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).

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Image Courtesy of Sophia Jeroncic
MUSINGS OF A FIRST-YEAR
Tammy Haddad
Staff Writer

Somehow, this pandemic doesn’t seem to want to go anywhere, and another semester is being done online. With online learning comes stress, exhaustion, struggles in learning, isolation, and many more depression words. As a first-year, I have a lot of thoughts about my nearly finished first year of CEGEP, and the editors of this newspaper gave me 500 words to blab all about them. So, get something to eat if you’re hungry (because over-eating is bad), grab a family member (because seeing your friends is illegal), and get ready to read the musings of a first-year student.

Exhaustion. I feel it in my bones, my muscles and my headaches. Despite the teachers’ best intentions, I still feel drowned in a sea of assignments, exams, essays, and oral presentations. I can hear the department heads pointing out that they reduced the curriculum so as not to put too much pressure on us. I am grateful for what they have done, truly, but it’s not working! I have spoken to many other students, and we all agree on one thing: WE ARE EXHAUSTED! And I am ready to bet an arm that you are too, dear reader. A lot of students, myself included, have put aside activities that bring us joy and keep us balanced simply to please our common god: the R-Score. I could complain about this subject for another several thousand words, but I’m honestly too tired to continue.

Isolation. I feel trapped in my lonely bedroom that has become my school, my study-room, and nothing else (see the above paragraph). I feel isolation’s icy fingers slowly wrap themselves around my throat, choking me just enough to keep me alive, but drive me insane at the same time. I miss my friends. I miss libraries. I miss the college experience I was supposed to have. And I am ready to bet my other arm that you are too, sweet reader. We all do our best to FaceTime our friends, to take classes with them, and to talk with people in our breakout rooms, but it’s just not the same. Only a small minority of first-year students managed to make new friends, and, even in those cases, the formed friendships remain fragile due to a lack of opportunities to strengthen them. If you’re feeling lonely, please know that you’re not alone, and that there is nothing wrong with being happy that others are suffering with you.

Teachers. Honestly, I want us all to give three cheers for teachers. During the pandemic, professors have become a lot more lenient about due dates, extensions, and late assignments. They are aware of our exhaustion, and they’re probably feeling the same way too. They’ve also been making an immense effort to break our isolation by making us do meetings will be used to discuss content and brainstorming a theme for the final issue.

No matter what semester, program, or year you may be in, the elections serve as an opportunity for students to participate in an engaging experience and to be a member of a tight-knit team who dedicate their time to publish weekly issues. Also, don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Elections can be intimidating but the people in Bandersnatch will make sure newcomers and candidates feel as comfortable as possible. Let’s come together and lead our college’s newspaper into the future.

Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

As we’re approaching the last weeks of the semester, the Bandersnatch elections for the 2021-2022 school year are officially starting. Many of our beloved editors will be leaving us so several editor positions will be available, as well as a variety of other positions. There are no specific requirements except that candidates must be JAC students. For instance, elections are open to students who are interested in joining or who are simply curious about how things work at Bandersnatch.

There are a total of three rounds. The first round took place last Tuesday on Teams where the elections are held (the code can be found on Bandersnatch’s Instagram account). The remaining two rounds will occur on April 20th and May 4th at 5:30 P.M. Each election session is usually 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the number of candidates that are running for each position and discussion time. The second half of the round has the candidates presenting their platform and answering questions. The third round will be held on-line, as well.

SUJAC UPDATE
Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

The sun is shining, the weather is beautiful, the birds are back, and the SUJAC Update is here! Here’s a quick recap of what’s been happening in the past few weeks.

The school has partnered with LinkedIn Learning as a new platform that allows students to take recognized courses and webinars on a multitude of subjects. A fascinating webinar on how to rock your profile has been recorded and is now available on our Instagram page: @instasujac.

The SUJAC Executive team is currently in third place with 986; and we challenge all JAC students to beat us for the Eco-Challenge!

In other news, the SUJAC Executives 2021-2022 Elections are taking place to elect the new VP Internal and VP Academic. Find out more by checking out @instasujac!

On the same topic, Nominations are open for VP External. If this interests you, submit your candidacy by April 25 (4 pm).

Looking ahead, a virtual Stress-Free Day is planned for April 21, so make sure you keep your eyes open for more information.

Finally, your SUJAC Executive Team 2020-2021 below wishes you all the best, and take care of yourself.

Student Life Editor
Elizabeth Tulli
Editor-in-Chief

Bandersnatch elections for the SUJAC, and the editors of this newspaper gave me 500 words to blab all about them. So, get something to eat if you’re hungry (because over-eating is bad), grab a family member (because seeing your friends is illegal), and get ready to read the musings of a first-year student.

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THE END OF YAHOO ANSWERS
Yahoo Answers Closing Forever

Andre Bernier
Staff Writer

Yahoo Answers, the iconic 16 year-old question-answer forum known for its hilariously outlandish questions posted by anonymous users, will cease operations on May 4th.

In an email sent to active users of the platform, Yahoo acknowledged that it “has become less popular over the years” and that they have decided to devote their resources to other projects. Yahoo Answers will no longer accept new posts after April 20th, after which the website will redirect users to the Yahoo home page. Users can request to download their own content until June 30th.

With the emergence of new, more popular question-answer forums like Quora or Reddit, it is not hard to imagine why this is the case for Yahoo. Yahoo has also struggled financially over the years and was bought by Verizon in 2017 for USD$4.4 Billion, one tenth of what Microsoft offered them in 2008.

The website has also struggled to keep up with moderating the website for misinformation as it has been flooded with right-wing conspiratorial posts. Just a few days ago, a popular question that landed on the front page asked “Is Yahoo Answers being shut down because conservatives have exposed the Socialist takeover of America?”

I remember as a kid I would go onto Yahoo Answers and laugh at thought-provoking questions like “how to get YouTube to come film you?” or “if Batman’s parents are died, then how was he born?” I think many of us, including myself, are sad that Yahoo Answers is coming to an end.

LAST-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE

Bryanna Wallis
Staff Writer

On the evening of Wednesday April 7th, a last-minute press conference was announced to take place the following day, on Thursday April 8th. At the time, there were reports of a large increase in cases in Quebec; 1,609 new infections to be exact, which are the most since January.

The new information that most people are talking about is how Montreal and Laval are going back to a 8 p.m. curfew starting on Sunday April 11th, whereas other Quebec cities are extending their lockdown. Legault defended this decision, saying that both areas are at risk of getting hit by a third wave of cases. However, Montreal and Laval are keeping their schools open until further notice.

Among the other province-wide rules announced, surgical masks are now mandatory in all workplaces and for all outdoor activities. This was put in place by Quebec’s workplace health and safety board (CNE SST), which is also encouraging a two-metre distance between employees in workplaces.

Since Friday April 9th, school staff, daycare workers, police, as well as other essential workers in Montreal, can make vaccination appointments on the Clic-Sante website. Beginning Monday April 12th, people with chronic illnesses who are aged 60 or younger who are being treated can be vaccinated.

More travel restrictions were issued during this press conference. People living in orange and green zones are not allowed to travel to yellow and green zones, and will face fines if they don’t follow these restrictions. There are only eight exceptions to this new rule. People travelling for medical reasons, commercial transportation and people who need to take care of a primary or secondary residence are exempt.

ATLANTA SPA SHOOTINGS

Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

On March 16th, 2021, eight people were found dead at three massage parlours in the metropolitan area of Atlanta. The Atlanta Police Department has since arrested Robert Aaron Long, a 21-year-old white man, who is charged with eight counts of murder and one aggravated assault in Cherokee County.

The first shooting took place at Young’s Asian Massage near Acworth, a suburb northwest of Atlanta. According to Cherokee County Sheriff’s representative Howard J. Baker, two victims died at the scene and another two died at the hospital. An hour later, three people were killed at the Gold Massage Spa on Piedmont Road. The last victim was killed at the Aromatherapy Spa, located on the other side of the street.

During the investigation, surveillance footage showed Long getting into a Hyundai Tucson car near one of the massage parlours. Authorities found a 9-millimeter gun in his car. Long confessed to murdering the eight victims and told the investigators he was struggling with “sexual addiction,” in which he viewed the businesses as a “temptation for him that he wanted to eliminate”. He also planned to go to Florida, where he would continue his violent acts.

However, the most shocking revelation of the shootings was that six of the eight victims were Asian-American women. There has been widespread skepticism of the motive behind the shootings. Many political figures believe the shootings were racially motivated given the increase of hate crimes against Asian communities in the last year. Presently, Long has not been charged with a hate crime.

THE END OF AN ERA

Michelle Akim
News Editor

Buckingham Palace announced on the morning of Friday the 9th that Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, peacefully passed away in his sleep at the age of 99. Following a month-long stint at a hospital for a heart condition, the royal consort spent his last moments at Buckingham Palace in London.

Having married Queen Elizabeth II 75 years ago, Prince Philip spent much of his life in his wife’s shadow, though this is not to say that his achievements did not stand out. During World War 2, he was extremely successful in the British Army, notably becoming a First Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. Following that and his wife’s coronation, he performed his duties with dedication and honour. He was involved with over 780 charities, with a particular interest in industry.

His funeral will be held in St. George’s Chapel in Windsor, in a quiet ceremony for family only—a fitting farewell for a man who was notably private and reserved. His estranged grandson, Prince Harry, is expected to come back to England to attend the ceremony, though his wife, Meghan Markle, is planning on staying behind in the U.S. His passing has been a shock to the U.K., many of whom feel as if they’ve lost their country’s grandfather.

Despite the emotional toil that his passing causes his loved ones and country, his death also marks a stark shift away from the British Empire, and to the U.K. of the future. When he became royal consort, the British empire (which previously spanned six continents) was slowly being dismantled. Today, the U.K. is not even part of the E.U., and is nowhere near the global superpower it once was.

Source: Getty Images 2018
A LETTER TO MY GRANDMA

Vanessa Marion  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Dear Mémère,

There are no words to express how I’m feeling right now. You were one of the best people I knew, you spent your life helping and taking care of others. You were there for every milestone, every performance, you sprinkled joy into everyone’s lives.

I’ve been thinking a lot about our last memories together. My mind is continuously being brought back to Christmas, I suggested we play cards. My mom and sister were initially against the idea, but with my skills of persuasion we ended up playing. We must’ve played different games for hours, and laughed to the point of tears. Miraculously, you kept on beating us while barely knowing the rules.

You didn’t have the most money, or the fanciest things, but you had the biggest heart. I have so many memories of you that I’ll cherish forever.

I remember you bringing my sister and I to Dollarama when we were younger, and giving us each a few dollars, and letting us pick whatever we want. I remember when you, my mom, my sister and I used to drive up to Ottawa every couple months and hit the best thrift stores. I remember when we lived with you for a year, and every morning I’d wake up and eat a piece of toast while you drank your orange juice and listened to the radio. I remember coming to see you at least three times a week for my whole childhood and teenage years. I remember you and my Mom giving me my first perm, and how gentle you were compared to my mother who was tearing the hairs out of my head. I remember calling you when Mom wasn't home and I needed help with something. I remember you coming to pick me up from school when Mom couldn’t. I remember you teaching me how to knit. I remember you crying the first time you saw me perform. I remember overhearing you and Pépère whispering about your day every night before bed, even if you had spent the whole day together. And I remember a whole bunch more, but I don’t think even 10,000 words would suffice to explain how much you mean to me.

It pains me thinking that we won’t be able to create any new memories together.

I love you so much, everyone who met you did. Your life was cut too short by COVID, though I think a hundred more years with you wouldn’t have been enough. I have comfort in knowing you’re in a better place with Pépère, and I know you’ll be listening every time I sing a song. Just know, everytime I sing a song, it’s for you. Without you, I wouldn’t have the courage to be who I am today. You pushed me to follow my passion and always made me feel worthy. You were my biggest supporter, the most compassionate person, and the kindest soul. You made everyone around you feel like the luckiest person to be loved by you.

Rest easy, sweet angel.

Love, Vanessa
GENTLE WAVES

Elisabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

CHOMP

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

STILLNESS

Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor
GODZILLA VS KONG

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

With recent kaiju movies not being received too well by audiences many were worried about Godzilla vs. Kong being the worst one yet. Kaiju movie fans are especially worried because they really want to watch the giant monster fights. So, does Godzilla vs. Kong understand what the fans want? Well, yes.

Godzilla vs. Kong is a really well-crafted kaiju movie. Legendary Pictures knew that it wouldn’t be well received if it was mostly plot, so 45% of the film is some form of surprisingly fast-paced and theatre-shaking monster fighting. Both monsters are well equipped to battle one another; Godzilla is a walking nuclear power plant that can shoot lasers and Kong is an agile and surprisingly skilled martial artist who can take quite a few hits.

Sadly, talking about the main plot would spoil too much about what eventually happens at the end, though it isn’t why you would go see the movie in the first place. However, the movie has two side plots—one is really touching and well done while the other is mediocre but thankfully has less focus, and it’s not worth writing about anyways. In the former plot the last Iwi native, a young deaf girl named Jia, is the only one able to communicate with Kong through sign language. This plot leads to many great interactions between the two of them and also gives the film heavy contrast from the loud and exciting monster fights, and that’s not a bad thing.

So, is Godzilla vs. Kong worth your time? Well, if you’re a fan of kaiju movies it is absolutely worth watching. It’s probably the most exciting thing you’re going to see in a while anyways.

PAUL MCCARTNEY’S RAM

Michelle Akim
News Editor

When it was released almost exactly fifty years ago, Paul McCartney’s sophomore solo album Ram received a rather chilly reception. Rolling Stones Magazine criticized it as being “incredibly inconsequential and so monumentally irrelevant”, while McCartney’s ex-bandmate John Lennon took personal offense on exasperation is prevalent throughout the album. McCartney calls for a simplistic life—one with less fighting and excess. As many claim that this song was directed at John Lennon and the choices he made after the Beatles broke up, a feeling of frustration that borders on exasperation is prevalent throughout the song.

The rest of the album, with tracks such as “Dear Boy” and “Uncle Albert/Admiral Halsey”, bring to the forefront both McCartney’s ability as a story-teller and his melodious voice. Songs like “Heart of the Country” paint a picture of a simpler, happier life, escaped in the country. Overall, Ram expresses a frustration at our busy life in a way that is uniquely fitting for the current pandemic.

JOJO’S BIZZARE ADVENTURE PART 6

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

On April 4th, the long-awaited JoJo event JOESTAR The Inherited Soul took place, finally giving us news on mainline Jojo content. Aside from the Thus Spoke Kishibe Rohan OVs, fans of JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure had gone without news since the adaptation of part 5 (Golden Wind) finished airing during the summer of 2019.

With how fervent the fanbase is and how some fans had been with the series since part 1, the adaptation of part 6 (Stone Ocean) was being talked about and anticipated as soon as part 5 ended. Naturally, with last year’s announcement that the event was happening (promising news), many immediately predicted the reveal of part 6. However, there were perhaps just as many who thought David Productions would skip part 6 in favour of part 7 or were afraid that they were done with Jojo in general.

Tickets to watch the stream sold at around $40, and fans around the world eagerly watched it despite having to either understand Japanese or contend with auto-generated subtitles (which gave us such gems as ‘John Cena vs Diablo king of crime’ and ‘I want to eat pasta with Coke to swallow it’). The stream ran for about four hours, and though a lot was shown and celebrated about the history of JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure, there were no actual news until the very end of the stream.

Just as the event was closing out, however, a small teaser played which showed Jolyne Cujoh (the protagonist of Stone Ocean) drawn in the style that the part 6 anime will take. There was no release date, but the confirmation that it wasn’t being skipped or ignored was a sigh of relief for the fanbase.

UNFAIRNESS CLAIMS FROM KMCA

Elisabeth Beauzile
Staff Writer

Unfair and unrealistic!

These are the words used by the Korea Music Content Association (KMCA) in an official complaint filed on April 1st to the Ministry of National Defense. The complaint addressed the new revised law on the amendment to the Military Service Act. As written in South Korea’s constitution, “all citizens shall have the duty of national defense.” Essentially, all able-bodied men have to serve in the military for about 20 months from ages 19 to 28 to fulfill this duty. Special exemptions for internationally awarded athletes and classical musicians did exist prior to the revision, but it was an extreme minority.

Under the revised act, enacted on December 1st of 2020, K-Pop artists can postpone their enlistment to the age of 30 if they are recommended by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the recipient of a cultural award. This caused the uproar from the music companies; as one of the criteria for the award is 15 years of activity, it would be too late for the time most idols would be eligible candidates.

The revised law, or “BTS Law”, was ultimately made for the K-Pop group to temporarily pursue their activities. When the oldest member of the band, Kim Seokjin, was turning 28 in December last year, BTS were in the prime of their career. Bringing back $3.54 billion per year with $1.26 billion yearly increments, the seven artists were awarded the Order of Cultural Merit by President Moon Jae-in in 2018 despite having only debuted in 2013.

Will the new law be revised for less currently ground-breaking artists than BTS? With South Korea’s decreasing population rate, that too sounds “unrealistic.”
**OVERWATCH ARCHIVES 2021**

Sebastian Socorro  
Editor-in-Chief

April 6th marked the return of the Archives event for Overwatch, which is slated to stay until the 27th. This is the fifth iteration of the event, which always boasts replayable PvE missions. It started with Uprising in 2017, then Retribution in 2018, then Storm Rising in 2019. In 2020, and this year again, they settled on bringing the older ones back with new challenge modes. A new mission is sorely missed (though the resources are probably being put in the making of Overwatch 2 instead) though the previous missions and new challenges are still fun. Here is a quick guide on the three new challenges.

**Overall Guidelines:**  
For any of the missions, do not use Zarya or Doomfist. This is because the enemy bots are always either doing so little damage that you’re never getting any charge, or they’re doing so much damage at once that your shield will be gone in seconds. You are essentially dead weight on any given mission. For Doomfist, it’ll be fun to whack normal enemies around but eventually you’ll get to enemies that can’t be moved and will become dead weight again.

**Bulletproof Barriers:**  
Heroes that either go over shields like Echo or Pharah or can go through them like Moira, Brigitte, and Reinhardt work very well here. Sombra is excellent here because she can hack enemies to disable shields as well as bombs to prevent them from coming closer.

**Sympathy Gains:**  
This one is mostly communication, as you will have to focus on individual targets as a team to kill. However, single target-focused heroes like Roadhog, Mei, Zenyatta, and Reaper serve to either mark the enemy or take them out before they can heal.

**Thunderstorm:**  
As the challenge implies, pick heroes that can do a lot of damage from a distance. You can’t really go wrong here, but remember to have heroes that can move quickly to avoid getting jumped on by spawns.

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**SUPER MARIO 3D ALL-STAR DISCONTINUED**

Andre Bernier  
Staff Writer

We hoped that Nintendo was pulling an elaborate April Fool’s joke or would have changed their minds, but unfortunately, that is not the case. March 31st was the last day retailers could sell Super Mario 3D All-Stars after Nintendo unsurprisingly did what they said they would do.

The move by Nintendo has left fans confused, annoyed, and frustrated over the limited release of Mario’s 35th anniversary celebratory game. Super Mario Bros. 35 (a Mario battle-royale) and a host of other Mario merchandise were also discontinued on March 31st.

What Nintendo tried to do with their latest business strategy is clear—to increase demand for the game by creating a sense of urgency or ‘fear of missing out’.

Super Mario 3D All Stars sold more than 8 million copies (No. 13 for Switch titles) with sales rising 276% week-on-week in the last week it was available. Depending on which metrics you use, the strategy has worked, but it’s also difficult to see whether sales wouldn’t have been around the same in the end if they had released it normally. March 31st was also the last day of Nintendo’s first quarter in 2021.

Scalpers have taken the opportunity of the game’s discontinuation to sell it for thousands of dollars. It is unclear whether people are actually buying from them at this point, but what is clear is that fans of Nintendo would have appreciated the game not being a limited release.

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**AMONG US UPDATE**

Vanessa Marion  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Among Us announced an upcoming update with a new map at The Game Awards 2020. After the fans anxiously awaited, they finally released it on April 4th 2021.

With this update, there was also a few modifications to the app. Firstly, they added a new feature which they call Quick Chat. Essentially, at the little icon on the bottom right of the chat, there is a button. Once this is pressed, it gives several options. Questions, statements, accusations, etc. Moreover, for children under 12 years old, the chat feature is disabled and they are solely allowed to use the Quick Chat. This is a positive in my eyes, as it will prevent young people from giving away their social media or from getting into trouble.

The most awaited aspect of the Among Us update was the new map. This map, entitled The Airship, is the fourth map in the game. Compared to the other maps, this one has 17 new locations (for a total of 20) and a numerous amount of new tasks, in which none are visual tasks. In addition to this, they added ladders and moving platforms as well as the ability to choose where on the map you wanted to land. You’re given three options once you enter and after each meeting. To top it off, they added a new animation for when there’s a kill.

After playing with some friends, I’ve personally concluded that the new map is challenging and complicated. However, for the players who have gotten tired of the old maps, this should definitely keep them on their toes for a while.

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**E3 2021 BACK ONLINE**

Marc Randy  
Production Manager

The Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) started on May 11th 1995 as a convention meant for showcasing video games and video game-related hardware. For years, it has been something to look forward to during the summer. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, E3 2020 had to be cancelled since the ESA, the committee in charge of organising the event, didn’t have enough time to organise an alternative. This year however, E3 is happening online.

E3 2021 will return as a fully online event from June 12th to June 15th. Ordinarily E3 is a convention that takes place in the Los Angeles Convention Center. However, with ongoing pandemic restrictions, the ESA (Entertainment Software Association) has reformed E3 to be fully digital this year. All developer conferences, game demos, and game announcements are expected to be delivered in digital format.

No details apart from some of the attendees have been revealed, but the ESA claims it is working to make E3 2021 an inclusive event that will still look to excite fans despite its shift in format.

The gaming companies have confirmed their attendance for E3 2021 including Nintendo, Xbox, Capcom, Ubisoft, Take-Two Interactive, Warner Bros. Games, and Koch Media. Companies will be displaying game announcements, trailers, and demos via a live digital format. What’s more, the ESA has stated that the entire event will be free. This is significant because while in the past E3’s press conferences and game announcements could be watched online, being able to try the game demos in person and visiting the actual convention was something that needed payment. More details on E3 2021’s online format and it being completely free are still to come.
**NCAA WOMEN’S FINAL**

Nicole Widerlund  
Staff Writer

This year’s NCAA women’s basketball final on April 4th was an exciting game between two strong teams going head-to-head. Stanford having their tall players, and Arizona countering with their sneaky steals, it became an even game resulting in Stanford winning by only one point.

One player that stood out in Arizona’s team was Aari McDonald. Her tough defense, quick drives and assists helped the team to keep up right behind Stanford’s consistent lead throughout the game.

During the first period Stanford dominated completely. With a lot of ball movement and their giant athletes Stanford managed to get near the basket easily and blocked well in defense. But in the second period, Arizona seemed to wake up and become more aggressive offensively and defensively.

Near the end of the game with six seconds left, the scoreboard showed 54-53 with Stanford leading the game. Arizona had a chance to win the game during these crucial seconds but did not play very effectively. They even had difficulty inbounding the ball. As it would have been easy to predict that Arizona's team would rely on McDonald to score, Stanford did a triple defense on her leading to McDonald being blocked completely. McDonald could have passed the ball to one of her teammates in that situation. If there are three against one, then there are others that are completely free to shoot.

This was a great game all the same because a great game is when the last seconds are absolutely crucial and decisive.

**LE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN…OR NOT**

Kimberley Huard-Jones  
Archivist

You may or may not remember this, but Quebec City used to have a professional hockey team after the Bulldogs. It no longer exists today due to unfortunate circumstances linked to insufficient funds and resources (not to mention the NHL's lack of interest in continuing their expansion within the province's limited market). Thus, the team was sold to COMSAT by owner Marcel Aubut for approximately 103 million dollars (CAD). They relocated to Denver where they became the Colorado Avalanche. If you have not guessed it yet, I am referring to the Quebec Nordiques. Founded in 1972, they began playing as part of the World Hockey Association (WHA) before joining the National Hockey League in 1979 until their forced retirement in 1995.

Despite their small city background and rocky development, the Nordiques had ample potential for success in the hockey industry. However, in addition to the above-mentioned financial and contractual issues, the rise in political tension amidst the liberals and PQists played a big role in the team’s future and even made its way onto the ice. The rivalry between the Quebec Nordiques, having been a symbol of the Sovereignist Movement, and the Montreal Canadiens, seen as an opposing force to the former, got out of hand when both teams engaged in a bloody match on April 20th, 1984. This game, in which 11 ejections and 252 penalty minutes were attributed, is widely known as the “Good Friday Massacre”.

The question of whether the Nordiques should be reimplemented in Quebec as part of the NHL or not has been pondered upon since their final game. Lately, there seems to be more and more news going around concerning this topic of discussion. About a month ago, the Rassemblement des indépendantistes (@independantistesqc) shared an excerpt on their Instagram story of Mario Dumont’s opinion piece published in October of 2020 regarding the connection between the loss of both the team and the 1995 referendum. With the help of a poll, the organization asked their followers if they would be interested in having the Nordiques back—93% voted in favour. From a sovereignist point of view, reclaiming this team would mean winning a battle once lost. It could also mean a step towards independence.

Financially speaking, the chances of this hockey team making a return are low but not impossible. Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League, is said to be hesitant about re-expanding in Quebec City. According to him, the market in Quebec as well as the Canadian dollar have not increased in value since the Nordiques moved. There is also the pandemic to consider, which has done more harm than good to the economy and has heightened the probability of another recession occurring. Still, this process can be beneficial in terms of money (depending on how the whole COVID situation plays out) and status, rounding up the total number of Canadian teams in the NHL to eight.

I guess we will have to wait and see what happens in two years.

**TRANSITION TO NO SPORTS**

Nicole Widerlund  
Staff Writer

Basketball used to be a sport where one interacts with others. But with the lockdown, practices at John Abbott College have been few. One day practices start again and the next, the gym is closed. I have played so little to the point that I can hardly say that I am a part of the JAC basketball team.

It has been a real transition from being involved in multiple sports through high school to not being able to be involved anymore. I did not know it then but being in a team and having the opportunity to represent one’s school is a special experience to go through. Not only does one get to play games and skip a few classes, but also to interact with others on the court and outside. With a common goal in mind and the need of teamwork to reach the goal, the recipe for a special bond has been formed. It is that kind of bond that has sadly not been made this school year. Although this year has not been very bright and eventful (interactively) so far, the best thing one can do is explore and find gateways to new areas. When doors close new ones open.

This whole school year I have been trying out and joined multiple clubs. Some have not sparked any joy in me, but others have been truly delightful. With a common hobby and fondness of talking about something one is passionate about, a bond has been made.
BITCOIN IS THE FUTURE

Palmer Krilick-Tomchishen
Opinions Editor

With Bitcoin hitting new all time highs in price whilst simultaneously making more and more headlines, it may be confusing to a “no coiner” (a term the cryptocurrency community uses to describe someone who possesses no crypto currency) as to what all the hype is about, and whether it is merely some form of fad that will pass within the coming years. In this piece, I will attempt to elucidate the cryptocurrency space and explain how Bitcoin and crypto currencies alike such as Cardano and Ethereum (just to mention a few) hold the potential to revolutionize the world’s financial systems, as well as many other sectors of society.

Firstly, let’s explain the conception of Bitcoin; Bitcoin was the first cryptocurrency to ever exist, and its creator, Satoshi Nakamoto, still remains anonymous until this day. Many theorize Satoshi may be a pseudonym for a group of individuals, however that only adds more ambivalence to many prospective investors. Bitcoin is a decentralized currency that can be traded between individuals without the need for a middle man like a financial institution, and once a transaction occurs, it is recorded on the blockchain forever. Blockchain technology, put simplistically, is a virtual ledger that documents information and is run by the community, which as of now cannot be hacked. The creation of quantum computers threatens the stability for blockchain algorithms and may lead to a compromise in blockchain algorithms in the future, however its suspected that this could only be a threat in eighty years or so once quantum computers can be purchased for personal use and consequently end up in the hands of hackers.

In my opinion there are a vast array of benefits that come along with using bitcoin, and there are simultaneously other facets of bitcoin and cryptocurrencies that are not positive. The beauty of crypto currencies is that they have a proclivity to use cryptography which ensures that you have privacy whilst conducting transactions with the coins such as purchasing products. Certain cryptocurrencies such as Monero are so proficient in the aforementioned application that it has a tendency to be used on the deep web, and can be used to purchase malevolent products. This is obviously a negative use of crypto currencies, however the need for privacy and decentralization in the financial sector is imperative from my perspective. In light of the 2008 financial collapse, financial institutions were bailed out by big government in order to keep those banks afloat after they acted irresponsibly, and many people lost all their money in those banks. Now I’m not certain about you, but that example decreases my trust in larger financial institutions.

The fact that we are offered an alternative to centralized finance in crypto currencies with what is known as DeFi (decentralized financing) is clever and important; we can avoid future losses from centralized institutions by using these currencies that require no middlemen such as a bank to transact. A devil’s advocate may caution however; the value of cryptocurrencies can be rather volatile depending upon what is happening within the cryptocurrency space and beyond it on a macroeconomic level, which can either make you gain big or potentially lose your savings. Over time it is hypothesized by certain cryptocurrency holders known as bitcoin maximalists that bitcoin will become the dominant currency used in transactions due to a gradual deterioration of centralized financial institutions and that the price of bitcoin will slowly stabilize.

No matter what you believe about bitcoin, its technology has the potential to change the world and shape the way we look at the relationship between ourselves, our money and institutions.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: VIEWPOINT FROM AN ASTHMATIC

Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

For the past year, all I have been able to think about is the ongoing pandemic. As someone who has dealt with health problems all my life, I view this situation with the interests of people’s safety, especially for others who are affected medically like me. Throughout the year, I have seen more and more indications that humanity is truly selfish, and people with health problems must fend for themselves and protect one another. If that seems like a bit of a stretch, I may provide you with some examples:

Firstly, many have suggested that people with health issues and the elderly should stay home while everyone else goes back to living life normally. This is not viable. I have to go to appointments thrice a week; therefore, no, it is not possible for me to “just stay home”. Additionally, we will not be confined to our houses so others can go to parties.

Secondly, the disregard for measures like social distancing and mask-wearing represents a complete lack of respect for mine and society’s health. The virus is asymptomatic, which causes many people to think, “I don’t have it. I’m not contagious” because they do not present any symptoms. Therefore, when people take off masks on public transport or in bathrooms, they create another source of anxiety for others because the virus can linger in the air and there is no way of knowing if they are truly negative at that very moment. Masks also mainly serve to protect others and not yourself; therefore, society’s reluctance to wear them shows how selfish people are.

Thirdly, I have been told that I am “overreacting” on many occasions, which, once again, portrays the little respect society currently has for us. I have been hospitalized for my asthma many times over the years, usually due to humidity, dryness, or wintry air; how do you think my body will react when crossed with a virus that targets the respiratory system? I find myself fearful out in public. When I go for walks, I constantly find myself crossing the street or walking in the middle just to avoid people who give me looks. The panic attacks are plentiful, and having to take public transit is currently a nightmare. Therefore, no, we are not overreacting. We are trying to avoid the higher chance of being hospitalized.

Lastly, I know we are all tired of the pandemic, but please, don’t think at-risk people aren’t as well. When I enforce measures, I’m not “punishing” anyone; I’m trying to keep myself safe. I don’t get to see my friends. I often go months without any human contact. Therefore, when I witness people who don’t take any measures to protect others complaining about the current situation, it infuriates me. People with health problems are tired, too; however, we respect measures down to the wire because we need to keep ourselves safe. We are tired of not being able to see our loved ones. We are tired of having to double mask, wear visors, feel anxious about every time we step out of our houses. We are tired of being forced into situations where we feel unsafe. We are anxiously awaiting our turn to get back to normal life, but our hard work in remaining safe and protecting others is continuously cancelled out by the immature actions of others who simply don’t care. People constantly think they know better than others, and essentially question whether my health and life is worth a few months of their comfort.

Although people without health problems may never understand what I and so many others go through, they are still able to provide us the kindness of valuing our lives and keeping us and themselves safe.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR OCEANS

Victoria Navas Via-Dufresne
Science & Tech Editor

Climate change is affecting the whole globe in multiple ways, and our oceans in particular are suffering a lot. From the acidification of the ocean water to the change in stability of our oceans, our polluting activities are causing damage to the saltwater ecosystems including the biodiversity.

Oceans absorb carbon dioxide by making it react with water to create bicarbonate and hydrogen ions. With an increase of hydrogen ions in the water due to the large amounts of carbon dioxide in the air, the pH of the water drops to become more acidic. To that we can add the effect of nitrogen and sulfur coming from pesticides which are dragged by rivers to the oceans.

Since the industrial revolution, the pH of the water has gone from 8.2 to 8.1. While it seems like a very insignificant change, this difference is due to an increase of 30% of hydrogen ions in the ocean. If we were to continue our carbon dioxide pollution as it is now, the pH would be down to 7.8 in the year 2100. While it seems pretty good that carbon dioxide is being taken from the atmosphere, the acidification of the ocean takes a toll on the ecosystems underwater.

Carbonate ions react with hydrogen ions to create bicarbonate. These carbonate ions would usually go to the bottom of the sea bed to allow organisms to build their shells and exoskeletons. Since the accumulation of carbon dioxide is also warming up the surface of the sea, coral reefs are being warmed up on top of having a pH change and react to the stress by bleaching. In turn, biodiversity living in coral reefs suffers.

The pH is not the only thing that is changing. Ocean stability refers to the different layers of the sea and how they mix together. The stability of the ocean regulates heat, nutrients, carbon and gases dissolved in the ocean. With the changes that have been happening over the last decades, the upper layers of the ocean have been trapping more heat and thus having less nutrients for its wildlife.

The ocean stability is determined by the density of the water. That density depends on temperatures, salinity and pressure. Two main layers are found in the ocean: the upper layer which spans 100m in depth is the one that absorbs heat and gases which are then mixed in the water, the lower layer is cold and isolated from the atmosphere. As the temperature in the atmosphere increases and the upper layer absorbs more heat, the layer that divides the upper layer from the lower layer (pycnocline) becomes more stable, preventing the two parts of the ocean to mix. The problem? The surface of the water stays warmer and causes harm to ecosystems living there such as coral reefs.

Phytoplankton which absorbs large quantities of carbon dioxide to produce most of the Earth's oxygen can only grow in places with enough light and nutrients. Nutrients trapped in the surface of the ocean are used by the phytoplankton, but those nutrients also come from the lower layer of the ocean. As the pycnocline becomes more stable, exchange between the two layers is inhibited and less nutrients are found at the surface.

The more stable ocean not only is less capable of redistributing heat, but it also causes problems in the food webs of the ocean. Since phytoplankton is starved of nutrients, less food is provided to other animals, which can lead to the destruction of the whole ecosystem.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Marc Randy
Production Manager

As much as SpaceX is famous for its reusable rockets and for launching a car into space, it's not the only revolutionary rocket startup. In New Zealand, there's a little company called Rocket Lab that's quietly undergoing a revolution of its own. Headed by CEO Peter Beck, Rocket Lab is leading a revolution of the small launch sector with its compact but powerful Electron rocket.

Rocket Lab was founded in 2006 by Kiwi (New Zealander) Peter Beck. Thanks to its easily manufacturable rocket engine and frequent launch cadence, it's slowly become a small satellite launching powerhouse. The Electron rocket that currently is the workhorse of Rocket Lab uses its proprietary Rutherford engine. Rocket Lab is able to 3D print its Rutherford engine at a rate of about one engine every 24 hours, according to Peter Beck. The Rutherford engine also uses battery-powered electric turbopumps, the part of the engine that pumps fuel and oxidizer into the combustion chamber.

As of 2021, Rocket Lab has launched 104 satellites. The past few years have been very busy for Rocket Lab. In just the past five years, Rocket Lab has built the first commercially-owned launchpad in the world in Mahia, New Zealand, launched its first Electron rocket, opened a new US launch facility in Virginia, and launched six successful Electron missions. Rocket Lab has even taken steps to reuse their first stages like SpaceX. Though unlike SpaceX they aren't landing their rockets but instead have their rockets fall back to Earth and survive re-entry to be able to be fished out of the water and re-used.

With Rocket Lab unveiling their upcoming Neutron rocket capable of human spaceflight, and the Electron being slated to carry out a mission for NASA's Artemis program, it has a bright future ahead of itself. In fact, Rocket Lab has plans to become a publicly traded company in the near future. As impressive as SpaceX's accomplishments are, Rocket Lab deserves to be followed closely.

ROLLBACK NETCODE

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

In this time of quarantines and social distancing, it has been getting harder and harder for people to play multiplayer games together offline, which has hit competitive player vs player games like first person shooters and fighting games especially hard, as tournaments and other competitions often took place in the same venues before to avoid lag.

Luckily, a technology called GGPO (Good Game Peace Out) was developed recently and is currently in use by a lot of popular fighting games nowadays. This middleware uses rollback netcode, which is different from delay-based netcode in a number of ways that make it markedly better for online competitions.

Delay-based netcode synchronizes the inputs of two players by delaying the inputs of the remote player to match the late inputs of the remote player, which is very frustrating if there's high latency or if the latency frequently fluctuates, causing the local player to see characters spasm and freeze at times.

With rollback netcode, the game runs both players' inputs in real-time as if the game was offline. To make up for latency, the system tries to predict each player's next input instead of waiting for them. These predictions are made at an almost frame-by-frame basis, so if a character is crouching, the game predicts that the character will continue to be crouching in the next frame. Since these predictions are very usually right, there is almost no difference to offline play at times. When the prediction is wrong, it is usually wrong by a few frames (for example, if the crouching player suddenly inputs a punch), and the remote player will see the character be in the incorrect-predicted position for those few frames before ‘rolling back’ to the correct position.

If there is low to middling latency, these corrections are rarely noticed because of how fast they happen. With high latency though, the corrections become jarring and hard to react to. The solution to this so far is to add an input delay to both players by 1-5 frames to give the program more leniency on predictions. This option, however, is varies per game on how many frames you can delay and whether it is there at all.
THE BANDERS: CURFEW

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

Wow! It’s finally gorgeous outside! We can finally enjoy the day to the fullest with this weather.

ATTENTION: Curfew has been reduced to 8:00PM

Why do we ever bother to be hopeful?...

EIGHT OF MIDTERM CATASTROPHE

Suzie Deschambault
Staff Writer

Three weeks ago, I closed my laptop after completing my last online midterm exam. My laptop never failed me in almost two years of loyal companionship, until the day after that last midterm exam. As usual, I opened my laptop early in the morning, closed it for a short lunch break, then left it open until something like 9:30 P.M. I closed it once, recharged it twice. I have been doing that for almost a year now.

That’s when my laptop decided that online courses were over. That night, after a short break to do, well, nothing, I opened my laptop again at 9:00 P.M. It is now the time to make sure that all the work I ever did on a computer, including those horrible, fancy PowerPoints from high school, are saved on my laptop. I do not have any backup for all those files. You probably can already see the problem coming up. At 9:30, my computer crashed in my face.

Nothing new, as you may have already guessed, the battery is not the best anymore. So, I did what I usually do. I recharged it. Well, I tried. The white light of the power button was flashing. First sign of the catastrophe. The screen was still black even if the laptop was “on”. I was confused. The laptop was not following the usual routine. I was shaking. Just a little, I swear.

Then, the real catastrophe happened: my computer was communicating with me. I obviously did not see it as communication at first. The shift key was flashing three times, then five rapid times. The routine of the pandemic was broken, and I needed a new computer.

Here is an important note: In the middle of a session, it is best to not buy an Apple computer when you have only ever used one with Windows.

WHEN I SEE MY S/O

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

HUG of the COLOSSUS

When I see my S/O
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

You might’ve heard about the astrological signs having elements attached to them, but did you also know that there are qualities attached to that element? They help us have a deeper understanding of a sign’s driving energy and the different dimension one’s birth chart has:

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When I see my S/O...

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

END OF MIDTERM CATASTROPHE

Suzie Deschambault
Staff Writer

When I see my S/O...

Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

HUG of the COLOSSUS

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Elements in Astrology

Elisabeth Beauzile
Staff Writer

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HIDDEN TALENT: PART FIVE
Sophia Jeroncic
Arts Editor

Looking to support some more artists? This week, there are three new artists, one from Montréal, with great music to check out!

One artist worth checking out is New Friends. New Friends is a Canadian group with only three released songs on Spotify as of yet. Their song “Purple Candy” is their most popular one with an airy pop vibe about being in love. Even their heavier song, “Little Fires”, features a positive message and encompasses a memorable tune that hits hard. Since I began writing this article, they released “Ivory Tower”, a slower, heartfelt song expressing true fears and emotions. Although some of their songs feature topics that promote deep reflection, overall New Friends is still excellent when you are in the mood for that feel-good pop music and letting go.

Another lesser-known artist is Sara-Danielle. For anyone seeking more late night slow vibes, her music is perfect. Sara-Danielle is in fact a Montréal-based artist whose music all features calmer, R&B-type vibes. My favourite is “Dance with You” featuring Reno McCarthy because I find it interesting and different from a lot of other songs. When I listen to her music, I feel transported to another place. If you appreciate uniqueness, soul, and want to support local artists, her songs are definitely worth checking out.

Lastly, Zach Hood is an artist who demonstrates great potential. His two released songs, “Flashbacks” and “Isabelle”, both have pleasant, memorable tunes featuring a guitar. “Isabelle” is a more upbeat song with electric guitar while “Flashbacks” is more personal and raw, talking about family issues and featuring acoustic guitar. I like Zach Hood’s music because it feels like he addresses his listeners and communicates with them through his songs. His voice is pleasant, and the emotion put into “Flashbacks” is real and allows the listener to connect to him even if they haven’t been in his situation.

Source: PxHere

THE QUEEN OF SWORDS
Sebastian Socorro
Editor-in-Chief

Nia woke up with eyes wide and the feel of slightly wet grass at her fingertips. She was splayed like a star on the ground, sunlight beaming through tree branches above. Her head hurt like she’d just headbutted a bowling ball, she realized. Her vision was extremely hazy and there was a constant ringing in her ears that was progressively getting quieter. As she got up and grimaced with a hand to her forehead, she also noticed that her clothes were a bit damp, like they’d been washed but not properly dried.

“Girl,” a voice spoke in front of her.

Nia blinked quickly and rubbed her eyes, eventually managing to see her surroundings.

She was in a thick forest of dark green trees, a pond to her left and a large rock in front of her. Sitting on that rock was an old woman with red hair, dark skin, and grey eyes. She was wearing a large pale blue tunic and leaning on a tall spear that blended with the surrounding trees so well that it would be practically invisible if not for the silver spearhead.

“Girl,” she repeated, her features contorted into clear annoyance. “I asked you how you got here.”

Nia took a moment to look around her again and remember as best she could.

“I...don’t know, last thing I remember is...yelling at the cards out of frustration...where am I?”

The lady scoffed.

“Carterhaugh Woods. What’s left of it anyway.”

“Where’s that?” Nia asked with a raised eyebrow.

“That’s why I asked,” the lady answered with a smile. “This place isn’t supposed to be on any maps.”

Nia immediately frowned. To her it sounded like she was either about to become a missing persons case, or she was literally so far from civilization that this place didn’t even register as a blip on the map. The fact that this old lady was equipped with a spear and dressed in a tunic thankfully pointed towards the latter. She spoke in an accent similar to her parents’ (who were British) however, and she didn’t remember boarding a plane in her lifetime.

“What’s the closest city then?” Nia asked.

“First things first,” the lady said as she shuffled closer and leaned in, rowing her eyes at Nia. “What’s your name?”

“Nia,” she answered. “Nia Ardreth-Cambria.”

The old woman raised both eyebrows and leaned back, seemingly impressed.

“Ardreth-Cambria, you said? No wonder you were so familiar. You look surprisingly like your father.”

Nia frowned again. She had no recollection of this woman, and her parents never mentioned friends outside the city.

“Which one?” she asked, causing the old woman to smile and stifle a laugh.

“Lord James, of course,” she said. “Do you know who I am?”

Nia shook her head. This was becoming more bizarre by the minute, and she couldn’t help but notice that she hadn’t mentioned any of her father’s first names.

“I’m your godmother. I would’ve been your namesake too, but they decided ‘Niamh’ was too long.”

Niamh proceeded to stand up from her rock, dug the bottom of her spear into the ground then twisted it counter-clockwise into the dirt. As she twisted the spear, the wrinkles in her face slowly vanished and she grew gradually taller until she was just over six feet tall. Suddenly a woman in her late 20s or early 30s stood before her, brandishing a spear taller than her. She shrugged off her tunic to reveal armour made of leather and green cloth, similarly fashioned to blend into the forest.

Nia widened her eyes and crawled backwards by an inch, not sure if she could believe her eyes. Niamh extended a hand down at her and frowned.

“Why do you look so surprised? Age illusions like these are parlor tricks for Fey like me.”

Nia again rubbed her eyes furiously and looked back at her incredulously. None of her fever dreams had seemed so realistic, and as far as she knew she hadn’t taken any psychedelics.

“Fey?” she repeated.

Suddenly Niamh’s look of confusion stopped, then switched to anger.

“They didn’t tell you anything, did they?”

Nia stood silent, asking herself if the spoiled tomatoes in her sandwich could induce vivid hallucinations.

Niamh reached down, grabbed Nia by the wrist, and pulled her up so quickly she lost balance for a moment.

“You didn’t find it odd that your dad—James—rarely stepped into the sunlight?”

“I-It’s a condition, it—”

“What about ‘Deckard Cambria’? That didn’t ring any bells?”

Nia shook her head. If this was a dream, she at least wanted to find out where it went.

Niamh curled her hands into fists and cursed in a language she’d never heard.

“I don’t know why it’s up to me, but I’ll tell you,” Niamh sighed. “Your parents met about 140 years ago. James Ardreth is a vampire, and Bastian ‘Deckard Cambria’ is a demon. Decarabia, Great Marquis of Hell.”

Source: PxHere