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-049 (Located in Herzberg basement, in front of the Oval Cafe).
JAC POSTER EXPO

Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

Did you notice all of those gorgeous posters on display in the Agora last week? You know, the ones that were stacked like six feet high, covering the entirety of the room. Well, the event was the Poster Expo, an annual poster sale that is hosted every two semesters. The poster company Imaginix shipped dozens of posters to JAC, allowing students to purchase them from Wednesday to Monday.

Now on to the fun part! Yes, let’s talk about the posters. There were diverse posters which included: music albums, beloved movies & TV shows, famous paintings, and inspiring quotes. I even saw a few periodic tables. The sale had a little of everything so everyone could find something they liked. Prices ranged from $7.00 to $70.00 depending on the sizes and artistic license of the posters. Sure, the line was long, but certainly worth it since students got to take home a poster or two (I know a few who bought more and did not regret spending all that moolah). For instance, some bought posters for themselves or for their friends who couldn’t come.

All in all, this semester’s Poster Expo was a success! There were crowds of people on each day. Some bought posters while others just looked around to admire the beautiful pieces. I even went with my friends to see what was there and had a great time. Bill Mahone from Student Activities described the event as “too successful”, and said, “We might have another Poster Expo next semester.” It also helped that it was an in-person event, explaining the big turnout. Until next time, JAC!

OVAL COFFEE HOUSE

Elisabeth Beauzile
Staff Writer

I know I’m not only talking for myself when I say that as the end of the semester nears, I’m getting more and more tired. With all the work piling up, it’s not as easy to stay organized and think of preparing a lunch every morning. However, I can always count on the Oval Coffee House to refuel my energy! Elizabeth Tulli, our Student Life Editor, is a loyal customer of the Oval: “It’s my source of energy for the day. I live on their coffee and bagels.”

The Oval Coffee House has everything that you’d expect from a coffee place. They serve all types of hot drinks: coffee, tea, hot chocolate, French vanillas, and more. They also have cold drinks! You’re probably familiar with their flavoured iced coffees, but did you also know that they offer around 20 different sorts of freshly-made smoothies? With the option of adding a scoop of protein powder, it’s the perfect snack to grab before your physical education class!

If you feel like eating something more filling, they have a selection of quick meals, like ramen soups, lasagnas, quesadillas, and more. I’m personally a big fan of the bacon grilled cheese sandwiches and the cream cheese bagel! If you have a sweeter palate, they also have a panoply of pastries. Stop by the place to grab a muffin, cookies, banana bread, or a delicious apple danish!

In short, the Oval Coffee House is the perfect place to grab a quick snack in between classes. Run by students of our college, the Oval Coffee House can be reached through MIO staff will always happy to greet you!

SUJAC UPDATE

Hi JAC!

It was wonderful and scary seeing all of your spooky costumes last Friday! SUJAC is glad that you enjoyed the various activities organized by the Clubs, who put in incredible effort to make them happen. Special ‘Thank You’s!’ to the Clubs--Queer Hub for their chilling haunted house, Arts & Craft for their pumpkin activity, Gamers for their Werewolf game, KPop for their Squid Game event and Anime for bringing everyone together.

Moreover, congratulations to the Anime Club and others for their Lucan Charity Sale that raised $3558.

November 4th is a special Remembrance Day ceremony to commemorate and honour the sacrifices past and present Veterans have done for our country. We invite you to be present at the ceremony being held on the Abbott Memorial Field from 10h30 to 11h30 and to wear a poppy on this special date. Dress warmly!

Stay tuned to the JAC Portal and our Instagram (instasujac) for more information on the dates Universities will be present at the College.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, come visit us at P-101.

Your SUJAC Executive Team 2021-2022:

President Ivana Riveros Arteaga
VP Internal Deidra Lauzon
VP Academic Gracie Diabo
VP Finance Richie Tan
VP External Sabrina Goriaini
VP Communications Dante Meldrum
FROM FACEBOOK TO META

Tina Aghdam
News Editor

After the heavy backlash Facebook has been dealing with in regards to the leaked internal documents, Mark Zuckerberg announced at the Facebook Connect conference on October 28th that his company would be changing names to "Meta", shifting its focus on the metaverse rather than social media. A metaverse is a form of virtual reality that can be used for any form of social interaction and is not limited to gaming. The Oculus VR headsets were only the beginning of the company's efforts into developing a metaverse, and it will only grow from there. Soon, they will release a new VR headset called Project Cambria.

The Meta Platforms corporate is planning on investing ten billion dollars in the following year and hiring tens of thousands of new employees to fulfill their promise in building a metaverse, and they are aiming for it to be used in almost all social settings, including the workplace, to simulate reality as much as possible. As a result, it has been announced that the head of the company's hardware division, Andrew Bosworth, will be promoted as chief technology officer in the coming year. However, Meta is not the only company looking into incorporating the metaverse into their projects, as Microsoft, Epic Games and Roblox are only a few others that are looking to involve this virtual reality into their brand.

Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp will still exist as branches of Meta, but the name change involves the brand that owns these platforms. The new corporate logo includes a blue infinity symbol. Zuckerberg explained his choice for Meta, describing the Greek meaning of the word; 'meta' for 'beyond', reflecting the company's goals and values beyond social media.

Many criticize the timing of the release of this news amid all the recent controversies the company has dealt with. They view this rebranding as an attempt to clear their name from the heavy critics and rebuild their damaged reputation. The leaked information includes the harmful effects of Facebook on children and in contributing to political violence, and the existing security concerns resurfaced. It also shows Facebook's acknowledgement of the harmful impact of their platforms yet lack of accountability and reluctance to make the necessary adjustments to fix these issues. It may also be a response to the decline in popularity of the Facebook even Instagram social media platforms among the younger generation.

This change will also affect the stock market, as the FB ticker will be replaced by MVRS on December 1st. Following this news, the stock price of Meta Materials, a Canadian materials technology company, has skyrocketed. Experts remain puzzled by this situation and are unable to comprehend the cause of this surge since this company is unrelated to Zuckerberg's rebranded Facebook. Zuckerberg has been vocal in expressing his plans to include advertisements in this simulated reality, which has created mixed feelings among the general population.

Although some are excited by this new avenue, many remain skeptical of its potential risks considering the controversial past of Facebook. Data can potentially become more accessible through a virtual universe, and the security risks and vulnerability of users remain a cause for concern among many.

GAS PRICES SOARING

Connor Rooney
Staff Writer

The price of gasoline in Canada has been rising swiftly, recently, and it is not expected to slow down anytime soon. In January 2020, the average price of gas in Canada was roughly 114 cents per litre. At the time, the price of gas was decreasing. Then the pandemic hit, and the average price of gas dove to a low of 77 cents per litre. However, this massive decrease would not last forever. With the world going back to normal, so have gas prices, with a vengeance. As of writing this article, the average price of gas in Quebec is 151.1 cents per litre and is expected to continue rising. The President of Canadians for Affordable Energy predicts the price will rise to $2 per litre within the next 13 months.

There are multiple factors that influenced the sudden surge in gas prices. For starters, the pandemic was a major influence. Following the simple rules of supply and demand, it can be determined why the price of gas is increasing so significantly. During lockdown, the demand for oil crashed, but the supply was large; therefore, the price lowered significantly. In response to this, oil production was slashed. The production of Canadian oil decreased 20% in the first half of 2020. However, now that the world is getting back to normal, the demand for oil is high but the supply is low, hence the massive spike in prices. Until production of oil ramps up, the price of oil will remain higher than usual. The good news is that production will increase.

Despite this, why is the price of gas expected to reach $2 per litre? The answer is government regulation. Trudeau’s carbon tax is set to reach $50 per tonne of carbon emissions by 2022. The tax will increase by $15 every year until it reaches $170 per tonne by 2030. While this may benefit the environment to an extent, it certainly will not benefit your wallets at the pumps. With this tax in place, it is speculated that the price of gas will rise with it.

Another factor is Canada’s Clean Fuel Standards, Mark your calendars for December 1st, 2022 because that is the day it comes into effect. It is speculated with near certainty that this will cause a spike in gas prices. The Clean Energy Standards will require suppliers of gasoline to gradually cut out carbon. The reduction of carbon will increase annually until 2030. The carbon is measured from extraction to use by consumers.

Those are some of the major factors that will likely bring the price of gas to $2 per litre in Canada. Some are temporary while others are here to stay. This will put low income individuals in a difficult situation as the price of gas increases to near-record levels, and electric cars are still not quite affordable for everyone. Be prepared for soaring gas prices as they are projected to stick around.
MUDDLE-HEADED

Aris Cristofaro
Contributor

As I laid in the grass, listening to gentle tunes,
I found myself thinking of you.
I had thought that I had cleared my head and that I was at peace.

People often tell me to clear my head,
That my thoughts are muddled.
Is my mind considered to be muddled when I think of you?

If so, then how does one become clear-minded when they are in love?
Because I find my mind wandering back to you.
Whenever I have a quiet moment,
It returns to its rightful place by your side.

As I laid in the grass, I found myself thinking about how much you’d love this moment,
And how much better it would be with you.
Is that muddled? Because if so,
I don’t want to be thinking clearly anymore.

A GOOD MEAL

Logan Macdonald
Procrastinator Editor

Source: Pixabay

WOMAN

Kaitlyn McGregor
Contributor

Source: Pixabay
FAERIE
Cierra Monaco
Staff Writer

Smoky clouds smear the sky
With tufts of wispy hints of a past warmth.
Feeble beams falter through
Belonging to
The once-golden sun,
Now overthrown and white.
My chest is tight.
Hints of red dot the cracked streets.
Empty sand consumes the toes of my shoes.
A barren, lost wasteland.
Hinges squeak and abandoned plastic
Scream, “Come back!”

I sense the breeze waft through my hair.
Gusts and blows
Gently caress my face,
Yet still ambush it.
An isolated hiss of whispers.
I am the sole human now.

A shower sends the leaves spiralling through the air.
Twisting and turning.
They leave me there
Staring in amusement and wondrous awe;

AUTUMN APOCALYPSE
Sophia Jeroncic
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

I feel as if I am a child once more.
Wide eyes and open jaw.
I am the last to roam these streets.
I have never had this freedom,
Yet I wish I was still under control
For never have I longed to
Feel like I belong.

The rain will pour
Down and down,
Smothering the flowers
And causing them to drown
Until it feels as if the Earth is drained.
It feels strained,
As if Nature pleads to cry no longer.
Alas, it will eventually grow stronger
When the seasons shift
And the Earth is reborn,
But for now, we witness autumn’s morn.

LEAK
Virginia Battaglini
Office Manager

Source: Public Domain Pictures
GILMORE GIRLS: THE CLASSIC BOYFRIEND DEBATE

Bryanna Wallis
Staff Writer

All means Gilmore Girls. And with Gilmore Girls comes the long-time boyfriend debate. So, which boyfriend was the best one for our protagonist, Rory Gilmore?

I feel it’s only fitting to start with the very first one: Dean. To be completely honest, I never really liked Dean, and most of the show’s audience agreed. He became really obsessive and possessive over Rory, to the point where he was clearly overreacting about small, irrelevant things. One could argue that they were both young and immature, and Rory definitely made mistakes in their relationship as well, but this excuse is not valid. In the later seasons, when they were no longer together, Dean cheated on his wife with Rory. Everybody say it with me: once a cheater, always a cheater. All of that said, Dean was not right for Rory when she was 16, and he still isn’t now.

Moving on, we have Jess, the second boyfriend. I have always had mixed feelings about Jess, and he is a very controversial character in the Gilmore Girls world. He had feelings for Rory when she was still with Dean, and he worked hard to mess things up for Dean. When Rory and Jess eventually got together, I did enjoy certain things about their relationship. One of my favorites is how they became each other’s best friend. They both shared a love for books, which helped them get along since their first meeting. However, it’s no secret that Jess had some serious issues from his past that he needed to work on. These issues caused many fights in their relationship, and eventually, Jess left Rory. I definitely do not agree with the way Jess broke up with Rory (a phone call), but I do believe it was the right thing for both of them at that time in their lives.

When Jess came back into Rory’s life when they were both older, you could tell he had grown into a better person. This does not excuse his past behavior, but he was the one who pushed Rory to go back to school and to write a book. Jess was not the best boyfriend, yet he was the one who pushed her in the right direction when she needed it.

The last boyfriend is her university boyfriend, Logan. When I first watched the show, I was completely charmed by Logan; he was my favorite. He was the one who cared the most for her and treated her properly. At the beginning of their relationship, he even pushed her out of her comfort zone. They did have some communication issues that caused some situations where Logan was a jerk, but as I’ve grown up, I’ve realized that he was the best.

This leads me to say that I believe Logan was the best boyfriend, but Jess was Rory’s (platonic) soulmate.

LUKE HEMMINGS ALBUM REVIEW

Lara Fakhoury
Staff Writer

When Facing the Things we Turn Away From is the debut Album of 5 Seconds of Summer’s lead singer and rhythm guitarist Luke Hemmings. We know the band for their iconic songs, She Looks So Perfect and Youngblood. Since then, their songwriting has matured beautifully with their most recent album Calm released in 2020. Luke Hemmings released his first debut album in August of this year with twelve tracks filled with emotional lyrics and magical music. (Not to fear, the Australian band is still together!)

Starting Line is the lead single, and it sets the stage perfectly for the kind of lyrics we should expect from the album. Luke’s writing is about his personal relationship with family and love. The songs range from chasing meaning, fear of a failing relationship, and missing family to moments of euphoria and memories of distant youth. Delicate vocals and enchanting instrumental moments throughout always give me goosebumps. My personal favorites to sing in the car are Saigon, Motion, and Baby Blue, and the best to cry over at two in the morning are Mum, Slip Away, and Place in Me. My heart goes through a roller-coaster of emotions while listening to this album.

I am a huge fan of 5SOS, and their songs have brought me comfort and happiness during uncertain times in my life, and Luke’s album held my hand while entering a new era of life. Give it a listen if you’re looking for an auditory experience that will make you feel transcendent.

ATTACK ON TITAN RELEASE + RECAP

Elizabeth Tulli
Student Life Editor

ALLING ALL AOT FANS.
The Attack on Titan Season 4 Part 2 trailer was released on October 13th. After more than a year of waiting, we’ll be able to see how this epic and bloody anime series will conclude! So let’s summarize how things left off in the AOT World. I warn you that there will be some spoilers, so read at your own risk.

Season 4 Part 1 ended with the Yeagerists’, devoted followers of Eren Yeager - the male protagonist and a powerful titan – takeover of Paradis Island. Eren’s betrayal (I won’t mention what he did for those that haven’t seen or finished the series) broke his friends’ hearts and made everyone question whose side he’s on. In the AOT world, there are the citizens of Marley and the citizens of Paradis Island. An ocean is settled between both lands. Eldians mainly live in Paradis Island due to their ancestral history. There are also titans, human-eating giants that prowl outside the Walls of Paradis Island, and the people living inside the Walls have lived in fear of their giant predators for over 100 years.

Going back to Part 1, the last episode showed Marley aircrafts flying over Paradis Island and Reiner, another titan, jumping off an aircraft to fight Eren Yeager. The last scene was a frozen close-up of both of them clashing fists in the air. Like many, I am eager to watch the first episode on January 9th, 2022. Humanity must be saved!
SPEEDRUNNING
André Bernier
Games Editor
I’ve always felt that there are multiple and no “wrong” ways to play video games. Video games are meticulously crafted by developers, artists, musicians, and writers to create an experience that will never necessarily be the same for everyone. But, there’s a certain way of playing video games that often completely goes against what the developers intend: that is speedrunning.

The concept of a speedrun is simple: beat the game as fast as possible. This summer, I started speedrunning Super Mario Odyssey. It was a fun way to go through that game! If you’re unfamiliar with the Super Mario Odyssey speedrun, if there’s one thing that you should know about it, it’s that it’s all about movement and controlling Mario (in often precise ways) so that he collects the necessary Power Moons as quickly as possible to progress through each world. I learnt the route that I had to take for the speedrun over the summer and then practiced a lot. When I did runs, there were so many moments that felt exhilarating: getting a really hard trick to work during a run, the feeling of getting a personal best run or individual level time, and enjoying the fast-paced (albeit sometimes stressful) movement of Mario.

However, I had to stop speedrunning Super Mario Odyssey. One of the drawbacks to any speedrun in general is the amount of time you have to put in to “get good” at it. As a science student, I unfortunately didn’t have the time to play since the runs can be long, but it was an enjoyable experience while it lasted!

Source: Wikimedia Commons

SONY’S STATE OF PLAY
Samuel Spaulding
Staff Writer
PlayStation’s recent State of Play has gone and past within the blink of an eye. This recent State of Play had people predicting big reveals and a case, most of the games that were shown have already been announced.

Announced a year ago, Five Nights at Freddy’s: Security Breach will be released on December 17th, 2021. Like any other Five Nights at Freddy game, you will have to survive until 6:00 A.M. for five nights straight. What’s different about this Five Nights at Freddy’s is that you will be able to walk around freely and explore a mall as a Security Guard. You will also have to avoid the game’s antagonists: the animatronics.

For PS Plus, in November, First Class Trouble, an Among Us-like game released on PC is coming to PS5 and PS4, and it will be available November 2nd. At the end of the showcase, PlayStation showed off a brand-new look at the action-adventure RPG Little Devil Inside. What you will do is walk around different areas of the world, while you meet new people, and encounter different creatures surviving and living in this 3D world.

Although these aren’t games that most people want, most players who enjoy budget titles will be pleased to know that they have one heck of a lineup on its way. The rest of the lineup will be released within 2022.

PARTY GAME IDEA
Virginia Battaglini
Office Manager
Don’t get me started is a speaking-based game, where the whole point is “not” to give someone started! How you play is simple: you need at least two people. You’re given a topic, and you rant for as long as you can about this topic, either positively or negatively.

A topic you could get is “Puppies”, “Capitalism”, “Uno”, or anything you can think of. This game is best played when on the road. It can also even be played at parties! When you’re given a topic, you start your rant by saying, “Don’t get me started!” in the most annoyed tone you can produce.

This game has no time limit or maximum number of people that can play! Best part? It’s one hundred percent free, and the rules are changeable! Want a certain word, like “the”, to be barred from use? If the majority of people playing agree, then you can! Want to only make rants based in alphabetical order? No; one’s stopping you from trying! But be prepared for U, and Y. Most people (that I know at least) take a few minutes to think of words that start with U and Y.

If your mind’s running a blank, here are a few topics you could use:
- Drugs.
- Pumpkin spice.
- A teacher.
- Recent show/movie.
- Cops.

If you want to spice up the game up, here are a few rules you could add!
- Can’t say the word “because.”
- Must dance as you rant.
- Eyes must be closed the entire time you talk.

Source: Wikimedia Commons

ANIMAL CROSSING
André Bernier
Games Editor
Nintendo is planning on releasing an incredibly expansive update to Animal Crossing: New Horizons, and people who play, including myself, are very happy about it. October’s Animal Crossing Direct announced a ton of new features for version 2.0 of Animal Crossing that is planned to be released on November 5th.

There is so much in the update that I can’t possibly go over everything, but I’ll be talking about the new things that I’m surely excited for when I decide to pick up the game again.

Players will be able to farm for food, and create DIY cooking projects based off of plants that they harvest. I’ve seen pictures of players who are already setting up their aesthetic fall farm soil plots! The farms are going to be a wonderful addition for me and all of the players.

Animal Crossing’s social scene got even better, too. A pigeon named Brewster is opening a coffee shop called The Roost in the museum. It’s going to be a place where your villagers will be able to hang out while enjoying coffee. Also, Isabelle the dog, who has escaped Tom Nook’s office (finally!) will sometimes come as well.

I’m getting a lot of inspiration to change my museum’s aesthetic because of this addition, and I’m starting to feel the need to move it away from the tiny corner that I put it in!

There are also many more quality-of-life improvements to the update as well. When winter break arrives, and I’m not swamped with schoolwork, I’ll be looking forward to getting myself acquainted with my island once again!
SPORTS Position Available
Can be reached through MIO

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2021 | VOLUME 51, ISSUE 5
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A(CROSS) THE (COUNTRY)...TO CALGARY!

Sophia Jeroncic
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

If any of you have been following the Islanders on their path to victory, you may be aware of the fact that JAC’s cross country team participated in the Provincial championship event on Saturday, October 30th.

Over the weekend, the team travelled to Québec City to compete in the provincial event after a phenomenal regular season. Taking place on les Plaines d’Abraham, the run consisted of six kilometres for the women’s event and eight kilometres for the men’s. After a stellar performance, both the men’s and women’s teams for JAC placed fourth overall at provincials, with athletes from both finishing with fantastic standings.

The Islanders’ placings led to an invitation to compete at the CCAA Nationals on November 12th and 13th, located at St. Mary’s University in Calgary. The JAC men and women’s teams will be sending four athletes each to compete in this national event.

This is the first time in a while that the Islanders will be competing at Nationals; for both athletes and the college community, it is truly an exciting experience to remember!

LIFEGUARDING 101

Cierra Monaco
Staff Writer

Life guarding insight, from a lifeguard!

1. Don’t run on deck! You could slip and fall.
2. Don’t hold onto the lane ropes. They might break.
3. When swimming backstroke, use the flags to help tell how close you are to the wall.
4. When jumping off of the diving board, make sure there is no one in the way.
5. Don’t talk to the lifeguards when they are on chair. They need to focus on watching the pool.
6. Do not dive in the shallow end! You could hit your head and hurt your back!
7. If someone is drowning, never go get them without a flotation device! Drowning swimmers are ten times stronger than normal, they will pull you under with them.
8. If someone is unconscious, you call 911 immediately!
9. If someone has a broken bone, try to contact one of their family members to bring them to the hospital. If no one can, you call an ambulance.
10. Listen to everything the lifeguards tell you!

Source: Pixabay

TRANS GIRLS BANNED IN SPORTS

Lara Fakhoury
Staff Writer

On October 25th, Governor Greg Abbott approved and signed a bill that restricts transgender girls from playing school sports that align with their gender identities. This bill was faced with immediate outrage from the LGBTQ+ community in Texas, saying it is discriminatory and harmful to transgender youth and puts them in a dangerous environment at school.

Mothers of children who are part of the LGBTQ+ community have rallied together to voice their outrage and concern over their children’s safety and respect in schools caused by such discriminatory bills.

It is said that there are 52 proposed bills against trans people in Texas in 2021. With anti-trans bills that are being pushed in the state, transgender children are being bullied and violently attacked in schools. Laws like these are marginalizing them, putting them at harm in a space that should be safe for all children. An LGBTQ+ advocacy group named “Equality Texas” said that if Texans “want to protect children, the goal shouldn’t be to prevent trans kids from participating in sports”. The hashtag #LetKidsPlay is the main slogan for the movement.

Texas isn’t the first state to pass a bill on barring trans women from sports. Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, West Virginia, Arkansas, Montana, and Tennessee have all passed similar bills against trans people in sports. Republican politicians who push these laws say it is to promote fairness.

Rights of transgender kids have been under attack in the states for many years. Over 110 anti-trans bills have been planned in 2021 alone.

Source: Pixabay
STANS: SUPPORTIVE TO TOXIC
Lara Fakhoury
Staff Writer

Fandoms are a great community to be a part of. To be a part of a huge group who shares the same love you have for a TV show, movie, book, or celebrity. Fan arts, edits, and cosplays are made to show support for anything and anyone. It’s a wholesome feeling to be a part of something that doesn’t make you feel alone. To build each other up, to collaborate together, and to respect each other in a healthy way. But sometimes, these wholesome fandoms can take being supportive to an extreme with bullying and harassment.

Even within these fandoms, there is bullying towards each other if someone disagrees on an opinion, which can get very defensive and violent. For example, when a studio releases the cast list of a live adaptation novel, fans are quick to criticize the actors without ever seeing how they bring their favorite characters to life. Star Wars fans have been called out for being racist and sexist towards many actors of the recent films of the Star Wars saga. Many say they ruined their own fandom.

Stans will also defend their favorite artist no matter what they do. If this artist has a feud with another, their fans will fight on their behalf on all social media platforms: a dirty war of hashtags and posts.

Intense fandoms and stans have to take it down a notch because it leads to people leaving the fandom and hating what they used to love because of the people that ruined the fun experience for them.

LETS TALK ABOUT... BOOKTOK
Emma Doyle
Entertainment Editor

Not for the first time, I opened TikTok to find another slew of book recommendation videos. And, once again, a video insisting A Little Life is one of someone’s biggest recommendations popped up on my feed.

We spend a lot of time debating the significance of an influencer’s responsibilities when it comes to their audience, but I think we need to start including Booktok-ers in this conversation as well. Over the course of the pandemic, with so many 12-18 year olds home and likely online more than ever, there’s been a huge rise in interest in reading. Bookstagrammers and Booktok-ers – book-oriented accounts on Instagram and TikTok, respectively – have amassed major popularity. As an employee who works at an Indigo store, I can personally tell you that a lot of younger teenagers are asking for books specifically recommended to them off the internet from these accounts. Even parents have started coming in with book lists given to them by their kids for holiday shopping.

I love seeing this rise in interest, but find it a little alarming when a parent has books such as A Little Life on a list given to them by their fourteen-year-old. This book is known to seasoned readers and employees for being very well written, hefty...and filled with hundreds of pages of extremely triggering content. Many young teenagers are flocking to social media for reading recommendations, but those recommending it should also be aware of their audience. As an employee, when I recommend a book with potentially triggering themes not in the description, I make those content warnings clear to my customer. Should influencers with potentially vulnerable youth audiences not make the same effort?

ROMANTICIZING TOXICITY
Emma Doyle
Entertainment Editor

There’s a scene in Stone Cold Touch by Jennifer L. Armentrout where our naïve, innocent heroine is shoved against a wall and kissed against her will by one of her love interests. She’s known him barely fifty pages and has been spending half that time trying to get rid of him, and yet, Armentrout writes that she is reluctantly very interested in him. This is just one of many tropes of strange, potentially supernatural young men getting the girl through means that in real life are huge red flags and outright gross. It’s a disturbingly common theme in romance and fantasy, particularly in YA geared towards your average fifteen-year-old girl. Another grossly popular series – now adapted into not one, not two, but three movies with more on the way – is After, filled to the brim with textbook manipulation and abusive behaviour, yet predominantly read and directed at young people. Despite excerpts where Tessa, the protagonist, can be quoted as thinking her lover (the bad boy, punk-emo-something love interest) might hit her in anger, it’s an immensely popular series.

There are certain things that exist in people’s minds and in certain adult romance novels that aren’t meant to be used as examples of real life, and their audiences are typically aware that this isn’t appropriate behaviour. But when someone under the age of eighteen is insisting that it’s a good romance, that it’s what they want in their lives - that’s where I find myself frustrated with this industry.

Young people are exposed to various forms of media every day. Much more intelligent and knowledgeable people than I have explained how media can negatively impact someone’s view of the world and themselves. So why aren’t more of us applying this to insanely popular books and movies specifically recommended to young people, especially young women, containing alarmingly toxic behaviour? Scenes where hot boys slamming a girl up against a wall and suddenly kissing her when she’s supposed to hate him are being written as dreamy and romantic – and as a consequence, those who don’t know better are being told that that’s the dream. Bad behaviour is written off because that’s what every fictional example is telling us, and the audience doesn’t have the life experience to know any better. Books like After are telling young women that they should stick it out because this is what strong love looks like: possessive, obsessive, and emotionally abusive. These stories are telling them that there is a responsibility to “fix” someone else and continuously excuse their behaviour because they have trauma and/or mental health issues.

And there lies the crux of my vendetta: the glorification and romanticization of toxic, abusive relationships for a young, naïve audience. When these are the relationships with so-called “swoon-worthy” romance, forming your ideals on what constitutes love and relationships, how do you know what’s healthy?
MALARIA VACCINE APPROVAL
Andre Bernier
Games Editor

Malaria is an ongoing problem in tropical regions around the world and is mainly prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa (accounting for nearly 95% of all cases). This parasitic disease has been present throughout all of human history, but it is still problematic today, causing 220 million cases and 400,000 deaths annually.

Researchers identified the Plasmodium parasite (a eukaryotic protozoa, i.e. the types of cells that make up Plasmodium, which are the same as ours) 130 years ago, and it has taken 30-40 years to develop the RTS,S: a malaria vaccine which was approved by the World Health Organization on October 6th. However, the vaccine is not as effective as researchers had initially hoped. It has been shown to only prevent 40% of cases in clinical trials. There are also logistical issues in the distribution of the RTS,S since it requires four doses to be effective.

Malaria is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes affected with the Plasmodium parasite. Once Plasmodium enters the body, it travels to the liver and replicates. It then infects our red blood cells and reproduces until the blood cell ruptures and Plasmodium infects other red blood cells. During the time that Plasmodium is in the blood, people can develop headaches, fever, or chills. Complications can ensue and result in possibly fatal illnesses if left untreated.

It's easiest to use a common example to explain the connection between the movement of tectonic plates and the triggering of natural disasters. Imagine the movement between two tectonic plates like the rubbing of two hands. The constant friction and movement eventually results in energy being produced. In the case of the hands, the energy produced is thermal energy that will usually dissipate into one's surroundings or be absorbed by the individual. In the case of tectonic plates, the energy produced will result in colossal movements of seawater (in the case of oceanic crusts) or vibrations through the layers of the earth (in the case of continental crusts). In essence, volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis are the earth's way of releasing pent-up energy created by tectonic plate movement.

One might wonder: “Why is it that natural disasters historically affect huge portions of the earth and not just the sections where tectonic plate boundaries exist?” Well, as mentioned earlier, tectonic plates are huge. For context, they're usually about 100 kilometres thick and can span the length of entire continents or oceans. Furthermore, the movements between tectonic plates cause vibrations that can travel entire plates, not just isolated at plate boundaries. So, while the disaster event may be more intense when located closer to the plates' boundaries, the effects of plate movements can be felt at a great distance from the origin point.

Natural disasters are a constant reminder of nature's destructive ability and how human beings are often powerless against it. While being educated about these catastrophes may not help prevent them, it does help people to better prepare for their destructive effects.

NATURAL DISASTERS FOR DUMMIES
Mehnu Mahapatuna
Science & Tech Editor

The average member of society tends to go about their day, studying, working, or simply enjoying life, without considering that at any moment, they might be swept off their feet by the ground violently shaking below them. The reality is that the witnessing of a natural disaster is one of the most humbling human experiences, a reminder of one’s own minuteness in relation to Mother Nature. However, most individuals aren’t even aware of the cause(s) behind these catastrophes.

The primary trigger of natural disasters is the movement of tectonic plates. Tectonic plates are gigantic sections of the Earth's crust and upper mantle, which can be categorized as either oceanic crust or continental crust. These sections tend to displace due to radioactive activity within the earth's core. Tectonic plates actually move constantly (up to 10 centimetres annually). But sometimes, the small movements of these huge sections cause severe natural disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.

These movements are often placed into three different categories: convergent, divergent, and transform. Convergent movements are when tectonic plates move towards or against each other, divergent movements are when they distance themselves, and transform movements are when they grind against each other sideways.

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CRACKING KNUCKLES
Vanessa Marion
Editor-in-Chief

Ppop, snap, crack. That satisfying feeling of cracking your knuckles, why do we do it, and does it come at a cost? I have been cracking my bones for as long as I can remember. I have vivid memories of myself at the juvenile age of ten, being obsessed with the instant gratification of the pop! However, through all these years I have never truly understood what occurs.

What transpires when you are cracking your knuckles? Essentially, there is synovial fluid between our joints, made up of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen, which has the purpose of lubricating and reducing the friction between your joints. When your joint is cracked, gas bubbles are released which is what creates the pop! sound. It takes approximately 20 minutes to be able to crack your knuckles again, as the bubble must reform.

The debate on whether cracking your knuckles is harmful or not is never-ending. A 60 year study was conducted by Dr. Donald Unger, in which he only cracked the fingers on his left hand whilst leaving his right hand uncracked. The results concluded no change between his hands, and won him a Nobel Prize in 2009. However, other studies have shown cracking your knuckles can lead to hand swelling and decreased hand strength.

The consensus on whether or not cracking knuckles is healthy remains neutral, as there has been no overwhelming evidence that it is harmful. Will I stop cracking my knuckles? Probably not anytime soon, and now I don’t feel the need to, thanks to Dr. Unger.
What do you mean spooky season is long gone? What do you mean Halloween is over? After all, they do say that evil spirits make their presence last…

Aries: The pale face, the red, round nose, the rainbow hair, the sinister laugh… Sorry, Aries, but we recognized you. However, we won’t oppose you running around town as a killer clown to scare children. In fact, this season, we encourage it (but you didn’t hear that from us!).

Taurus: Spooky scary skeletons and shivers down your spine… Taurus, you should stay far away from cemeteries. There’s just something about you this season that makes the undead crawl out of their graves.

Gemini: Did you hear those scratching noises coming from the basement? That’s probably the monster that has been hiding there. Don’t worry though, it’s just very hungry. Feed it a can of worms, and you might become friends!

Cancer: The moon exalts you, but you should try to avoid it as much as you can. Werewolves are roaming around the neighbourhood, and they won’t hesitate to take one big bite out of you.

Leo: Do you like scary movies, Leo? Well, we hope you don’t, because overconfidence will kill you. In a horror film, you’d be the first one to die. So let’s just hope that movies won’t become a reality this season…

Virgo: Do you always feel like somebody’s watching you? Well, that’s probably because there is. Keep an eye over your shoulder, this season. You never know when they’ll strike!

Libra: The nights are getting colder and darker, and all you want to do is to hide under a blanket in your room. Well, keep to that, because the ghouls are out to get you, Libra. Peek out at your own risk.

Scorpio: These days, Scorpio, you’re the spookiest of all. You’re totally in your element this season, and it shows! A word of advice: there are better hobbies than hiding in a Gemini’s basement. We recommend knitting.

Sagittarius: It’s a good thing you like running away from your problems, because you’ll have a great deal of running to do this month. Whether it’s an axe murderer pursuing you or the beginning of a zombie apocalypse, this season, you have the advantage.

Capricorn: No need to hide, Capricorn, your spiteful nature betrayed you. We all know you’re the bloodthirsty vampire who’s been killing innocents left and right. Maybe try some joie de vivre this time?

Aquarius: The diabolical laugh that’s been resonating all around town belongs to a witch. Now tell us, Aquarius, what kind of soup were you making in that gigantic cauldron?

Pisces: Are you feeling that presence over your shoulder, Pisces? It’s probably your mistakes coming back to haunt you. At least they’re not ghosts… or are they?! It’s up to you to figure it out!

HORRORSCOPES
Elisabeth Beauzile
Staff Writer