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BANDER IS BACK!
Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

Welcome back, JAC! The Fall 2021 semester has started, and our campus is thriving with life again. Most importantly, another semester means another chapter for Bandersnatch Newspaper. That’s right! The college’s student-run newspaper has returned, better than ever before.

It is with great pleasure to announce that Bandersnatch Newspaper hosted its first in-person meeting on August 31st. The meeting took place in H-312. Meetings will be held in this room at 6 p.m. every second Tuesday. During the meeting, we discussed a summary of the club, did a get-to-know-me icebreaker, and held elections for available editor positions. Oh, and we can’t forget about covering content for the first issue!

Regarding the turnout, many students, both old and new, showed up. Everyone had a good time, and some even hung around after the meeting ended. Some things that contributed to the positive social atmosphere were the fact that nobody was obliged to stay and the presence of mutual respect. People also made sure to follow health regulations: wearing masks, disinfecting desks, and social distancing as much as possible.

In short, the first meeting was a success. Hopefully, everyone will make unforgettable memories and experiences. Bandersnatch Newspaper will continue working hard to publish issues, ones that readers will enjoy reading. Now that we’re on campus full-time, issues will be published physically and digitally. If there are any questions, please contact us by MIO and our social media accounts (@bandersnatchpaper for Instagram/Facebook). Have a fantastic semester, folks!

WHAT. A. WEEK.
Virginia Battaglini
Contributor

“Shoot! Shoot! Shoot!” I thought to myself as I rode the bus. I was worried that I would miss my bus to John Abbott College. The bus came to a stop. I got off, and I quickly walked to the 419 bus stop.

When I finally arrived to the college, the building was bustling with life. Students mingled with each other and searched for their classrooms. I checked my phone and decided to head to the bookstore to pick up a few items before heading to my first class. Big. Mistake. I was almost late for my first class! But Lady Luck was on my side, and I managed to make it in time. The class went really well. I also recognized a few people who went to my old high school.

As the week went by, I learnt an important thing: stairs suck. I thought the stairs in my old school were bad. Now I wish I had them back. It took four flights of stairs to get to one class and three flights to get to another. My legs were screaming at me. After attending a few of my classes, I was exhausted. I could barely stay awake when the teachers were explaining their course outlines. Yet, I kept moving forward. I made sure to take down notes for each of my classes. This was a new experience for me, and so far, it’s been full of glee. New freedoms. New experiences. All so new. All so fun.

FIRST WEEK BACK
Emma Doyle
Entertainment Editor

I don’t know about you guys, but my semesters pre-COVID seem like a fever dream. Remember those? No masks, no hand sanitizer around every corner and at every doorway, no awkward clumps of people because we aren’t allowed to sit anywhere we want.

Despite COVID, I’ve been excited to return to in-person learning. Like many of us, I have trouble learning online, and I’m fed up with doing everything through my laptop screen. I think many people would agree that there were some nerves attached to having to go back on campus during these times, but I wasn’t prepared for how weird it would be for those of us who are returning students.

My first week back, while exciting because we’re finally back, was filled with the most bizarre simultaneous déjà vu and anxious claustrophobia. I finally get to feel like a returning student who knows where she’s going – walking around and getting that sense of hey, I know this! It’s a special kind of satisfaction, but I’m also constantly overwhelmed and uncomfortable. There’s no breathing room. I’m both an experienced JAC student and a complete newbie.

When I keep bumping elbows with the person next to me in class, or we’re taking up all the space in a stairwell, or we’re all carefully trying to keep our distance while we sneak food or water under our masks in the hallway, I’m just hit with how freaking weird this all is. Somehow I feel both elated at being back and stifled when we’re all too close to one another.

But as mixed as my feelings are, I have to commend us as a student body for going along with these precautions. The vast majority of us are sanitizing, wiping down our seats and desks, and keeping our masks above our nose, and it’s nice to see that we’re all making an effort to make the best of it.
FEDERAL ELECTION

Panagis Vibratos
Contributor

On Monday, September 20th, 2021, Canadians will be heading to their local polling places to decide who they want as their Prime Minister. Justin Trudeau, who won the 2019 federal election with a minority government, has called a snap election with the hopes of forming a majority government.

Trudeau’s main opponents include Conservative leader, Erin O’Toole, NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh, Green Party leader, Annamie Paul, and Bloc Québécois leader, Yves-François Blanchette.

On Thursday, September 2nd, Trudeau, O’Toole, Singh, and Blanchette took part in a televised debate in French on TVA. Party leaders exchanged promises and attacks against one another. Trudeau was heavily criticized for calling a snap-election in the middle of a pandemic, and O’Toole was called out for not forcing his party members to get their COVID vaccine. Other issues that were discussed include climate change, Bill 21, CHSLD’s, and racism. Two more debates will take place on September the 8th in French and the 9th in English, this time with Annamie Paul also participating.

Recent polls suggest that the Conservatives are ahead of the Liberals, with a support percentage of 34% and 31.3% respectively, and the New Democrat Party is at 20.3%. While support for the Conservatives is highest in western provinces such as British-Columbia and Alberta, while the Liberals are ahead in the East, such as Québec and the Atlantic provinces. Both parties are neck-to-neck in Ontario. However, the Liberals are still favoured to win the most seats in parliament, albeit their victory will most likely come in the form of another minority government.

REGRESSION OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Anna Prykhodko
Contributor

Instituted in 1973, Roe v. Wade had resonance all over the United States. It protected one’s right to get an abortion until 24 weeks. Before Roe v. Wade, 1 in 6 maternity deaths occurred due to unsafe abortions.

Nevertheless, on September 1st, the Supreme Court decided not to overturn the Texas Abortion Law. Senate Bill 8, also known as the Heartbeat Act, prohibits abortions after 6 weeks, with no exceptions for rape or incest. The law encourages citizens to sue a person who underwent an abortion, as well as anyone who “aided and abets” them, for a chance to earn $10 000. Patients, practitioners, clinics, nonprofit organizations, involved friends, family, and drivers may be brought to court.

Initially, three out of nine Supreme Court judges had a history of voting against abortion rights, and Trump’s three new nominees were anti-choice too.

According to Planned Parenthood, more than a third of American women in their reproductive age could lose their right to obtain an abortion if Roe v. Wade was overturned. In addition to this, around 70% of abortions in Texas are performed on women of colour, who face a higher maternity death rate than white women. This Bill targets the rights of women belonging to ethnic minorities.

COVID PASSPORTS IN QUÉBEC

Vanessa Marion
Editor-in-Chief

As vaccination rates became stagnant in Québec, and the Delta variant continued to spread, the Government of Québec introduced the vaccine passport.

This would limit access to non-essential places for those who are not appropriately vaccinated (unless exempted for a medical reason). This includes: restaurants, gyms, movie theatres, amusement parks, outdoor and indoor events, casinos, and more. This does not include retail stores, libraries, take-out food, and more.

The vaccine passports began on September 1st, and opinions are mixed. CBC is reporting businesses in Gatineau are acclimating quickly to this new measure, and Global News reports Montréal restaurants are struggling to adapt.

HURRICANE IDA

Rhemica Lazar
Contributor

Last week we were faced with the newest addition in this year’s natural disasters: one of the most damaging hurricanes to hit the United States since Katrina.

Hurricane Ida hit the Caribbean first on August 26th, but arrived promptly to Louisiana at its catastrophic peak. The storm arrived in New Orleans on September 29th and then travelled northeast where its remnants completely ravaged New Jersey and New York. Over 60 people dead and billions of dollars in damages acquired.

In New Orleans, millions of people were without power, i.e. without any food or heat. They will most likely be for a while before it can be fully fixed. In New York, a “flash flood emergency” alert was announced, the first ever in the state. Numerous houses and buildings flooded to the top, and some were even completely destroyed, leaving little to no trace of them. It will take a long time for the affected areas to recover fully from the storm.

Last year, we broke the record for the highest number of natural disasters. We call them “natural disasters”, but they are in fact quite unnatural. They’re caused by greenhouse gas emissions. This crazy weather phenomenon used to be sporadic. Now, every time you turn on the news, you hear about droughts or wildfires or hurricanes, and that’s all this year.

Climate change is worsening every year, and Hurricane Ida was simply another example of that.
HEAVY HEART

Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

The heart leaves not one single beat behind.
It’s filled with fear, like a wounded wood deer;
It’s bruised with burden, like a turning gear
Stuck. Had each eye loss sight thus been blind?
The old soul yearns to find, to find, to find;
And times of joy come; numb and hum with cheer;
And all bliss ceases to exist and tear
Apart the rest, ripping away the mind.

And when seemed all hope gone, light lurks again;
A ray of sublime sun shines within hell;
And iron loops loosen on the cracked chain
Alas, heart, wake from the sinister spell
Because there is now no more throbbing pain
To hurt the heavy heart and crush its shell.

STUDY

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

The sound of silence agitates him, drives him absolutely... mad.
A whimper is heard, interrupting the man’s pacing. He turns towards the sound and ponders the source for a moment. His eyes still, at last done thinking.

“Oh shut up,” he says, and shoots the last guest alive.

VINES

Vanessa Marion
Editor-in-Chief

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WHIRLWINDS
Sophia Jeroncic
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It’s been a long time since you’ve come. Dawn light sifts through the gaps in the blinds. Dusty, hollow, echoing space in my mind, You’ve left your remnants, never to return.

I’ve noticed you from afar, Always a bridge keeping us apart. Invisible to your thoughts, your memories, your life, Yet I cannot help but be obsessed With your aura, Leave me alone, but never truly depart.

I’m in love with your beauty, But there is unrest in my soul. I pray you’ll protect me. You already protect someone else.

Hitchhiking in the back of my memory Are recollections of you from long ago. Back before I knew you could be special, But you must never know my intentions, sincere.

Is there a reason I’m like this? Or is it a sign that I’m troubled? I wish I could be reckless Like you Falling for someone when I’m still here

SOUR KEYS
Kaitlyn McGregor
Contributor

When you think of art, many things come to your mind. Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh, Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci, many famous well-known art pieces. Yet when you expand your mind and look around you, you can see art closer to you. The random doodles of someone in your class? That’s art. A student’s project hung up on the wall? That’s art. A student proudly saying their poem to a class? Art! There’s so much art around us that we don’t see! From the present to the past, John Abbott has had so many pieces of art created right here! Connecting all of us together even more. In a world so divided by things we can’t control, art can bring us together.

Music, plays, poems, paintings, photos, and more. All of these are a part of art. Digital or Traditional. They bring us closer. When you walk through Penfield or Casgrain, you can see murals on the walls. Some full of colours, others black and white. Created to help bring more life to this school. The art in Abbott is alive and thriving. And as everyday goes, it continues to grow.

ART WITHIN JOHN ABBOTT
Virginia Battaglini
Contributor

When you think of art, many things come to your mind. Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh, Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci, many famous well-known art pieces. Yet when you expand your mind and look around you, you can see art closer to you. The random doodles of someone in your class? That’s art. A student’s project hung up on the wall? That’s art. A student proudly saying their poem to a class? Art! There’s so much art around us that we don’t see! From the present to the past, John Abbott has had so many pieces of art created right here! Connecting all of us together even more. In a world so divided by things we can’t control, art can bring us together.

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FROM IDOLS TO RIVALS

Angel Grondin-Lumba
Contributor

Kanye West’s album Donda, and Drake’s Certified Lover Boy were both released last week, and all the buzz around the music is fueled by the pair’s complicated relationship. Both albums contain exquisite samples and feature artists such as Lil’ Baby, Kid Cudi, and Jay-Z. For years, Drake and Kanye have made discrete lyrical disses towards one another, and their feud has recently rekindled. Between Kanye leaking addresses and Drake leaking unreleased songs, whether it’s a publicity stunt or not, records are selling.

Donda is dedicated to Kanye’s late mother, Donda West. His process of dealing with such grief is heard throughout the project. Many find the opening track Donda Chant unsettling because of its repetitive and odd rhythm. However, it’s believed the chant is a representation of Donda’s heartbeat in her final moments. Getting past the dramatic and eerie beginning, subjects of loss, fame, and religion reveal themselves. Kanye’s conversion to Christianity and how it’s supported him through times of grief, betrayal and pain are clearly shown through the project’s lyrics and song titles. Despite its sentimental value, the release of Donda may have cost future collaborations with rappers Soulja Boy and Chris Brown, as they took to social media claiming their verses were cut from the final product. The unexpected release has many wondering if Kanye purposefully released the album to create competition for Drake.

Certified Lover Boy is another classic Drake album about lovers’ quarrels and his experiences of fame. Having dated famous celebrities, such as Serena Williams, Jennifer Lopez and Rihanna, the rapper’s love life has always been public interest, and fans are constantly left wondering who his songs are really about. The CLB project focuses on the matters of Drake’s heart, toxic masculinity, and fatherhood. The 19th song on the track list has sparked theories over the weekend on whether his words are alluding to Rihanna and ASAP Rocky’s romantic relationship, but it will unfortunately remain a mystery. Besides love, Drake explains the struggles and pressures of fame and how it’s affected his friendships. Through the experience of becoming a new father, the rapper also relates the idea of fatherhood to all the artists he mentors with the OVO Sound record label. In the past, Drake has talked about Kanye as one of his idols, but sometimes your idols become your rivals.

Their rocky relationship began when Kanye produced one of Drake’s first hits, Find Your Love. It wasn’t until 2018 where the feud solidified when Pusha T’s album Daytona, produced by Kanye, was set to release the same day as Drake’s Scorpion. The dispute resulted in Pusha T revealing the existence of Drake’s son, and Drake felt deeply betrayed by Kanye. The famous line, “Kiki, do you love me?”, led Kanye to believe Drake was having an affair with his now ex-wife, Kim Kardashian, who denied the rumours. In August, Drake made an appearance on Trippie Redd’s Betrayal, directly calling Kanye “burnt out”. The pair continue to lyrically insult each other on their new albums, making a imminent reconciliation seem impossible.

FREE GUY

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

Disney has been releasing many movies recently with varying degrees of quality. Moviegoers are beginning to worry about the industry giant due to safe, lackluster stories with great visuals. However, on August 13th, Disney released Free Guy and this film did a lot to make people happy.

Free Guy tells the story of an average bank teller, Guy, who lives in a world of absolute chaos. Theft, assault, murder, and explosions happen thousands of times daily in broad daylight, and everyone in this world accepts it as normal. After seeing the “girl of his dreams”, he finds a new meaning in his life; he must meet her. Little did he know that meeting her would trigger a new mission for not only him, but his whole world.

(There will be spoilers from here on out, so stop reading if you want to see this movie). Free Guy has two stories that end up converging in the end. The second story tells us some of the terrible practices of the video game industry, that most people in our world are currently unaware of. So yes, most of the film takes place inside of a video game, and Guy is just a side character. Despite this, he is tasked with saving his world from essentially being deleted.

This movie is really worth going to see with a friend. It’s very funny and action packed. So, if you want an entertaining movie to watch sometime soon, go see Free Guy.

BLACK WIDOW: AN OPINION

Elisabeth Beaulzile
Social Media Manager

The MCU is no stranger to the idea of mind-control; it has been criticized for using it as an easy way out in the past and unsuccess fully takes it up a notch with Black Widow.

It’s not that the idea of mind control isn’t interesting, it is! However, in a movie like Captain America: The Winter Soldier, mind-control brings the story forward. In Black Widow, it takes it back a step. When we follow characters like Natasha Romanoff, her sister, and the other Black Widows, this solution feels cheap. It’s such a wasted opportunity. Justifying Black Widow’s actions as the result of trauma due to brainwashing and conditioning would have brought so much more depth and complexity to the story. Natasha’s upbringing and the inner workings of the Red Room are a great Marvel mystery and what the movie could have explored. Instead, what was delivered was a typical Avengers movie. It’s no surprise that the third act feels more detached than the first two: in recent years, the production scene for Marvel movie endings was often handled by a totally separate production team.

Natasha Romanoff’s character has been sorely neglected in the Marvel universe ever since her first appearance in Iron Man and has since been disappointingly oversexualized and underwritten. I can’t help but think that, although extreme, Natasha’s life somewhat resembles a woman’s experience. If her movie had been delivered in a different way, they could’ve sent a pertinent message.
JUDGEMENT REVIEW
Samuel Spaulding
Contributor

Judgement is an action-adventure game published by Sega and developed by Ryu Ga Gotoku. Released in 2019, Judgement is a spin-off of the beloved Yakuza series. Judgement tells the story of a former lawyer, now private detective, Takayuki Yagami. When three Yakuza family members turn up dead, Yagami begins his own investigation to uncover the truth of how these men were murdered. This leads Yagami to uncover hidden conspiracies and dark truths.

Judgement’s gameplay will have you fighting crowds of enemies either by yourself or with a companion. As Yagami, you will be fighting with two styles of combat: the crane and tiger styles. The crane style is utilized for taking out large rooms of enemies quickly, while the tiger style relies on heavy attacks and one-on-one encounters. You will also be able to explore the game map of Kamurocho. In the map, you can play games, help people, and do the side cases you would expect in most games of today.

Judgement seems to have a long opening chapter that may turn off new players, but getting through that rough chapter is worth doing. Some of the fights can be tough for new players if they aren’t well prepared. The game is around thirty hours, which feels long, but it really isn’t, especially when you get good at Judgement. But, uncovering the truth is so worth it in the end when it all comes together.

Judgement is available on PS4, PS5, and Xbox.

WEREWOLF GAME REVIEW
Lara Fakhoury
Staff Writer

Betrayal among friends, paranoia around those you know, and blame for even the tiniest smirk. The Werewolf game is a childhood favorite played by many in their youth, but has been put aside in the game world. Played in summer camps, in high schools, and at sleepovers, the game is simple to play, but you need a stern poker face and a strong index finger to point to those you find suspicious during a round if you want to win.

The game is easy to play, and the minimum number of players needed is six to eight people. There are three roles. The first is the narrator, who oversees the game and knows all. They set the story and coordinate the rounds. Second are the werewolves that can be played by two to four players, and every round, these werewolves pick one villager to kill off. Lastly, there are the villagers. Villagers are the ones that get killed off by the werewolves, but have the power to vote off a player they think is the werewolf. There are other characters that can be added like the hunter, the cupid, and the witch, but those are for more advanced levels.

Think Among Us, but in person. At least with this version, you get the in-person experience and action. I would like to see this game revived since Among Us kind of lost its hype. I’ll definitely be carrying this game with me around campus for a spontaneous round on my breaks.

Source: Stockvault

POKEMON SINNOH REMAKES
Andre Bernier
Games Editor

At last February’s Pokémon Presents, fans were shown a reveal trailer for the remakes of Pokémon Diamond and Pearl. Those games meant a lot to people (including myself), but in light of the sub-par graphics, along with the general “lack of life” that appeared in this one-minute-and-thirty-second trailer, let’s just say we felt let down.

Don’t get me wrong, the “chibi” art style is not what I had a problem with. It was simply the total lack of attention to detail in the implementation of it. However, about three weeks ago, we were treated to an improved trailer of Pokémon Brilliant Diamond and Shining Pearl, and I think that it’s worth explaining why I think this is the case.

Firstly, improved textures, polished shading, and new details made the game more visually pleasing to look at. For example, if you look at the Floaroma town sections, there is no debate as to which looks better. Also, the trailer showed off old and promising new game content that we didn’t see in the original Sinnoh games. Character customization, Pokémon Hideaways, and secret bases are something I’m looking forward to!

Now, you might be thinking, “Why does this matter?”, to that I would say that you have a valid point. But what’s important is that the Pokémon Company has finally demonstrated that they care enough about the quality of their games to give us a game that is actually polished.

B deadly. I was forced to stop. The final development-hell for so long. Metroid Dread was first announced in 2005 for the DS, but due to technical limitations, development was forced to stop. The final reason fans are excited is that this is the final chapter in the Metroid storyline that Yoshio Sakamoto, the producer of the entire Metroid franchise, has been wanting to tell for years. Sakamoto, after being impressed with how they handled Metroid: Samus Returns on the 3DS, put Mercury Steam at the head of development to finally give the world Metroid Dread.

This game sparked some newfound interest in the series, not just from long-time fans, but also from newcomers who were intrigued by the fantastic first trailer. This showed Nintendo that Metroid is still a franchise people are interested in and want more of. Metroid Dread will be the push that the series needs to get back on its feet and the push Yoshio Sakamoto needs to continue development on Metroid Prime 4.

POKEMON SINNOH REMAKES

Source: Wikimedia Commons

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Source: Wikimedia Commons

Source: Wikimedia Commons
S
o, food is fun. Most people enjoy eating it, some (odd) people enjoy making it, and it stops us from dying. Truly a necessity I am grateful for. Do you, dear reader, know what my favourite food is? Cake, but that has nothing to do with this article. I’m actually here to discuss cheese. Double Gloucester Cheese to be exact, a food so beloved by some, they literally sign up to chase it down a dangerously steep hill. Most beloved reader, let me introduce you to the most eccentric sport I have stumble on to date: Cheese Rolling.

The annual Cheese Rolling competition is held on Cooper Hill in Brockworth, Gloucester. Contestants line up on the top of the hill as spectators all around the track yell “Cheese, cheese, cheese!” The Master of Ceremonies starts counting to four. At three, they release a 3 kg wheel of Double Gloucester Cheese, and, at four, contestant begin to chase it. It’s as simple as that. Quickly, the hurtling cheese wheel gains traction, so much that no one is physically capable of catching it. The title of winner is usually bestowed upon the first person who reaches the bottom of the hill. Even if it was possible to catch it though, no one would actually be able to grab it. The contestants are too busy tripping, rolling, flailing their arms, and attempting to avoid injury to bother with the actual goal of the sport (Cooper Hill is really steep). What does the first person to hurdle past the finish line win? The cheese wheel of course! Why else would they be chasing it?

Should you run off this very instant and sign up to stumble after a mouse’s daydream? Probably not. On average, dozens of contestants injure themselves every year. In 1997, 33 people got hurt! Something similar happened in 2010! Do not, most adored reader, forget that contestants are hurling down a 45-degree hill with little to no protection. And that’s not even the most dangerous part; that cheese wheel is a real terror once it reaches the bottom of the hill. After several injuries caused by the rampaging cheese, it had to be replaced by a foam replicate.

Does this mean you should avoid the event? Not at all! There is an ambulance and a group of first aiders near by to tend to injuries. Just make sure that, if you do sign up (which is done by literally just showing up and telling organisers you want to chase the cheese), you don’t bruise up easily and, most importantly of all, you are extremely good at rolling.

The event itself is composed of three men’s races and a women’s race. On average, up to 40 people participate in one race, which is a blatant violation of their 14-contestants-maximum rule. After the races are over and the injured lay in beds, people are given a chance to face Cooper Hill themselves. It’s a great chance to attempt the run without the fear of being trampled by 39 people or rolling off the hill uncontrollably (the local rugby team will be there to stop you). For those who don’t want to spin off a hill uncontrollably, there are some fun activities for the whole family after the main event.

So, lovable reader, get ready, set, roll!

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Should you run off this very instant and sign up to stumble after a mouse’s daydream? Probably not. On average, dozens of contestants injure themselves every year. In 1997, 33 people got hurt! Something similar happened in 2010! Do not, most adored reader, forget that contestants are hurling down a 45-degree hill with little to no protection. And that’s not even the most dangerous part; that cheese wheel is a real terror once it reaches the bottom of the hill. After several injuries caused by the rampaging cheese, it had to be replaced by a foam replicate.

Does this mean you should avoid the event? Not at all! There is an ambulance and a group of first aiders near by to tend to injuries. Just make sure that, if you do sign up (which is done by literally just showing up and telling organisers you want to chase the cheese), you don’t bruise up easily and, most importantly of all, you are extremely good at rolling.

The event itself is composed of three men’s races and a women’s race. On average, up to 40 people participate in one race, which is a blatant violation of their 14-contestants-maximum rule. After the races are over and the injured lay in beds, people are given a chance to face Cooper Hill themselves. It’s a great chance to attempt the run without the fear of being trampled by 39 people or rolling off the hill uncontrollably (the local rugby team will be there to stop you). For those who don’t want to spin off a hill uncontrollably, there are some fun activities for the whole family after the main event.

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VACCINE PASSPORTS
Palmer Krilick-Tomchishen
Opinions Editor

The Quebec government has implemented a vaccine passport, constituting a QR code that is scannable, which dictates whether or not an individual has access to businesses that provide what the government deems as “non-essential”.

Now truthfully, I believe that the coinage of one sector of business as essential or non-essential is problematic. The suggestion is that one business owner’s attainment of livelihood is more or less important than another. The deeming of certain businesses as essential or non-essential has led to the trampling of small businesses and the largest wealth transfer to mega-corporations known to mankind during our transient lockdowns—however I digress.

The Vaccine Passport is an attempt to not only coerce those who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated but to reward those who have been vaccinated. The passport is explained to be a preventative measure to allow transmission to diminish between vaccinated and unvaccinated people, as well as the potential proliferation of new variants which are known to originate in unvaccinated individuals. The CDC recognizes the capacity for fully vaccinated individuals to spread COVID-19.

However, and there are a few key aspects to recognize regarding the utility of the vaccine passports in light of preventing the spread of variants. Unvaccinated people still may mingle/interact with other individuals who are vaccinated outside of the settings in which the government has regulated, and many individuals even share living spaces with people who are unvaccinated. The prevention of allowing unvaccinated individuals to go to restaurants or other venues does not nullify the spread of a variant outside of those spaces, and is futile.

Simultaneously, the Quebec government has not restricted travel to other countries, and has used travel as an incentive in the vaccine lottery: The trip, as reported, was to Mexico; currently the vaccination rate constituting fully immunized individuals is at a mere twenty-five percent. Why can someone travel and interact in a foreign country with a population who is unvaccinated, but not fellow Canadians? Vaccine Passports are but a symbolic gesture.

QC LANGUAGE
Palmer Krilick-Tomchishen
Opinions Editor

If it hasn’t become apparent for those who follow my writing—my individual philosophy can be summarized by the notion of “live and let live”. That being said: Quebec does not adhere to that notion. The topic of language laws has been highly debated for ages, and Quebec has amassed a notorious reputation for being unre lentlessly stubborn in its pursuit to sustain the existence of the French language and to ensure that Quebec continues to be a French-dominant province.

The aforementioned desire by the provincial force to maintain and control has led to a load of harassment towards English business owners and pompos rules, such as the rules from Bill 101 that have tightened the grip of the French upon the nation. “The struggle is real,” as they would say, and this unacceptance of allowing different languages to flourish is a way to control and suppress different cultures, in my opinion.

Montréal is a city often known for its diversity. However, the potential for real diversity to present itself is squandered under the oppression of the government. Ideally, free enterprises could advertise in any language they desire and not be harassed or penalized for expressing in their own language. Verily, there should be no limit on the amount of spots in the English college system. In light of all these points, the English Montréal School Board (EMSB) has recently fought back against the French - challenging Legault’s Bill 96, which proclaims that French is the only official language, and the constitutional recognition of Québec as a nation. Speaking out against the provincial government has led to Legault condemning the EMSB as a “radical group”, certainly a complement rather than an insult in this day and age.

Opinions expressed by authors throughout each issue do not necessarily reflect the views and/or beliefs of Bandersnatch Newspaper.

ELMO TAUGHT ME TO KEEP DISTANCE AWAY
Kayla Thériault
Sports Editor

After two years of the infamous “zoom school”, I was reluctant but prepared to return to campus. One of the major contributing factors to my excitement was the prospect of making new friends after the lengthy provincial-wide house arrest. However, I soon learned that I would be a little closer to people than I initially expected.

Stepping into my first class, I was struck by the sheer number of students stuffed into a small classroom with no windows and a closed door. As an individual considered “high-risk”, I became very uncomfortable very quickly.

My confusion ultimately lies with the college, who decided that our sense of safety can be overlooked. To place, on average, forty students in a classroom is ridiculous, especially when the “safety precautions” are not being respected.

For one, every student and faculty member must cover their face with surgical masks. Daily, I can count a handful of people wearing their personal masks instead of the ones given by the college. Worse than that, plenty of students use their face coverings ineffectively (i.e., under their nose, remove them to eat in classrooms).

Other resources used to inhibit the spread of the virus are hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, both of which are used at leisure.

At this point, I’m holding the college accountable. With only two weeks into the semester and two reported COVID cases, the lack of policing and bad decisions will surely end with an outbreak.

Source: Pixnio

YOUR VIEWS MUST BE CHALLENGED
Conn Noroney
Contributor

There are two sides to a coin. This common expression refers to the fact that there is never one side to the story.

Getting one side of a story is insufficient. However, in recent years, receiving two sides to a story has become increasingly difficult. This is due to social media and biased news sources. The social media algorithms are designed to provide you with content you will enjoy. Therefore, you only hear what you want to hear. For example, a left-winged individual will receive primarily left-winged content on their feed and vice versa for a right winged individual. This extremely dangerous process is known as incessant amplification. Your feed will only give you one very biased side of the coin. Tik Tok is the biggest perpetrator of this. The app’s goal is to keep you hooked by reinforcing your views and interests. The funnel effect narrows your interests down into tunnel vision.

The best way to combat incessant amplification is to consult multiple news sources when forming a political stance. Approaching this with an unbiased mindset is key. Never believe something because of the status quo; believe in something because you are informed on the topic and truly believe it. Just because many stand against you does not make you wrong. Stand up for what you believe in. The bowling pin that stands alone is always the hardest to knock down, so challenge yourself, and challenge others, and you’ll find that you are far more informed than when you never questioned.

Source: Pixnio
SCIENCE & TECH

A BRITA® FILTER... FOR YOUR BLOOD!
Sophia Jeroniec
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

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First authorized by the FDA for emergency use in spring of 2020, a device known as the CytoSorb has been found to effectively improve critically-ill patients’ conditions through the process of blood purification.

In some severe cases of COVID-19, patients suffer a drastic increase in cytokines - proinflammatory proteins that cause immune responses to foreign antigens. This causes the immune system to react intensely, often resulting in death. However, the CytoSorb acts by filtering out these high levels of cytokines, known as “cytokine storms”, through a dialysis-like procedure. The cytokines are targeted by absorbent polymer beads coated with polyvinyl-pyrrolidone, a polymer soluble in water, that are present in the CytoSorb.

In an article by K. AL Shareef and M. Bakour, in a study, COVID-19 patients affected by organ failure, such as heart, kidney, or lung failure, or septic shock as a result of a cytokine storm were found to have experienced notable improvement, and occasionally, complete organ revitalization with the use of the CytoSorb. It was also found that some treatments like antibiotics did not improve the patient’s condition, with no visible decrease in cytokine levels until the device was introduced.

Whilst the CytoSorb is still fairly new, by April 2020, it had helped over 70 critically-ill patients in different countries, including those who were on ventilators, and the term “Brata” Filter for Blood has been coined for the device. One can only hope that the CytoSorb will lead to promising results and more lives saved in the battle against COVID-19.

NUCLEAR FUSION
Marc Randy
Staff Writer

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he development of nuclear weapons opened yet another Pandora’s box for humanity. However, it also allowed for the discovery of a new source of energy: nuclear energy. Nowadays, as this energy source continues to become safer and safer, a new kind of nuclear energy right around the corner appears to be a game changer in clean energy.

Currently, the production of nuclear energy utilizes a process known as nuclear fission. It’s the same process used by atomic bombs, which is why nuclear fission has been used for so long. Nuclear fission involves breaking apart atoms and taking advantage of the energy that is released. On paper, atomic fission is a very clean and very efficient source of energy. But in practice, it’s proven to have its fair share of issues, namely the production of nuclear waste with long-lasting (thousands of years) radioactivity.

However, a new form of nuclear energy production has been in the hearts of scientists for decades: nuclear fusion. Nuclear fusion is the same process that stars use. As the name suggests, instead of splitting atoms apart, nuclear fusion fuses them together. This process allowed for the formation of more complex elements in the early ages of the Universe. It is considered the “holy grail” of energy production.

Nuclear fusion is not only devoid of radioactive waste byproducts, but this method renders meltdowns much less plausible than fission. However, the technology for nuclear fusion has proven to be elusive. It’s comparable to creating a small star here on Earth. But on the bright side, the ITER organization is building the world’s biggest Tokamak (nuclear fusion receptacle) in southern France. Additionally, researchers recently celebrated encouraging results for a Tokamak alternative.

DIVERSITY DROUGHT
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Science & Tech Editor

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After noticing that his curriculum failed to sufficiently address how certain medical conditions would present themselves on darker skin, Mukwende decided to tackle the issue by writing a book on the subject titled “Mind the Gap: A Handbook of Clinical Signs in Black and Brown Skin”. In his work, he discusses how several diseases such as skin cancer, eczema, and jaundice can have drastically different physical indicators on darker skin tones.

Take Kawasaki disease (another condition researched by Mukwende) as an example. On white skin, the cardiovascular illness often presents itself as large clusters of inflamed red splotches. However, on black and brown skin, Kawasaki disease is much less pronounced. It shows itself in the form of small bumps similar to strawberry skin and takes a much closer examination to diagnose.

Evidently, the lack of diversity in medicine is a pressing issue, the responsibility of which should be placed upon all medical practitioners. It is their obligation, regardless of their race, to constantly educate themselves on the possible variations between patients of different ethnicities/races. It is up to you, the reader, to make sure that all medical professionals are held to this standard.

NASA’S RETURN TO THE MOON
Marc Randy
Staff Writer

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n late 2017, former President Donald Trump signed Space Policy Directive 1. The directive was for NASA to return to the Moon for the first time since 1971. This was the first time that NASA had plans to return to the Moon, but there was a significant difference. This new Space Policy Directive would form the Artemis program, led by private companies providing rockets and landers to return to the Moon permanently. NASA has set an aspirational date of landing crew in 2024, but holdups in contracting may result in delays.

The monumental achievement of landing on another astral body for the first time was accomplished thanks to government contractors, such as Boeing and what was formerly Grumman. Unfortunately, the Moon landing proved to be ephemeral because once the Soviet Union was beaten, there were only five more lunar landings until the Moon was rendered completely vacant once again. However, the Artemis program’s usage of private contractors to supply equipment will allow for a more permanent and sustainable return to the lunar surface.

As of when this article was written, NASA has selected one lunar lander, SpaceX’s Starship, to complete the long-awaited mission. NASA’s SLS rocket is primed to have its first fully integrated uncrewed test flight sometime this year. Multiple different companies and space agencies from around the world have pledged their support and resources to this international effort.

Unfortunately, there are several factors that may delay the Moon landing past the aspirational date of 2024. Blue Origin, one of the competitors for NASA’s lunar lander selection process, has sued the U.S. government, labeling NASA’s selection as unfair. Additionally, the space suits designed for the Artemis program may not be ready by 2024. Hopefully we will be able to see the first woman and person of colour on the Moon sooner rather than later.
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THE BANDERS: BROKEN SCHOOL

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

THE BIG THREE

Elisabeth Beauzile
Social Media Manager

It’s the first date. You’re five minutes in, and suddenly, your date asks: “So... Do you know your time of birth?” You may be thinking now’s a good time to run away, but don’t worry! Your date probably simply wants to know more about you. In astrology, three vital pieces of data are needed to establish your birth chart: your birth date, your time of birth, and the location. These three help calculate the alignments of the stars and planets to then produce a picture of the sky when you were born.

Astrology skeptics often say that astrology is too broad - how can their birth month, that they share with millions of people around the world, dictate who they are? Astrology lovers actually agree with that statement. You are so much more than what a magazine says about your sign. The commonly used star sign by magazines and the general public is actually called our sun sign (and it’s only one out of a multitude of different placements). The planets and stars of our solar system cross the twelve constellations that form the Zodiac at different speeds and times. Your birth chart is like a stop in time. In short, that means that ALL signs have somewhat of an influence in our life, but their importance and affiliation differ.

You might have heard about “The Big Three” before. This refers to the three most significant placements: the sun, the moon, and the rising. Understanding their differences and influences is essential to understanding your personal astrology.

THE SUN SIGN is the most popular and most known placement. It crosses a new sign approximately every 30 days (which is why most people born in June are Geminis, for example). As the Sun is at the center of our solar system, our sun sign is the core of our being. It represents the ego, drive, and sense of self. It is how you are and how you present yourself to face the world.

THE MOON SIGN is the contrary of the sun sign. It crosses a new constellation every two to three days. It is less about self-expression and more about emotions and the inner self. The moon rules our inner desires, our intuition, all that is internalized and hidden from others, and how we approach and process our emotions.

THE ASCENDANT OR RISING SIGN

Your birth chart is shaped as a wheel with different quadrants called houses. The rising sign rules the first house, or the beginning of your chart. It represents the merge of the spirit and the body and is one of the most important placements as it sets up the whole chart. It isn’t a planet, but a point in space. Your ascendant is the sign that was resting on the horizon as you took your first breath. They change every two hours, which is why the birth time is something crucial. Rising signs are often like a mask, our persona; it’s the outer self, the demeanor, what we show to others.
JOIN US THIS SEMESTER!

WE ARE ON THE SEARCH FOR AN ARTS EDITOR AND A NEWS EDITOR

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 14TH IN ROOM H-312

SEE YOU THERE!