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KELOWNA'S MAYORAL RACE



WHERE DO CANDIDATES STAND ON THE ISSUES FACING STUDENTS?

BY ELLENA WHEATCROFT

Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

DRAGGING THEM IN BY THE BALLS

Sydney Sweeney wants the world to know she loves sports, and “Just Sports”

BY AMBER MATLOCK

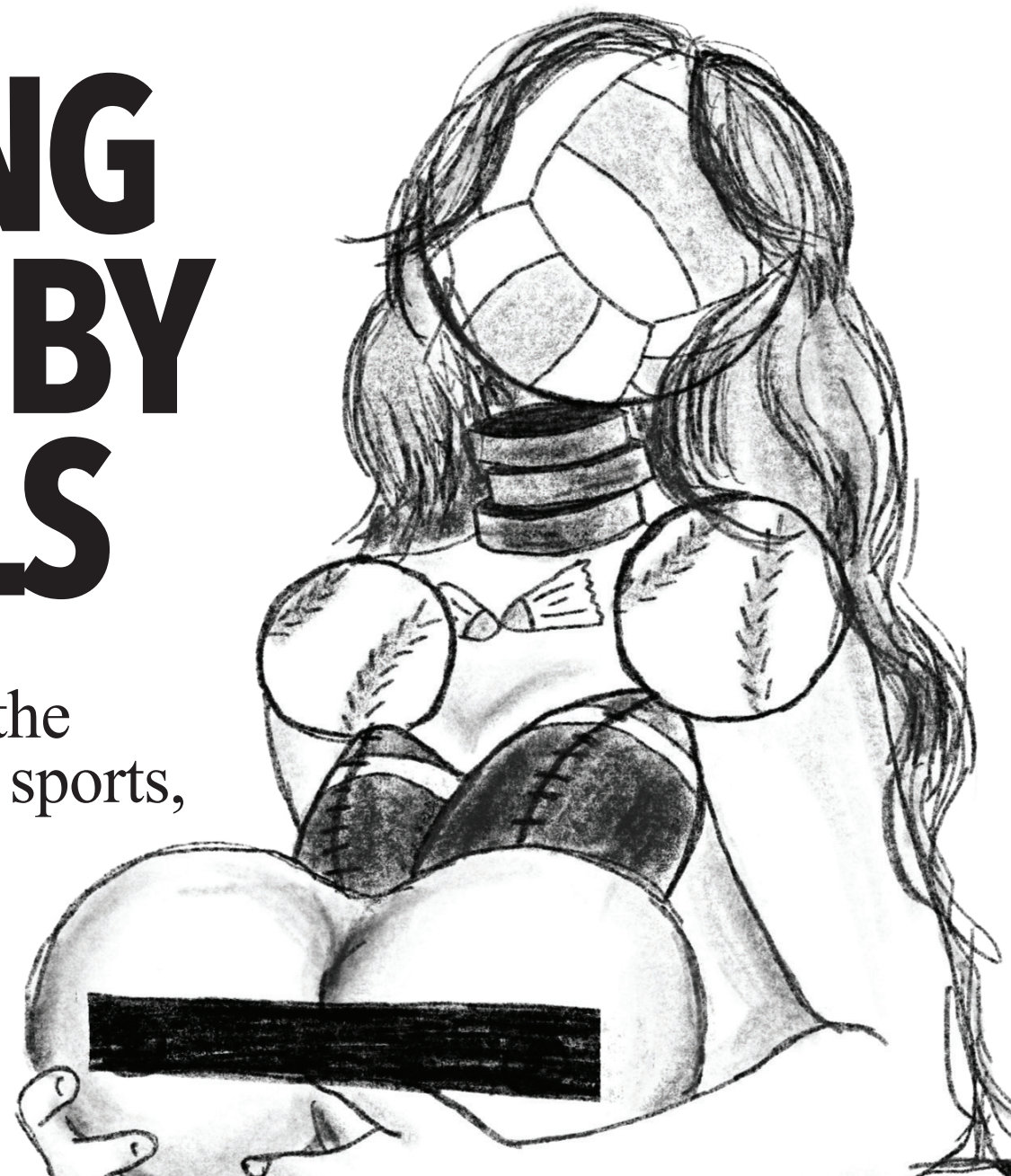


Illustration by Iso Maauad Rodriguez

Kelowna’s Mayoral Race: Where Do Candidates Stand on the Issues Facing Students?



BY ELLENA WHEATCROFT

Ahead of the municipal election on October 17, *The Phoenix News* spoke with election candidates Mayor Tom Dyas and Councillor Ron Cannan to discuss issues impacting Kelowna’s student population.

The vote will elect one mayor, eight councillors, and four school trustees. Through majority-vote decision-making, the City Council must set policy direction to provide good government, services, and laws; responsibly manage public assets; and foster Kelowna’s “economic, social and environmental well-being”¹.

The third candidate for mayor, Andrew Uitvulgt, received 227 votes, or 0.12% of the vote, in 2011². He has not published a campaign platform and is thus not expected to be a serious contender.

Tom Dyas and Ron Cannan both served in the previous council term, Dyas as mayor of Kelowna and Cannan as a city councillor. During the four-year term, they clashed over tax increases and salary increases for City Council representatives. Now, they are facing off in a bid for Kelowna’s top political position.

Before becoming mayor in 2022, Dyas had no previous political experience. He campaigned on bringing a business-minded approach to municipal governance, using his 36 years in the insurance industry as experience. His company, TD Benefits, provides health and dental plans to Okanagan businesses and is the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce’s exclusive insurance provider.³ Dyas’s son has led the firm since 2022.⁴

Similarly, Cannan has a long history in the business industry, having opened convenience stores in Edmonton and working as a sales supervisor for Coca-Cola in the 1980s. In addition, he helped set up Kelowna’s Costco store in 1991 and runs his own commercial banking and consulting firm.

In contrast to Dyas, Cannan has over 22 years of experience in various levels of governance. He first served as a councillor from 1996 to 2005, then again since 2022. From 2006 to 2015, he was the Member of Parliament (MP) for Kelowna–Lake Country as a member of the Conservative Party.⁵

Municipal elections are non-partisan; therefore, Cannan’s campaign is not associated with any political party. In conversation with *The Phoenix News*, Cannan expressed his appreciation for the lack of political parties in local governance. Rather than being swayed by party pressure, he can simply vote for what best suits his constituents.

Dyas’s 2026 election campaign focuses on continuing the momentum built over the past four years. His main platform points are safer streets, increased housing availability and affordability, a compassionate approach to homelessness, new infrastructure, service-based budgeting of tax dollars, and a more prosperous economy⁶.

Cannan’s election platform focuses on responsible growth, safer streets, increased housing availability, lower taxes, accountable spending, and more transparency from City Hall.⁷

The Phoenix News interviewed Dyas and Cannan on September 25⁸ and 15⁹, respectively. These conversations are summarized below, organized by topic.

Housing Affordability

Dyas was keen to point out his achievements in the housing sector over the past four years. He cited an increase from one to six percent during his time in office, as 7,500 homes were built in 2023 and 2024 combined.

He also discussed several projects aimed at improving housing affordability, such as the Fast Track Infill Housing project, a tax deferral structure for rental properties, and a 60-year lease of city land in Rutland to a developer. He argued that each of these projects will create affordable housing units by reducing building costs.

He also plans to advocate for a GST break from the federal government on products used to build new properties, hoping that reduced



Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

building costs will lower rental costs.

With Cannan serving on the City Council since 2022, it is difficult to distinguish between his and Dyas’s impact, especially in housing. In conversation with *The Phoenix*, Cannan discussed Kelowna’s new short-term rental regulations, effective June 1, 2026, which he believes will help students find housing for the eight-month academic year, rather than a full 12 months.

Cannan also mentioned that his platform’s prioritization of homes for families, seniors and the workforce will create better opportunities for students to own a home after graduation.

Public Transportation

In the last academic year, the average UBCO student used public transport 18 times per month. When asked how he will improve Kelowna’s transportation system, Dyas pointed out that the provincial government runs the transit system through BC Transit. However, he is aware of the desired transit improvements. In 2024, he responded to students’ safety concerns about Route 84 by increasing its evening service.

He also explained that the city has tripled its investment in transportation under his leadership, despite transit always running at a loss. Speaking about public transportation, he said:

*“It’s a community service that’s needed, but it’s not profitable to a city. It’s something we backstop to make sure it’s as effective as possible.”*⁸

With the current transit centre, Kelowna and its surrounding communities have a maximum of 115 buses available. Under Dyas, the city is “advocating hard”⁸ for a new transit yard that would house 230 buses. With more buses, BC Transit would be able to expand service.

*“We’ll continue to listen to riders, to push BC Transit with regards to what needs to be done within this community to make it as effective as possible.”*⁸

Cannan believes that the City of Kelowna should borrow the \$250m needed to build a new transit yard and have BC Transit finance the loan, rather than the city waiting for provincial funding. He would like to accomplish this “within [his] term”⁹ if elected, though the plan would need BC Transit’s approval.

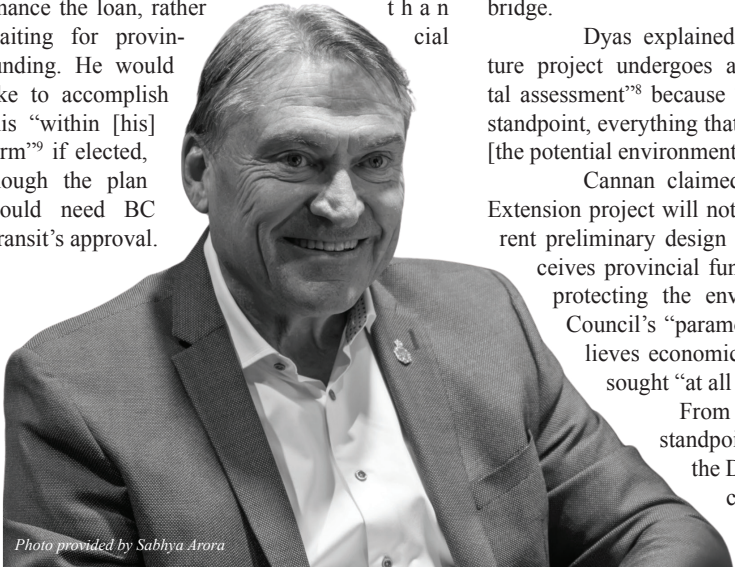


Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

Homelessness

Dyas successfully advocated to the provincial government for the tiny-home model in Kelowna. The 180 tiny homes help individuals transition from homelessness to other supportive housing units. The homes provide opportunities to find employment, speak to a counsellor and meet with a representative from Interior Health. To date, the project has enabled 125 people to transition into permanent or supportive housing.¹⁰

Dyas is a strong advocate for Mandatory Compassionate Care, which would provide an avenue to professional treatment for those struggling with addiction and mental health issues. However, this falls under provincial jurisdiction, limiting the city’s capacity to address homelessness.

Alternatively, Cannan views the tiny homes project as a “band-aid solution”⁹ to a systemic problem. He also claimed that homelessness in Kelowna has worsened since 2022, despite the city spending millions of dollars to address it.

Both Cannan and Dyas are lobbying for the licence of Kelowna’s overdose prevention site not to be renewed. The site, which provides a space to monitor and treat overdoses, is “not properly managed”⁹, according to Cannan. However, he labelled the mayor’s approach of shutting it down without a long-term plan as “irresponsible”⁹.

Cannan is an advocate for a regional approach to homelessness. He has sought collaboration with the mayor of West Kelowna and the Chief of Westbank First Nation. Mayor Dyas, he claimed, has not met with either to address homelessness or substance abuse.

Infrastructure & Environmental Concerns

The City of Kelowna’s proposal for a Clement Avenue Extension from Spall Road to Highway 33 has faced backlash for potential infringement on the Rail Trail and local wildlife. When asked about the project, Dyas cited that over 120,000 cars drive through the Orchard Park and Clement Avenue, Spall Road and Enterprise Way corridor every day, compared to the 65,000 that cross the bridge.

Dyas explained that every infrastructure project undergoes a “proper environmental assessment”⁸ because “from a climate action standpoint, everything that we do, we’re aware of [the potential environmental impact]”⁸.

Cannan claimed the Clement Avenue Extension project will not move on from its current preliminary design stage until the city receives provincial funding. He then labelled protecting the environment as the City Council’s “paramount”⁹ concern and believes economic growth should not be sought “at all costs”⁹.

From an environmental standpoint, Cannan criticized the Dyas and the City Council’s recent rezoning of half of the 18-hole Kelowna Springs golf

course to industrial land.

He added that Kelowna needs to be “water wise and fire smart”⁹ after Okanagan Lake’s water level hit a record low at the beginning of August.

On September 15, Cannan publicly proposed creating a Central Okanagan FireSmart & Wildfire Resilience Council.

Accountability & Transparency

When asked how students can hold him accountable, Dyas claimed that the city’s “solid relationship”⁸ with UBCO proves that students already hold him accountable. He then added:

*“Students hold me accountable by voting for me on October 17th.”*⁸

He asserted that he wanted to participate in a debate with other mayoral candidates at UBCO to allow students to engage directly with candidates. He labelled Cannan’s lack of availability, which meant the event couldn’t happen, as directly contradicting his platform of openness and transparency. Cannan, however, claimed the reverse.

Dyas added that students can hold him accountable based on whether they think the city is “going in the right direction”⁸ in terms of infrastructure, advocacy and the partnership with UBCO on the new recreation centre.

Cannan believes Dyas has not been accountable over the past four years, despite his 2022 campaign focusing on transparency.

In 2024, an in-house commission found that Mayor Dyas and the City Councillors were owed a 15% and 35% salary increase, respectively.¹⁰ Cannan was the only councillor to refuse the pay increase, arguing that the financial surplus should instead be used to reduce the 4.7% municipal tax increase that year.¹¹

If elected, Cannan will establish an independent review committee for procurement and purchasing policies to ensure the city’s \$1.1 billion budget is allocated appropriately.

Cannan also drew attention to the Parkinson Recreation Centre (PRC) regeneration project. He wanted a referendum, for transparency’s sake, as it is estimated to cost \$242 million.¹² According to Cannan, the alternative process for public approval requires participation from 10% of eligible Kelowna voters, a percentage very difficult to reach.

Cannan believes that if Dyas were truly transparent, the commission reviewing the City Council’s salaries should have been independent, and Dyas should have set up a referendum for public approval of the PRC project.

This article has offered a snapshot comparison of Dyas and Cannan’s campaign platforms. Students are strongly encouraged to do their own research before casting their vote.

If you have any questions you would like to ask the candidates yourself, drop by the SUO’s Civic Connect BBQ outside UNC on Thursday, October 8, from 12 to 3 p.m. The event will provide the opportunity to learn why municipal elections matter and how they impact students’ daily lives. Students will be able to raise their concerns and ask questions directly to mayoral and councillor candidates. Unfortunately, current city councillors are unable to attend due to mandatory regional district meetings.

To be eligible to vote, you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, a resident of Kelowna, and have lived in B.C. for at least the past six months.

Advance voting is available October 7–16 at locations across Kelowna. There will be an advance voting station in UNC 200 on Wednesday, October 14, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The general voting day is Saturday, October 17.



Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

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SO, WHAT DO STUDENTS ACTUALLY WANT FROM THE SUO?



BY ELLERY NIMCHUK

Before the school year began, the Student Union Organization (SUO) found itself embroiled in controversy after announcing the lineup for the eagerly awaited Takeoff concert. Scheduled to take place on September 18, the concert promised to showcase a mix of student performers alongside artists Felix Cartel, Twenty-Three, and Waka Flocka Flame.

The announcement, however, drew criticism from many students after an interview by the Phoenix News brought attention to Waka Flocka Flame’s political views. While the SUO is a non-partisan organization and stated that its decisions are not based on political affiliations, some students took issue with the use of student funds being used to bring an American performer with controversial views to campus.

This situation quickly extended beyond the concert itself, with students sparking heated discussions on the SUO’s Instagram and the UBCO subreddit about how decisions are made, how student funds are allocated, and how the organization represents the student body.

The SUO initially addressed the situation and stated that Takeoff would proceed as planned. However, one day before the concert, they announced that the concert would be postponed due to a mutual agreement between the SUO and Waka Flocka Flame’s representatives. The SUO assured students that any funds allocated for hosting the artist would be returned to the organization. Additionally, it was announced that another performer, Twenty-Three, was unable to attend due to “personal circumstances,” which also contributed to the postponement of Takeoff.

While they stated in their post that they are “working to finalize a new date and a new headliner,” the SUO released another statement on September 22 sharing that their attempts were unsuccessful and that Takeoff would ultimately be cancelled. In the same post, they guaranteed full refunds to ticket holders and told students that they hope to bring back the concert at a later date.

Within their message, the SUO acknowledged the controversy and pledged to “use [it] to strengthen the planning and delivery of future SUO events.”

Although the events and eventual cancellation surrounding Takeoff have left students disappointed in a variety of ways, this situation has prompted broader questions about the relationship between the SUO and the students it represents. To better understand those concerns, I spoke with students about what they feel is missing from campus, whether they feel represented by the SUO, how well they understand the organization’s decision-making processes, and what they would like to see from the SUO during the coming school year.

When asked about what they feel UBCO is lacking, students provided a wide array of answers. Many pointed to the lack of a strong school culture and adequate campus facilities. One student expressed he was particularly disappointed by the limited recreation facilities available on campus, suggesting that having a “rock wall or a skate park” could foster more opportunities for community engagement.

Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, identified a lack of a connection “between students and the people making decisions on their behalf.”

Other common responses focused on a need for more study spaces and a greater variety of courses. Daniel, a psychology major, noted that he would like to see more classes focusing on niche topics within the humanities, social sciences, and arts, as well as more classes focused on religious studies.

While the SUO has actively advocated for various issues on behalf of students, including the continuation of UPASS and the community meal program, several students interviewed expressed concerns about whether they feel their voices are being heard by the SUO. This concern was particularly present among students from minority groups, with



Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

several respondents saying that they do not feel their POC or queer identities are sufficiently represented or advocated for by the SUO.

The decision to invite Waka Flocka Flame to perform on campus was cited by multiple students as an example of this. While many acknowledged the SUO’s eventual decision to cancel his performance, they said the situation raised questions about the organization’s decision-making and consideration of different student communities.

One student remarked that the initial response from the SUO made their question “whether minority students [are] being adequately considered in decision-making.” Mireille, a nursing student, similarly raised concerns about the SUO’s approach to inclusivity. They stated they do not believe the SUO has a clear understanding of the diversity of its student body, particularly given that a significant portion of students identify as queer. In their view, the decision to invite an artist who has expressed homophobic and transphobic views underscores a larger problem within the SUO about how inclusivity is considered when making decisions.

Issues in representation were also raised in relation to different academic programs. A fourth-year engineering student pointed to a difference in representation among facilities within the SUO, saying that “engineers gravitate to the engineering society which limits [their] representation.”

Across the interviewees, a common feeling of disconnect between students and the SUO was evident. When asked whether they felt they could easily find information about how the SUO operates and makes decisions, one student expressed that she does not believe “the average student has a clear understanding of how the [SUO] operates or how decisions are made.” While she acknowledged that information is available on their official website, “it is not always easy to find or understand.”

Amy, a third-year English major, noted that information about the SUO, including its constitution, bylaws, and mission statements, is “easily accessible” on their website; however, she felt that the organization’s “mission and values” are unclear. Several other interviewees also expressed a desire for increased transparency regarding the SUO’s decision-making processes and initiatives.

The issue of accessibility also extends beyond the information available on their website. Mireille shared that, following the controversy with Takeoff, they faced challenges in voicing their concerns with the SUO. Although the members hold office hours where students can drop in and speak with them, they pointed out that these have the potential to be problematic due to scheduling conflicts and the reality that students often do not have the time to visit in person when balancing school, work, and personal responsibilities.

They suggested that the SUO could make communication more accessible by increasing its presence on social media platforms, where students are more likely to see information and engage with it.

With a new school year underway and a largely new board of directors, students were asked what they would like the SUO to prioritize this year. Interviewees identified

several issues, ranging from affordability and campus activities to accessibility and community building.

According to the SUO’s value statement, one of its primary functions is to advocate on behalf of students and their wishes. For many students interviewed, affordability was an important part of that role. Several respondents expressed interest in greater attention to the pantry and community meals program. One student praised these initiatives, saying that “they help students especially when the price of groceries grows.” He also appreciated the continued availability of UPASS, which provides students with significantly discounted access to public transit. At the same time, he said he was less interested in the parties hosted by the SUO, suggesting that the money could instead support clubs and events that “build community in a much healthier way.”

The Takeoff situation also influenced some students’ suggestions for future events. Daniel said he would like the SUO to improve its process for “investigating the artists they would like to have perform before they announce events.” While he appreciated the eventual decision to remove Waka Flocka Flame from the lineup, he said he was disappointed by what he viewed as a lack of research before the artist was announced.

Daniel further advocated for more student-wide activities such as the “return of the year-end carnival, campus-wide food stands [and] more mini concerts.”

In addition to campus activities, students expressed a desire for increased focus on affordability, mental health, and accessibility on campus. Mireille stated that in their opinion, “the campus does not have the best inclusivity” and has personally heard peers question if campus is safe for them. Although they acknowledged the number of campus clubs that provide spaces for students from different backgrounds and identities to find a welcoming and like-minded community, they said that they would like to see the SUO demonstrate inclusivity more clearly through its board and its decisions.

One student particularly pointed to wanting “better accessibility resources.” She shared that in one of her classes this semester, the textbook is not available online, thus leaving some of her fellow students who rely on text-to-speech tools without an alternative. Ultimately, these students had to pay for “an outdated version of the text[book], and they had to pay out of pocket to [access text-to-speech].” In her opinion, it is unfair that students with disabilities should be forced to pay for resources that enable them to simply partake in their courses.

Another recurring issue across the interviews was the use of student fees, the SUO’s financial priorities, and the organization’s operations.

Reflecting on an interview conducted by The Phoenix News with the VP Campus Life, Guransh Sandhu, one student expressed concern about the lack of information available about the budget for Takeoff. Mireille similarly raised concerns about the timing of the SUO’s financial reporting. They noted that because the organization’s financial budget is released a year later, students may have difficulty un-

derstanding how their money is being spent while the elected representatives responsible for those decisions are still in office.

One student said she would like to see “total transparency about the decision-making that occurs within the same academic year the current elected SUO representatives operate in.”

While students expressed a range of concerns and offered suggestions for how the organization could better serve the student body, they also clearly identified several initiatives and programs from the SUO that they value. The SUO’s response to the Takeoff controversy, including its commitment to use the experience to strengthen the planning and delivery of future events, suggests a willingness to respond to student concerns.

Going forward, the coming year presents an opportunity for the SUO to continue building its relationship with students. For many of those interviewed that relationship involves more than campus concerts. It means having accessible channels for communication, understanding how decisions are made, and having confidence that student concerns are being considered when those decisions are made. Furthermore, students would like to see more advocacy for issues that directly impact them, such as inclusivity and food insecurity.

The priorities students identified are varied, and there may not be a single approach that satisfies everyone. However, continued communication between the SUO and the students it represents could help bridge some of the disconnect identified throughout these interviews. As the school year progresses, the challenge for the SUO will not be just listening to students, but showing them that they have been heard.



SAMAIRA TALWAR
EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHARLOTTE TAPPIN
OPERATIONS MANAGER

AIDEN MALCOLM
TECHNICAL EDITOR

AMBER MATLOCK
SPORTS JOURNALIST

ENYA DANGE
CAMPUS LIFE JOURNALIST

OWEN MCINTYRE
OPINIONS JOURNALIST

ELLENA WHEATCROFT
NEWS JOURNALIST

WENDELL ZYLSTRA
ARTS & CULTURE JOURNALIST

MEHAK PARIHAR
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY JOURNALIST

ELLERY NIMCHUK
SUO CONTENT JOURNALIST

INDIA WILLIAMS
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

SABHYA ARORA
VIDEOGRAPHER & PHOTOGRAPHER

ISO MAAUAD RODRIGUEZ
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

CHIRAYU AHUJA
LAYOUT DESIGNER



BY AMBER MATLOCK

OCTOBER LOOK AHEAD



Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

Welcome to a new year at UBC Okanagan! As we get back to the familiar rhythm of the never-ending lines at Pritchard, the weight of all this year’s textbooks piling up, and the relentless scouting for Ice Cream Club events, we look ahead to a new season of HEAT sports. The beginning of the year has no shortage of athletics, so read on to see how the HEAT is measuring up so far.

Soccer

This season started off a little rocky for both HEAT soccer teams, having yet to secure a win this season. Despite the cooling temperatures, expect to see the HEAT still fired up. We will see the women’s team gracing our home field on Friday, October 2nd, against Trinity Western. They will also be at home Friday, October 9th, for the Soccer for Cancer game, where they’ll be playing the UNBC Timberwolves. The women’s team’s last home game of the regular season will also be a celebration for all of this year’s graduating athletes held here at Nonis Sports Field against the UFV Cascades at 12pm.

The men will be facing off against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on Friday, October 2nd, at 7:45 PM. They will also be back at home for the Soccer for Cancer game,

where they will be going against the UNBC Timberwolves. Following the women, expect to see the men working hard to beat the UFV Cascades at Nonis Sports Field for the Graduating Athletes Celebration at 2:45PM. Here’s hoping for a HEAT soccer win!

Softball

The Women’s softball team has been making waves as the division’s defending national champions. The team is looking at a plethora of victories as they finish off their season and gear up for the (WCSA) Championship in Calgary from Friday, October 2nd, to Saturday, October 4th.

Golf

Golf season is in the air and prominent here in the Okanagan as well, starting with the men’s golf team playing the Canadian Collegiate Invitational in Foot’s Bay, Ontario.

The women’s teams started their official season in Washington on Monday, September 21st. They played for the opportunity to participate in Lethbridge on October 5th and 6th at the Canada West Championship with the men and the following week back in Washington playing the Western Washington Invitational.

We’ll see both teams home at the Okanagan Golf Club playing the Victoria Vikes for the BCGA Matchplay and at the OUAZ Fall Invitational Monday, October 26th, and Tuesday, October 27th, in Washington.

Season Start-Up

Men’s Rugby has just started back up! Come show your support as they play the SAIT Trojans in Kelowna on Saturday, October 17th.

Men and Women’s volleyball starts back up at the end of October. Watch the home openers against Brandon University Bobcats on Friday, October 23rd, with the women set to start at 5pm and the men following at 7pm. On Saturday, October 24th, catch the women play Bobcats again at 4pm and the men at 6pm.

The men and women’s Basketball teams close off the month on October 30th against the UNBC Timberwolves. The women start at 5pm and the men follow at 7pm.

Player to Watch

Since August, many players have been making strides on and off the field. One player in particular, Julia Alexander-Carew—on the HEAT women’s golf team—has been one to look out for. Every tournament, Julia has either placed

first or second, an amazing feat.

Julia is a finance major in the UBCO Commerce program and has just started her 4th year. She admits that being a student athlete is demanding, but it is also incredibly fun, demonstrates school pride, and teaches a lot about being on a team. When asked what playing for the HEAT meant to her, Julia said:

“Being part of the HEAT has given me a sense of community which has had a huge impact on my university experience. Golf can be a very individual sport so having teammates to practice and travel with, as well as other athletes who share similar experiences has provided me with support and some of my closest friendships”

Events to Support

The best way to keep up the electric energy that we saw at Homecoming is to continue to come to events! Come support Soccer for a Cause on October 9th and consider donating to the Canadian Cancer Society. Watch the HEAT at any home game and cheer on UBCO. The year is just beginning, so start the year off HOT, make your mark, and watch the HEAT!

DRAGGING THEM IN BY THE BALLS

BY AMBER MATLOCK

Women all over the world, once again, are put at the centre of the conversation surrounding sports because of controversy, thanks to *Euphoria* and *The Housemaid* star Sydney Sweeney. On Wednesday, September 9, Novig, a sports prediction and betting company, released an ad featuring actress Sydney Sweeney.

In the ad, Sweeney is depicted almost entirely nude as she shows off various sports balls and equipment, which cover the explicit areas of her body. At the end of the sequence, she tells the audience that Novig, and the ad, by association, focuses primarily on sports. She states, “... No politics. Just you, your takes, and sports”¹.

She also states in the ad that “Novig is just sports, so they wanted to show just sports”¹. If the message trying to be conveyed is that the ad is solely focused on the sports elements, why did it rub audiences the wrong way?

Contrary to the company’s ‘No Politics’ take, showing the controversial actress nude, while advertising for sports—an already polarizing subject for women,—actually does introduce a political discussion.

Novig CEO, Jacob Fortinsky, told *Front Office Sports* that Sweeney had crafted the message herself as she was outraged in other sports betting companies such as Polymarket and Kalshi, which allowed members to profit off of real world events. In a hypocritical turn of events, Sweeney, as a stakeholder in Novig, now personally profits off of politics by invoking this outrage with her ad.

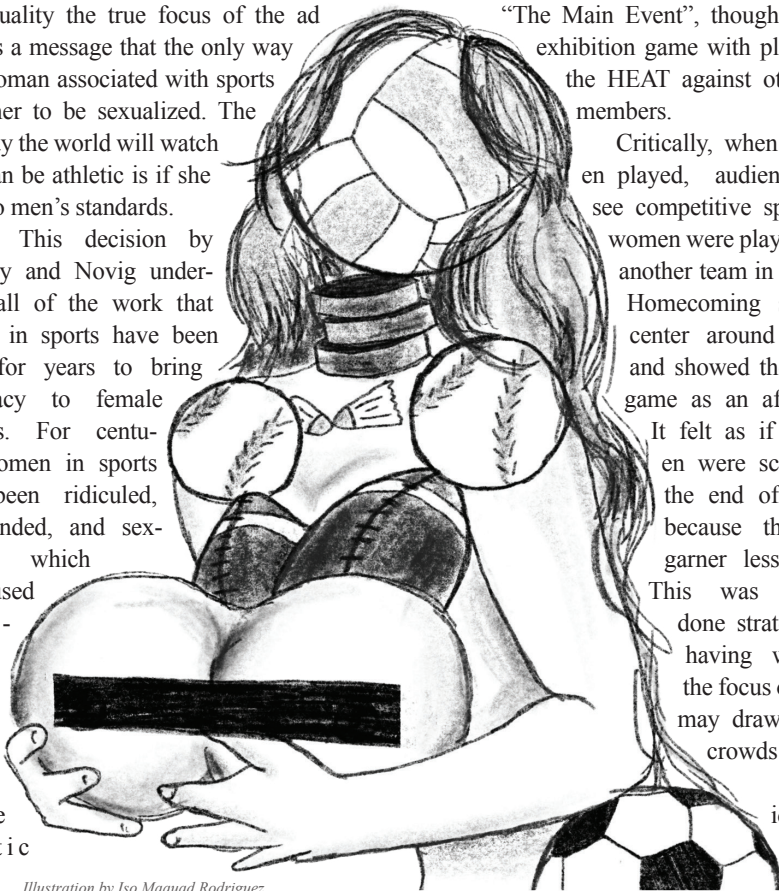
Any attention to the company is now

tainted with the controversy surrounding it, which Sweeney directly profits from. The matter at hand is no longer “Just Sports”, as Sweeney assures in the ad, but about what her appearance and actions in the ad have to say about representing women associated with sports.

The choice to pose nude and make her sexuality the true focus of the ad conveys a message that the only way for a woman associated with sports is for her to be sexualized. The only way the world will watch a woman be athletic is if she caters to men’s standards.

This decision by Sweeney and Novig undermines all of the work that women in sports have been doing for years to bring legitimacy to female athletics. For centuries, women in sports have been ridiculed, underfunded, and sexualized, which has caused women’s spaces to plateau or shrink in the athletic sphere.

Illustration by Iso Maauad Rodriguez



Even with our very own HEAT, it’s clear that our community does not give as much effort and praise to our female athletes. Homecoming, which took place on September 18, was an obvious example. Both women’s and men’s teams played at the Homecoming celebration, yet the men’s game was set up to be “The Main Event”, though it was an exhibition game with players from the HEAT against other HEAT members.

Critically, when the women played, audiences got to see competitive spirit as the women were playing against another team in the league. Homecoming seemed to center around the men, and showed the women’s game as an afterthought. It felt as if the women were scheduled at the end of the night because they would garner less attention. This was seemingly done strategically as having women be the focus of the night may draw away the crowds.

The idea of center- tainment

value adds another layer to Sweeney’s ad by catering to men. The sports betting world is dominated by men, so of course Novig would have thought that having a ‘hot’ actress advertising would make sense. The women in the athletic environment were once again, an afterthought. This led to a huge uproar over how women are depicted by the media, and should not be directed by the male gaze. Sweeney obviously caters to her audiences, and knows how to profit off of them, yet fails to think of how her actions impact the rest of the world.

Another issue with the ad is Sweeney herself. In an interview with *US Weekly*, Sweeney talked extensively about being insecure in her own body. It wasn’t until the role of Cassie, in *Euphoria*, that she was able to feel confident in her own body and she spoke of dealing with bullying and self-loathing from an early age.

When preparing for the role of Christy Martin in David Michôd’s *Christy*, Sweeney was met with a lot of criticism about her changing body. Many trolls on the internet deemed her “incredibly ugly”, which led to her speaking out about how her training has changed how she felt in her skin.

This continues to beg the question of why she would agree to an ad like this. Sweeney has experienced the societal barriers that women today face in sports, and is not immune to the criticism of her actions. The decision to pettily disregard these barriers because of her own issues is incredibly discouraging and adds fuel to the roaring fire of injustices in women’s sports.

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A MILLION DOLLAR SOLUTION: THE NAVIER-STOKES EQUATIONS

BY MEHAK PARIHAR

For a mechanical engineering student such as myself, the Navier-Stokes equations are seen as the epitome of fluid mechanics. These equations describe how any liquid or gas flows and are notoriously difficult to deal with, so much so that there is a whole field dedicated to computationally implementing them.

So what does it mean hearing that the company behind ChatGPT recently ‘solved’ Navier-Stokes? What about the heat from mathematicians claiming the solution was stolen? How will this change the field of fluid dynamics and the world?

But first, a bit of Fluids 101. A fluid is a material that moves continuously, has no fixed shape, and flows under an applied force.¹ All liquids and gases are fluids under this definition. A solid object would not be considered a fluid because it has a fixed shape and can resist an applied shearing force. For example, a solid brick will hold its shape even if you push the top of it. If you ran your hand along the top of a pool of water, it would flow and change shape.

Even a still glass of water is composed of septillions of molecules (that is a 1 followed by 24 zeros!), all of which are moving, colliding, and interacting. Tracking and modeling this many water molecules is nearly impossible, so to study fluid behaviour a better approach is to treat it as a continuous substance and take the average of properties like density, temperature, velocity, and pressure.

By treating a fluid as a continuous substance, mathematicians can apply known laws. Newton’s second law relates force as a product of mass and acceleration, which is where the Navier-Stokes equation originates from.² In simple terms, it relates how the pressure, gravity, and viscosity of a fluid affect its acceleration. They might also be referred to as a set of equations, each in a different x-y-z dimension.

Considering how much of the world is liquid or gas, it becomes evident why the Navier-Stokes equations are so vital. Although they can be incredibly useful, these equations are also very difficult to exactly solve. This is because they are nonlinear partial differential equations, meaning that a variable is multiplied by its own derivative.

In the context of Navier-Stokes, the velocity term is multiplied by its own derivative, which helps model how the fluid pushes and interacts with itself. When fluids move quickly, they become turbulent and seemingly more unpredictable. Even a slight change in the initial conditions can lead to extreme changes in the overall movement. This trait is captured by the nonlinear velocity term.

Challenges also arise when Navier-Stokes is applied in real world situations, where fluids are interacting with structures such as the walls of a pipe or rocks in a river.³ Oftentimes multiple types of fluids exist in the same system, like bubbles of air in water, which also compli-

cates things.

Mathematicians have been able to find solutions for extremely simplified systems, such as the case for liquid flow through a straight, circular pipe.⁴ Complex cases require approximating a solution.

Instead of solving the equation over the entire system, the space can be broken down into smaller chunks. These are called “cells” that make it easier to analyze the fluid over. Similarly, time is also broken down into smaller steps. This allows mathematicians to replace the complicated calculus with simpler algebraic operations. As the size of the cells and time intervals gets smaller, the approximation becomes more and more accurate, but also takes more time to solve.

This is the field of computational fluid dynamics, and it has shaped the way scientists analyze the world. Using approximations allows nearly impossible calculus to be approximated with simple algebra.

Computational fluid dynamics has been used to predict weather, to model airplanes and rockets, and to figure out how pollution disperses in the atmosphere. The applications extend beyond aerospace and atmospheric sciences. The blood in your veins is also a fluid, and biologists can use Navier-Stokes to study how it flows throughout the human body. Artists use them to model how water moves in animations. Geologists can model the fluid-like behaviour of plate tectonics and discover how continents were formed.⁵

Scientists have put a lot of faith into these equations and they have led to the advancements of many different fields. The equations work in many applications, however there is still a gap in our understanding of the pure mathematics behind them.

The big unanswered question is whether the Navier-Stokes equations will always produce smooth, realistic solutions or if there are cases where the mathematics can break down and not reflect true reality. Smoothness refers to quantities, like velocity or pressure, remaining finite and continuous.

In other words, the challenge is to determine the existence and smoothness of the equations. Is there always a solution? And if so, is the solution always smooth?

This question is so important that the prize for solving it is a million dollars. It is one of seven millennium problems from the Clay Institute of Mathematics.⁶ These problems cover unanswered mathematical questions in a wide range of fields, including topology, theoretical physics, and number theory.

The millennium problems are known to be incredibly difficult to solve, and their solutions could very well shape their respective fields. For example, a solution to the P vs NP problem would break nearly all cryptosystems that keep information encoded.⁷

Previously, only one millennium had been solved in 2003, of which the prize was turned down. Many mathematicians have dedicated their lives to solving these problems, whether it is for the money, the prestige, or the chance to make a

discovery at the edge of our understanding of mathematics.

After roughly 90 years since the question of Navier-Stokes existence and smoothness was formally posed, OpenAI announced that they found a solution.⁸ On September 5th, 2026, the company behind ChatGPT had generated a solution using advanced AI models.

They had been testing and experimenting with an internal model beyond the latest GPT-6 Astra, and found that it performed well for mathematics problems. The millennium problems had recently gained traction following rumors that groups were close to a solution. Their team successfully solved a simpler version of the full Navier-Stokes problem, which encouraged focus on the millennium prize. Following the announcement, OpenAI Researcher Sébastien Bubeck reflected on their decision to tackle the problem.

“So we thought to ourselves: ‘We have such a strong model. Why don’t we try to solve also a Millennium Prize problem?’”

OpenAI reported using 10,000 AI agents which could read from the internet and run code. These agents had the ability to send messages to each other, which allowed them to work in parallel and build from the group’s breakthroughs. Codex monitored the agents and was able to guide ideas from promising subgroups to other agents. Groups also served to peer-review each other’s work, emulating the guiding principles of scientific advancements.

Over the course of 88 hours, they exchanged 2.7 million messages, consumed 130 billion output tokens, and reached a conclusion.

On September 8th, 2026, OpenAI announced an analytical proof that an initially smooth fluid can develop solutions that do not follow the expected laws of the universe. They determined that by applying the Navier-Stokes equations, a fluid can reach a “singularity” where the velocity becomes infinite.

The conditions in their proof examine a fluid initially at rest that is subject to a force which twists the fluid into a tightly spinning vortex, which somewhat looks like spaghetti wrapped around a fork. The force continues to be applied, stretching the “spaghetti” out and making it thinner and thinner.

Eventually, the vortex collapses and the velocity at the center of the vortex becomes infinite. Infinities are a concern because they do not reflect our understanding of nature. It is physically impossible for anything to move at an infinite speed, including the molecules in air or water. This implies that there is a gap between the math and laws of physics.

This finding does not mean that Navier-Stokes should be discarded or considered as completely incorrect. The reason that this problem took many years to solve is because for the vast majority of cases, the equations provide possible and accurate solutions. The conditions that caused the equations to break down are extreme and unnatural. For current applications of Navi-

er-Stokes, such as modeling lift of an airplane, the equations still function and predict fluid motion precisely.

However, the fact that existence and smoothness have been disproven means that the Navier-Stokes equations are mathematically incomplete. This is one of the most exciting times of science, when an unexpected result challenges the current body of knowledge.

It is unclear at the moment where this uncertainty will lead science. Perhaps the solution will help develop more accurate computational fluid dynamics solvers, or force scientists to rewrite how models behave at extreme limits.

This is a breakthrough for the field of fluid dynamics, and for the role of AI in academia. A model that can answer a 90 year mystery in under one week holds incredible opportunities for the future of science.

OpenAI’s solution has sparked controversy, particularly from mathematicians Tristan Buckmaster and Levent Alpöge. The two claim to have been working on the Navier-Stokes millennium problem using OpenAI’s Codex8. They claim to have solved a simpler version of the problem and were in the process of publishing a proof.

Buckmaster reached out to OpenAI after hearing that they were working on a similar solution. He was supposedly offered sole ownership of the solution so long as he removed Alpöge from the author list and credited OpenAI’s Codex. Buckmaster did not accept this offer.

After the solution was released, questions were raised about the AI agents potentially using Buckmaster and Alpöge’s work that was stored in Codex. In response, OpenAI claimed that their work “could not have influenced the system in any way”.

Even if OpenAI’s proof is independent of Buckmaster and Alpöge’s work, the proof was built on work from hundreds of prior mathematicians. Some scientists express concern that AI generated proofs fail to teach human scientists and can erode true understanding. Could there reach a point where AI proofs are beyond the understanding of any human?

Award-winning mathematician Terence Tao mentions that previous human-directed effort towards intense mathematics problems has helped push many fields forward. Tao argues that overuse of AI in mathematics could hinder this effect.

“Prematurely solving the problem by purely AI-powered methods - particularly without full transparency into the solution process - can contaminate this process to the point where it actually becomes a net negative for the progress of mathematics as a whole.”¹⁰

It is difficult to determine how the field of mathematics, and more broadly science, will be helped or harmed by AI. We have access to tools that could diminish human critical thinking, as well as solve problems we thought insurmountable, and so we must tread forward with both caution and hope.



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Photo provided by Darren Hull



BY ENYA DANGE

UBC Okanagan Debates’ eighth installment, held on the evening of September 17 at the Kelowna Community Theatre, posed a seemingly simple yet anxiety-inducing question: “Are we leaving a better world for the next generation?”

The debaters sought to defend their sides, but the goal of the evening was bigger: to ease the tension between a generation confronting an uncertain future due to AI job displacement and a modern housing crisis, and the generation being impugned for leaving behind that very future.

The audience was also given a chance to interact and reflect upon the tension with Slido polls presented throughout the debate. Nathan Skolski, UBCO’s Director of Public Affairs and the debate’s emcee and moderator, read aloud the resolution for the audience to answer before they heard the debaters’ perspectives, with only eight per cent of the audience agreeing.

Shreya Saxena, a UBCO computer science graduate and entrepreneur, and Renée Merrifield, a founder and CEO of Troika and former MLA for Kelowna-Mission, were for the resolution. Dr. Paul Kershaw, an associate pro-

fessor at the UBC School of Population and Public Health, and Mario Canesco, the president of Research Co., a polling and analysis firm, were against the resolution.

Saxena expressed gratitude for the generations before her who pledged to fight for their children, and argued that without their trail-blazing, she would not have been afforded the opportunities she has today to build her professional career. She reassured that she could not deny or sugarcoat the hurdles this generation faces, but she could say that today’s world is the best it has ever been. Merrifield reinforced Saxena’s statement, reminding the audience of Canada’s disturbing former track record with child mortality rates, life expectancy, and women’s rights, describing a world — inferior to the current one — nobody would want to go back to.

In contrast, Kershaw argued that life satisfaction among the younger generation has been plummeting, stating that it has become harder for the typical Canadian now to own a home, and noting an increasing reliance on inherited wealth to stay afloat. In an effort to not to place the blame on any individual, he instead touched on troubling governmental trends, which he argued were steadily leading Canada to a gerontocracy. Canesco also provided insight

into issues plaguing young Canadians, which were mainly affordability and healthcare over broader issues like patriotism or environmental conservation.

Merrifield gave anecdotes as an employer at her company, and stressed that her AI usage promised efficiency and not employee replacement, stating: “We’re looking at it as an augmentation. The only way to get more money into all of our employees’ hands is to become more productive for every single employee.” Saxena, as a recent graduate herself, argued that the threat indeed loomed over anyone in search of work, but that AI’s introduction into the workforce creating a plethora of new roles in a variety of sectors was evidence that it was a net positive, ending with “I would rather inherit a bad market that’s opening up than a good one that’s closing.”

Kershaw countered, saying that technological advancements may not matter in the grand scheme of things when basic financial security is harder to achieve, and maintaining a good standard of living is becoming a burden. Canesco argued that homeownership remains a primary goal for the younger generation, regardless of how rapidly times are changing, including a greater tendency for the younger gen-

eration to pursue post-secondary education and move between cities.

Kershaw also disputed the age-old misconception that the younger generation would progress if it weren’t for their materialistic values and frivolous spending habits, estimating that a young Canadian would need to sacrifice around thirteen lattes every day for five years to save a twenty percent down payment. He later sarcastically remarked, “That is so much latte.” Canesco also added: “They just want to continue to feel that there is light at the end of the tunnel.”

It was clear that beyond the panel’s differing viewpoints, they shared a mission as debaters to attempt to rationalize the younger generation’s frustrations with the current world. The four debaters reflected the different generations they focused on in their statements, as well as the audience, and it was what led them to acknowledge that these problems affect everybody, regardless of age.

At the end of the evening and the debaters’ closing statements, Skolski redirected the audience’s attention to one of the screens, which illuminated with the final Slido poll prompt, allowing the audience to answer: “Are you personally leaving a better world?” An overwhelming majority answered: “Yes, I am trying.”

HOW THE PRISM FRAMEWORK REVEALS THE FLAWS IN THE WESTERN-DOMINATED APPROACH TO ACADEMIA

BY ENYA DANGE

Operating in a non-native language is exhausting, especially when your intelligence is brought into question, and it feels like your education is not adequately supported. Researchers Dr. Anita Chaudhuri, Dr. Jing Li, Dr. Jordan Stouck, and Dr. Steve Marshall developed the PRISM Framework as part of a growing effort to expand current teaching practices to include diverse perspectives in first-year writing courses. They assert that success in academic writing can be achieved in more ways than one, and assessing students via narrow, monolingual criteria overlooks their personal skill set and lived experiences.

The PRISM Framework outlines the challenges that emerge from rewarding standardized academic English (SAE) and provides appropriate alternative teaching practices for instructors to help overcome them, e.g., cross-lingual assignments, academic writing in non-traditional genres such as letters or food recipes, and reflection on what ‘good writing’ looks like.

The central idea and motivation behind the project is linguistic equity, and the rejection of a “deficit mindset.” On this, Chaudhuri mentioned: “Linguistic equity recognizes that language is learned in many different ways. Equity work requires that we become learners first, use metacognition, and acknowledge that not everybody can be one type of learner.

Chaudhuri continued: “I am just not catering to a singular set of expectations, but a diverse one.”

Ji stated: “Beginner English doesn’t mean they can’t learn. They have their own experience and professional expertise to bring to the classroom, and they can be just as helpful,” describing the deficit mindset as what allowed English-dominated institutions to make fluency in SAE the baseline for intelligence and competency,

so a student’s language barrier was treated as a weakness rather than as a potential asset.

In the framework, ‘P’ stands for plurilingual, the ability to conveniently switch between different languages. The use of SAE in first-year classes often sidelines multilingual students who might benefit from learning and writing in a non-English language, and also reinforces a linguistic hierarchy that urges students to distance themselves from their preferred language in favour of SAE.

Stouck expressed that: “Changing some of our ideas and expectations about language is the main point of this project. Alongside valuing home languages and various Englishes, part of it is also working towards code-meshing,” and this effort helps ensure that certain languages are not put on a pedestal. Code-meshing brings together multiple languages and influences in one speech act.

‘R’ stands for raciolinguistic. It examines how language constructs race and how racial biases shape the perception of non-English languages. Stouck mentioned that: “Rethinking teaching first-year writing felt [like] a way to start being more inclusive.” Combating English standardization could help in dismantling those biases early and address how multilingual students feel racially discriminated against for not knowing SAE.

‘I’ stands for Indigenous, and addresses how prioritizing SAE has further marginalized Indigenous communities. This part of the framework also emphasizes the value in using identity as a means of navigating language.

However, the PRISM framework cannot be applied analogously across all local communities. Stouck explains that: “We are thinking this through in our local context, and indigenous com-

munities nationwide would have to think about that on their own.” Regarding what was shared during a knowledge exchange workshop that was held in the summer of 2026, Stouck stated: “Different facets [of the framework] would have different considerations. People in the workshop had discussions on how they could make use of this aspect and really think this through,” clarifying that the framework can be dynamic to fit different contexts.

‘S’ stands for social justice and taking action outside of the classroom, like community-building or advocacy efforts to empower students in non-academic spaces. A Speaker Series held in May 2025, which brought together researchers across various disciplines, highlighted that one of the PRISM Framework’s biggest responsibilities is to decolonize language to achieve linguistic equity and justice. This meant creating a new standard rather than adjusting the existing one to accommodate an outlier.

‘M’ stands for multilingual learners. Commenting on the participant takeaways from this project and what the researchers wanted to learn from them, Li said: “The public discussion framework helped us develop PRISM. [It is] not a fixed model; [it] keeps evolving and changing. Writing centers people at UBCO.” Chaudhuri invited the group to consider: “How can learning be equitable, inclusive? What different strategies are they employing in teaching to promote engagement?”

The PRISM Framework is a guide. It aims to recognize multilingualism as fundamental to learning, and prioritize linguistic equity to enhance the student experience. An institutional reform has been long overdue, and it begins with instructors and the students.

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A Summer in Review: Art You May Have Missed!

BY WENDELL ZYLSTRA

Over the summer there were many excellent pieces of art that were released and that are continuing to release into this fall. So much great art that no one could possibly read, watch, or play it all. So if you are looking for something to keep you occupied and keep you thinking, here is a book, movie, album, and game from the summer that you may have missed.

Lindsey Cheng Dates a White Boy is a graphic novel which came out as a physical edition on May 5th, following its online publication the year prior. In the novel, the titular Lindsey Cheng enters her first year of University and starts dating a rock band boy who gives her all sorts of trouble. This is a great book to start off your fall (especially for all the first years out there), reflecting on the struggles that come with moving away from home and tumultuous young adult relationships. With a very cute art style and a *Scott Pilgrim* inspired slice of life flair, it is sure to capture your heart and make you want to call your parents.

Jane Schoeburn's latest film *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma* follows in the footsteps of their previous hit, *I Saw the TV Glow*, with its deeply queer themes and surrealist presentation. The film also makes for a no-holds-barred summer slasher flick in the campy vein of *Sleep-away Camp* or *Friday The 13th*. The story

follows a young film director's journey to reboot the fictitious 'zombie IP' franchise of 'Camp Miasma' by staying with the reclusive starlet who starred in the original. What stuck with me most in this film was the deep reflections it carried on art and sex, looking at how escapism and the spaces we find away from our lives can often be the most self-revealing. It also features a masterfully put together soundtrack with original music by Alex G. Lesbians and film majors alike, rejoice!

Fans of the 2001 pop-punk revival music scene will love the latest release from the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, *Hidden in Plain*

es: Live. Here, Karen O and the band play their hits (such as "Maps" otherwise known as the "they don't love you like I love you" song) as well as some of their underrated gems (such as "Cheated Hearts") at the acoustically wonderful Royal Albert Hall in London. Some other treats on the album include a cover of "In Heaven", a song from David Lynch's *Eraserhead*. It is a song which has been covered by other artists such as Devo and The Pixies but is an especially poignant reminder now, considering Lynch's unfortunate passing last year. The album has yet to fully release but you can hear half of it now to stir up excitement for

the next half coming out mid-October.

If you are at all familiar with animator and musician Andyland, you will know that his debut game *Endacopia* was highly anticipated proceeding its release on July 27th. When it came out, the game nearly immediately gained a cult following of dedicated players who enjoyed it for its rich story and its haunted educational game look (like if *Pajama Sam* was put into a blender with an Osamu Sato game). You play as Mellow, a young boy-ish creature who finds a hidden world through his sewer system and solves puzzles posed by the strange characters he meets. That description being a gross oversimplification of a story which includes a serial killer chameleon that stalks a small village at night to make puppets from the townspeople, a meet-cute between a two clowns, and an odd inhuman surgeon who sings to you each time you see him. If any of those things sound even remotely interesting, I recommend playing it for yourself.

As another great season of art comes to a close we are lucky enough to continue to reap its benefits long after. If you have any new art you found in the summer, never be afraid to share and discuss it with the people you know. Beyond that, with all of the wonderful art scheduled to release this year, I hope you continue to keep your eyes peeled and your own creative pursuits inspired.

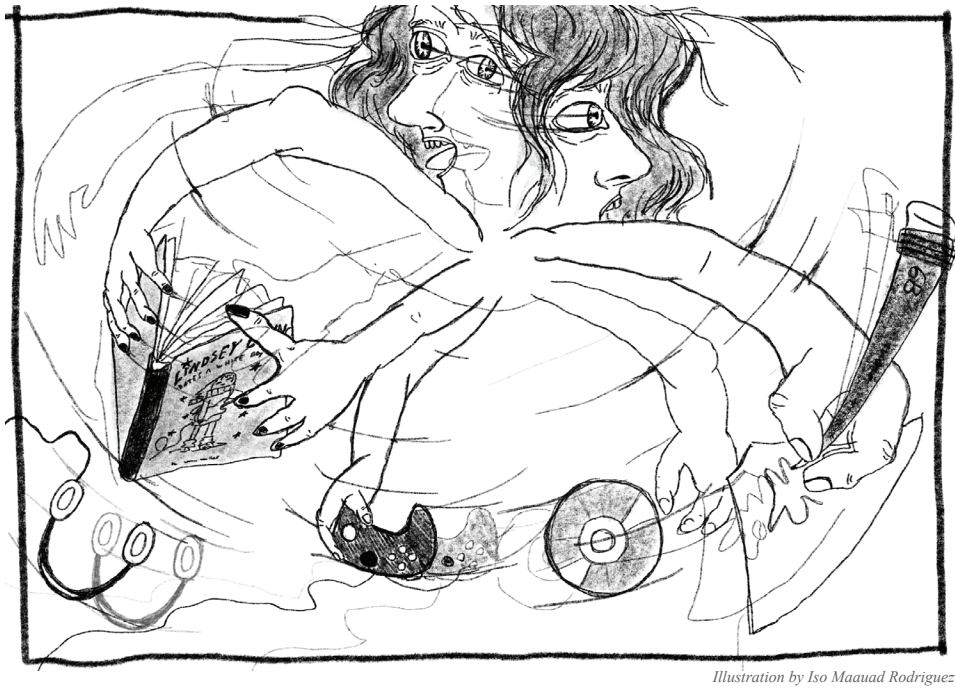


Illustration by Iso Maauad Rodriguez

GET SCARED! HERE COMES THE HMEA!

BY WENDELL ZYLSTRA

The closer we get to Halloween, the greater the desire becomes to terrify and delight ourselves with all things 'horror' related. However, some of our student body wishes these frights could continue year-round. I had the pleasure of speaking with one of these bodies in the form of second year Biology student Sam Rooney, the prospective president of the Horror Media Enthusiasts Association. We spoke on the association, horror as a genre, and much more.

Wendell Zylstra: So, to start, what is your association?

Sam Rooney: It's a community to bring people together through a shared love for horror or an interest in horror if you haven't explored it yet. Mainly horror movies because they're big right now, but also video games, literature, visual art, etc. If it was just movies it would be like the horror movies club. I wanted to expand the scope a little bit just because horror can be used in a lot of different ways. In ways that might not be possible in just a movie.

WZ: How are you hoping to balance these many different kinds of media in the association?

SR: The hope is for the movies to be kind of like the glue of the club, that they can happen fairly often because they're easy to set up and easy to schedule. They'd maybe [be] like a once a month kind of thing. There'll be some sort of big event, maybe twice a month, depending on what they are

and if people want them. The events would be the bigger deals that would require more organization from our team, and hopefully would create some cool stuff and help people make friends.

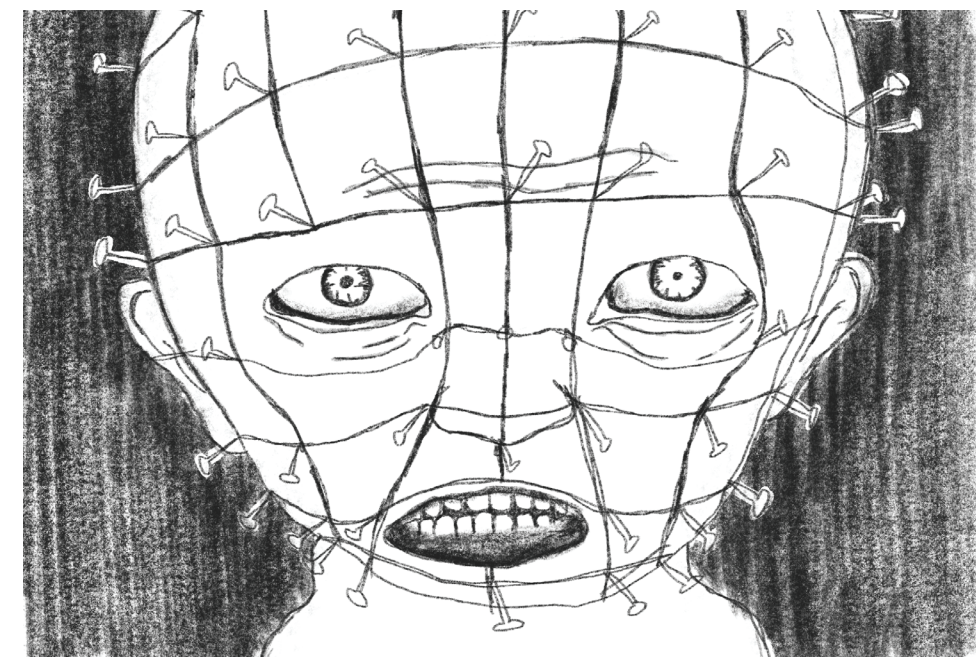


Illustration by Iso Maauad Rodriguez

WZ: Is that the main aim, to help people make friends?

SR: Partially, it's also in part because everyone likes a chance to flex about their thing, you know. If there are any people interested in joining a community or, like me, just love talking about horror, they'll get a chance to. There's not many places you can bring it up in normal everyday life. I've bonded with a lot of people before just over

liking horror. It's a great place to start.

WZ: I find that a lot of people who are not in the societal norm really enjoy horror and its willingness to explore non-normative

move towards a healthier attitude about engaging, not just in conversations about society but also in art and talking about how it makes you feel. For me, sometimes I just like a movie and I don't even know why. I just enjoy experiencing that.

WZ: What do you think draws people to fear in media?

SR: It's the same idea as when you go on a roller coaster at 12 and your body and your brain tells you that you're being thrown around and you're going to die. You make it off and you're okay and you get a nice come down just to feel safe. It's also fun to anticipate when something's coming. That's what fear is.

Sometimes it's just knowing something's about to happen. It's really fun to fight with your own monkey brain about what's going to happen. I love seeing how movies can abuse that quality of the human mind. It's also fun to talk about it after the fact as well. You just feel like you survived something. I feel like that would bond you to the other people that you watch with. It's a very safe form of trauma bonding.

If Sam's description of a 'safe trauma-bond' with other ghoulish students speaks to you, please check out the association's instagram page and fill out the survey in their bio. The club is not yet ratified and are still gauging interest for the coming year through said survey. A big thanks to Sam for sitting down

“Never mistake our generosity for weakness”: Former PM Chrétien Warns U.S. at 9/11 Commemoration

BY ELLENA WHEATCROFT

September 11th marked not only the deadliest terrorist attack in American history, but also a unified and compassionate Canadian response, most notably in Gander, Newfoundland. As American airspace shut down on 9/11, Canada’s initiation of Operation Yellow Ribbon allowed over 225 planes to land safely at 17 airports across the country.¹ On the east coast, the majority landed in Halifax, St. John’s and, famously, the small town of Gander.

Those old enough to remember September 11th, 2001, often recall where they were or what they were doing when they heard the news that a plane had crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Centre. Many watched in horror as various news outlets broadcast live footage of a second plane colliding with the South Tower, and 56 minutes later, as the tower completely collapsed.

Almost 3000 people, including 24 Canadians, were killed as a result of the attacks on 9/11.² In the 25 years since, over 4000 survivors and first responders have died as a result of toxic exposure during the attack and the subsequent cleanup project.³

In Canada, the Prime Minister at the time of 9/11, Jean Chrétien, spoke at the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Commemoration Service in Gander, N.L. The small town, home to Gander International Airport, played a key role in Canada’s immediate response to 9/11. When the Federal Aviation Administration ordered a complete shut-down of American airspace for the first and only time in American history, it presented a problem for numerous transatlantic and transpacific flights too far into their journey to turn around.

As the United States’ neighbour and closest ally, Canada launched Operation Yellow Ribbon. The subsequent influx of over 33,000 unexpected passengers to Canadian airports required



Photo provided by Sabhya Arora

a miracle of scrambled organization and selflessness by airport staff and ordinary citizens.² The case of Gander was especially heroic, as the town of only 10,000 people welcomed over 6,500 passengers on 38 planes and kept them fed, clothed and housed for several days as American airspace gradually reopened. For the past 25 years, Gander residents’ kind actions during such a harrowing disaster have been referred to as a prime example of Canadian generosity. During his speech in Gander, 92-year-old Chrétien described the people of Gander’s actions as “the Canadian way.”⁴

For the Governor General, Louise Arbour, who also spoke in Gander, the values of compassion, generosity and solidarity that guided the Canadian response in September 2001 must also guide Canadians today.⁴ The 25th anniversary

of 9/11 came just three weeks after trade negotiations fell apart, with Trump subsequently unleashing 50% tariffs on billions of dollars worth of Canadian products on August 22.⁵ At a news conference on the same day, Prime Minister Mark Carney claimed U.S. negotiators had demanded restrictions on Canada’s ability to make trade deals with other countries and had complained about Canada’s protection of the French language and culture.⁶

Chrétien addressed the current U.S. tensions during his impassioned speech in Gander. He repeatedly referred to Americans as ‘friends,’ drawing on the Canadian response to 9/11 to reinforce the shared history, values and long-lasting relationship between the two countries.

The speech followed a short address by the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra. His remarks reflected on the events of 9/11 and thanked the people of Gander for their kindness, but he did not address the ongoing trade war or uneasy relations between Canada and the U.S.⁴

However, the former Prime Minister, known for being blunt, did not hold back from bringing politics into the commemorative service. Chrétien stated his pride in the response to 9/11 in Gander and elsewhere in Canada, reinforcing the Governor General’s earlier comments about Canadian values. He then directly addressed the United States:

“I have a message for our American friends: Yes, Canada is a generous, open country, and Canadians are tolerant and kind. But never mistake our generosity for weakness.”⁴

Chrétien further alluded to the changing relationship between Canada and its southern neighbour, especially in light of President Trump’s repeated threats to Canadian sovereignty. “We embrace our friends, and we help them in their moment of need. But we bow to no one. And the more we are insulted, or threatened, and abused, the more we will stand up for ourselves and stand united. And I say that not in anger, but as one friend to another. Friends need to be honest with each other.”⁴

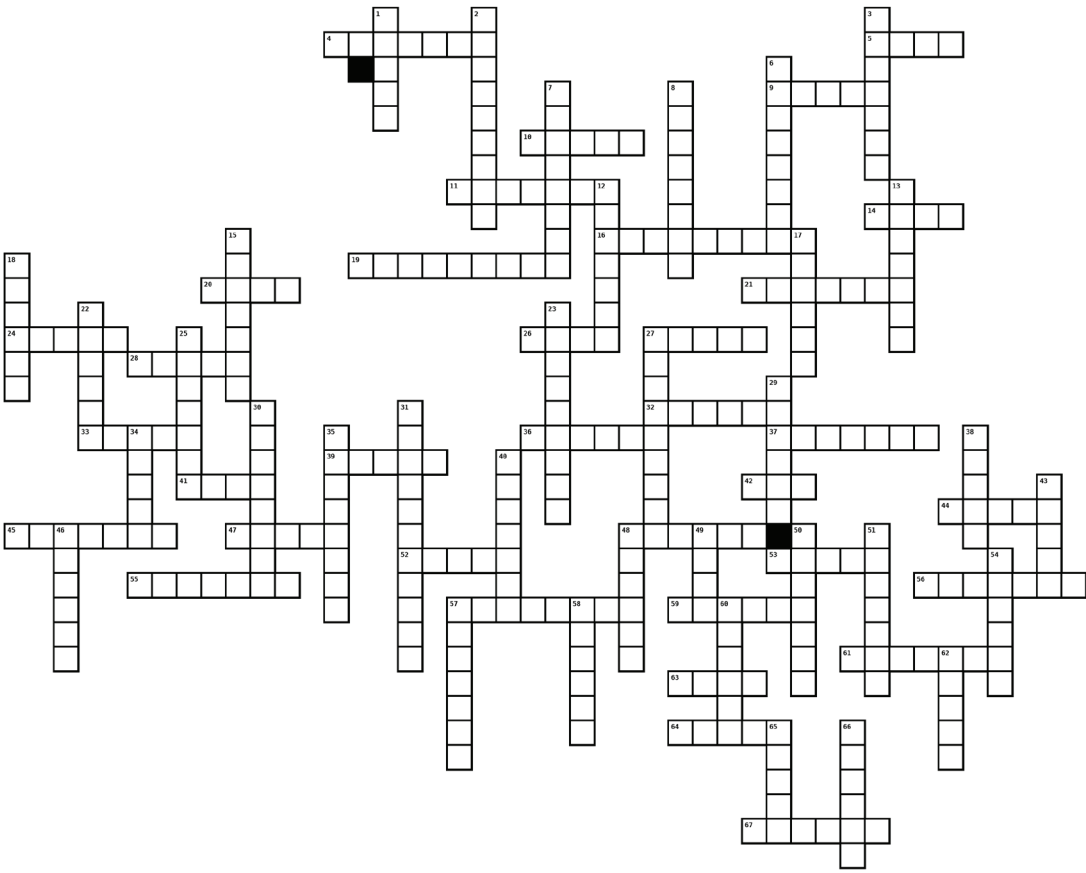
Canadians demonstrated their strong support for Chrétien’s sentiments, interrupting with thunderous applause on several occasions. The positive reception to the rallying cry, in Gander and across the country, reinforces the popular support for the Carney government’s ‘Canada first’ approach to foreign policy in time for the resumption of Parliament on September 21. Whether Canadians continue to support this approach remains to be seen.

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ACROSS

- TV detective famous for his seemingly disorganized questioning
- App that changed how many people summon a ride
- Poet traditionally credited with the Iliad
- Scientist whose surname became an electric-car brand
- Composer behind *The Four Seasons*
- Sound of an explosion, or a sudden surge in business
- Recipe for a computer, metaphorically speaking
- Director of *Psycho* and *The Birds*
- Genre born in New Orleans
- Band behind *Nevermind*
- One of the noble gases
- Singer behind *Smooth Operator*
- Rapper whose stage name is usually written as 2Pac
- Someone famously expected but never seen
- Greek god whose name was borrowed by a space program
- The King of Rock ‘n’ Roll (first name)
- Composer whose music was written largely for the piano
- Author of *Walden*
- Talk-show host whose first name is enough
- Star Wars* character known for unusual sentence structure
- A state of calm associated with a school of Buddhism
- Lion who becomes king in *The Lion King*
- Artist who co-founded Cubism
- Author whose name became an adjective for nightmarish bureaucracy
- Chef Ramsay of *Hell’s Kitchen* (first name)
- June celebration with parades and rainbow flags
- Video-game series featuring Link and Princess Zelda
- Silent-film star with a distinctive moustache
- Statement that appears self-contradictory
- Greek god of dreams
- Roman statesman and celebrated orator
- Author who created Middle-earth
- Desert planet central to a sprawling science-fiction saga
- Titan condemned to hold up the heavens
- Singer behind the album *Songs in the Key of Life* (first name)

DOWN

- A supposedly convincing excuse
- Longing for a past that may never have been quite as good
- Director behind 2001: *A Space Odyssey*
- Film about ambition, jazz and an intense drum teacher
- Baker Street’s famous detective (first name)
- Burning drive to get ahead in life
- Lennon song asking listeners to picture a different world
- Singer whose highest vocal range shares its name with a TV family
- What Newton famously formalized
- Studio behind a universe of interconnected superheroes
- Composer who was performing publicly as a child
- Paris museum housing the Mona Lisa
- Band behind *OK Computer*
- Ancient epic of a long voyage home, adapted for the big screen in summer 2026
- Director behind *Pulp Fiction*
- Artisan who shapes clay on a wheel
- Japanese author of *Kafka* on the Shore
- Stratford-upon-Avon’s most famous playwright
- Planet named for the Roman goddess of love
- Soldier trained for fast, small-unit raids
- Puzzle cube that can leave solvers twisting
- Painter behind *Girl with a Pearl Earring*
- Film and TV title set in America’s Upper Midwest
- French city famous for its film festival
- Man whose parties attract crowds but reveal little
- Surrealist known for melting clocks
- Singer behind *Lemonade*
- Surname of the King of Pop
- Actor who played Michael Corleone
- Play that actors superstitiously avoid naming inside a theatre
- Rapper behind *Lose Yourself*
- Fashion house founded by Gabrielle
- When the outcome is the opposite of what you’d expect
- Singer whose Eras became an era of their own
- Naturalist associated with evolution

GIVEAWAY ALERT!!!

The first three students to send a finished version of the crossword to management@thephoenixnews.com will have a chance to a Bose speaker or a free haircut at Great Clips.