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**COMPARING COVID-19 POLICIES**  
How does UW's response to the outbreak compare to other universities in Canada?

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Following strikes across the province, the Ontario government backed down on classroom sizes.

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UW and UofT students fight the virus using data.

# Waterloo comes together to fight the pandemic

P6



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# Comparing universities' COVID-19 responses

Jansher Saeed  
Editorial Assistant

Decision-making bodies continue to churn out policy upon policy in hopes of mitigating any impacts the COVID-19 pandemic may have, including impacts on education. On Mar. 13, Premier Doug Ford announced a state of emergency for the Province of Ontario, triggering universities around the province, including UW, to do their part in preventing the spread of the disease.

While many agree on core policy elements, each university's approach to the situation is unique. Here is a look at how the COVID-19 response policies of major universities in the province stack up against UW's.

Following UW's announcement to close all on-campus activity on Mar. 13, all course content delivery was shifted to an online platform. Courses are defining online learning in their own ways, from live lectures using the Zoom platform, to more niche tools on LEARN, and much more.

Other universities, such as UofT, also shifted their course content online while keeping campus open to provide essential teaching services.

"The university remains open, but with

various measures in place to protect the health and safety of community members. We remain committed to the three core activities of teaching, residences, and critical research, [along with] the services to support these activities," UofT said in a statement released online.

Both Laurier and Western moved classes online on Mar. 16 and Mar. 18 respectively, with most students and employees having left campus already.

Outside of the province and across the country, the University of British Columbia has also transitioned to online classes as of Mar. 16 for the remainder of the semester. The university is currently piloting remote working arrangements for faculty, staff, graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, and student employees through an online platform.

Along with core procedures, universities like UofT and Western are taking unique approaches to gain control of the situation. UofT has increased sanitation frequency of high-touch points on its campus, including handrails, door handles, elevator buttons, and public counters.

Western regularly communicates with the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to adjust and adapt to the growing issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic

"We are grateful for the time and pro-

fessionalism of the staff and doctors at the MLHU," Western said in a statement released on their COVID-19 updates page.

In terms of co-op placements, UW has encouraged students to speak with employers and academic advisors to discuss alternative ways of finishing work requirements. Students also have the option to terminate their work terms while still earning their co-op credit.

"Students, contact your advisor who will support you. Please note that employers are still required to complete a performance evaluation — this can be done after a student leaves the work term," UW said.

McMaster offers a similar policy, with students allowed to leave their co-op or internship placement while earning their credit. Like UW, McMaster's co-op recruitment phase for the following term will go forward, albeit via phone or webcam until the end of April.

"For those [students] who have already secured [internship placements], please know that your positions are confirmed unless you are notified otherwise by your co-op and career office and/or your employer," McMaster said in a statement released on their DailyNews COVID-19 updates page.

Disruptions caused by measures taken in light of the pandemic have had a significant impact on student grades, or so is the

basis for various universities when designing their CR (credit rewarded) and NCR (no credit rewarded) policies.

UW has left the decision on whether to implement this policy or not to individual course instructors for the Winter 2020 term.

Universities such as Laurier, UofT, and Ryerson have given students the option to select which of the two grade formats they prefer.

"The university has therefore decided to offer undergraduate and graduate students the option to convert final winter 2020 course letter grades to either a "credit" or "withdraw" format, without requiring a petition," Laurier said in a statement released on their COVID-19 information page. "Regardless of your grade, you may alternatively choose to record your grade as 'WD' (withdrawn), which would mean that you receive no credit for the course, and you would need to make this up in a future term."

UW decided to go forward with the Spring 2020 program, shifting all courses and exams, including graduate research milestones, online. The term will begin May 11, a week later than originally planned. Both UofT and McMaster have made similar plans for their Spring and Summer terms.

Read the rest of the article online at [uwimprint.ca](http://uwimprint.ca)

## COVID-19 costing students their co-op

Varun Venkataramanan  
Sports Editor

One student, who wished to remain anonymous, told *Imprint* she was forced to terminate her work term early since she felt unsafe at work.

"I felt very uncomfortable going into the office on a daily basis, as I personally struggle with germaphobia. I communicated this ... but I felt like my concerns were not taken seriously," the student said.

She said that she could "hear individuals coughing and sometimes sneezing on a regular basis" during her last couple of weeks going into the office.

The student said she was employed as a Product Development Engineer at a Research and Development office in Oakville.

Speaking to upper-management, the student was told she would not be able to work from home since the company did not have the necessary resources to support this

transition.

She said her employer gave her the choice to either continue coming into the office, take a week off unpaid, or end her work term early. After speaking with her co-op advisor, she decided to take the what she saw as the last option, prioritizing her own safety.

Since then, she said she has lost seven week's worth of pay and said she has strong concerns about how she will afford the final year of her Chemical Engineering degree.

"I do not currently have sufficient funds for my upcoming school term, let alone basic necessities such as monthly rent and food expenses," she said.

The student said UW's Financial Aid Office advised her to apply to some of the school's bursaries, but there is no guarantee she will receive the funds she needs.

Students who have been laid off due to COVID-19 will be eligible for the Canadian Government's announced Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which will replace their Employment Insurance bene-

fits.

It still remains unclear if other students will qualify for CERB as well, although Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hinted at more relief.

"In the coming days, we will announce additional measures to help the most vulnerable, [including] youth... We're going to have more news to share with you very soon," Trudeau said.

While UW's co-op program demands five-year-long undergraduate degrees instead of the standard four, the work terms within provide students with valuable real-world work experience and allow them to earn money.

For many, the income earned through co-op internships goes directly toward paying the next term's tuition, rent in KW's increasingly expensive housing market, and other student expenses including textbooks and food.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic caused many Canadian workers to lose their

jobs and income sources, and UW students are no exception.

Recognizing the gap in available funds for students, WUSA has taken initiative. Last week, the organization committed to establishing the Student Support Fund, which will include upwards of \$30,000 for UW students financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the fund's announcement, WUSA called for UW and alumni to chip-in and help support the student body.

In an email to all students on Mar. 27, UW announced they will not be reducing tuition fees for the upcoming Spring term.

"In these challenging circumstances, we remain committed to bringing students the quality learning experience they expect from Waterloo," the statement said.

However, since certain on-campus services would not be available, UW said they will review all incidental fees. An announcement regarding those will be made on Apr. 3.

# Ford backs down on education changes

Mokhash Parmar  
Reporter

Last March, the Ford government announced significant changes to high school education programs across the province, causing a stir among educators and parents alike.

Citing a goal of modernizing classrooms, the Tories' original plan called for, among other things, an increase in average class size to 28 and a new requirement that students take four online courses in order to graduate.

These changes proved unpopular, leading to more than 100,000 students walking out of class in protest in April of last year.

Two days later, 10,000 people gathered at another protest at Queen's Park.

These issues were part of the concerns that Ontario teachers brought with them to the table, as their unions and the province have been attempting to negotiate a new contract since August.

The dispute between teachers and the province led to weeks of rotating teacher strikes across the province.

Now, nearly a year after the original pro-

posals, the government has reneged on its plans. Earlier this month, Stephen Lecce, Education Minister, announced a new proposal under which average class sizes would only increase from the current average of 22.9 to 23.

Furthermore, parents will be able to opt their children out of the online-learning requirement, effectively rendering online courses optional once again.

In a statement, Lecce said, "I am asking the teachers' union to return to the table, in light of this reasonable offer, to reach the agreement parents want, and students deserve."

These concessions are the latest attempt by the Ford government to avoid further strike action and reach a long overdue deal with teachers, as parents continue to tire of scrambling to find last-minute arrangements for their children during the rotating strikes.

The government is extending this olive branch to teachers in a bid to get them to return the favour by conceding to legislation that caps public-sector pay increase to one per cent and backing down on proposed changes to seniority hiring requirements.



ABIGAIL PUJOLS

The incoming leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, Steven Del Duca, commented, "the Ford government has finally backed down on increased class sizes and mandatory online education."

But let's face it, this entire mess could have been avoided if the Ford government truly valued public education."

This is certainly not the end of these negotiations, and it remains to be seen if the unions will take the government's new offer. The increasing severity of the global COVID-19 pandemic appears to have put

the dispute between the teachers and province on an indefinite hold.

The Ford government initially announced public school closures until Apr. 5, and is now telling parents to prepare for an extension to that initial date.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has ended all rotating strikes and job action "out of an abundance of caution."

The government and the unions have no scheduled meetings for the foreseeable future.

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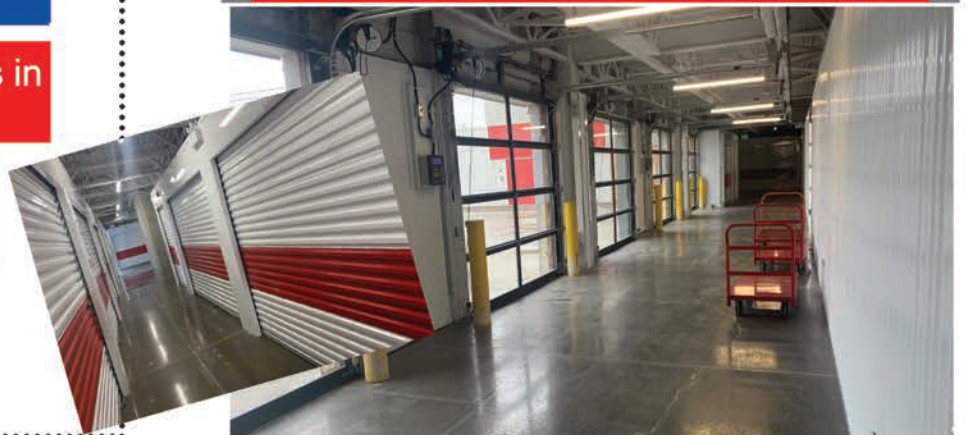
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# The real reasons why international students pay higher tuition fees

## Five Questions Answered

Anicka Bakos  
Reporter

International students are a staple of any Canadian university and integral to the financial buoyancy of our post-secondary education system.

### 1 - How much do international students pay for a university education in Canada?

Here are the latest figures from Statistics Canada:

- The average tuition fees for international undergraduate students in Canada rose 7.6 per cent to \$29,714 in 2019-20.

- Average tuition fees for international students in graduate programs rose 4.4 per cent to \$17,744 in 2019-20.

And here are some of the undergraduate tuition fees for international students listed on UW's website for 2019-20:

- Faculty of Engineering, Software Engineering \$54,600
- Computer Science \$54,500
- Faculty of Mathematics \$37,900
- Faculty of Science \$36,700
- Accounting and Financial Management \$35,400

- Graduate tuition fees for international students increased in every province except Newfoundland and Labrador, where they were unchanged, and Prince Edward Island, where they declined 15.1 per cent as a result of lower tuition fees in the master of education program.

In his article "Canada's growing reliance on international students", Alex Usher, president of the Toronto-based consulting firm Higher Education Strategy Associates, explains that "fees for international

students, which average about four times what domestic students pay, now equal 12 per cent of operating revenue and 35 per cent of all fees collected by institutions, and these proportions continue to climb."

### 2 - Have international students always paid much higher tuition fees?

Ira Basen, a Toronto-based documentary producer for CBC Radio, points out that twenty years ago there was very little focus – if any – on international student recruitment by Ontario's colleges and universities. But "that began to change after the election of Mike Harris's Progressive Conservative government in 1995."

In his article, "Ontario colleges need international tuition. It could cost them", Basen explains that "colleges were encouraged to think globally, not locally — to establish partnerships with other institutions around the world and even to open up satellite campuses abroad. They were also told that they should compete for students in a deregulated, global educational marketplace [and] in 1996, the Harris government deregulated international tuition and let schools keep all the money it generated. Suddenly, colleges had a new and potentially very lucrative source of revenue."

In his article, Basen also notes that "today, Canada has Student Direct Stream agreements with seven countries [China, India, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal and Vietnam]. If you're a high school graduate from one of those countries, can demonstrate that you have \$15,000 to pay your first year of tuition, have purchased a \$10,000 guaranteed investment certificate from a participating [Canadian] bank, and have met the minimum standard on an IELTS exam — the internationally recog-

nized test for English-language proficiency — your admission to the Ontario college of your choice is virtually assured."

### 3 - Could higher tuition costs for international students be problematic?

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA), also believes that deregulated international student tuition is "part of a larger systemic problem facing post-secondary education today."

In his article, "The Need to Regulate International Student Tuition", former OUSA Research & Policy Analyst Colin Aitchison writes, "Since the province deregulated international student tuition rates in 1996, it has become virtually impossible for international students to predict the overall cost of their undergraduate education in Ontario."

According to our 2015 Ontario-Post-Secondary Student Survey, 49 per cent of international students stated that they had difficulty meeting their annual tuition payments, debunking the myth that all of these students come from wealthy backgrounds. With these students already being forced to pay significantly higher fees, the lack of predictability year-to-year... creates a potential barrier to post-secondary success."

### 4 - Could higher tuition fees for international students be considered unconstitutional?

Chen explains that "if the Charter applies to universities' tuition policies, the allegation that unequal tuition fees are unconstitutional will typically be grounded in section 15 of the Charter, which guarantees everyone's right to equality without discrimination. Unfortunately, based on existing case law in Canada, establishing this claim of section 15 Charter violation will run into some difficulty." Immigration

status is not a protected ground of discrimination section one of the Charter allows the government to justify such a violation if it is a proportionate measure taken to address some important societal objectives.

### 5 - Is there anything that can be done to change universities' tuition policies?

Chen has argued for "immigration status" to be recognized by courts as an analogous ground of discrimination under section 15 of the Charter.

Chen contends that "we know that migrants often experience multiple forms of marginalization in receiving societies. To not recognize immigration status as a constitutionally-protected ground of discrimination risks giving government free rein to subject migrants, including international students, to poorer treatment for no justifiable purposes."

Chen added, "I would encourage anyone who is concerned about the unequal tuition fees to continue raising awareness and challenging people to think harder about this issue. Through public discourse and strategic advocacy efforts aimed at governments, perhaps changes in the future may be possible."

Macfarlane suggested, "International students can... pursue political means to change policy. But as a non-voting group, they may not enjoy enough political influence to do so. Their case would rest in persuading the broader population that charging [a] higher tuition rate to international students [is] somehow unfair."

Indeed, a change in universities' tuition policies may be on the horizon. The Toronto Star reported that in a rare move, the University of Toronto drastically cut its 2018 tuition fees for international PhD students to "open doors for more outstanding academics from around the world."

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## KW community steps up during pandemic

Nicola Rose  
Reporter

Local businesses and community members across the KW region are coming together to support each other through the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Many grocery stores and pharmacies in the KW region are now offering safer shopping opportunities for customers who are at a higher risk for COVID-19. Seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and other community members with concerns for their health can shop in the first hours of these stores' opening before crowds increase and the risk of exposure rises.

Local cab company Waterloo

Taxi decided to offer free rides to anyone wanting to access these stores during their safety periods.

"In light of the fact that some of the grocery stores and drug stores are providing one hour in the morning for [them] to go in and do their shopping, we're going to provide them with free rides to and from those grocery stores and drug stores, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for that one to two hours in the morning," said Tony Rodrigues, director of marketing at Waterloo Taxi.

"They've supported us for 76 years, and I think it's time that we do something to benefit the community and be a responsible community partner," Rodrigues added, referring to seniors in the area.

Facebook groups such as Care-merging KW are also providing

support for community members in need. The focus of the group is to support its members as they navigate challenges in response to COVID-19. Created by Amanda Thompson, the group has more than 7,000 local members as of Mar. 27 who provide each other with help ranging from offering resources to sharing information about businesses that have necessary supplies.

Although the group prohibits medical advice, members can tag posts with #care, and provide each other with assistance and options to feel better amidst the uncertainty and stress of the pandemic.

As an increasing scarcity of protective equipment threatens the safety of frontline health care workers across the region, community members are working to-

gether to combat the shortage and provide the necessary equipment to workers in need.

Covidhealth.ca is a website created by Dr. Sarah Rinaldi that aims to connect and coordinate people who have health care equipment with people who need it.

"The proper equipment is essential," said Rinaldi, who works as a family physician in Kitchener Waterloo.

Local businesses are stepping up by reorganizing their current production processes to make things like hand sanitizers and face shields," Rinaldi added.

The Covidhealth.ca website also has an educational section that includes several informative resources about COVID-19.

Small businesses in the area, many of whom are temporarily

closing their doors as the pandemic worsens, are receiving support from the community.

"There has been an increase in online business, thank goodness. There has also been probably a fifteen-fold increase in the request for deliveries," said David Worsley, co-owner of Words Worth Books.

Worsley also offered advice on how to support local businesses if you're worried about entering into public spaces.

"Gift cards are the way to go," said Worsley. "If you're a little freaked out about coming in to buy a thing, gift cards will be here for you when the crisis is over."



GINA HSU

## Poetry slams and audiences move online

Vishal Lilman  
Reporter

While most social gatherings are frowned upon and postponed in the wake of this global health pandemic, live performance is finding a way to survive.

Guelph Spoken Word, for example, decided to show resilience, and instead of cancelling their monthly 'Guelph Poetry Slam,' they decided to adapt and host it online.

Guelph Spoken Word is a registered non-profit arts organization dedicated to fostering spoken word artists to express themselves

and create a career from their art.

On Saturday, Mar. 21, GSW hosted their first ever online poetry slam with the help of Zoom.

How is a poetry slam different online than it is in person?

"It was very different because there's no live audience, so it felt a lot more personal and intimate from my living room," Danielle Workman said, the volunteer coordinator for GSW.

"I could see a few names of folks, but a lot of people didn't have their videos on, so it was really a bit like talking to the poets that I did know were there. And as a host for a slam, it's my job to set the stage and keep people engaged

as well as informed. A live show is interactive, so that was definitely different. There was a text that I could only see sometimes as I was not the physical host of the show. Another component that we had to sort out quickly was how to run things technologically. We allowed the poets to be unmuted for the introduction of a poet and the applause after and I think that worked well."

In self-isolating times, having a connection with other people, even if it's not in person, is joyous and meaningful for anyone involved – especially for something as monumental as sharing your art. When talking about the recep-

tion and feedback, Workman said,

"Folks were happy to still be able to slam and hear poetry. [These are] unprecedented times for everyone, and this community means a lot to a lot of people, so I'm personally grateful that we can still do this. More than 11 years and Guelph Spoken Word has never missed our monthly poetry slam."

When asked about the financial hit this event must have taken, as all organizations have since this pandemic started, Workman said, "We decided to hold the slam at no charge because of the circumstances. We are well aware that artists and performers have literally had their income come to an

immediate halt, as well as many of our regular audience. We left it open for donations to cover our costs."

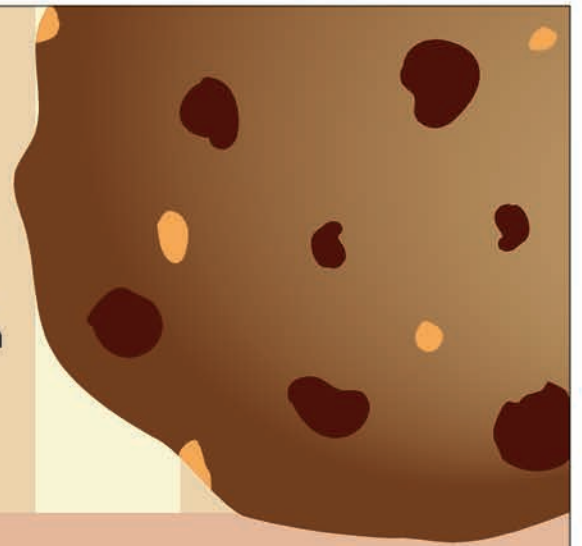
He continued, "We did not break even, but we have been well supported for a long time in this community, so we will continue to do our part as long as we can. We also don't have a feature as we usually do. Depending on how long social distancing is required, we will keep working towards supporting the arts and our community online."

Guelph Spoken Word will also be holding its open-mic nights via the Zoom app as well.

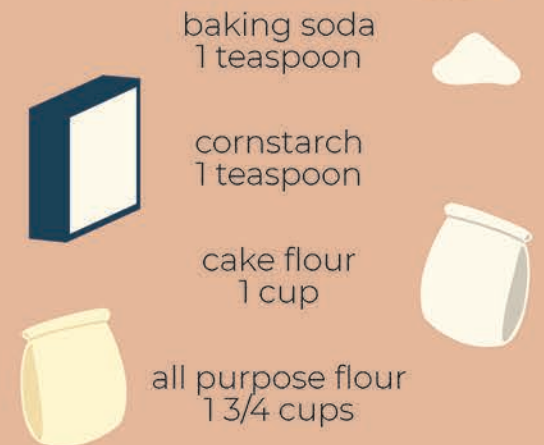
Levian Bakery

# CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

For many people baking is both a way to pass the time and to have a sweet treat. This recipe is taken from *Kirbie's cravings*' blog for her copycat Levian bakery chocolate chip walnut cookies. Hopefully this sweet treat will help get you through these tough times but also teach you a fun new skill!



## INGREDIENTS



## INSTRUCTIONS



Preheat oven to 410°F. Line two baking sheets with silicone baking mats.



In the bowl of a stand mixer, add butter and sugars. Cream until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes.



Scrape down sides and bottom of the bowl. Add in eggs. Mix at medium speed until incorporated.



Add in dry ingredients. Mix at lowest speed until all the flour is just incorporated. Careful not to overmix.



Add in walnuts and chocolate chips. Mix at lowest speed for about 5 revolutions until incorporated into the dough.



Remove dough from the bowl and mix with hands a few times to make sure chocolate chips and walnuts are evenly distributed.



You can either divide dough into 8 equal pieces or weigh out the dough to 6 ounces portions. Make sure to keep it loose as the cookies should be airy.




Place only four cookies on each baking sheet, spacing them about 2 inches apart. Bake in the middle rack of the oven for 12-13 minutes. Let cookies cool at least 15 minutes.



Research shows that getting outdoors has a significant positive effect on your health. Try to get outside everyday while still practicing social distancing.

Do not let the weather stop you. With the appropriate clothing; going for a walk, kicking a ball around or even an outdoor workout can be a fun way to boost your energy.








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**#GOBLACKGOGOLD**



# Unseen illness: Student suffer silently as they eat nasty-ass foods

Tim Cantuna  
Reporter

As institutions like International News, the Burger King on University Avenue, and Mel's shut down due to fears of contagion, students are doing the unthinkable — shopping and cooking for themselves.

"At first we worried about the economic ramifications of self-quarantining, but it quickly became clear that closing restaurants in the vicinity of UW and Laurier posed a greater health risk than anyone would have reasonably expected. It's almost as if the majority of students have never cooked before," Waterloo Mayor Dave Jaworsky said.

As of printing, five students sustained injuries related to the manufacturing of bubble tea — a common student beverage — and three more were hurt while opening canned vegetables.

"I bought some tea bags but couldn't figure out where [the Lipton Tea company] put the tapioca balls," explained one injured student, who obviously chose to remain anonymous.

But undoubtedly food poisoning remains the single greatest threat to students still stuck on campus, even surpassing muscular atrophy from staying in bed all day.

"I thought my roommate had gone back to Australia, but she'd just spent every waking hour huddled in the washroom. And it's not like we even have a nice one. We live in [a common student apartment rental agency], so you know she's miserable there," said psychology major Asura Conner.

"I knew it would be bad when I saw [my roommate] combine chocolate and cheese fondue packets together in an attempt to 'max out' his calorie count. I would have stopped him, but we kind of have a passive-aggressive relationship" explained Misty Quitt, also a psychology major. "I spoke to my lawyer and they say 'I bear no legal responsibility for any resulting injuries.'" According to StatsCan, dysentery was the number two killer of students last century, after the Spanish Flu. It remains to be seen if it will become this century's most dangerous illness.

Campus police noted that their officers were exposed to nasty-ass foods including garlic bread but with onion instead of garlic, refried burnt popcorn, Dunk-a-roos from

2012, bread sandwiches seasoned with potato chips, tortillas stuffed with deli meats, Pop-Tarts for dinner, beef-tartare, gingerbread houses made with mayonnaise, and one microwaved apple.

Sergeant Ankit Kataday also reminded students that pouring sesame oil and soy sauce onto a dish made it neither Asian-style nor nutritious. Authorities and students have attempted to find alternative solutions. Some have begun to rely on local farming.

"I'm living in Stratford, so whenever I get hungry, I can just dig up some veggies from the farms next door," said Noah Spicker, a GBDA student. "It's not that bad."

"I took Environment 131 as a bird course, where we grew bean plants alongside a caterpillar in a jar. When quarantine came into effect the beans were the first thing I ate. The caterpillar was the next," said Collin Neiri, a management engineering student. Other students are focusing on learning the basics.

"I've been living off potatoes for about three months now and realized they're so versatile. Just a month ago I would never have touched them, but now I'm dicing them into my tuna salad, baking them with mayonnaise, sautéing them in ketchup, and

even sprinkling a teensy-bit of rosemary on them," said Leah Spoto.

"Frozenothemusicalfoodmaker", an anonymous UW-based Youtube channel, has earned thousands of likes and subscriptions for their informative videos on how to make frozen foods. "It's as simple as following a recipe," explains the social media sensation in their classic catchphrase. "Just check if there is a recipe and then follow it."

Recognizable from their signature lab coat, "Frozenothemusicalfoodmaker" confided that they were actually Laurier students, but marketed themselves toward UW because it was clear they "needed more help."

WUSA executives stated they were responding to the crisis as quickly as possible. "We will be hosting a cooking class on Zoom for people whose ingredients are exclusively vodka, frozen curry, and granola bars, so please check the link on our Instagram page."

Until then, WUSA VP of Student Life Amanda Fitzpatrick urged students to steady themselves with familiar dishes like instant ramen and to wear safety goggles when cooking.

## Civil disobedience as UW students live with parents for two weeks

Nicola Rose  
Reporter

TORONTO — Undergraduate students of UW have planned massive revolts and breakouts from the prisons of their childhood homes since being subjected to the cruel and unusual punishment of living with their parents again after years of independence.

At the moment all breakouts appear to be non-violent. However, parents of escapees claim students abandoning their families brought up old wounds, such as reminding them of the emotional trauma of sending their children away. Mallory Prince, the mother of a student who broke out of his home, said that her son's escape reminded her of her own empty nest syndrome. "We were so sad to see him move away for school, and then our prayers were answered, and he was sent home. His leaving again caused all that heartbreak and anguish to resurface."

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues

to spread throughout Ontario, universities across the province shut down their campuses, sending hundreds of thousands of students homeward. Thousands of UW students lost their on-campus living spaces, while many more have been called back by families worried about the health and safety of their children alone in another city.

Students who returned home are now faced brutal living conditions. David Espinoza, a first-year computer engineering student, struggled with having to share a sleeping space with other people. "I got so used to having my own space in residence," Espinoza said. "Sharing a bunk with a younger sibling is suffocating."

Meanwhile, Parker, who asked to be referred to by her last name only, said the hardest adjustment was the food. "Look, I can take a bit of noise when I'm trying to sleep, and the lack of privacy my parents give me, but having to eat on someone else's schedule? Having so little control over the food available? I really don't understand how we're expected to accept being treated

like animals while we're studying for our careers and planning our lives. In addition to being just completely inhumane, it feels like a total violation of our civil liberties," Parker said. Her parents, complying with the escalating quarantine set by the authorities, will not let her leave the house to purchase her own food.

Robert Hannon, a third-year political science and legal studies double major, uses his spare time to study prison reform and the constitutional rights of prisoners in Canada. When asked about the rights of students during the pandemic, Hannon said "I truly believe that every person in our country deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of the political climate."

Parker, Espinoza, and Hannon are the leaders of the recently formed Waterloo Undergraduate Student Victims Association (WUSVA), an organization that advocates for students' right not to be inconvenienced by COVID-19. WUSVA began as a space to discuss legal options for students trapped at home during the pandemic, but meetings

quickly shifted to planning for mass individual acts of civil disobedience, the most prominent of which are a series of escapes by students across the country. Within a week of the group's formation, breakouts were underway.

"We really didn't expect this level of enthusiasm and follow-through," said Espinoza. "We're kind of overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who actually went through with it."

Parker suggested that the fact that more than 4,000 students left their childhood homes as of printing speaks volumes to the awful nature of their living conditions.

WUSVA has hosted regular rallies on the UW Campus, with marches starting from a booth they set up outside the SLC.

The lack of human activity on campus has caused these rallies to go largely unattended.

The largest group thus far has been four people — just within the Centre for Disease Control guidelines of cancelling events with more than five attendees.

# My advice on social distancing

Sasha Lee-Awkward  
Reporter

It has recently come to my attention that over the past four weeks, a pandemic known as “COVID-19” caused disruptions to some people’s day-to-day lives, requiring them to stay inside and not interact with others. If you are a non-UW student, some of these practices may be new to you. But fear not. Social distancing can be difficult for people unfamiliar with deliberately cutting themselves off from human contact. Luckily, I’ve been a UW student for a long time, so my foolproof methods of practical social distancing should make you the most effective loner you can be.

First of all, plan to never leave your home. You should immediately stockpile as much toilet paper as possible. This should be your priority — above food. You could cannibal-

ize other members of your household if it comes down to it, but how else would you go to the bathroom?

If you absolutely must leave your home (to get more toilet paper), remember the three A’s: Avoid, Aware, and Away.

## Avoid

The best form of defence is preventative measures — you want to prevent interaction with people as much as possible. I like to use the shadow method: scout out shadows and dark spaces along the route you’ll be taking and sprint at full speed from one to another, then crouch in the darkness until you’re sure the way is clear. This will prevent you from being spotted by other humans who might try to engage. The Peter Russell Rock Garden is a great place to practice.

## Aware

You also want to constantly be aware of

the potential for human presence. I suggest walking exclusively on your tiptoes so you can listen for signs of approaching humans. You might also consider purchasing a periscope so you can check around corners before stepping out. The sight of you doing so has the added benefit of preemptively deterring other people from attempting to interact with you.

## Away

Finally, if you do see another human approaching, don’t panic. I’ve found this method works best: look at the threat squarely in the eyes, flail your limbs, and sing your favourite nursery rhyme — interspersed with periodic screeches — while making as much direct eye contact as possible.

This method is very effective in frightening most members of the human species and causes them to flee, leaving you at peace.

Social distancing can be difficult to pick

up, but hard work pays off. With enough practice, people will become familiar with your “strange” habits, cutting your work in half. Soon people will be avoiding you at all costs, based solely on your reputation. For me, it only took six weeks before my neighbours took to running away, screaming to warn others, and even crossing the street when passing by my house!

Coincidentally, I only made two trips outside during those two weeks. Now that’s efficiency!

Just remember — it’s every person for themselves during this pandemic.

If we could all put these methods into practice, the world would be a better place (for you at least).

Divert your concern to where it belongs — yourself.

Stay safe. Stay distant. Stay indifferent.

# Campus toilet paper not worth hoarding

Carmen Sultra  
Reporter

*WARNING: this gets pretty bad*

For reasons yet unknown, the demand for toilet paper spiked drastically around mid-March. In Ontario, denizens stockpile TP as if it were Ag or Au.

Yet few bother stealing the toilet-paper rolls which lurk throughout UW’s infamous bathrooms.

Though the average store has been ransacked in search of toilet paper, reserves remain stalwart in the General Services Complex.

This year’s National Survey of Student Engagement found quality toilet paper to be one of the most important items for student satisfaction. Interestingly, UW ranked in the bottom third of schools when rated for student satisfaction in 2019.

Campus Freegan Lez Seymore explained to Imprint why students, professors, and staff do not bother plundering UW’s toilet tarp.

“WUSA President Michael Beaupopotin takes more shit than these crap traps. Personally, I blow on business cards until they soften up and use those if I can’t make it to another venue.”

Seymore noted other reasons why UW’s bathroom battleship is stranded.

“First of all, it’s impossible to roll a proper joint with these bum wipes,” they said as they gestured towards the black container which holds the toilet paper. “I feel like I’m inhaling hemorrhoids before the paper inevitably rips.

Second, it’s impractical for mopping, which is important for typical Waterloo students.

Most of us don’t have paper towels, facial tissues, or mops, so our toilet paper needs to be able to mop up common coffee spills, instant noodles, blood splatter, and tears.

You also can’t forget that sometimes hole-rolls get stuck in those black containers, and you have to paw at the poop deck until some one-ply bunches out.”

UW defended their choice of mummy maker. “Thin toilet paper means we can store more of them, which means that there

is more to use when they break and tear. I assure you, we treat our students the

same way,” UW Communications Liaison Benji Ormer said.

Ormer declined to answer whether he had taken any tissue for reissue back home for solitary confinement.



TIMI BELLO

# Letters from quarantine

Hi FamJam,

Just wanted to give y'all the hot and spicy updates about my #QuarantineLife. I am proud to let you know that from Day One, I decided not to turn into a couch potato on this mini-vacation the gods have blessed us with. Instead I decided to make potatoes – Hot and Spicy, just the way we like our daily dose of drama. They turned out great, except for the fact that it was hard to bite into them. And I accidentally might have dropped half the chilli flakes into the pan because the stubborn lid refused to open. Ya know how those pesky things are.

Anyway, Day Three was spent travelling the distance between my bed and bathroom. But don't you worry, your daughter is dead set on the path to become the next *MasterChef* of the US or Canada.

Re-energized, I tried again on Day Four. I chose something easier this time – eggs and toast! And I have to tell you – drumroll! – they were finger-licking good. Well, almost.

I managed to unsuccessfully crack four out of five eggs, and the rest of the eggs ended up splattered on the kitchen countertop, drawers, and floor. I tried cleaning up the mess with the kitchen towel, but I ran out! I was only thinking of toilet paper when I ran to the store. So I had to use those instead. After using two, I now have seven rolls left. I hope they suffice :( A few of my friends and I were planning to hijack a store and steal all the toilet paper, I'll let you know how that goes.

Oh, I almost forgot, the fire alarm and I are friends now – it didn't even ring when the toast burnt. Level two unlocked for Master-Chef Harold. I hope things are good with you, signing off to make some pasta now.

Lots of Chocolate and Ketchup,  
Fiona

Dearest Mom,

I am writing to update you about the goings-on of my quarantined life. Instead of the traditional handwritten letter, I thought I would send you an email. I don't want any nasty germs from the paper to reach you.

Our cousins have been quarantining with us and it has helped me finally understand why our aunt hasn't visited. They've been insisting on wearing gloves and masks, but I'm content with just the hazmat suit you gave me for my birthday this year. I guess I like to live a little on the wild side.

Don't forget to buy garlic. I've sent you a link that will show you how to make a garlic necklace. They're out of stock here, so I assume that they are also making garlic necklaces. This will help you repel any bats in your vicinity and potentially keep you safe from the novel coronavirus.

My brain is tired of all the work. I've actually been able to come up with content for all my social media despite the social isolation. I'm now up to eight followers.

I have been watching TV shows on these new channels I just discovered: *CTV and CBC News*. I wonder why their actors are so bad though. I suppose it could be the writing. All they do is wear fancy clothes and talk while sitting in one spot. I would love to hear stories about what's going on with you and Dad instead.

I coughed yesterday so everyone's locked me in my room for now. At least they locked me in with tons of food. Forgive me for turning into a couch potato. I'll keep you posted on my fit-to-fat journey so that you recognize me when you are finally able to come here. On the bright side, being in my room actually let me complete the assignments that were due last month. Whew.

With love,  
Wasabi A. Război

Hiya Mum,

One week into quarantine and I've already begun to reinvent myself. I've painstakingly rewired several fundamental parts of my personality to finally become the model citizen that the distractions of my former life kept just-out-of-reach. The state-enforced lockdown may have shut down my daily commute to get bubble tea, but it opened up a world of possibilities to explore my other passions, such as trying to beat my personal record for screen time (12 hours). And my fitness has never been better. Sometimes, if I'm up for the challenge, I'll reach my step goal of 150 steps (the next day is a cheat day, obviously). I really feel like a brand new woman. I doubt ya would even recognize me.

My new daily schedule since school's been moved online has also been... liberating. It's just really great being able to reconnect with my studies and remind myself of the joy of learning, ya know? All this time alone just flies by with my good pal, Tocqueville's *The Old Regime and the Revolution* – which I definitely read before contributing to the online discussion, and not via a panicked over-use of CTRL-F on a suspiciously-sourced pdf. And what could provide a sweeter escape from this unending-nightmare-from-which-we-can-never-wake than writing six pages on the US election? There's never been a better time to be a poli sci student.

See ya soon,  
Leah Z.

# Tried and true remedies

Dr. Mathieu Trémaux, a 17th Century Plague Doctor



- Avoid food that rots easily and smells bad such as meat, cheese, and fish. Instead focus on eating bread, fruits, and vegetables.

- Keep the air in your abode clean and pure by fumigating with natural herbs and spices like mint, camphor, cloves, straw, laudanum, rose petals, and myrrh.

- Infected communities should be isolated for a minimum of 40 days to prevent further spread. This was shown to be effective by empirical studies performed in Venice in 1348.

- As soon as the patient displays symptoms or feels unwell, begin with bed rest and a strict bath regimen using a mixture of vinegar and rose water. Alternatively, use the patient's own urine.

- Place a live hen next to the infected overnight to draw out the disease from the body.

- To aid recovery, the patient should drink a glass of their own urine twice a day.

- In case of fever, have the patient sit close to a fire or in a sewer to help drive it out.

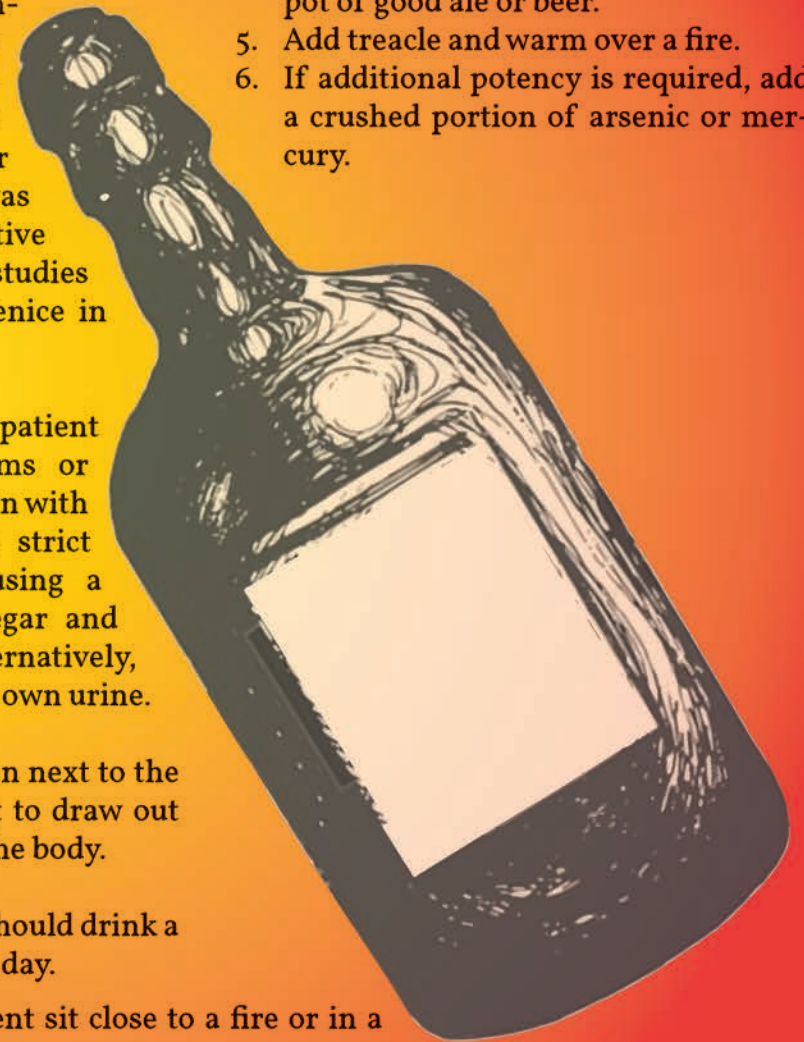
- To prevent the infection from settling in, make sure to drain all diseased blood by periodically cutting open any veins leading directly to the heart.

- An ointment of clay, violet petals, and human feces should be applied to each cut immediately after to promote healing.

- Above all else, remember that disease is God's punishment on the sinners and the unbelievers. Make sure to atone for your sins by engaging in self-flagellation on a daily basis with a whip or similar tool. If you scourge yourself, God has no reason to scourge you with disease.

- Try this rejuvenating tonic. The patient should drink this mixture every morning and night.

1. Roast the shells of newly laid chicken eggs.
2. Grind the roasted shells into a powder.
3. Chop up the leaves and petals of marigold flowers.
4. Put the eggshells and marigolds into a pot of good ale or beer.
5. Add treacle and warm over a fire.
6. If additional potency is required, add a crushed portion of arsenic or mercury.



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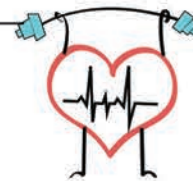
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## Extinguishing the Olympic flame

Varun Venkataramanan  
*Sports Editor*

Just as sports fans were finishing their eulogies for the lost NBA, NHL, and European soccer seasons, another bomb was dropped on their heads.

On Mar. 24, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games to the summer of 2021.

An announcement on Mar. 30 confirmed that the Olympic Games will now open on Jul. 23, 2021 and close on Aug. 8, 2021. The Paralympic Games will follow from Aug. 24 to Sept. 5.

It is only the fourth time ever that the games will not be held as scheduled, and the first time that they were postponed rather than cancelled. The 1916 games were cancelled due to World War I, and the 1940 and 1944 games due to World War II.

Interestingly, the next Olympic Games — the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics — will start only four months after the Tokyo Games finish.

Leading up to the decision, the IOC continued to put out positive messaging, with senior officials making firm public statements that the games would continue as scheduled.

"The IOC remains fully committed to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, and with more than four months to go before the Games there is no need for any drastic decisions at this stage," an IOC statement on Mar. 17 said.

On Mar. 23, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia all announced they would withdraw from the games if not postponed.

Team Canada was the first to do so. Their statement read, "nothing is more important than the health and safety of our athletes and the world community."

Postponing the Olympics will have major repercussions for all stakeholders, but the financial costs are most obvious. According to a recent study from Kansai University in Osaka, Japan, delaying the games one year will cost Japan an additional \$5.4 billion USD, while cancelling them altogether would have cost upwards of eight-times that amount.

Athletes in an Olympic year commonly train to peak at two specific times: their qualifying events in the Spring and then the Olympics a few months later. This is a different mindset than during other years, when athletes try to stay in optimal condition for most of the summer season.

Heather Moyse, a UW alumna and two-time Olympic gold medalist in the bobsleigh, said this challenge will be unique to every athlete.

"There are going to be some athletes where the extra year benefits them and there are some athletes where... it's going to be detrimental to their performance," Moyse said.

However, many athletes were already struggling with training, since social distancing measures closed gyms and restricted group training sessions.

Postponing the Olympics allows athletes to rework their training regimens and mentally regroup to focus on next year's games.

To the relief of many, Team Canada announced that all athletes who have already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics will hold their spots for next year.

Moyse was also supportive of athletes



TIMI BELLO

holding their qualifying spots since it allows them to keep their Olympic dreams alive.

It is still unclear how this will impact

events such as the 2021 World Aquatics Championships, which is usually held only in non-Olympic years.

**THIS WEEK IN ATHLETICS**

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### COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 continues to change rapidly across the world, and we want to take steps to limit the spread and risks of the disease in our community. With this goal in mind and following the University of Waterloo's lead the following actions are being taken by the Department of Athletics and Recreation:

**Facilities remain open while managing a threshold of less than 50 people using a space within the facility.**  
 If necessary, spaces will be limited or closed by facility staff.

Spaces and equipment are cleaned regularly. We provide peroxide-based sprays for equipment and hand sanitization stations within our spaces. We encourage people to wash hands regularly.

Open recreation remains as scheduled in our spaces. Please check our Warrior Recreation App for scheduling.  
**All registered programs are cancelled effective immediately until the end of the term.** Those include:  
 Shoe Tag Classes, Intramurals, Aquatics and First Aid Courses, Instructional Programs

For more information, please visit [gowarriorsgo.ca/covid19](http://gowarriorsgo.ca/covid19)



# Waterloo Warrior finds connection and support in Grebel residence

Elizabeth Robertson  
Conrad Grebel University student

Lukas Wormald of the Waterloo Warriors swim team has called Conrad Grebel University College home for the last two years. Lukas is in his second year of mechatronics engineering at UW and appreciates how living at Grebel suits his busy schedule. From supportive roommates and staff to the close proximity of classes and the Physical Activities Complex, he said this residence experience is beneficial through “pretty much every factor you could think of.”

While growing up, Wormald was involved in many different sports, including swimming. He first had the opportunity to compete through a swim club.

“I thought I would try racing for fun, and I just ended up falling in love with it. I found I had a little bit more natural ability in swimming so I naturally gravitated toward it.”

This aptitude and dedicated training (nine times in the water and three gym sessions weekly) have led him to win four silver and two bronze medals this season, adding to his two golds, one silver, and one bronze of last year.

Lukas’s performance last year led him to be named Ontario University Athletics’ (OUA) Male Rookie Swimmer of the Year and the UW Male Rookie Athlete of the Year.

Wormald said the encouragement he receives from the Grebel community has been an important part of his athletics.

“I have three roommates and they’re all very supportive of me, as well as everyone else here. Kitchen staff have been great with the meals that they make. The food here is amazing!”

He shared how the kitchen staff have been accommodating of the busy schedule that comes from being an

athlete and engineering student. Whether they participate in intramurals or varsity sports, athletes can expect to be invigorated by Grebel’s delicious home-cooked meals.

This caring community has seen him break three UW swimming records in the last two years. Wormald now holds the record for fastest 100m Butterfly, 50m Butterfly, and 50m Freestyle. “I actually didn’t know I broke the record the first time – someone told me afterward. The guy on the team whose record I broke just graduated so it was cool to be able to train and learn from him and see how he practices.”

Wormald’s favourite event to compete in is the 200m Individual Medley because of its variety.

“You get to train all four strokes so if you’re not feeling something particular one day you have three other options.”

Wormald placed seventh overall in the 200m Individual Medley at a USports National Championship this year, and has received numerous Warrior Athlete of the Week titles for his competition results.

Grebel’s residence is home to a diverse student body that ranges across faculties, faiths, and interests. Within this diversity is a web of similarities that draws students together in connection with their peers. For Lukas Wormald this support is found with roommates, who are also studying mechatronics.

“I’m living with other guys from my program which is huge. They provide academic resources so I can ask for help, especially when I’ve been away on competition.”

Wormald regularly experiences the benefits of living in community-

ty through the relational nature of Grebel staff’s interactions with students and the ways that both staff and students support his athletic performance.



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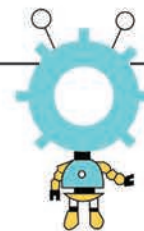
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## UW students fight virus with data

Jansher Saeed  
Editorial Assistant

Monitoring and controlling COVID-19 cases is a growing global mission as infection numbers continue to rise exponentially. Countries such as South Korea and China are using the private health data of its citizens to help pin down their number of cases – but in a country like Canada where micro-monitoring health records is not as common, governments have to find new means of acquiring potentially life-saving data.

Introducing FLATTEN Canada — a collaborative project between university students from UW and UofT. FLATTEN is a web-based application that allows Canadian residents to self-report their current symptoms and to keep track of COVID-19 cases across the country, quite literally helping FLATTEN the curve.

“We have a medical team that has created this forum where [users] are able to, based on the different types of symptoms, identify as [a] potential case, [a] vulnerable individual or [as] other, meaning they aren’t vulnerable and aren’t a potential case,” Shrey

Jain, a first-year student at the University of Toronto and leader behind the FLATTEN team, said.

The application then takes that information and displays it in the form of a heat map. Not only is the recorded information used by those curious about the disease developments, but Jain also said it is vital to anyone looking to take action against COVID-19 and to support local initiatives in the community.

“It’s very important to know where these different demographics of people are. Are there a lot of vulnerable people? Okay, then maybe we want to make sure that grocery stores have food ready for these people and make sure they don’t have to put their lives at risk by going outside. It’s also important for

health care systems. It’s really about understanding how to allocate resources,” Jain said.

This led Jain to put together a team of both friends and experts in order to design FLATTEN. First-year UW computer science and business administration student Surya Krishnan is FLATTEN’s front-end team lead. Krishnan led FLATTEN’s front-end team in creating the data heat map, and the machine learning team in analyzing and modelling collected data.

“I’ve worked to scrape and collect data for the map and have worked to code the map itself. Currently, I’m working with the team to introduce an analytics dashboard and extrapolate our data

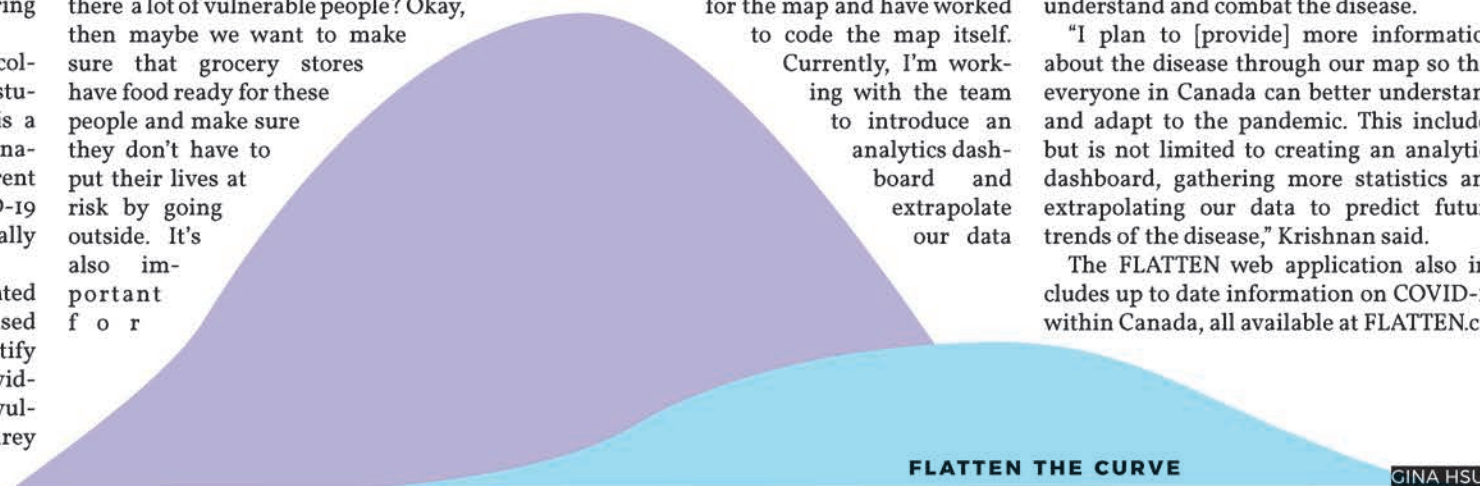
to understand the true spread of COVID-19,” Krishnan said.

The application has reached 200,000 total data entries, but the team’s ambitions for the project do not stop there. The team wants to make sure they can get the word out to as many people as possible, since FLATTEN, as Jain said, is only as valuable as the number of people that use it.

Other goals include seeing the online resource become the go-to page for COVID-19 data in Canada and transforming FLATTEN into a public dataset researchers can use to understand and combat the disease.

“I plan to [provide] more information about the disease through our map so that everyone in Canada can better understand and adapt to the pandemic. This includes but is not limited to creating an analytics dashboard, gathering more statistics and extrapolating our data to predict future trends of the disease,” Krishnan said.

The FLATTEN web application also includes up to date information on COVID-19 within Canada, all available at FLATTEN.ca.



## Winter weather challenges self-driving cars

Christina Piruchta  
Reporter

The concept of self-driving cars is exciting but worthy of some concern. A key problem for self-driving cars in Ontario that differs from areas like Florida or California is how the car will handle harsh weather conditions.

Brutal winters are routine for many Canadians, and so is the impact these have on driving conditions. After a heavy snowfall, drivers know to be especially alert, paying close attention to pedestrians, other vehicles, and the road conditions themselves.

As much as artificial intelligence (AI) has progressed in the field of autonomous driving, it is still critical to question whether this technology can benefit all members of society, and if it is qualified to handle all kinds of weather and road conditions.

As stated in a Wired article on self-driving cars in winter conditions, “snow and rain can obscure and confuse sensors, hide markings on the road, and make a car perform differently.”

This gap in the abilities of AI operated vehicles is concerning for drivers that are looking forward to using such technologies in the future. The article also implies that companies could establish a competitive edge by focusing their efforts on developing technology needed for self-driving cars to navigate harsh weather.

Scale AI, a start-up attempting to tackle this issue, recently released their Canadian Adverse Driving Conditions (CADC) technology as open source. In an article by VentureBeat, Scale AI said, “CADC is the first [dataset] to focus specifically on ‘real-world’ driving in snowy weather.” Its process involved collecting over 56,000 photographs of various driving conditions. These images included road elements such as pedestrians, bicycles, trucks, and most notably, snowfall.

AI’s struggle to adapt to harsh driving conditions is concerning but solvable. Scale AI’s CEO Alexandr Wang discussed how many drivers struggle with difficult road conditions, but can improve with driving experience and proper safety procedures. In the future, AI technology should be able to accomplish this as well, but it needs more

data in order to reach that point.

By working toward the creation of AI that is capable of performing in abnormal weather conditions, Canadian drivers can feel assured that their living conditions are being considered in the development of self-driving technology.

Additionally, this advancement is promising for UW’s self-driving vehicle project, Autonomoose. Their vehicles and technology played a part in the development

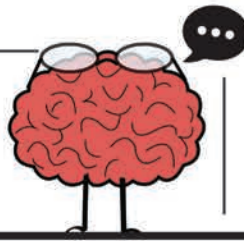
of CADC by driving and capturing the conditions of winter roads.

Through the involvement of Autonomoose, UW is engaged in answering some critical questions when it comes to the abilities of self-driving vehicles. By facing the gaps in AI technology head-on, it is expected that self-driving cars will become even safer, and move one step closer toward being a durable, effective, and efficient form of travel for users in any climate.



Alexandr Wang, Scale AI’s CEO, tackles the issue of self-driving cars in Ontario.

# opinions



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#### Next scheduled post-mortem meeting:

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## Quit complaining about quarantine

Don't get me wrong, I know the novel coronavirus is not something to be taken lightly or something to be mocked. I know a disease that has claimed over 152,800 lives and affected 737,700 people globally is no cause of celebration. But what you fail to see is the other side of it.

As someone who is on her 14th day of self-isolation, take it from me when I say it isn't all pins and needles. What are pins and needles, though, is the endless complaining and ranting I've been listening to from everyone, everywhere. Social media forwards, mindless politicians, psychics, grown men and women who believe they have a right to pass judgments and complain when someone mentions COVID-19, and those special breed of teenagers who feel it's all hyped-up and only an inconvenience because, how will they party on every Monday, Tuesday, Friday, weekend night?

Yes, it is painful to stay indoors all day and night. Yes, it is torture to stay put with the family 24/7. Yes, we won't be able to see our friends and other family members for a while now. Yes, the supply stocks are running low. Yes, we might be heading into a global recession. Yes, yes, a million other yesses. But I ask you, for a minute, just think about one good thing that has happened in your life since this outbreak began. Amidst all the chaos, I ask you to think of one moment of calm.

For someone who has been counting the days to go back home, getting to go back a month early could be the best thing that could have happened to me. The moment I left the airport and got that eight-month overdue hug from my mum, everything felt calm, solvable, fixable, doable. If you ignore all the things that have become harder and just focus on the one good thing, you'll see what I'm talking about.

My mum always told me, "Complainin' got no one no-

where." She'd tell me to think long and hard about the problem, for as long as I wanted — half-hour, an hour, two hours — and then make a list. A list of all the things that I had complaints with. Then she'd tell me to go find a distraction, and after a while, she'd sit me down with the list and tell me to sort what I could fix from the list and what I couldn't. The things I could fix, I should find a way to fix, and the things I couldn't fix, I had half an hour to rant about and done — no more mention of it.

If it's painful to stay indoors because there's no fresh air, open the windows, sit on the balcony, take a walk in the backyard — fixable. A little bit of patience, a little bit of kindness, a little respect for space and maybe a little bit of ignorance, the family isn't all that bad — fixable. FaceTime, Messenger, WhatsApp, Zoom, Hangouts; temporary alternatives we can be grateful to technology for — fixable. Supply stocks, global recession — not fixable. Not unless you are the president of a country, a part of his/her advisory, or a high ranking member of some government body.

A few days back, I came across a meme that read, "Climate Change should hire Coronavirus' publicist." I don't need to go on about how on-point that meme is. Since 2020 began, floods and mudslides have drenched Southeast Brazil; earthquakes wrecked Iran and Turkey; the 'Dragon Storm' swept the Middle East; Australia burned for months on end. Do you hear people complaining about all these things as much? Do you see a whole lot of people going out of their way to up-cycle, recycle, reuse, or even reduce? Now ironically, with everyone contained at home, they are being forced to resort to careful use of their products to keep them from running out. What's more? Satellites orbiting Earth have observed that

air pollution in Italy has significantly reduced. In China, NO<sub>2</sub> emissions have lowered. Venice's famously congested waterways are the cleanest they've been in years. Hong Kongers had six days where they could see the blue sky — something to be grateful for no matter the situation.

I don't need to give you facts from the internet. I can tell you that even from my 20th-floor balcony in Mumbai, I can see above and beyond what I could see before I left and even a few years back. And I have pictures to testify to it. I can hear the birds instead of honking. I can hear the music playing from two floors below, and somehow there's a strange comfort in the fact there is someone else who shares the same taste in music as you.

The point is, this whole situation isn't all that bad. Over the past 14 days, I got to spend quality time with my mum, catch up on the 16th season of *Grey's Anatomy* that I've wanted to watch for the longest time, eat home-cooked food, catch up on some well-deserved sleep, paint (God knows it's been months since I'd touched a paintbrush), tick off a few books from my reading list, finish assignments, and even managed to get my hands dirty with some gardening — all from the comfort of my home.

So maybe, instead of being miserable about it, we might as well embrace the situation we are in. Because complaining to every Tom, Dick, and Harry out there isn't going to protect us from the disease, end our problems, and it most certainly won't provide a solution.

I think it's time we realize how privileged most of us are to be complaining about trivial things that we can fix ourselves and be grateful for whatever we have. The sooner we make peace with it, the more likely we are to find ways to deal with it, and the more likely we are to come out of it all. Distancing, states of emergencies, and lockdowns won't save all the world, but amidst this crisis, we have a chance to make it a better place.

Quit complaining and start embracing.

Sharanya Karkera  
Arts Editor



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# IMPRESSIONS

A PAGE  
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TO ART FOR  
THE SAKE OF ART

