Trashion dazzles at Paragon P7
Students face results of OSAP changes

Suhan Singh
News Editor

For Aditya Shekhar, a second-year Math and BBA student at UW, the changes made to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) led to an approximately 30 per cent drop in his academic funding.

“In 2018, my funding was in the $10,000s. This year, I received $7,200,” Shekhar said.

Earlier this year, the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities announced changes to OSAP that received mostly negative reactions from students all over the province.

These changes included altering the eligibility criteria for grants so that fewer can receive them and declaring that a minimum of 20 per cent of OSAP funding will now be in the form of loans.

“If they cannot put their students first, how are they expecting a better economy? By cutting funds directed toward students?”

“It is just not efficient. It is a short term solution (for the economy), Shekhar said.

“The most common changes we have seen are a reduction in grant funding and an increase in loan funding. The total amount, however, remains pretty much the same when there are no significant changes in the student, parents situation from last year to this year,” Maureen Jones, director of Student Awards and Financial Aid (SAFA) at UW, said.

“Students who chose the ‘grant only’ option may see more of a change as a result.”

The cuts have left students searching for alternate options that will allow them to pursue their education affordably.

“A few of the students have told me it’s really hard to afford school, especially in the first year,” Shekhar said.

“I have friends who have dropped out of school because they cannot afford to go anymore.”

Due to these changes, a fewer number of students applied for OSAP this year.

“We have not experienced a large increase of student inquiries this fall. In fact our OSAP application numbers are down this year over last year by approximately 10 per cent,” Jones said.

Jones advises students to avoid being completely dependent on OSAP.

“Students need to have a complete understanding of the OSAP changes and the specific impact on their funding. Were there changes in their own income or family income or number of dependents that could be a factor?” she added. “OSAP as well as bursaries and awards, are a source of financial aid that supplements student and family resources. Not one source of funding will cover all of the educational costs. Be proactive and look for alternatives.”

As mentioned on their website, the Student Awards and Financial Aid staff at UW is dedicated to helping students through their financial troubles.

“Students contact our office to understand their OSAP assessment and to inquire about other financial aid opportunities,” Jones said.

OSAP cuts were implemented on Feb. 16.

“We refer them to the UW Bursary and to our Work Study Programs. We also point to our Undergraduate Awards Database and the link to external awards on our website.”

UW Counselling Services cut appointment availability

Vidtuch Chuwalewa
Assistant News Editor

Counselling Services has started following a guideline of allowing only six sessions per individual, down from ten.

Dr. Walter Mittelstaedt, Director of Campus Wellness, said he thinks students’ problems can be solved in six sessions or less.

“There has been a lot of work done in counselling services to understand the typical patterns which led to the finding that most students were getting four or fewer sessions by just their own choice and from that we reached the conclusion of most issues being resolved in fewer sessions,”

Students may get access to more than six sessions on a case-by-case basis, Mittelstaedt said.

“Some students may have access to single sessions or walk-ins, which they can use anytime.

Even though counselling services is nearing full strength and full services such as individual appointments, group therapy, and peer support groups are provided to the students, the wait to see a specialist is quite long.

In some cases, students have had to wait for a month to get an appointment.

“I got onto the waiting list the last term and had to wait close to a month to get an appointment. I know people who have had to wait longer.”

“Even though I appreciate the system I don’t feel like using the services provided by the university,” a second-year UW student, who didn’t want to be named, said.

“I had to wait two weeks to get an appointment and that is when I had my mid-term and it wasn’t going to sort my problem, but I didn’t get help when I needed it most. They can do a lot better managing the situation,” the student said.

A third-year UW student, who also didn’t want to be named, stated that it’s important to not blame the counsellors and the mental health professionals providing the service as are really helpful. But by the time they get to the appointment, the individual’s mental health has further deteriorated.

Last year, Counselling Services invested $1.2 million to hire more mental health professionals as there are currently about 80 of them providing help and services to students.

With over two weeks in waiting time to get through a counsellor, this guideline is partly brought in to reduce wait time but also related to giving the message that we think that any problems can be dealt with in this period,” Mittelstaedt said.

“In terms of waiting lists, they fluctuate as they do in all health settings but we can confirm that students facing an emergency are seen the same day, and urgent cases are seen within three business days,” he added.
You do not want to ride this Uber

Julie Daugavietis
Reporter

Students at UW are innovative in more than just their programs—now, students are plagiarizing essays and assignments through contract cheating, where they pay a third party company to write an essay or assignment.

Dozens of companies exist to provide contract cheating services to students, like ‘100 per cent written from scratch’ and ‘affordable professional service.’

UberEssay is one of these companies. On its website, a cartoon drawing of a person holding a paper with a big ‘A’ adorns the home page, and by scrolling down, readers can see a message from the site founder, William Laurence.

“The truth is, I love doing school work. Creating this company was no-brainer for me, it allows my team and I to do what we love everyday, while helping our clients excel in their courses, and have less stress,” Laurence’s message reads.

Below that, Laurence lists his credentials, including a B.A. from McGill and an M.A. from NYU.

Students can pay anywhere between $25 and $48 per page, according to the chart on UberEssay’s site, which lists prices according to the required timeframe and total number of pages. Sites like UberEssay are appealing to many students.

A study done by Swansea University found that 15.7 per cent of all students reported contract cheating, equivalent to 31 million students worldwide. This equates to one in six students partaking in contract cheating.

Currently, Canada is tied with the UK in frequency of students taking part, second only to the U.S.

The massive influx of contract cheating can be traced to the fact that it is much more difficult to detect than other forms of plagiarism.

To reassure students they won’t be caught, companies often list ‘No Plagiarism Guarantee’ on their websites. UberEssay writes, “Everything we do is custom written from scratch. We do all the research, writing, and proper referencing.”

Because thriving contract cheating companies stay true to their guarantee, it is nearly impossible for graders to tell if a student has plagiarized.

Since the content is original, it generally can’t be picked up by plagiarism detection software.

“Many universities don’t have enough supports in place to help professors root out contract cheating,” Sarah Eaton, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary said. “It makes me feel powerless that this is a thing and we don’t know what to do about it.”

Contract cheating has become a big business and companies often attempt to lure students with the promise of discretion.

“Don’t worry, we maintain a strict policy of confidentiality. We don’t share your name with anyone, and we never re-use the essays we do,” UberEssay’s website reads.

Companies flock to the cheating industry not only because of easy business, but also because it’s easy to take advantage of struggling students.

They use aggressive marketing techniques and lure students with promises of help, while manipulating them into believing there is nothing wrong with cheating.

Top Canadian Writers is another company that offers “custom writing services.”

“If you are struggling with your deadlines and workload then there is not any reason why you should continue finding it difficult when there are writing services reviews out there that are able to help you find the perfect service for you,” their website reads.

While New Zealand has prohibited contract cheating, companies can still operate legally in Canada by using the cover of producing “example essays” for students.

Companies in Canada are getting bolder with their marketing strategies.

“You walk in the classroom and you find the flyers [advertising essay-writing services] on the seats or on a ledge by the white board, you find them tucked away on a table somewhere where students can see them and professors might not pay attention to them,” Eaton told University Affairs.ca.

A mystery shopping exercise done by researchers revealed an astonishingly low standard of work produced by cheating companies.

The work delivered did not come close to what was promised to the “student.”

Without a legitimate source for information about contract cheating companies, the companies continue to thrive while selling subpar services.

Software is beginning to change the cheating industry.

Turnitin has updated its software to pick up inconsistencies that can reveal if a student has cheated.

Among other things, the software compares new writing to previous work to compare a student’s writing style and format.

In addition, professors sometimes include in-class writing assignments to gauge if a student’s writing style and ability is comparable to their assignments.

There is grave risk involved in engaging in contract cheating. If caught, students face a range of punishments, possibly leading to the end of their academic career.

Another risk is the threat of identity theft. Scammers can steal personal information through credit card payments as they know students will be in a tough position to report it.

In addition, students must pay the consequence of not learning the material and getting the full benefit of their education, leading to setbacks later on. “My heart goes out to students who think that paying for a paper is ultimately going to help them,” Eaton told University Affairs.ca.

At UW, the minimum penalty for cheating on an assignment is automatic on the assignment as well as five percent off the final course grade.

According to UW’s Policy 71, contract cheating is given a level two penalty and minimum suggested punishment is immediate course failure, suspension, and disciplinary probation.

NDP candidates propose free tuition

Mubassir Ahmed
Editorial Assistant

Andrew Moraga, NDP candidate for Kitchener Centre, believes free tuition would eradicate the governments’ liability when it gives out thousands of dollars to highschool graduates.

“Every year, the government gives tens of thousands of dollars to just eighteen or nineteen year olds, a huge liability, when they have to decide what they want to do for the next sixty years of their lives and go get a post secondary degree,” Moraga said.

The UW Graduate Student Association (GSA) hosted a Q&A session with NDP candidates Lori Campbell, for Waterloo, and Andrew Moraga, for Kitchener Centre at the Grad House Thursday, Oct. 3.

During the discussion, graduate students raised questions about how the policy to make tuition free would work. Moraga said that it’s not a question of how and where to get the money, because the government already has the money, it’s about where the money would be put.

“We give $3.5 billion subsidies for fossil fuels every year that we can be putting into other programs. We bought a half billion dollar pipeline without question whether or not that was good for the economy,” he said.

Lori Campbell said that when she started university, they had interest-free federal student loans. She said that there are other ways to increase revenue instead of making billions of dollars off of the interest on student loans, that the current government is doing.

“If you’re looking at the pyramid distribution right now, there are about 20,000 people at the top who have a net worth of $20 million and if we charge one cent per on their wealth, over 10 years will have about $40 billion,” she said.

One grad student questioned why people would want their tax money going towards the rich, if they are the ones benefitting the most from the system. Moraga answered a lot of parents do not pay their child’s tuition even if they can afford to, and so when the student doesn’t qualify for a loan, they end up working several jobs to pay for school.

“I think it’s important that everyone has access to education and it’s important to show that we’re all equal,” he said.

Moraga pointed to Germany’s free tuition, not only for its citizens, but for international students too.

Germany is the strongest EU economy, and Moraga said their policies are worth looking at.
How many people do you think are part of your group?

Changes depend on time. We’ve had periods where there’s been huge memberships because again at different points in the year we do different things. Most people will just go directly to the campaign office for canvassing. We do have a core volunteer base that goes every day and every week. I wouldn’t be able to give a concrete number without actually looking at our event signs ins.

What would your party do to help students?

Repayment plans [for loans] are facilitated through the federal level of government, so one thing that the party or the government did was restructure how the interest rates work, with considerations made to the fact that OSAP was restructured in a way that wasn’t necessarily the most supportive of students with financial need.

The thing about student issues is that student issues are Canadian issues. Another issue you could say is a student issue is housing availability.

You can draw back to what the government did and what the government is planning to continue to do through its national housing strategy which is the largest investment single investment in housing ever – it’s $40 billion over 10 years.

Is balancing the budget necessary?

I’m part of the Liberal Party but I’m not the Liberal Party and I have no expectation to try to dictate [the] overarching position of the party. So yes, we do have a deficit now [but] the debt to GDP ratio is going down.

A big thing for me is again looking at the deficit, [and asking] where else are there deficits within our society. We have massive infrastructure deficits, what about the environmental deficit.

There are costs to be incurred to make sure that our society is organized and structured in a way that’s going to be able to continue not only for my generation moving towards but also future generations.

Every government has run a deficit at one point or another. But nobody ever says they’re going to. At least [the government is] honest and at willing to articulate the purposes behind the investments that they’re making.

What is your party doing for pharmacare and dentalcare?

So pharmacare has been in the works for a while. A critique of the opposition parties has been that it’s taking too long, but pharmacare is a complex piece of policy to bring forward.

So one of the things is again we’re reforming those review bodies so that they can challenge [drug patent] abusers immediately.

Our drug prices are the third highest in the world, and that’s obviously not OK. That’s not something that’s going to change, it’s something that the party has already been working on.

You can do a sweeping brush and say hey we’re magically all going to get pharmacare but you have to get into the nitty gritty of it all how is it going to work how is going to be financed.

In reference to the SNC-Lavalin Affair, when do the ends stop justifying the means for jobs?

I think that there are tons of reasonable limitations to how far the ends justify the means for jobs.

I think opening up public discourse for what exactly that means and using parliamentary offices to set what that means is reasonable. We have an ethics evaluation process.

What is your party doing for pharmacare and dentalcare?

I’m not an expert in every single topic. I could probably pull up the computer and go on CBC and there’s a whole list of pharmacare and dental care [things].
How many people do you think are part of the UW NDP?
Once I arrived in Waterloo I asked around. He’s gone and they told me,
“Well [the NDP club] used to exist but the past year it became inactive because of low membership. If you get enough people again to sort of revive and that’s what you should do first.”
So we’ve found a good I’d say couple of dozen people to three dozen this year.

What would your party do to help students?
The one major way that I see these days is that the government is taking advantage of poor people is through student loans.
Because, if someone if someone is rich enough to afford university, they can pay it out of their pocket.
You’re basically taxing [poor people] overtime right when that money can instead go for other things such as trying to make a living.

Is balancing the budget necessary?
Well balancing the budget isn’t necessarily the most crucial thing.
What matters most is that you are able to manage it over time.
If you have an unbalanced budget but you’re not able to manage it you’re going to end up spiraling to like Greece.
There shouldn’t be a problem because a sovereign debt isn’t necessarily a bad thing because I believe about 30 per cent of the sovereign debt for most countries is based on governmental bonds and that’s generally more safe.
As long as you can manage it and I believe Canada is managing it, although I do have to say flat out buying [a] billion dollar pipeline that’s not really managing the Treasury really well.

What is your party doing for pharmacare and dentalcare?
So Jagmeet Singh had talked about universal dental care pharmacare right.
I think that’s kind of the sense that it’s a divide again between those who are able to afford it and those who may be at risk of not having health issues like being part of their parents health system and whatever that system is or their job to get something done right.

Why should someone vote for your party if they’re probably not going to form government?
In Canadian history it’s always just been Liberal or Conservative, back and forth.
And what has that done?
Not much from recent memory — Harper, Trudeau, they both screwed over Canadians right in their own ways.
Yesterday they put the Liberals and Conservatives about 50/50 in terms of the number of seats which means that no party would win absolute majority.
And then once that happens [in the Westminster parliamentary system] you’re either going to get a coalition or a minority government.

In that case that’s when the smaller parties become the king-makers.

Why do you support the NDP?
Since Grade 4 (I’ve been) involved with the NDP.
It also happens to be that Jagmeet Singh’s my MP.
I remember even in elementary school the pipeline [Transmountain pipeline] issue was this a big thing and that’s kind of how I got into it.

What is your party doing for pharmacare and dentalcare?
We’re a smaller group so we have quite a few more people signed up than active members but we’re hoping to increase that.
I would say we have anywhere from 10 to 15 people as more regular members and maybe a core group of about 10 people.

What would your party do to help students?
The Green Party, I think, is the only party that is proposing to eliminate tuition and that’s in line with most European countries — free tuition based on merit.
I understand it also is a provincial responsibility but if there was a Green federal government, the idea would be to eliminate all student debt because the debt burden on students is enormous hindrance on our future.
But it just doesn’t come down to that. Green jobs and even pharmacare in an indirect way is going to help help people who are trying to start out like things like that including things like a national housing strategy and other social programs like that.

Is balancing the budget necessary?
Although there is no specific commitment to a balanced budget. I know our leader [Elizabeth May] understands the importance of living within your means and part of that is actually restructuring the economy.
So a balanced budget might not be strictly always necessary, obviously sometimes you have to run deficits.
I know certainly the Green Party is proposing closing tax loopholes, going after offshore accounts, closing parts of the capital gains tax exemptions to increase revenue from some of the highest earners.

What is your party doing for pharmacare and dentalcare?
Our leader has committed in the platform to fully funded pharmacare.
There will be a national strategy to buy drugs in bulk which will lower the costs of prescription drugs within Canada and make them readily available to all citizens, because it is really an injustice for anyone prescribed medications to go without medication.
And it’s quite unusual to have to have as we do the Canada Health Act which only enshrines medications when you’re in hospital as a right but not have pharmacare as part of a national plan which should be a right for all people too.

Why should someone vote for your party if they’re probably not going to form government?
Elizabeth May, I know, has had some commitment to the decriminalization of all drugs. And that’s not something I’m totally opposed to but I think it would require more study within Canada to be properly implemented to ensure there’s (not) more harm than good.
But I also certainly support the full legalization of marijuana [and] Elizabeth May’s plan to lower the price to ensure that the black market doesn’t remain as strong as it is.
But I would say drug decriminalization is something that probably deserves further study [and] that’s something I’m not fully on board with.

Why do you support this party?
The climate crisis is probably the most pressing concern that we’re facing right now and I think the Green Party is the only party that has an actual plan to deal with the climate crisis in a real way.
Students scammed

Rissaile Mouajou
Reporter

When scam artists try to rip off students, sometimes they accidentally contact a journalist. Mystery Shoppers, contacted this Imprint reporter promising paying work. Instead, the company nearly made off with $1,000.

Going by the name of Wen Zhang, Mystery Shoppers sent an email through our reporter’s supposedly secure Waterloo mailbox, offering a false job opportunity.

Six students told Imprint they had received the same email, assuming it was trustworthy, after reading “Job Placement and Student Services,” with UW’s name and address at the end of the email.

The job asked students to go to stores and buy $1,000 worth of gift cards in order to “gauge the shopping experience.” Students then completed a survey and, if done within 24 hours, they were promised $580.

To initiate this, Mystery Shoppers’ evaluation consultant going by the name of Daniel Michael sends students a $1,280 Scotia bank cheque that later bounces, as the bank account isn’t from is empty.

After receiving the cheque, students cash it into their account thinking the money is available to them and buy their gift cards at whichever store they are assigned.

They then photograph the cards and send the pictures to Daniel Michael, who gains the students’ $1,000 in gift cards and leaves the students’ account in negatives.

Imprint contacted Waterloo’s Regional Police (WRPS), as well as UW’s local CIBC, and the UW Office of the President. According to Public Information Officer André Johnson, the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre’s website holds information about Mystery Shoppers and how to avoid their scams.

“I am not aware of this particular scam being reported to WRPS by any UW students recently. There could have been individuals who reported it, but then again, unless there was financial loss, or the individual made it known that they were affiliated with UW, it may be hard to track on our end,” Johnson said.

Similarly, Caitlin Vaux, Executive Assistant of the UW Office of the President also shared this information with Information Security.

CIBC media would not speak further on the issue apart from an email to Imprint detailing precautions students could take to avoid fraud.

There seems to be very little knowledge surrounding this issue affecting many students of Waterloo.

Each office contacted by Imprint couldn’t say they were combatting the issue and only offered advice for students to keep themselves safe.
Trashing unsustainability

Suhani Saigal
News Editor

Paragon, by Project Trashion, was presented on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the UW Federation Hall. With two full house shows in one day, students, families, sponsors, and supporters attended Paragon.

“When I applied to volunteer, I never expected to see something like this,” Ishika Talwar, a Project Trashion volunteer, said.

Project Trashion aims to “foster and grow a culture of sustainability” by using art, fashion, and community activism.

Paragon was an eco-fashion show that showcased outfits from local sustainable businesses, thrift stylists, and waste designers—all sharing the same platform.

“I have seen the work of some of these stylists before,” Talwar said. “I find it extremely incredible how innovative the clothes are.”

The show was divided into three segments: Sustainable Businesses, Thrift Designers, and Waste Designers.

“In my opinion, the three segments were meant to show a mix of modernization and sustainability,” Talwar said.

The first segment involved local businesses that promoted sustainable and conscious consumption. It featured clothes from MadMonk, B.A.D Closet, Odt, and House of Bamboo.

“We can always have a sustainable future.

The ultimate step is to reduce consumption,” Yoshitake Matsuzaki, the founder and president of Project Trashion, said to the audience.

With a mission to reinvent creativity by reusing clothes, the second segment showed works of Sebastian Sukhu, Sierra Aston, Batoula Dowct, Nish Chatlani, and Trisha Aldovino.

Sukhu’s futuristic line took the audience to the year 3018 with a visionary style while Aston’s was more colourful and bright.

“The clothes designed by Sierra Aston are crazy and fun and do not follow any rules,” Sammita Nadarajah, emcee of Paragon, said.

The third and final segment, called the Waste Designer segment, showcased works put together by Trashion designers Denise Li, Emily Bendeck, and Riya Raj Gogoi. This segment intended to use fashion to change how we view plastic.

Li’s line, Oceanic Black, was inspired by artist Kanye West’s album My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy. It portrayed degradation of the environment, as caused by pollution.

Bendeck’s collection displayed the divide between man and nature, and the four elements—fire, air, water, and earth.

With a vision to motivate preservation of the environment, Gogoi’s line indicated industrialization as well as the beauty of nature.

Project Trashion will be accepting applications for their next show in summer.

History of the ‘indigenous’ voice

Katie Terriff, 4A Planning

PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES BY THE INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Election periods can raise tensions in any group of people, however productive or divisive in nature they may be. As a Mohawk-European woman studying Planning at the University of Waterloo, I want to offer improve readers a better understanding of how Indigenous peoples experience those tensions within our nations and within ourselves.

When you think of an Indigenous voter, you may not have an idea of what name would have that precious ‘X’ beside their ballot. The truth is, there is no one identity for an ‘Indigenous voter,’ and the ‘Indigenous vote’ (as you may hear election strategists refer to it) is a rather disingenuous way to describe the voting habits of an incredibly diverse population. It is comparable to saying ‘the student vote,’ as if you and all of your friends on campus have the same election policies on your priority list when you go to the ballot box... It isn’t realistic.

In fact, you should know that there are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit folks who do not vote at all.

It is important to recognize that the diversity of Indigenous voters exists alongside the diversity of non-voters, and to recognize this, Canadian history must be understood. It is important to first remember that voting rights were not always accessible to Indigenous people. It is part of a large and messy history of racism that I do not want to gloss over, but for the sake of this article the gist is this: Status First Nations could not vote in federal elections until 1960. Prior to this, they could only vote if they were perceived as ‘white enough,’ for which they would lose their status, thus becoming enfranchised in Canadian society and able to vote. In 1950, Inuit technically gained the right to vote, however, it was completely inaccessible to the vast majority of Inuit who lived in remote locations. In fact, 1962 is usually cited as the year Inuit gained the vote, considering that was the year when ballot stations finally popped up in many of those communities. Métis have had the right to vote in federal elections throughout this time.

So, if it took so long for Indigenous peoples to get the vote, why do some not vote? It’s a fair thing to wonder — especially if you grew up in the Canadian school system where you were taught to be proud of the vote after it was fought for and defend- ed. Why is it different for Indigenous people, and what does it mean?

Pamela Palmer is a Mi'kmaq lawyer, professor, and activist, and defends her opinion on not voting. In an article from 2015, she claims “…the whole point of sovereignty is [that] Indigenous nations must assert, live, and defend our sovereignty, jurisdiction, and right of self-determination — [rather than] vote for federal politicians to do that for us.” She goes further to say, “I have never looked at the issue of voting as right or wrong — it’s just that we all have different views about how to best advocate for our people. I don’t think we should vote — others think we should.”

For those Indigenous peoples who do participate in the election, voting is seen as an opportunity for a lifestyle. According to a study using data from four elections between 2006 and 2015, high voter turnout in Indigenous communities corresponds with a higher proportion of Indigenous candidates. With more Indigenous candidates in the federal government, there are often more Indigenous issues raised and heard. Some people would describe this as an attempt at ‘Indigenizing’ the space or working towards reconciliation.

Both outlooks are compelling in their own ways. As a woman who is both Indigenous and Caucasian, I walk the line between two clashing identities. I have been old enough to vote in one federal election before, and I took part in strategic voting to welcome anyone other than Stephen Harper. Now I am more in-tune with my Indigeneity, and the concept of voting has become more complex to navigate. I often question the relationship between Haude-noosan sovereignty and participating in colonial Canadian processes, and my identity only makes it that much more confusing and intense. (And then there’s the question of who I would vote for on top of that.)

Ultimately, the history of the ‘Indigenous vote’ is complex. If you see an Indigenous person saying they want to vote, empower them. If you see an Indigenous person saying they want to abstain, empower them just as much. And to my fellow Indigenous people out there: study your nation’s perspective on sovereignty and how to best defend it with a good mind, then put in whatever work is required, whether you feel it is voting or otherwise. You are supported.
Review: Feri-dun-dun-DUN!

Vishal Lalman
Reporter

The Faculty, Alumni, Staff, and Students (FASST) Theatre Company showcased the many talents that can be found on campus within their 2019 fall variety show, Feri-dun-dun-DUN! on Oct. 4 and 5, 2019. Between the satire of Waterloo culture, parodies of well-known songs, and performances by year-round UW clubs, the 90-minute murder mystery-comedy and variety show was an absolute treat to watch.

The story was exceptional. Advertised as a "whodunnit" type murder-mystery, Feri-dun-dun-DUN! goes beyond the formulaic story beats of a murder-mystery, and uniquely breaks the fourth wall in an ingenious manner that doesn’t seem rushed or forced. The most enjoyable aspect of the show was the aforementioned satire of UW culture. Shots were fired at everybody and anybody that attends Waterloo on a regular basis; adding, “University of Waterloo President and Vice-Chancellor,” every single time Feri-dun-dun-DUN!’s name gets dropped, elected officials not caring about students and going on lavish trips to the Bahamas when not sipping tea. Environment students always high, the struggle of finding co-op and reassuring yourself, "at least you’re not majoring in arts," UW remaining open during brutal winter weather while Laurier students get the bliss of a closed campus, and last but not least, a geese uprising. Even Imprint wasn’t safe as the show claims, "no one reads Imprint!" (But we know you do, don’t worry).

The amount of self-awareness that Feri-dun-dun-DUN! has is refreshing. It doesn’t have a political agenda that decorates a certain aspect of UW being ‘perfect’ (with the exception of flex dollars), but at the same time is light-hearted and talks its talk without the intention of offending or hurting anybody.

A captivating story and clever writing are integral to a show’s success but have no value without proper execution. The cast of Feri-dun-dun-DUN! executed the script flawlessly. From the time the lights dimmed, these individuals lit up not only the stage but the entire room by using high energy and displaying pure talent. Every line was delivered comically pure and raw, and nothing seemed too over-dramatic or exaggerated. It was as if you were watching Saturday Night Live.

The character tropes were wonderfully presented, whether it was a bumbling detective, egotistically rude cooking competition chef, or simply a stressed student. The comedic timing was perfect. Everyone on stage was focused and delivered a consistent, smooth performance, no one person overshadowed or took the shine away from the other performers.

If there was a ‘ball dropped’ or if something didn’t go as it was supposed to, no one could tell.

The cast was very enthusiastic and fun to watch—from the dimming of the lights to when they came back on. There were also intermissions between scenes from other on-campus acts such as UW Cheer, Warriors Band, Bachata, UW Improv Club, Unaccompanied Minors, AcaBellas, and the Juggling Club. They all did exceptionally well with hyping up the audience and were fun to not only watch but be a part of.

On the same topic of writing, the score was hilariously exceptional. Again, well-written and steering well away from cheesiness, Feri-dun-dun-DUN! showcased a rendition of popular songs with a royalty-free twist. Sets included “Omigod He Died!” as parody of, “Omigod You Guys,” from Legally Blonde the Musical as performers serenaded a dead Feri-dun, a campaign song/speech “Wanna Vote,” which is a parody to the Spice Girls hit, “Wannabe,” a detective monologue “Motives to Kill,” a parody of Elle King’s “Exes and Oh’s,” and a SFW version of Lonely Island and Akon’s, “I Just Had Sex,” titled, “You Just Saw FASS” as the grand finale.

Feri-dun-dun-DUN! was an impressively well-executed variety show that encompassed and platformed many talents that can be found right here at UW. If you haven’t already, it is really worth checking out FASS and supporting their future shows. I give it a well-deserved five stars.

The captivating story of Feri-dun-dun-DUN breaks the fourth wall and goes beyond the classic murder-mystery.

KW raises mental health awareness

Mubassir Ahmed
Editorial Assistant

Almost 50 positive messages were tied on to the Waterloo Park bridge, this Saturday Oct. 5, in hopes of raising awareness about mental health said Olivia Miller, Bridges of Hope co-founder.

“We [Olivia Miller and Gretta Dotzert] started this project because we saw that a lot of students were struggling with mental health and just wanted to see that sign of hope,” said Miller.

Miller, a first-year UW Social Development Studies student, said that she and her friend, Gretta Dotzert, intentionally put these messages on pedestrian bridges, so that they can be seen by those passing by.

“The bridge is kind of like a metaphor that we all have bridges we need to cross in life.

And if we do it with the community and people around us, it makes it a lot easier,” said Miller.

The annual Bridges of Hope event, on its second time in Waterloo, brought multiple mental health vendors that had products up for viewing and sale.

There was a live music performance followed by talks from Carolina Miranda from the Waterloo Art Gallery, and Kelly Lovell, who has spoken to the United Nations in the past.

Lovell said in her speech that while growing up she had her own mental health problems and that often times most people who seem like they have their life put together sometimes struggle the most because they can be very good at hiding.

“You can see someone with a broken arm or a leg and you know that they need help, but mental health is an invisible challenge that you can’t see [so you can’t reach out to help],” she said.

Lovell said initiatives like Bridges of Hope are incredibly important. “We all have the power to create a spark, a spark that can turn into a ripple effect and I think that the initiative that Olivia has put together is a perfect example of that,” she said.

Miller and Dotzert, noticed the number of students who struggled with their mental health and felt a lack of positivity in their environment while entering their last of high school last year.

They were inspired after seeing a newspaper article about a student named Paige Hunter from Sunderland, UK, who attached positive messages to a frequently-traveled bridge, who has now prevented over 20 suicides since the beginning of her project.

A sign of hope hanging on to the Waterloo Park Bridge.
GONE TO THE GRAVEYARD

CONTEST DETAILS:

...Let your imagination and creativity resurrect from your personal graveyards! Send us your submissions for a chance to win! We will be selecting winners from poetry, short stories, visual arts and photography!

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
- Include first and last name, program you are in and year
- Title of the work
- You may include a short description of the work if you deem it necessary
- All work must be original and previously unpublished
Innovation is one of UW's fundamental principles. From cybersecurity to gender equality, the UW community aims to be a trailblazer in as many fields as possible.

The Waterloo Innovation Summit saw experts and entrepreneurs from many aspects of healthcare gather in the E7 atrium on Oct. 1 to share their expertise and opinions on the future of healthcare.

The event was hosted by Nora Young from CBC News and opened by Charmaine Dean, Vice President of Research and International at UW.

The event was then followed by a conversation with Donna Strickland on her research and the nature of innovation.

Along with speakers, the event included panels on relevant topics in healthcare, segments that highlighted emerging businesses, and a special pitch competition featuring four UW Velocity startups focused on healthcare.

Other speakers included Ron Li, CEO and founder of Novoheart Inc., a company that creates customized miniature organs.

These organs, which can be created from a few drops of blood, can help predict the effects that certain treatments will have on a person.

Panels and keynotes were interspersed with Pulse Checks—short, five-minute presentations by entrepreneurs still in the early stages of their businesses.

These businesses presented innovative solutions to complex problems.

Some solutions were technical—Hendrik Walther, CEO and co-founder of Ocu-Blink, presented their accurate eye model for testing eye reactions to drugs and environmental conditions, while some were tackling more age-old problems, such as Moazam Khan, CEO of Curato Inc., where they are making bed sheets that monitor and minimize bedsores.

On a different angle, Alexander Wong, the Canada Research Chair in Artificial Intelligence & Medical Imaging, talked to Jodie Wallis from Accenture about the influence of AI on the future of healthcare.

Michael Skupien, CEO and founder of Bloomry, also recognized the importance of AI for the future of mental health.

Bloomry is a company developing an AI tool that will use a database of human behaviours to accurately and quickly diagnose mental health conditions in children.

“Our AI will quickly surpass both the diagnostic accuracy, and more importantly, the level of understanding of a human specialist today. And we will partner with the existing research community to validate our models,” Skupien said.

“In the future, Bloomry will provide the infrastructure that’s desperately needed to redesign and scale the next generation of our mental health industry. And while our goals are ambitious, we can execute on this vision.”

The summit also featured panels on current topics, including data-driven healthcare, connecting mathematics and health, building better plans after diagnosis, and an insider look at going from a start-up to a scale up.

Finally, the summit ended with a conversation between Lili Liu, dean of Applied Health Sciences and Christine Elliott, Minister of Health in the Government of Ontario.

Elliott stressed the importance of moving Ontario forward into the 21st century.

“My role is to make sure that patients and Ontario have excellent quality healthcare. And that means we need to move it into the 21st century,” she said.

“I think there’s a key role to be played by Waterloo Region as we look forward to the future... one of my goals is to get rid of taxes and healthcare, I don’t think we should need them anymore with other ways of other technologies that are available in ways that we communicate with each other.”

“One of the things we’re trying to do in government is to make sure that we don’t just look at healthcare and innovation... as just being a user of tax dollars but as a significant job creator. I think we have tremendous potential here in Ontario to to create jobs and provide excellent quality healthcare to the people of Ontario,” Elliott said.
Runnin’ on empty
UW runners impress at Don Mills Open

The UW Women’s team finished strong with three runners inside the top 20.

Varun Venkataramanan
Sports Editor

Every fall, UW hosts the Don Mills Classic, a cross country meet which winds through the fields around CIF. The 23rd edition took place on Oct. 5 and featured over 144 runners from around the province. The meet featured two races, one for each gender, with two divisions each—an 8km varsity division and a 4km alumni division. The course was designed as a 2km loop and stuck to the grass trails which loop around Columbia Lake at UW’s North Campus. It was mostly flat with a few gentle hills, meaning runners were able to run fast times compared to most other courses. The start and finish lines were both located around the baseball diamond west of Warrior Field.

The men’s race was the first to begin, with the start gun fired shortly after 9:30 a.m. About one km in, a lead pack of five emerged which including Felix Lawson, UW’s top runner. The pack stuck together until the final kilometre, when Laurentian’s Eric Garneau pulled away and won the race with a time of 26:13. Lawson would finish the race fourth overall with an impressive time of 26:42. Six UW runners finished in the top 20.

The women’s race began an hour later with 50 runners competing. Laurel Creek Track Club’s (LTTC) Abbey Yuhasz took home the first place medal with a time of 29:32. Three UW runners finished in the top 20, including rookie Olivia Baldassare, who was tenth overall.

Only six runners competed in the men’s alumni division. Warriors’ alumni Nicholas Bedi finished first with a time of 15:22 for the 4km race. Thirteen runners lined up for the women’s alumni division, which was won by LTTC’s Holly MacGillivray in 15:32.

The next race for the cross-country team is the McMaster Open on Oct. 11.

Routs and close calls
An analysis of the UCL’s Gameweek 2

Advait Trivedi
Sports Reporter

After a thrilling Game week One, the Champions League was back with a string of exciting fixtures lined up for the second Gameweek. Let’s examine the results from some of the most interesting fixtures of the week.

Tottenham Hotspur vs Bayern Munich

The most awaited fixture of this round lived up to its hype at the famous White Hart Lane Stadium in London. Bayern Munich demolished the home side 7-2, with ex-Arsenal man Serge Gnabry scoring four goals and assisting on another. This was the largest home defeat for Tottenham in 137 years, and brought back memories of Bayern’s 10-2 aggregate win over Arsenal two years prior.

Barcelona vs Inter Milan

The second game of Group F was billed as one of the headline fixtures of this year’s group stage. Barcelona found themselves down 1-0 at home within the first two minutes, and Internazionale had Barcelona on the back foot for the majority of the game. It took an unstoppable Luis Suarez volley from outside the box in the 58th minute to level the scores. Finally, in the 84th minute, Lionel Messi dribbled his way past five people to set up Suarez for his second and seal three points for the Catalan club. It was another memorable performance for Lionel Messi, who completed ten dribbles, created six chances and provided an assist.

Liverpool vs Red Bull Salzburg

Red Bull Salzburg travelled to Anfield to play Liverpool following their 6-2 rout of Genk last Gameweek. The visiting side found themselves 3-0 down at half time, and to everybody’s surprise, they scored three unanswered goals to even up the match. Mo Salah came to the rescue for Liverpool, scoring a winner in the 96th minute to avoid what could have been a major upset.

Real Madrid vs Club Brugge

The second game of Group A produced the shock of the week, as Club Brugge drew Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernebeau. Nine minutes in, Brugge forward Emmanuel Bonaventure slipped a ball past Madrid keeper Thibaut Courtois only to be whistled by the linesman for offside. However, VAR would rule that he was in fact inside to put Madrid down 1-0. Zidane’s men found themselves 2-0 down at half time after another Bonaventure goal, leaving the Madrid faithful in shambles. Sergio Ramos got Madrid back within a goal ten minutes into the second half, and it took a bullet header from Casemiro in the dying minutes of the game to help them escape consecutive losses in the competition.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Olivia Richards
Golf

TOP STORE

GET THE APP!
Why you should vote

The greatest threat to our democracy is not incompetent leaders. It's not Bill C-21. It's not the SNC Lavalin scandal. The greatest threat to our democracy is when people don't vote.

To vote means to exercise your privileges as a sovereign citizen, to hold government responsible, responsive and to have a say in the democratic process of government.

Yet, far too many times we have witnessed disappointing voter turnout rates in Canada, even though the last federal election had a 68.5 per cent voter turnout, the highest Canada has seen since 1995. It’s still disappointing given that prior to 1995, voter turn out rates reached upwards of 70 per cent for 13 consecutive federal elections and referenda, except during the 1980s.

It’s especially disappointing knowing that government has also made concerted efforts to increase voter turnout.

For instance, more advance polls and longer hours have afforded people more flexibility. Improved service at Elections Canada offices have allowed more people to confidently arrive at polling stations knowing that they can go back home in time for dinner. More on-campus voting options have given students the ease of access to polling stations. Despite these improvements, voter turnout rates have yet to see any significant jump.

So what’s happening?

The single largest reason for low voter turnout, according to a study conducted by Stats Canada in 2016, showed that one in three non-voters in the 2015 federal election reported not being interested in politics. This was the case for age groups between the ages of 18 and 64.

Voter apathy is not only a problem in Canada but in other democratic countries as well.

A nation can implement electoral reform, online voting, and attempt to make as many changes as they wish. But if the citizens don’t care about the democratic process of government, and if they think their vote doesn’t matter, or that the system is corrupt, then there’s only so much that government can do to increase voter turnout rates.

Maybe there is something that governments can do.

Compulsory voting is what 26 nations around the world mandate. In Australia, for example, people are fined for a failure to vote. While compulsory voting is found to have the largest impact on increasing participation rates, it is hardly insignificant to examine if it has any affect on voter apathy. Does it help change perceptions of citizens thinking that their vote doesn’t matter, or does it get them to care more about the democratic process of government?

In Gabriela Sainati Rangel’s doctoral dissertation, she found that voters living in countries with compulsory voting are no more likely to report increased feelings of civic duty. This is also consistent with what Shane P. Singh at the University of Georgia found. His research revealed that compulsory voting does not increase satisfaction with democracy. In addition to this reasons, some feel it’s undemocratic to mandate citizens to vote.

Canada has rejected the idea after receiving very little national support.

Perhaps online voting is an option to get more people to vote since bad weather, laziness, and not having enough time were reported as reasons people don’t vote according to Elections Canada.

Canada has given thought to the possibility of online voting, and is still considering it for future elections.

Some cyber security experts posit that it could have serious security threats from malware on personal computers.

In the upcoming federal election scheduled for October 21, there won’t be any dramatic change such as compulsory, or online voting in order to increase voter participation. It will be interesting to see how many people go out and vote.

This privilege wasn’t always granted to us.

People have fought for years so that all members of society could have the right to vote. Think about the time when voting rights were exclusive only to wealthy men. Or when voting eligibility was determined by property ownership. Think about the time when women and members of some religious and ethnic groups were prohibited from voting in Canada.

People have fought for years so that all members of society could have the right to vote, because they know that everyone’s vote matters.

It matters what those experiencing poverty have to say about government.

It matters what women have to say about government.

It matters what ethnic minorities have to say about government.

Your vote matters, even though statistically it is highly unlikely that a person could change the outcome of an election. The failure to have a proportional representation voting system has also contributed to debunk the premise that every vote matters.

But we shouldn’t think about the premise “every vote matters” always in statistical terms.

There are also other things that need to be considered. People vote, regardless of whether they’re interested in politics or not.

Voting gives us the right to critique issues. Your vote means that you have the right to have a say in how healthcare is delivered.

Your vote means that you have the right to have a say in child care initiatives.

Your vote means that you have the right to have a say in how the government plans to protect the environment.

Go out and vote.

Let’s exercise our fundamental rights and freedoms.

Vinarshun Selvaratnam

Masters Student in Recreation and Leisure
Growing up, I never really thought much about the name my parents gave me. I was annoyed that many other people shared the same first name, thought my middle name was weird, and my last name hard to pronounce, but never really dwelled on it or considered that they could be changed.

As I grew up, I also outgrew my name. I spent a lot of time learning about the world and myself, eventually discovering that I was nonbinary and trans.

With that discovery came the realization that I no longer felt comfortable with my old name as it felt connected to the gender I was assigned at birth.

So, I began the very long process of finding a name that would make me feel more comfortable. After hours of scouring babynames.com, I made a list of names that I liked, then spent months trying to ignore that list.

Eventually, I decided that a new name was essential to my well-being and decided to try out the name "Emerson" while in safe spaces.

I spent the whole day smiling with delight the first time someone used my new name. A few months later, I decided I wanted to be able to use my preferred name with professors and on exams while still getting credit for my work.

I asked my academic advisor for help and he directed me to the school's change of name form that, without any legal name change, would allow professors to see my preferred name next to my legal name.

I loved being able to write my name on things, but everything I received still had my deadname on it (the name I was given at birth).

Making the issue even worse was the fact that I had also changed my middle and last names.

Using my deadname made me feel upset because it’s just not me, and having other people use it felt like they were insisting I was someone I’m not.

On the other hand, hearing the name I’ve chosen makes me feel safe and happy and whole. It means more to me than I could ever express with words.

The last straw for me was an online course with a lot of discussions on LEARN, and realizing that everyone would see my deadname, and probably refer to me that way too.

So I decided to try to change my name again, as I had heard there was a new and improved form that would change my name on most things around the university.

I found the form online, printed it off, and brought it to The Center to make an official declaration of my name change.

All in all, the process took me about 30 minutes, and by the end of it, my name was fully updated on Quest.

By the next day, my Learmn account was also updated, and a few days later, I was able to have my WatCard replaced with one with my proper name on it.

As soon as I saw each of these updates, I excitedly showed my friends while grinning like an idiot.

Before, I would always feel stressed logging into LEARN or using my WatCard, but now I feel a rush of happiness every time I see my name, because that’s me.

It’s honestly such a validating experience. The difference between the first time I filled out the form and this time was huge and meant the world to me.

While I know there are some changes that still need to be made (and are in progress) for students with preferred names to have proper access to resources around campus, the change is already making a big difference in my life.

Using my preferred (read real) name improves my mental health significantly, and increases my sense of safety on campus as I am less scared of being harassed about my name usage or for being trans.

All in all, I am so grateful that the University of Waterloo has decided to expand how students can use preferred names with the school.

I hope they continue to make these changes to improve life for all students around campus.

Emerson Robin West
4A Kinesiology Undergrad
upcoming events

October 2019

For all of Uptown Waterloo Fall activities visit www.uptownwaterloobus.ca.

Savour in Stratford - Saturday morning Market from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Rotary Complex; and more! www.visistratford.com.

Unplug from screens. Connect with friends. Sing your faith. Chapel Choir meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Sign up for an audition at uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles. No prep required. For more details ksteiner@uwaterloo.ca or 519-885-0220, ext 24226.

Gamelan - join the world music ensemble or community gamelan. No experience required. For more info www.uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles.

Choral and Ensemble auditions begin.

Can be taken for credit (.25) or extra-curricular activity. For more info www.uwaterloo.ca/music/ensemblesmusic@uwaterloo.ca.

Saturday, October 12
Emmanuel United Church presents “Twas Now” who are a talented couple combining folk and country music with modern lyrics and attitude, at 8 p.m. at 22 Bridgeport Road, W., Waterloo. 519-886-1471 or info@emmanueluc.ca.

Friday, October 18
Emmanuel United Church presents “Alan Cross” who is an internationally known broadcaster, interviewer, writer, consultant, blogger and speaker, at 8 p.m. at 22 Bridgeport Road, W., Waterloo. 519-886-1471 or info@emmanueluc.ca.

Thursday, October 24
Emmanuel United Church presents “Lion Bear Fox” at 7 p.m. at 22 Bridgeport Road, W., Waterloo. 519-886-1471 or info@emmanueluc.ca.

Friday, October 25
Concerto and Aria Competition deadline today. For full competition details and application forms, visit uwaterloo.ca/music/competition.

Tuesday, November 5
Join SVP Waterloo Region at Perfect Pitch where seven charities have three minutes to pitch a service that helps our community thrive. For tickets www_socialventurepartners.org/waterloo-region/perfect-pitch/.

Saturday, November 9
Love of Music Marathon at First United Church, King and William Streets, Waterloo, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Community gathering of 300 musicians. Drop in and enjoy the fun! For more info www.loveofmusicmarathon.com.

volunteering

Bereaved Families of Ontario - Midwestern Region, The Family Centre, 65 Hanson Ave., Suite 1042, Kitchen- er. We currently have a number of exciting volunteer opportunities. For more info, jaime@bfomidwest.org or 519-675-0196.

Become a Meals On Wheels volunteer! Call 519-772-8787 or www.communitysupportconnections.org/volunteer/apply.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN
Submit your 30-word announcement or upcoming event to ads@uwimprint.ca for free.

Help Wanted

DISTRIBUTION EMPLOYEE

IMPRINT needs one employee to deliver Imprint every Wednesday morning beginning at 5 a.m. for the winter term January 8 to April 1, four to five hours per week.

- Training is provided.
- $100 cash.
- Must have a valid drivers license and be at least 21 years of age.

Submit cover letter/resume to ads@uwimprint.ca or drop in to the office, SLC room 0137.
A page entirely devoted to art for the sake of art. This page is created by UW students and serves as a speaker’s corner for the school’s creators.

MAY ALL THE EVIL IN AND AROUND YOU VANISH BY VIRTUE OF THE GOODNESS

HAPPY DUSSHERA
Our first fall reading week! Solutions to last week’s crossword are available online!

Across
1. Pride and Prejudice novelist
5. Underwear for the torso
8. To pacify or assuage
10. Forming a semi-circle or curve
11. Napoleon’s first defeat in the Levant (1799)
12. From a clog to a stiletto
13. Tied to stop eggs from reaching the uterus
15. Montreal, abbreviated
16. Record label with an owl
18. Canadian sports channel
20. Singer Yelich-O’Connor
22. Author of Bug and Matilda
24. Inuit word for the innate spirit in all things
25. When advice is unappreciated, these “before swine”
27. Cylindrical Asian oven
28. Author of To Kill a Mockingbird
29. Shinto God of Scholarship and Academics

Down
1. To be kept ready
2. __________ erat scriptum
3. Transcendentalist thinker and essayist
4. A silent “yes”
5. S-class rank-1 hero in One Punch Man
6. Author of Jacob Two-Two
7. Rounded hairdo caused by thick curls
9. “This bitch empty! ___!”
14. Canadian physician eulogized by Mao Zedong
15. Wrote L’Avare and Le Misanthrope
17. To proofread
21. His book By Chance Alone won Canada Reads 2019
23. A-type personality
25. Weed or kush
26. The British colonial period in India

YOU COULD BE HERE
Interested in comics, puzzles, or quizzes? Distractions is looking for contributors for the fall term!
Email us at distractions@uwimprint.ca

Caesar code: Europe
By Zhenzhen Gu, Jiayin Huang, Mingmei Huang

In a Caesar cipher, the alphabet shifts by a certain number of letters. For example, with a shift of nine, A is replaced by J, B by K, C by L, and so on. Can you figure out these coded countries in Europe?
1. AXVJWRJ;
2. JUKJWRJ;
3. NBCXWRJ;
4. BUXENWRJ;
5. URCQDJWRJ;
6. VJLMXWRJ

Answers for last week:
The alphabet has been shifted by 3 letters, so D is replaced by G, etc.
1. ILQODQG: FINLAND;
2. VZLWCHQUODQG: SWITZERLAND;
3. LFHODQG: ICELAND;
4. LUIODQG: IRELAND;
5. QHKDQUGQV: NETHERLANDS;
6. SRQDGQ: POLAND;
7. HQJQDGQ: ENGLAND