the past few days, the Vlog Squad, who've been reining over the comedic side of YouTube for years, hit their downfall due to sexual assault allegations.

One of the first ones to come forward with their story was Ally Hardesty. She and Dom Zeglatitis met at a Vidcon Party in 2017, where she was sexually assaulted by him. Further information was posted on her YouTube channel in a video titled "DURTE DOM EXPOSED: My Story".

Other victims have since come forward, most notably Hannah (an alias for her real name), whose friends were invited to David Dobrik's house to film a vlog. The premise of this vlog was for Durte Dom to have group sex. Five girls, a few of them under the legal drinking age, responded to the invite. They made it very clear upon arrival that they did not want to participate in sexual acts, which allegedly frustrated David, since he needed "good content". Witnesses said that Jeff Wittek and Todd Smith bought alcohol for the girls to consume in the hope of "loosening them up". Too intoxicated to consent, Hannah was sexually assaulted by Dom Zeglatitis and the vlog was posted. It was removed three months later, as requested by Hannah.

Under fire for being a witness to Dom's assault(s), David initially posted an apology video to his least popular channel, Views, on which comments and likes were disabled. He then released a second apology on his main channel. Many found the timing to coincide dubiously with the loss of all his sponsorships.

YouTube has officially stepped in and temporarily demonetized all the channels of both men. In reality, this situation shined light on the truth behind many other channels of the same kind, and we can't help but think about the many other Hannas or Allys that suffered from the entitlement and abuse of this industry.

ZACK SNYDER’S JUSTICE LEAGUE
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-chief

If you’re active on Twitter and/or an avid fan of the DCEU, you’ll have no doubt heard by now about the massive #ReleaseTheSnyderCut movement that’s been going on for what seemed like ages. Late during Justice League's original production, Zack Snyder had to step away from directing the movie for personal reasons, and Warner Brothers got Joss Whedon to finish what Snyder had started. Many people were unhappy with how Justice League originally came out and blamed both studio meddling and Joss Whedon, so a movement grew over the years demanding Zack Snyder's original vision of his movie, until a four-hour 4:3 aspect ratio version of the film was recently released on HBO Max that Zack Snyder could finally laud as his own. So, after all that ado about releasing the Snyder cut, how good is it?

It was certainly an improvement, with two extra hours to fill in context and add content in hindsight, it would be weird if it wasn't. Without getting into spoilers, every character gets an arc and much better characterization, unlike in Whedon's cut. That said, several of these new additions (like the Flash's moment in the spotlight) tear open massive connotations that break the overall story.

This cut of the film is also definitely bloated in places. It didn't need to be four hours long, and that can definitely be felt when there's too much going on in the film (i.e. 10% of the film's runtime). Don't get me wrong, a lot of the additions are welcome, but not all are necessary.

Should you watch this film? If you’re a fan of the characters and/or the DCEU and you can stomach the four-hour runtime + 4:3 aspect ratio, definitely. It’s not like all of Justice League's problems are resolved by the Snyder cut, but it's a worthwhile improvement.

THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS
Lara Fakhoury
Staff Writer

First lovers are turned deadly rivals in this glamorous retelling of Shakespeare's timeless tale Romeo and Juliet, written by Chloe Gong. Set in a divided Shanghai in 1926, a monter lurks in the sea, infecting civilians with a gory disease. This forces Juliette Cai, heir of the Scarlet Gang, and Roma Montagov, leader of the White Flowers, to work together to find out what — or who — is behind this madness before their people are harmed and the city destroys itself.

Chloe Gong’s narration perfectly describes the atmosphere of a city divided by gangs and pulled by both colonialism and Western imperialism in a way that sets the tone for this cutthroat story. From glittering jewels to shiny dresses, this world is well suited for treacherous lovers separated by a blood feud that painted both the Cai’s and Montagov’s families a permanent shade of red. This historical fiction is also filled with real life issues such as colorism, racism and identity.

The novel’s protagonist (Juliette Cai) is a cunning and intelligent heiress doing whatever she has to do to secure her place in the line of succession of her father’s powerful gang. Her chemistry with her lover-turned-traitor Roma is filled with mercilessness and hatred, but also love and deep care. The tension between the two was exquisite; the perfect enemies-to-lovers story.

If you’re looking for a book with diverse characters, rich writing and a dazzling world, These Violent Delights is the book for you.
GAMES

with Andrée Nikolov

Can be reached through MIO

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SHADOW OF THE COLOSSUS (PS4)

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

R
ecently, while on a streak of revisiting older games that I had played in my childhood, I came across the Shadow of the Colossus remake on the PlayStation Store. I realized then that even though I’d heard great things about both the 2005 original and the 2018 remake, I had never so much as seen gameplay footage of it. With all that said, here’s a quick impression on whether or not it still holds up today.

As you’ve no doubt noticed if you’ve seen screenshots or gameplay footage of the remake, the game looks absolutely gorgeous. It was developed by Bluepoint Games (who later worked on the Demon’s Souls remake) and as such looks breathtaking, having photo mode and various filters to boot.

As for gameplay, you’d be perhaps surprised to hear that it’s a fairly simple but very engaging (albeit sometimes frustrating) experience that ran me about five hours for my first run. The whole game consists of the same gameplay loop of galloping around the Forbidden Lands on your horse to find one of the 16 colossi, figuring out a way to beat it, and fighting the colossus.

Strangely enough, the overworld portion of the game reminded me of Breath of the Wild, while the ingenuous puzzles you have to solve for each colossus reminded me somewhat of older Zelda titles. It feels very rewarding to figure out how to topple a colossus by yourself when the game does a good job of communicating the puzzle to you, but sometimes they feel very unintuitive and the sometimes laggy controls of the main character remind that even though it looks beautiful, the gameplay is still from the PS2 era.

Still, it’s worth a playthrough if you’re in the mood for a somewhat therapeutic game to fill the time with. Its story is also captivating, and I suggest you see it through.

LOOPE HERO REVIEW: A VIRTUOUS CYCLE

Marc Randy
Production Manager

T
erenjoy a sense of fulfillment of needing just enough resources to meet the needs of a passing universe. With Loop Hero, the player is the hero tasked with defeating the Lich. You play as a lone hero on a quest to save the world from an all-consuming void that’s extinguishing the stars in the sky. Every run of the game starts the hero on a two-dimensional closed loop that he walks around on in a random direction. By fighting the monsters, the hero collects new weapons and armor as well as new world tiles to fill in the void. All fighting is automatic so the game is mostly about managing equipment and placing new land cards.

All resources gained from defeating a monster are obtained as cards that can be placed in the hero’s inventory to upgrade stats, or placed on the field to make new tiles appear. It can be a meadow placed outside the loop that restores health to the hero, or a grove placed directly on the loop that spawns a new enemy. As cards are placed, they fill a bar that spawns the boss once filled.

Every run resources are collected, and if the hero is defeated and retreats in time, some amount of them is kept that can be used to upgrade the hero’s camp. These upgrades can unlock new cards and classes for the hero, and help give different options to have different runs on top of multiple bosses and a simple but interesting story.

Loop Hero is a fun indie game that’s easy to pick up and play, while also being challenging enough and having enough content to warrant many fun hours.

VALORANT PATCH 2.06

Andréa Nikolov
Games Editor

V
alorant as an FPS game has grown substantially in popularity as one of Riot Games’ best creations, alongside League of Legends and Teamfight Tactics. Just like any game, it sees great evolution and just recently on the 30th of March a new patch was applied. The game makers have taken into consideration the public remarks and critiques made by players and have made official changes to agents like Yoru, Viper and Killjoy.

The focused change of this patch was threefold: updating three of the best agents, updating weapons (including nerfing the Bucky), and updating modes like Escalation and Competitive. Viper’s abilities and passive seemed to have been greatly adjusted, with her passive dealing a greater amount of damage to enemy teammates, and a delay in the health regen. The equipment time for her Snakebite has been decreased as well, with a variety of other adjustments. Yoru’s Blindside and Gatecrash has been nerfed to make him a more equal competitor, and his Dimensional Drift points have been reduced and allow for Gatecrash while in Drift. The final and best agent change (this coming from a Killjoy main) is a great help: Nanoswarm can now be picked up while in the buy phase.

Weapons changes include the Bucky’s nerf, with fewer pellets and lower damage dealt the farther an enemy is; there is also the modes update that has been gracefully made, where Escalation now allows for new abilities to be obtained. Finally, the last update was through the game’s HRTF, where sounds are now more distinct and help localize enemies much easier. Currently only footsteps, reloads and Deathmatch respawns will be rendered in 3D with the feature enabled, but these steps are all great measures to better gameplay.

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD IN JAPAN

André Nikolov
Games Editor

A
midst the pandemic, we are all looking for hopeful signs of a return to normalcy. When Nintendo announced that it was opening its new theme park, Super Nintendo World (in Universal Studios Japan), I felt a glimmer of hope because I was reminded of what awaits after the pandemic is over.

Super Nintendo World contains attractions inspired by the Mario franchise with tons of Easter eggs that go beyond what is expected for a theme park. You enter the park via a life-sized green warp pipe, and after leaving Peach’s castle you enter Super Nintendo World. There is a wristband that you can wear (six varieties and all Mario character-themed) to collect coins from coin blocks and other things as you explore the park. All and all, the park looks like it would make me cry because of all of the nostalgia it would give me.
THE FASTEST PITCH
Evelyn Laferriere
Contributor

Many find baseball to be an inherently slow game. Without a clock, it can feel like an eternity between each inning, play, and even each pitch. However, despite what’s seemingly on the surface, baseball can actually be one of the fastest-paced games played today.

It all starts with the batter. Hitting a 100 mph pitch has often been seen as one of the most difficult tasks in all of sports. After all, hitting a baseball only 3 out of 10 times is considered very good.

A 100 mph pitch takes about 400 ms to travel from pitcher to hitter, and given three quarters of that time is needed for reacting and swinging the bat, a player is left with only 100 ms to observe and decide where exactly to swing, if at all. The ball leaves the bat even faster, possibly reaching speeds of up to 150 mph, giving fielders just a few short seconds to react and make the play, especially when the average base runner reaches first base in just a little over four seconds.

It’s often been said that baseball is 90% mental, and it’s these extremely fast-paced moments within an overall slower-paced game which makes it so. Players always need to be on their feet, ready to not only know exactly what to do in every situation, but to do so in mere seconds. Because when it comes down to it, every victory and loss is essentially decided by inches and milliseconds.

OLYMPIC TOURIST BAN
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

The latest in Tokyo 2020 news regards its audience. These Olympics, which have stayed off further delays and a cancellation altogether, will be closed to foreign visitors as a measure against the spread of COVID-19. People involved in the Olympics in some way will still be able to enter the country, and the hundreds of thousands of tickets to the event that were sold will be refunded. The same goes for the Paralympics, which had also sold thousands of tickets. Local spectators will still be allowed into venues, but the cap for these per event/per venue has yet to be determined.

The ban came after a recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the country, Japan has been relatively slow with administering vaccines (due to slow approvals for trials and limited supplies from abroad), so it continues under the basis that nobody is vaccinated. Their decision to ban things like overseas tourists and cheering at events seems to be a sign that they don’t want Tokyo 2020 to be delayed any further, even if it means stripping away some aspects of it.

The fact that tourists won’t be allowed to visit for the Olympics will also hit Japan’s economy fairly hard. For years, the influx of tourists was expected to bring in a boom that the country sorely needs. As it turned out, hotels and inns (many of which invested in renovations in preparation for the larger quantity of clients) will have to settle with domestic visitors and foreign people involved directly with the Olympics.

The torch relay has already started, and Tokyo 2020 is scheduled to begin on July 23rd.

MARCH MADNESS’ GENDER GAP
Michelle Akim
News Editor

O n March 18th, many basketball fans tuned in for the start of March Madness, a three-week-long single-elimination tournament played between the top teams in the NCAA. The difference in treatment received by the male and female athletes took the forefront of the event’s media coverage. This was sparked by Oregon Ducks forward Sedona Prince posting a video of the sports equipment provided to the female athletes: a rack of dumbbells and yoga mats were given to the female players, with only additional equipment available to teams that reached the Sweet Sixteen. This was what they were given while the men’s bubble had access to a full range of sports equipment from day one. Further disparities were revealed in the food served, the swag bags that the players received, as well as the coronavirus tests administered, with the one used in the women’s bubble being far less accurate.

When asked for comment on these differences, NCAA tournament organizers admitted that they “fell short this year,” but released a statement saying that they lacked the space to provide equal weight equipment for the women’s bubble. This response was quickly debunked by Sedona Prince, showing the true space they had in their practice zone.

Celebrities such as NBA star Stephen Curry and USWNT captain Alex Morgan quickly expressed their outrage on social media. Despite the consequent changes brought to the tournament, it is important to note that this is only the tip of the iceberg of the NCAA’s long history of unequal treatment of female athletes, and their lack of investment in female sport.

NEW SEASON OF CORONA
Gursagar Singh
Sports Editor

It’s time to go outside. Spring is coming in, the days are getting longer, and the temperature is getting bearable. With restrictions starting to ease (albeit because of a somewhat controversial move by the Legault government), the flare has been sent, notifying the public to start cautiously enjoying some activities.

Though it can be hard to determine what those could be, many are caught in the dilemma of what they can do safely. It can be a tough decision to make. Although you may see kids playing basketball in the park, it feels as though they are too close for comfort. You see people going on walks, but that doesn’t suit your athletic desires. It might be time to start diversifying the sports you play. Basketball, football, rugby may not feel safe, and running might be too lonely. It could be time to try racket sports, such as tennis or badminton. The days are nice enough to go the traditional route and play catch, maybe baseball could be your new thing.

Many have longed to get back into the gym, although there is an underlying fear as corona has likely killed our cardio, and the diminished pride from underwhelming returns does not feel too motivating. Nevertheless, the reopening of gyms sounds promising with the relatively soon arrival of the vaccine coming to Canada. With spring approaching, it may be time to get back into shape, it may be smart to proceed with caution and try new things, but the new season of this Corona series gives hope.
REOPENING HIGH SCHOOLS: BAD IDEA?
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

Since the decision to reopen high schools as of March 29th, my nervous system has been stretched in every direction. The number of daily cases has been decreasing for some time now; by reopening schools, they will begin to rise, and all progress we have made will be thwarted by a high number of people forced into the same space.

As someone with asthma, my fears go out to high school students with similar implications who are being forced to go back. Right away, this is endangering and causing major discomfort at-risk students. However, as if it wasn’t already bad, one of my friends in high school explained that at their school, students with health problems are being mandated to return, otherwise, they can do classes online, but will not be able to obtain their diploma with the school, nor any bilingual certificates they worked hard for. This information has yet to be found covered by any media, but if it is true, I believe this is unfair. There is no win for students with health problems. They shouldn’t be forced to attend class in person, and they definitely should be able to make their choice without fear of losing anything pertaining to their education.

Additionally, I believe that in any other world, it would be acceptable to gradually have students return to class. However, from what I have seen throughout this whole pandemic, a large part of this generation cannot handle being responsible. Personally, I have seen and received selfless comments and hate for trying to protect myself and others. Online, I have seen students remove masks in bathrooms, and publicly, this is not acceptable behaviour. The virus is asymptomatic, meaning one could unknowingly be a carrier. Plus, if there are students with health problems forced to be in school, they are the ones who are going to suffer from any pathogen left lingering in the air or on surfaces emitted by students who could not keep their masks on.

I understand everyone is tired of this, but until we each do our part, along with making the right decisions, there won’t be an end anytime soon.

WHY STIMULUS CHEQUES SUCK
Palmer Krilick-Tomchishen
Opinions Editor

It’s universally agreed upon that the coronavirus pandemic has led to harrowing times for society, and all across the globe there haven’t been many sectors that have been impacted as significantly as small businesses; in part due to the government restrictions placed upon them to mitigate the spread of the virus. It was reported back in December of 2020 that 60% of small businesses in the United States were permanently closed due to restrictive measures. Small businesses are the lifeblood of economies and in the U.S. they compose 44% of all economic activity. It doesn’t take a mathematician to calculate that a whopping 26% of the economy in the U.S was taken out virtually overnight.

How is that relevant to Canadians? The United States is Canada’s top country to export to, and we export roughly eighteen times more product to them than our second best country to export to (that being China). It then becomes abundantly clear that with the United States having less money to spend due to nearly one quarter of their economy being wiped out, we will be affected detrimentally. Canadians are on the verge of losing nearly two hundred thousand small businesses and three million jobs as reported in January of 2021.

Canadians, however, have a much larger issue to worry about: inflation. In March of 2019 it was reported that our Canadian national debt rose up to 768 billion dollars and has only increased since; largely in part due to the implementation of stimulus cheques. The way they work is by borrowing money from our future selves and foreign lenders with interest to pay back. Economist Peter Schiff (who is famous for having predicted the 2008 housing market crash) warns of the effects that injecting money into an economy will have, and it’s all predicated upon the simple economic laws of supply and demand. When cash is printed and put into the economy without equal levels of goods produced, then there’s more money chasing fewer products, and thus prices increase; this phenomenon is known as asset price inflation.

The fact of the matter is that the Canadian Federal government has acted irresponsibly in my opinion. The minimum age required to receive a stimulus was 15 years old. With the prospect of many more of our nation’s small businesses experiencing their demise it could have been much wiser to have better allocated that federal spending towards small businesses, or not having given any stimulus at all. The larger issue at hand that we’ve come to see is that populism is on the rise; individuals are not taking the time necessary to research the policy implementation plans behind a political candidate and instead are choosing leaders based upon emotional response and personal incentive; an example of incentive being the promise of allegedly free money which will only be paid later in asset inflation. The ancient philosopher Socrates famously hated democracy, for he believed democracy tended to deteriorate into demagoguery: a form of political rule that entices the population not through fact or truth but by playing into the masses desires and prejudices. With ages as low as 15 years old being the bar for entry to receive thousands of dollars it may not be unreasonable to ask whether we are maybe in the grips of demagoguery ourselves.

REMAKES, REMAKES & REIMAGININGS
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

Having played my fair share of ports, remakes, and remakes recently and with the news of Skyward Sword HD as well as Pokémon Brilliant Diamond/Shining Pearl on the horizon, it seems as good a time as any to finally express my gripes about “remake” terminology. Hearing these terms treated as almost synonymous over the years begs the question: what’s the difference?

For starters, a remake is as simple as slightly improving the visuals while including a few quality of life changes. It’s a step-up from simply porting the game to a newer console, but certainly much cheaper to make than a full remake. Good examples of this are The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess HD or Wind Waker HD on the Wii U, as well as Dark Souls: Remastered.

A remake is a much more broad term. It involves literally remaking a game from the ground up, drastically improving its visuals and usually tweaking the gameplay a bit. Games under this umbrella term include Demon’s Souls (PS5), Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy, Fire Emblem Echoes: Shadows of Valentia, etc.

A remaking is a term that I haven’t heard much of online. It has the same aspects as a remake, except it vastly changes the gameplay and/or the story of the original game to the point that, despite being familiar with the original, you might not be familiar with the remake. The Resident Evil 2 and 3 remakings and Final Fantasy VII Remake are prime examples of this. How it differs from the original will usually create controversy within the original’s fanbase, and whether the changes made are for the better or worse greatly varies from person to person.

I simply want game companies to stick with hard terms rather than confuse or potentially mislead their audience. I would love to have more remakings like Resident Evil 2 but I don’t want to buy a game labelled as a remake and have it change into a completely different game (like FFVII Remake). Likewise, I don’t want to be sold on a remake and then find out it’s simply an HD port (remaster).
NEW CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY?

Victoria Navas Via-Dufresne
Science & Tech Editor

Cancer is a long-lasting issue in human health, and while scientists look constantly for a cure, many immunotherapies have been used to help battle against cancer. As research continues, more information is acquired and more advances are done.

Kalaora et al published an article on Nature on March 17th of this year about a new possible immunotherapy against cancer that is to be further researched. In their article, they present the possibility of a targeted therapy which would attack certain bacteria that are found in human tumors.

Treatments for cancer have been axed around tumour-associated and tumour-specific antigens. These antigens help the immune system tell between tumour cells and healthy cells. However, tumour-associated antigens can be found in other healthy tissues in the body. Tumour-specific antigens are then the best targets in immunotherapy as they are only found in tumours.

Immunotherapy works by helping the immune system fight cancer. This treatment can be given in different forms such as intravenously, orally, through topical creams or by intravesical way. While immunotherapy can help in slowing the growth of tumour cells, these cells find ways to avoid the treatment by genetic mutations, by having proteins which stop immune cells from attacking them and by affecting cells around them to change the immune system's efficacy.

Melanomas have been very helpful in the development of treatments against cancer. As such, the team of investigators looked into 17 melanoma metastases of nine different patients to find their bacterial composition. Metastasis is shown when the tumour spreads from its origin to different parts of the body. The results showed similar bacteria in different metastases. These were also sometimes similar between patients. This in turn showed that melanomas can have similar bacterial populations.

Using a technique called immunopeptidomics, the researchers were able to detect peptides of different bacteria in the tumours which can be recognized by the immune system. These were once again found in different patients and tumours.

However, they had to check whether it was really the tumour which presented these peptides or if it was antigen-presenting cells whose role is to present detected pathogens to other immune cells. In order to test that, they separated cells of two melanoma samples into the two tested categories, antigen-presenting cells and tumour cells. Both groups were then shown to have the bacterial peptides. Thus the peptides on the antigen-presenting cells were able to imitate the immune response while the peptides on the tumour cells were found to be a target for an immune attack.

Their results showed that these bacterial peptides could be unidentified tumour-antigens. Although these seem like good news, the research does not stop there. These bacterial species still have to be tested to be sure they do not also affect non-tumour tissues and their peptides are not shown anywhere else in the body. If the results were to show their presence elsewhere, the immunotherapy would not be possible.

Immunotherapy is just one type of treatment against cancer. Surgeries, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and more can be done depending on the tumour, the patient and the severity of the situation. Many questions arise with every new discovery leaving a lot more to learn, investigate and prove.

DLSS: SEEING IS BELIEVING

Marc Randy
Production Manager

Video game graphics are more detailed than they’ve ever been. Things have come a long way from the angular low polygon count of the 90s; it’s now possible to make computer-generated characters whose very pores are visible. This graphical fidelity rivaling true photorealism comes at a price, however. Current PC builds for maximum graphical power easily hit the multi-thousand dollar mark. They present the possibility of a targeted therapy which would attack certain bacteria that are found in human tumors.

DLSS, or Deep Learning Super Sampling, is a technology owned by Nvidia that uses a combination of AI and machine learning to produce high-quality images without actually using the hardware’s processing power. This is exceedingly useful for giving performance boosts for many games by improving the frame rates as well as the resolution.

The way DLSS works is that it’s been trained by Nvidia to produce images that appear as if they are at a higher resolution. It’s similar to paintings that have the impression of depth despite being two-dimensional surfaces. DLSS would allow a game to run at 4k resolution even if the game was running on inferior hardware.

DLSS’ applications are especially interesting when it comes to video game consoles. Companies are always trying to balance console power that allows playing high-end games with console price. Some companies like Nintendo prefer to sell their consoles underpowered for a cheaper price, while others like Microsoft and Sony focus on powerful hardware. Applying DLSS would allow companies to squeeze more power out of their consoles for less hardware cost. This would be particularly useful for Nintendo, as they’ve been lagging behind on graphical power since the release of the Gamecube.

STI MISCONCEPTIONS

Vanessa Marion
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

John Abbott College has been working on normalizing Sex Education, however there is still an abundant amount of stigma the topic holds. Within our society, when speaking about STIs (sexually transmitted infections) the air remains uncomfortable and awkward. To remove this energy is to get educated about STIs, and understand them, so when the conversation comes up, the air can feel comfortable and safe instead.

According to the FPA, many people have gaps in their knowledge when it comes to Sex Ed. These are the most common misconceptions:

Oral contraceptives can protect against STIs. Unfortunately, the pill’s job is solely to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect, in any way, from STIs.

You can catch an STI from a toilet seat. This is a fear of many, so you can let out a breath of relief. It is essentially not possible to catch an STI from a toilet seat, as the STI bacteria cannot survive outside of the mucous membranes.

There is much more to discuss about STIs, consent—the things our high school Sex Ed didn’t teach us. Follow along for our Sex Education articles, Bandersnatch style.

STIs will cure themselves. An STI is unlike a cold or a flu, it is extremely unlikely that it will go away on its own. Without treatment, there’s a risk for long-term problems. It would also jeopardize the sexual partners.

You can catch an STI from oral sex. Though it is less likely, it is still very possible to catch an STI from oral sex.
THE BANDERS: MISSING HIM

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

We miss you, JJ
No matter how ard we try...
we can't seem to forget about
you. There really is a pit in
our sorrowful hearts without
you, and we are certain that
you feel the same.

HOROSCOPES: ARIES SEASON

Elisabeth Beauzile
Staff Writer

The spring bells have fi -
nally chimed! After a
long winter, life is start -
ing anew, and so is the
astrological new year with this
vertical equinox. The sun has
entered Aries on March 20th,
the first sign of the astrological
wheel. Aries' leading energy is
the kick-starter needed to ac -
complish goals and seek new
opportunities. This month, it's
time to MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Mars, ruler of passion and
action, is now hanging in
Gemini until April 23rd. The
Twins are playful, clever, and
communicative, and paired
with Mars, it encourages flirt -
ing and the revival of dull
relationships. That mutable air
energy, out of relationships,
can make us slightly scattered
and blunt; be wary of your
words, and don’t make
promises that you can’t realisti-
cally keep.

The harmonious full moon
in Libra that occurred on
Sunday, March 28th, will initiate
us to find balance! Whether it's
in relationships or in other
spheres of life, remember that
love is leading, and consider
both sides of the medal. Think
about your own interests with -
out forgetting about others.

**Aries**: It’s your solar return!
Celebrate, and expect to be
showered with love from your
relatives.

**Taurus**: The Universe is
trying to bring new changes
your way, but you may be too
stubborn to perceive it. Listen
to your instincts.

**Gemini**: You will find the
strength to finally move on
from a situation that doesn’t
have your best interests at
heart. Transition and move for -
ward onto new dreams.

**Cancer**: This month will
not give you any rest, but your
ambition and your efforts will
earn you great praise.

**Leo**: Restless you are, and
this month’s influence fires that
energy. Find a driving hobby to
keep you out of mundanity.

**Virgo**: This month, every -
one is listening to themselves,
and not you. It might be upset -
ting, so remember to set a limit
for yourself. Your altruistic
goals will be achieved in a
healthier way.

**Libra**: Ruled by Venus, its
transition from sentimental
Pisces to fiery Aries will infatu -
ate you with new crushes or
renewed love. Be careful, as a
selfish streak might form.

**Scorpio**: It’s time to get a
hold of the procrastination of
the past weeks. Don’t overdo it;
you might find yourself burnt
out by the expectations you’ve
set for yourself.

**Sagittarius**: It’s time to let
that creativity shine. Bet on your
abilities, and you won’t be on
the losing side.

**Capricorn**: An anticipated rest
will come your way once Venus
and Mercury move into Taurus;
until then, strive to accomplish
your usual responsibilities.

**Aquarius**: This month is
your check-up point. Focus on
your goals, even when tested
and pulled away from them.

**Pisces**: This month, work on
restoring your confidence.
People underestimate your
strength, and it’s time to prove
them wrong.

REJECTED HEADLINES

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

- Lorax stuck in Seuss Canal
- Google's Pixel 4a only displays 4 pixels at a time
- Last thing person sees before they die is a modern mafia boss smoking a vape
- New Nintendo Switch model promises its battery will last even shorter!
- Australian shrimps domesticate sea slugs as war horses
- New plan announced for Quebec sees the curfew extended to 9:32 P.M.
- Root Beer not to be confused with Root Beet
- Zack Snyder says his true vision was for his Justice League to be seen on a 1920s projector
- Olympic wrestlers develop psychokinesis in preparation for social distancing at Tokyo 2020
- Gmail is actually short for Goop Mail
- Whether or not the weather we weather weathers again depends on what the weather we weather is weathering
GAME GRUMPS’ DAN AVIDAN: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

Andre Bernier
Staff Writer

Last weekend, Daniel Avidan, the co-host of the gaming YouTube channel Game Grumps and singer-songwriter of the comedy band Ninja Sex Party, has recently been faced with allegations of sexual misconduct with a fan. The allegations revolve around his consensual sexual activities with a fan when he was 34 years old and she was 22 years old.

Initially, the accuser from the subreddit v/rantGrumps, a subreddit dedicated to “ranting and venting about the Game Grumps” which is composed of former and current fans who are dissatisfied with their content, claimed that Avidan met the fan when she was 17 years old. The anonymous user u/NotBlarg (not the woman in question) continued by saying that Avidan then kept a relationship with her until the age of 18 years old and then groomed her into having sexual activities at a live show.

Eventually, inconsistencies in the timestamps of the texts presented as evidence showed that she was in fact 22 years old at the time the sexual activities occurred. Also, NotBlarg admitted that the happy birthday post sent by Avidan to the fan, in order to show that he texted her when she was 18 years old, was in fact fabricated in a series of leaked text messages.

In a now deleted post on Twitter, NotBlarg admitted that the evidence he presented on Reddit was not as trustworthy as he thought and that he does not believe Dan groomed the fan at 17 years old but feels disdain over the fact that Dan had sexual activities with her.

I was unable to find an official statement by the fan, but in a series of text messages posted to Twitter, the fan confirmed that the sexual relations she had with Avidan were consensual but she believes that he abused his position of power in order to have sex with her. She says that she never claimed that she was groomed by him but that other people on Reddit took that opinion. Dan Avidan also allegedly ghosted her after a certain amount of time.

Dan Avidan responded to the accusations against him via a statement to Newsweek by admitting that the interactions with the fan were of a sexual nature when the fan was 22 years old and that the activities were consensual. He said that he has made mistakes in the past but stated interaction with the fan was never ill-intentioned, exploitative or illegal.

HIDDEN TALENT: PART FOUR

Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

If you haven’t read Bandersnatch in the past few weeks, have no fear, for this week, there are two new artists for you to check out!

One artist I’ve really liked for a while is mxmtoon. The artist is known for her raw, honest, and acoustic music. If you love ukulele and guitar, mxmtoon is for you! Some of her songs share the spotlight with other instruments, such as “i miss you” and “prom dress.” My favourite songs of hers are “cliché,” “feelings are fatal,” “falling for U,” and “seasonal depression.” Each of these songs projects a feeling of the artist connecting with her listeners. “Cliché” and “falling for U” are both cute songs about falling in love, whether it will last or not. “Feelings are fatal” and “seasonal depression” deal with slightly heavier topics, but the ukulele is beautiful and suits them perfectly. While mxmtoon has over 6 million monthly listeners on Spotify, her music isn’t known by my friends. If you love both late-night and day vibes, her music is worth checking out.

Another upcoming artist is Elijah Woods. Elijah Woods is a new artist on Spotify with only two released songs. His music falls under the pop category with his songs “lights” and “good guys” both featuring electronic backing tracks. Personally, my favourite is “lights.” The song features post-breakup feelings with a relatable message and a memorable melody. His song “good guys”, in my opinion, doesn’t resonate with me as much as “lights” does, but features more of a positive, feel-good mood. Both songs are pleasant and portray a lot of potential. Hopefully, Elijah Woods will grow and release more music soon.

TWINLIGHT IS MY FAVOURITE COMEDY

Emma Doyle
Entertainment Editor

I’m sorry if you love Twilight. I’m sorry if this is your favourite supernatural romance. I’m especially sorry if I’m ruining the memory of a childhood film for you. But the truth is, unless I view Twilight as a comedy, it’s just a really, really bad movie that happens to star some good actors — namely Robert Pattinson, who (for good reason) regrets doing not one, not two, but five movies as Edward Cullen.

I watched Twilight for the first time last year when my then-fourteen year old sister went on a Netflix binge during the initial COVID-19 lockdown. Once I started, I couldn’t stop. First thought? Trainwreck. Second thought? Feel good movie of the century.

It’s so bad that I have to think it’s making fun of itself. Guys. There’s more chemistry between the leads of a middle school play than this Bella and Edward. I mean, you’d think that if the stars were dating at one point it would come through just a little bit. Why does Bella have only three facial expressions? And don’t even get me started on those one-liners. “You’d better hold on tight, Spidermonkey.” I don’t think I’ve ever laughed so hard in my life. Then, there’s the sparkling. She sparkles and then screams about being an evil killer. I laughed so hard my stomach cramped. Last, but absolutely not least...the baseball game. You can’t tell me that that’s not one of the greatest pieces of pure comedy to grace our screens.

So if you’re ever feeling low, do what I do and watch this comedic masterpiece. You’ll thank me later.