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The Deception of Award Show Victory



Is it possible that
award shows like
the Oscars are
not as fair as they
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students have part-time
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Get the most important articles right away. Here's some of the **top stories of February.**

This Month's Top Stories



Above: Riya Rajkumar and her father, 41 year old Roopesh Rajkumar. (Facebook)

On February 14th, many Peel region citizens awoke at approximately 11:30 PM to an unpleasant surprise - the Amber Alert for Riya Rajkumar, age 11, abducted earlier that day.

Riya was dropped off at a gas station at 3:00 PM Thursday afternoon, on her birthday, to visit her father in Brampton, whom she didn't live full-time with. At 6:30 PM, her mother, growing worried, called the police, fearing that Riya's father, Roopesh Rajkumar, had caused harm to her. The Amber Alert was sent out approximately 4 hours later.

The father was later arrested by OPP in Orilla some 130 kilometers away, and Riya's body was found in Brampton on Hansen Rd N., thanks to an anonymous 9-1-1 tip-off. Rajkumar was taken to a Toronto trauma center, in recovery from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, where he later died.

During the Amber Alert, police received several 9-1-1 calls complaining about the late hour and disruptive nature of the signal, claiming it woke some families' children or dogs. Outrage on Twitter by many parents who'd been made to lose a night's sleep by the alert also erupted. In a tweet made by the Peel Regional Police's official Twitter account, they replied, "As a direct result of someone receiving the alert, we were able to locate the suspect & his vehicle. The system works. Thank you to all those that called with tips."

Vigils in Riya's memory were held earlier last month.



Peel Regional Police
@PeelPoliceMedia

Our communications bureau is receiving numerous calls to 9-1-1, complaining about the late hour of the Amber Alert. As a direct result of someone receiving the alert, we were able to locate the suspect & his vehicle. The system works. Thank you to all those that called with tips.

11:56 PM - 14 Feb 2019



9.8 k



44 k



Let this tragedy serve as a stark reminder that as a society, we can and we must do better to protect our women and our young girls from violence because this is simply unacceptable.

*Mississauga Mayor
Bonnie Crombie*

The SNC-Lavalin Controversy Explained

Canada



Above: Jody Wilson-Raybould poses for a photo with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the cabinet shuffle in Ottawa, January 14, 2019. (Patrick Doyle/Reuters)

The rapidly unravelling SNC-Lavalin case is rocking Canada's political scene since news of it broke just weeks ago, and the devastating consequences it has had on the Liberal government are leading some to call it the "Canadian Watergate".

In 2015, SNC-Lavalin, a Quebec engineering and construction firm, was charged by the RCMP with having bribed the Libyan government in exchange for political power, and allegedly defrauded the nation of \$130 billion. If the conviction went through, it would prevent the company from bidding on government projects in the future for a decade, which could cause major financial troubles for the firm. SNC-Lavalin, therefore, was revealed by *The Globe and Mail* to have reportedly lobbied for laws that gave companies accused of bribery lighter punishments, such as being able to skip such convictions by paying a fine and performing remediations. This bill was passed in 2018.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, as the Canadian Minister of Justice and Attorney General, was given the option recently to choose whether to continue with the harsher convictions, or drop them in favour of the new, lighter ones on SNC-Lavalin. However, she recently revealed that she had supposedly been unfairly pressured by the Prime Minister's Office to choose a lighter sentence. As a result, the PMO's office, the Liberal government, and Trudeau, have been the center of a number of recent Canadian conversations about political interference with justice.

Feb. 19, 2015 - Charges are laid against SNC-Lavalin for corruption and bribery in Libya by the RCMP.

Mar. 27, 2018 - A bill is tabled that suggests changes to Canada's criminal code, allowing companies who have committed crimes to make reparations instead of facing harsher punishment.

Sep. 4, 2018 - SNC-Lavalin makes a case to receive these lighter punishments, but are denied. Wilson-Raybould has the power to overrule this decision, and is told she can choose freely to do so.

Feb. 7, 2019 - *The Globe and Mail* reveals that the PMO allegedly attempted to pressure Wilson-Raybould in choosing those lighter punishments, according to anonymous sources.

And In Pop Culture...



Nintendo announced their newest *Pokemon* game title, *Pokemon Sword and Shield*, releasing late 2019, as well as their 3 new starters: Sobble, Grookey and Scorbunny (pictured left).

World — India and Pakistan’s Kashmir Tensions Rise



Above: Pakistani protesters attend an anti-Indian rally in Peshawar, Pakistan. (Muhammad Sajjad/AP)


Skirmishes over the disputed territory of Kashmir, between India and Pakistan, have stirred up feelings of dispute between the two nations, which was only further amplified by the nuclear weapons each country also possesses.

The Kashmir conflict reaches back several decades, but was recently reignited with the capture of an Indian fighter pilot who was shot down in the region. It has sparked difficult sentiments on both sides of the border, and with Indian elections coming up soon, feelings of intense nationalism in both countries have risen.

Pakistan’s later decision to reveal footage of the blindfolded pilot incited further rage from India, and political pressure has only further complicated the issue.

Hussain Haqqani, Pakistan’s former ambassador to the U.S., told NBC News, “There are calls in India to teach Pakistan a lesson over its support for terrorism. And there are calls in Pakistan to teach India a lesson about how it cannot dictate to Pakistan.” Haqqani also pointed to the role of social media in stirring up nationalist tendencies. “Right now it’s not just nuclear weapons that we have to worry about, but social media which feeds hyper-nationalist frenzy on both sides.”

On March 1st, the pilot, wing commander Abhinandan Varthaman, was returned back to India as a gesture of peace from Pakistan.



Narendra Modi
@NarendraModi



Welcome Home Wing Commander Abhinandan!

The nation is proud of your exemplary courage.

Our armed forces are an inspiration for 130 crore Indians.

Vande Mataram!

8:34 AM - 1 Mar 2019

 **160 k**  **47 k**

Elsewhere in the World...



UNICEF has reported a rise in measles cases worldwide, in over 98 countries, from 2017 to 2018. While part of this is due to conflicts disrupting vaccination systems in certain countries, measles rates have also rose in developed countries where vaccines are easy to get, such as the USA and France, where anti-vaccination advocates, often called “antivaxxers”, have been on the rise.



OPINION

In Defense Of Valentine's

Writer Ashley Barry delivers an argument in favour of the ironically divisive holiday of love.

by Ashley Barry -
Club Advisor



★ Did you know?

1,000,000,000+

Valentine's Day cards are exchanged a year, making it the second-biggest card giving event, right after Christmas.

Let's be honest... for some individuals, Valentine's Day is a day one can love to hate. I, however, am pro-Valentines Day. That's right. I've looked forward to February 14th every year since my first Valentine's Day classroom party in Grade 1. On this day, we were allowed to eat all the delicious pink frosted cookies and red heart candies we wanted! Everyone gave out cards to each other with more candy... ah! The good days where Valentine's Day was about the sugar rush you could achieve and not necessarily about love and relationships.

However in the present time, I believe that if Valentine's Day is seen through a different perspective of not exclusively accommodating people romantically involved with each other, it can be an enjoyable day for everyone regardless of their relationship status.

To me, V-Day is cards, candy, chocolate and an excuse to say 'I love you.' I love having an excuse to eat chocolate and tell people I appreciate them in my life.

Valentine's Day isn't just about romance, but it gives us the opportunity to slow down our busy lives and tell our friends and family that we love them. I believe that is the important underlying message of Valentine's Day.

Yes, if you are in a relationship, V-Day is a great day to acknowledge and appreciate your partner and the relationship you have them with.

Whether you decide to do something special such as going out for dinner, watching a movie, getting gifts or simply enjoying time with each other, Valentine's Day is about being thankful. You can go out of your way with pink and red flowers and heart shaped everything and fulfill stereotypical V-Day expectations, but I think its most important to appreciate someone whether that be a partner, friend, family or yourself. Take some time to tell someone you care about them,

binge-watch Netflix, stuff your face with candy and chocolate, hang out with friends and enjoy their company and take the time to give yourself some TLC.

Valentine's Day can be a great day if you have the right mindset. I love it. Even when I was younger being around my peers, eating chocolate and writing each other cards made me feel really happy. I think if you're in a relationship V-Day is great to celebrate, but it doesn't strictly limit to couples. You should celebrate Valentine's Day and show other people in your life you appreciate them, as well as make time for yourself on this day. If you give Valentine's Day this spin, you can avoid loathing if you are single and perhaps see V-Day as a way to reach out to those is your life you care about and who care about you and spend time treating yourself, which can create happiness for everyone!

CELEBRATIONS

A Deeper Look at St. Patrick's Day

The history behind the holiday - which wasn't always shamrocks and leprechauns.



Above: The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

★ Mark Your Calendars: St. Patrick's Day - *March 17, 2018*



by Maddy Kearns -
Contributor

Saint Patrick's Day is a holiday that has come to be associated with leprechauns, shamrocks, and a whole lot of green. Now, let's dive deeper into the history and traditions of this March 17th festivity, and take a look at what it's all about.

Before Saint Patrick's Day became what it is nowadays, it was originally celebrated to mark the death of a man from the fifteenth century named Saint Patrick. The man was born in Roman Britain in 385 AD, and was brought to Ireland at age sixteen as a slave. Later on in his life, he escaped, but soon returned willingly. When Saint Patrick returned to Ireland, he is believed to have taught Christianity to the Irish. The most well-known story of St. Patrick spreading Christianity is that he had used the three leaves of a shamrock to

explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish people.

In the middle of the 19th century, millions of poor and uneducated Irish people began immigrating to the United States and Canada. Starvation and disease was a result of something called the Great Potato Famine, which caused the mass emigrations. Since the populations of the United States and Canada became heavily Irish, the St. Patrick holiday enthusiasm grew immensely. This large expansion of the holiday created even more traditions and festivities for people to take part in once March 17th comes around each year.

Due to the fact that the Irish were often impoverished many years ago, when it came time to celebrate St. Patrick's day, the meals were often very small. They consisted of breads, potatoes, and stews like most traditional Irish meals. As time went on, these dishes became part of the traditi-

on as well. A few popular Irish meals include corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, and lamb stew. One of the most interesting traditions that was a result of the increased popularity of St. Patrick's day was dyeing the Chicago River green. It all started when the city of Chicago's river pollution was getting bad. The city used green dye to streak the river in hopes of finding the places where pollutants were being disposed of and by whom. Years later, in 1961, the chairman for Chicago's St. Patrick's day parade figured the city could completely dye the river for the 17th. This was when 100 pounds of green dye were deposited into the river, so Chicagoans could marvel at the emerald green tinge for four amazing days.

If you'd like to celebrate in 2019, head over to Toronto to enjoy their St. Patrick's day parade, cook a traditional Irish meal, or even visit a McDonald's for a Shamrock Shake! Happy St. Patrick's day everyone!

OPINION

Should High School Students Have Part-Time Jobs?

Many teenagers begin working around their high school years – but is it good for them?



by Celia Harrison – Contributor



In 2014, one in four Canadian high school students had a part time job. In only five years, the number of teens who work has increased tremendously. With so much going on in the life of a teenager, is it too much to be working, on top of all the other stresses of life? By having a job, are individuals benefitting or suffering?

Getting a job in high school can offer many benefits for a teenager transitioning into their adult years. Many with a part-time job have referred to their work involvement as a positive and productive experience. These individuals learn crucial skills that are important to have in the future. By having to work, students are taught responsibility, time-management skills, as well as respect. They get an early look into the workforce and they occupy their time in a productive and worthwhile way. This in turn means they are mo-

re likely to avoid negative situations and trouble. With the increase in responsibilities, students also experience boosted levels of self-esteem. Part-time jobs also look very good on college, university, and future job applications. This added responsibility offers many positive opportunities for students, but like any new obligation, there are drawbacks as well.

These negative consequences affect most highschool students who have a part-time job. It is a proven statistic that during the school year most individuals cannot work for more than 20 hours a week, without having setbacks in relation to their education. For example, some experience a decrease in overall academic averages and less homework completion. As a result, students get discouraged and are therefore more likely to drop out of school. Managing high school and work can be ve-

Since the 1980s, youth employment rates have mostly declined.

(Statistics Canada)

ry stressful, and because of this not all students can handle both during the school year.

After evaluating the positive and negative aspects of having a job in high school, it can be determined that working in high school has the potential to be a good experience, as well as bad. Though it is great practice and can have many future benefits, it can be very difficult for students to manage school work, as well as handle a job. In conclusion, having a part-time job is beneficial, as long as you have the necessary skills and time, but can be overwhelming and stressful if you do not.



ADVICE

Keeping Fit In The Frozen Months

Our advice column writers offer some of their best tips on how to keep healthy during even the coldest of days.

by Sabrina Cagampan and
Ananya Singh - Writers



All around the world, especially in Canada, winter usually means cold weather, which can put a lot of stress on one's physical and mental state. Winter is when all motivation drains away, and with the combination of the short, overcast days, the arid air, the common cold or the flu being passed around, most of us want to avoid this dreadful season altogether and hibernate under a bundle of blankets. The winter months of the year can be cold and unpleasant, but that doesn't mean you have to be. We have put together a list of tips to help you embrace winter with open arms; just make sure to keep them covered!

Keeping a Healthy Body

Wintertime presents itself to be the time when people are most likely to suffer from a weather-related injury, such as slipping on ice, but the biggest health risk continues to be the lack of exercise and unhealthy eating habits. People tend to ignore exercise due to the distressing and cold weather, and focus their energy (or lack thereof) into procrastination and laziness. In times like this, exercise is crucial.

One way you could spend time keeping yourself fit is by getting a gym membership. Instead of spending your money on a subscription to cable and

Did you know?

Regular exercise can help you fend off winter sicknesses, like the flu.

spend your time channel-surfing, you could be working out and keeping a clear mind while maintaining a healthy body.

But if going to the gym is too much of a hassle, you could be working out at your home by doing yoga, or following along with the plethora of workout videos on YouTube. These are perfect for people who want something free and accessible, and there is no need for fancy weights or equipment.

Another way you can keep your body moving at home is by playing Wii Sports or Just Dance, which are fun and entertaining forms of physical exertion. These are great to play with friends or by yourself, and are a great way to burn calories and lose track of time.

During winter, schools and most public places are practically a petri dish of colds, flus and sickness, and there are

various precautions you can take to ensure you aren't stuck at home sick and miserable. Simple things like washing your hands, bringing hand sanitizer, lotion, chapstick and tissues around can make all the difference.

Due to shorter winter days, there are less hours of sunlight and by extent less vitamin D is absorbed by the body. To help, we recommend trying vitamin D light therapy, which is typically conducted using a box of fluorescent light which imitates natural sunlight. Changes in the amount of light one is exposed to can increase and regulate levels of melatonin and serotonin, which are hormones that control one's sleep and mood.

Another way you could keep your body healthy during this winter is by monitoring your diet and not taking the cold weather as an excuse to fill your body with junk food. You could do this by limiting any carb-cravings you might have during the day. This can be done by preparing a protein-packed breakfast to keep yourself energized throughout the day. Some examples of protein-filled foods suitable for breakfast include eggs, almonds, greek yogurt and milk. Another way you could accomplish this is by consuming fibre-rich foods. Fibre helps our stomachs feel fuller and regulat-

es our blood glucose levels, and it also aids the digestive system and encourages bowel movement which is crucial in order to maintain a healthy body.

Keeping a Healthy Mind

We often forget that our mental well being is as important (if not more important) than our physical health. The cold often discourages us to be proactive about our mental health, but it isn't difficult to make little changes that your mind will thank you for.

Trying to do a 'digital detox' may prove useful for your mental wellbeing; letting yourself take a break from the sensory-overload of social media and the internet in general. Even just designating an hour a day to avoiding your devices can prove beneficial. To help you, on Apple devices you can set limits on a feature called 'screen time' which keeps track of the time you may spend on your device.

Meditation is also a quick, easy and accessible way to relax, focus or even sleep better. It allows you let your worries wash

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We often forget that our mental well being is as important (if not more important) than our physical health.

away for a few minutes and focus on how your body feels. There are plenty of apps and YouTube videos to help out newcomers to meditation.

We also encourage you to keep on learning new things outside of school. It doesn't necessarily have to be a physics textbook or anything, it can just be something you are interested in and have fun learning more about. There are endless amounts of documentaries, books and podcasts that help fuel your brain, and might teach you something that you can apply to your everyday life.

Of course, don't be afraid to venture outside and spend time

with friends and family. Research shows that interacting with other individuals increases positive feelings and may lower any feelings of depression, and building social connections is a way of improving one's mood.

We hope you stay happy and healthy this winter!



**Got questions?
Want to
recommend
another topic?
Contact Sabrina
and Ananya at:**

**scagampa6502@
hwdsb.on.ca**

**asingh1584@
hwdsb.on.ca**

NEWS//FLASH



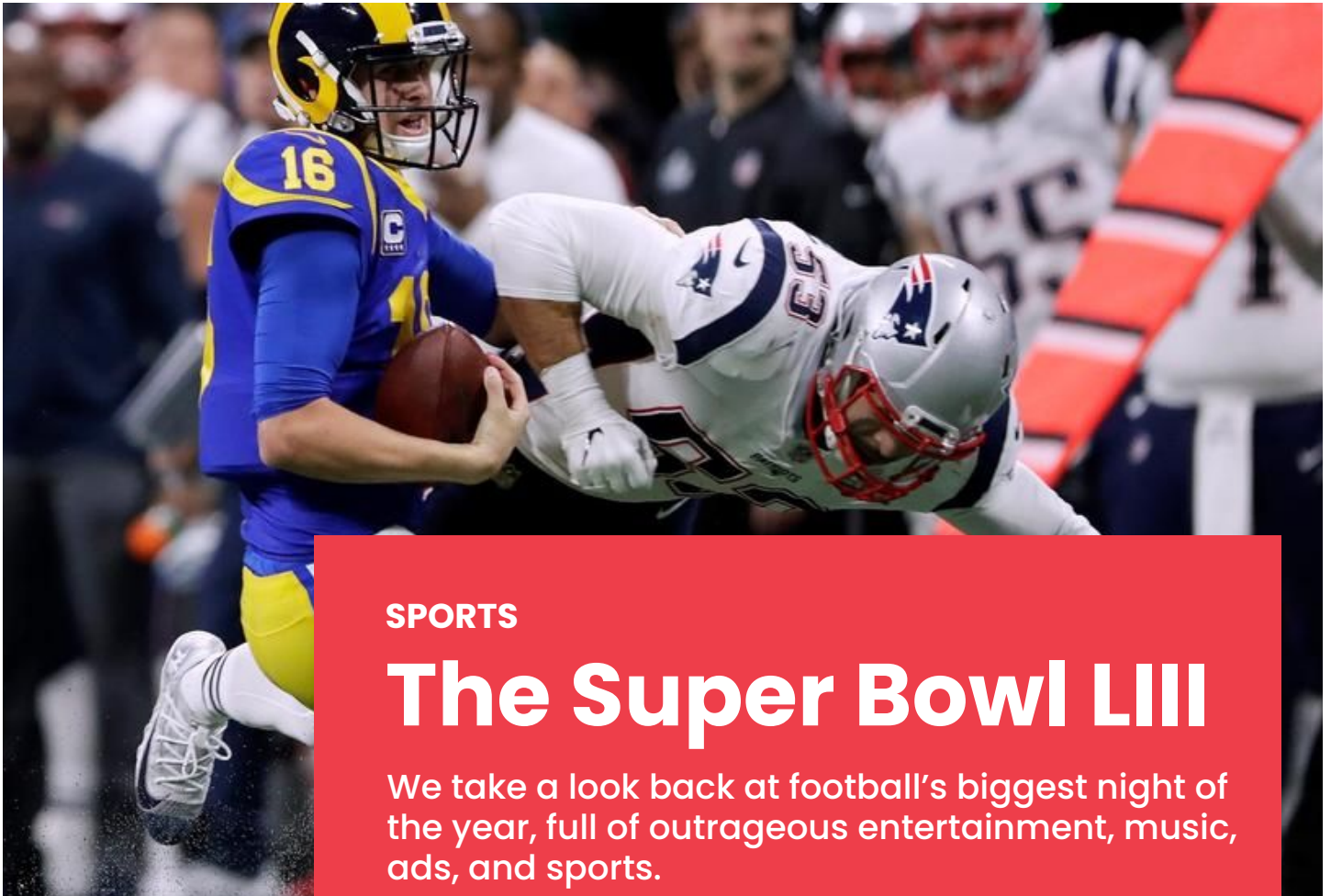
SPORTS

Ancaster High's Swim Team

by Ava Stechley – Writer

Ancaster High's school swim team consisted of 23 students this year and was coached by Ms. Baker. The team had a fun season full of hard practices and 4 exciting meets. Ancaster placed 2nd at the City Championships, a huge accomplishment!

19 swimmers went on to compete at SOSSA at Brock University on Valentine's Day. Our team placed 5th overall at the meet, with 9 Ancaster swimmers qualifying for OFSAA, which will take place this coming March in Toronto! We encourage and look forward to seeing new swimmers come out next year to gain the experience of being part of a tremendous team!



SPORTS

The Super Bowl LIII

We take a look back at football's biggest night of the year, full of outrageous entertainment, music, ads, and sports.

Above: Los Angeles Rams' Jared Goff (16) gets sacked by New England Patriots' Kyle Van Noy (53) during the first half of the Super Bowl football game. (John Bazemore/AP)

by Erika Ehrenberg – *Editor*



WHO: New England Patriots (5x Super Bowl Champions) vs Los Angeles Rams

WHAT: 53rd Super Bowl

WHERE: Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia

WHEN: February 3, 2019

In case you missed it, you didn't miss much. The underwhelming and lackluster halftime show by Maroon 5 matched the boring and uneventful play on the field.

Pregame Breakdown

On January 20th, the LA Rams defeated the New Orleans Saints in overtime after an obvious no-call on a critical play

and then a record-breaking 57-yard field goal to earn their spot in the Super Bowl. On the same day, the NE Patriots went for a three-peat by defeating the Kansas City Chiefs in overtime to head to the Super Bowl once again.

This year's Super Bowl didn't come without controversy. After a turbulent year in the NFL with regards to Colin Kaepernick and the contention of kneeling during the American national anthem, it was no surprise that the biggest night of the season would be affected. Rihanna was initially offered the stage for the iconic Pepsi halftime show, but she turned it down to show support for Kaepernick. Cardi B and P!nk did the same. After weeks with no headliner, Maroon 5 took the gig, but they had a difficult time finding other stars to take the stage alongside them. Eventually, Travis Scott agreed

to perform after he partnered with the NFL to donate \$500,000 to The Dream Corps, and Atlanta native, Big Boi, agreed to perform as well.

The Game

Defence was the highlight of the 53rd Super Bowl from the first quarter on, with neither team seemingly able to produce much offence. Superstar Quarterback Tom Brady of the Patriots and youngster Quarterback Jared Goff were both looking to throw their team to victory, but by the end of the first quarter, the game was scoreless at 0-0. The second quarter was hardly more exciting, but the Patriots managed to earn 3 points off a field goal, and the score was 3-0 after the first half of the game. In the third quarter, the Patriots failed to create offensive drive, but the Rams were able to score a field goal and tie the game 3-3



Above: Adam Levine of Maroon 5 performs during the Pepsi Super Bowl LIII Halftime Show at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium on February 3rd, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. (Maddie Meyer/Getty Images)

going into the fourth quarter. After a bland and unexciting three quarters, the fourth and final quarter of the game finally brought some action. The Patriots broke through the Rams defence and scored their first and only touchdown of the game, and then added another 3 points to their lead with a field goal. Meanwhile, the Rams failed to create any other offence, ultimately allowing the Patriots to become the champions of the 53rd Super Bowl with a final score of 13-3. It is worth noting that it was a record breaking Super Bowl, but not for exciting reasons; it was the lowest-scoring in history, and it was the only one to go into the fourth quarter without a touchdown.

Halftime Show Review

Maroon 5, fronted by Adam Levine, headlined the Pepsi Halftime Show, performing many of their hits. They brought out a diverse gospel group to assist with the performance of *Girls Like You*, and included a drone light show that spelled out the words “One” and “Love”.

Overall, it was fairly unproblematic and safe, but that resulted in a rather unremarkable, bland and dull show. Maroon 5 shared the stage with Travis Scott, who made a dramatic entrance to a

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It is worth noting that it was a record breaking Super Bowl, but not for exciting reasons.

Spongebob Squarepants introduction surrounded by flames. He performed his hit song *Sicko Mode*, and then crowd-surfed out of view; arguably one of most buzzworthy moments of the night. The final guest of the show was Atlanta-native rapper Big Boi, who appeared in a fur coat and had a very short (30 seconds!) performance of *The Way You Move*. Overall, the halftime show was a let-down

from the hype and prestige that it once represented (back when Beyoncé took the stage), however the expectations were low from the beginning. To give credit where credit is due, it avoided being problematic under difficult circumstances, but it also wasn't very memorable or exciting at all.

Some of our favourite Super Bowl LIII commercials:

- Cardi B, Steve Carell, and Lil John for Pepsi
- The NFL's 100th anniversary gala
- Microsoft's 'We All Win' campaign



INTERNALS

Six Days Under

A record number of snow days takes its toll on Ancaster High.

Illustration by Anne Fu

by Emily Outerbridge and Ashley Barry -
Editor-in-Chief and Club Advisor



The last severe ice storm in the Hamilton area was on December 22, 2013. This wild winter storm left thousands of families without power due to the toppling of tree branches and downed power lines across the city for 72 hours, leading into Christmas Day. In this case, most students would have already been out of school and on holiday break, but one can only imagine that this storm would have been a cause for an 'ice day'; maybe even two. Fortunately for those in the Hamilton area, these recent ice storms did not measured up to a city wide power outage, but they definitely made a mark and created unsafe road conditions, resulting in the closing of all schools in the Hamilton area for four days in total.

The first ice storm began on Tuesday, February 5th and continued on through the night, causing both public and Catholic schools, along with many busin-

esses and offices in the Hamilton area, to be closed for the following two days. Throughout the days leading up to the ice storm, the weather office of Environment Canada issued a freezing rain warning for the Hamilton area, predicting that ice pellets would start falling around 7:00 PM Tuesday morning, change to freezing rain by 10:00 AM, and would continue throughout the day. Given the extreme weather warning, the Hamilton community, being accustomed to ice storms in the past and recalling the damage they generate, waited for news on the outcome of the storm and prepared for possible power outages.

On Wednesday morning, with many students, teachers and parents eagerly awaiting the news of a snow day, HWDSB and HWCDSB took to twitter at approximately 6:00 AM announcing the closure of all

buses, schools, administrative buildings and child care centers due to the dangerous conditions of the roadways. Along with the slippery roads, cars, trees and powerlines were cased in a layer of ice, causing branches to fall onto roads, but also making for quite a mystical sight.

With more freezing rain Wednesday evening and early

In 2013, during Hamilton's last severe snowstorm, we received 18-20 cm of snow. This year, it reached 25 cm in some places.

(The Hamilton Spectator



Above: Snow and frost blankets Hamilton trees after the ice storms. (Emily Outerbridge/The Royal Gazette)

Thursday morning, the school boards posted to Twitter once again that schools were closed, giving the Ancaster and Hamilton community two ice days in a row. This proved to be quite exciting for many, but when asked, many students also said that by the second day they were a bit bored.



HWDSB
@HWDSB

All HWDSB schools, administrative buildings and school child care centres are closed today (Feb. 27, 2019) due to significant snowfall and inclement weather. Transportation is cancelled.

3:07 AM - 27 Feb 2019


550

 **426**

By Friday schools were open once again and classes were in session. With a short week for those in the Hamilton area, most were ready to start fresh the following Monday morning. School was once again in progress for all of Monday, but in the early hours of Tuesday morning, the snow and ice began to fall once again. By school time that morning of February 15th, approximately 15 mm of snow and ice had fallen, calling for an ‘ice day’ once again. By this point, it was definite that many students were getting tired of all these days off school, contrary to the traditional stereotype that all kids rejoice at the sound of the words “ice day”.

That being said, there were still a great deal of students who loved the ice days and would love to have many more, but still there were a fair few who felt the opposite way - more than one may expect.

After a few students were asked their opinions on the ice days, there were varying responses. A couple of students responded with the typical

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“At first, I was happy I didn’t have to go to school, and was happy about being able to sleep in. By the third snow day I started to get bored and I had nothing to do.”
Ancaster High Student

responses that one would expect, the first saying, “Honestly, I really enjoyed [the ice days], because I felt like I had more time to get things done. Not that I did get those things done, but it was nice knowing I could if I wanted to.”

The second similarly voiced her opinion, stating that “[she] love[s] snow days, because [students] get to stay home and finish [their] work.”

In contrast, there were also



Below: A snowy path winding through a forest, created by the city's ice storms, makes a magical sight.
(Emily Outerbridge/The Royal Gazette)

a few students who felt differently. "At first, I was happy I didn't have to go to school and was happy about being able to sleep in. By the third snow day I started to get bored and I had nothing to do. On the fourth day I wondered why it was an ice day. I was bored and was ready to get back to school." This quote shows that, though snow days are exciting at first, they can get a bit boring and uneventful when they are occurring more often and in close proximity. There is also the more major issue of falling behind in school and teachers not having enough time to cover all the content needed in the shorter span of time. It may surprise some how much school really matters to the majority of students.

This was made clear by one student who was interviewed, stating, "It was nice the first couple ones but now I feel like we are getting way behind on things." There is quite a contrast between the different responses from various students. Some seem like they are very productive on their days off, while others are not or cannot be because they do not have access to their work. This was the case with one student, who said, "I find the snow days enjoyable, but only the mornings because I get to sleep in. After

the morning's over there's nothing to do so I'm bored for the rest of the day and usually end up re-watching Netflix episodes."

One of Ancaster High's staff members, Madame Toor, was also asked about a teacher's outlook on the snow days, to which she responded, "Although the snow days and ice days have been necessary for the safety of staff and students, there are certainly many challenges we face in the aftermath. One of those being the need to catch up on lost time! Teachers now need

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"Although the snow days and ice days have been necessary for the safety of staff and students, there are certainly many challenges we face in the aftermath. Teachers now need to condense necessary course material."

Madame Toor

to condense necessary course material, students have less time to absorb it, and evaluations are much closer together." One particular student had a very different outlook on the ice days which was outside of the typical snow day responses, and was more targeted at the overall outcome of not physically being at Ancaster High. They stated, "I was happy because going to Ancaster High is a constant health and safety hazard. I feel this way because the water is yellow and none of the water fountains work. On the snow days teachers also assigned work to be done, so it was not like we were missing out on our education."

Overall, there were varying responses and opinions about the snow days from different students and staff members. The common theme was that many students enjoyed the break at first, but after one or two snow days they were ready to return to school and continue their education. Even so, there was definitely some severe contrast between some of the answers received from students. This goes to show that not all high school students are eager to get out of school all the time, and many more than one might think could actually enjoy school. Who would have thought?

FEATURE

The Deception of Award Show Victory

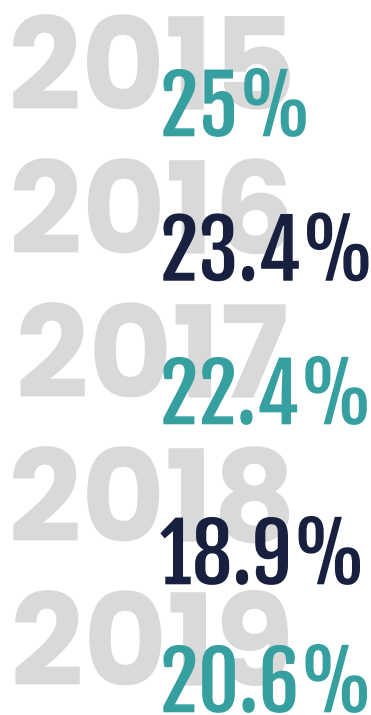
Big, dazzling award shows have been a staple of global entertainment for decades. But is it possible that it is all just a sham?

Illustration by Anne Fu

by Emily Outerbridge -
Editor-in-Chief

The gowns have been sewn and the suits fitted. Calls are made, offers are presented, gift baskets are sent, and the limestone pathway to victory has been paved once again for the eager to win Hollywood stars. The Oscars, Golden Globes, and Grammys are just a few award show ceremonies that congratulate stars on their talents, but there is one question that many viewers are longing to have answered: are all the wins deserved?

Campaigning for votes for the sake of award shows has be-



In 2019, the Academy Awards hit its third lowest TV rating in history - a step up from 2018, which was its lowest ever.

en an intrinsic element of the game from the very beginning - from the very first Academy Awards Ceremony back in 1929, all the way until the most recent Oscars on February 24th, 2019. Though many would choose to believe otherwise, bribery and

“[The Oscars’ voters are] 90 percent white men over 70 who need money because they haven’t done anything in a long time. You just need to give them two or three presents and they’re in your pocket.”

*Oscars Nominee
Julia Delpy*

prejudices may have sometimes been the true grounds for undeserved victory at Hollywood’s most beloved award shows.

The first example of this bribery began all the way back in 1929 with actress Mary Pickford. At this time, the award winners were chosen by a small group of only five judges, and Pickford used this to her advantage. After her acting and the movie itself, “Coquette”, were very poorly received, Pickford was determined to not let this stand in the way of her Best Actress Award. She decided to invite the fivesome over to her grand estate and mansion for tea. This action seemingly paid off, as Pickford was in fact named Best Actress at the 1929 Academy Awards. The protest of this obvious bribery led to the opening of voting to all Academy Members. This did not mean that voters could not still be bribed and cajoled, but it made it much harder since there were many more of them. Thereafter, there was still plenty of bribery and semi-unfair campaigning going on. In 1940, after “Gone With The Wind” won for best picture the previous year, David O. Selznick was eager to add another Academy Award to his collection with his new movie, “Rebecca” directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With this movie being released in the March of 1940, Selznick

feared that there were many other new releases that would be more fresh in the minds of voters when it came to the time of the next Oscars. With this in mind, Selznick rented out a Hollywood theatre closer to the dates that voting would commence, and premiered “Rebecca” for a second time, ensuring that the movie was once again prominent in the running. It is not confirmed whether this really did make the huge difference that was intended, but it definitely did not hurt, as “Rebecca” received best picture at the 1941 Academy Awards. These are just two of the many instances where bribery and campaigning caused people to overlook the true quality of the entertainment that was being considered in the first few decades of the Academy Awards.

In more recent years, it has been brought to people’s attention that the majority of voters in the academy are old, white men, which may have an influence on the winners of the awards based on their various prejudices. In 2014, Oscar nominee Julia Delpy voiced her opinion on the matter, stating,



Hollywood movies can spend \$100-500 million on campaigning to Oscars judges.

(BBC News)

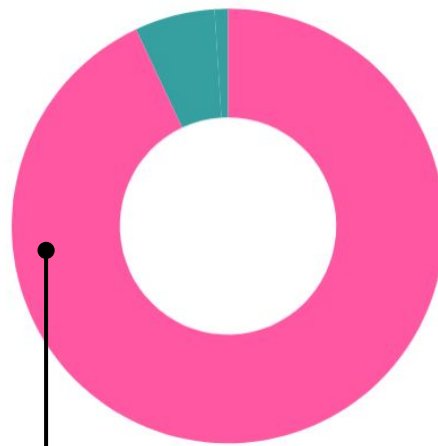
“It’s 90 percent white men over 70 who need money because they haven’t done anything in a long time. You just need to give them two or three presents and they’re in your pocket.” In years closer to present day, the bribery and campaigning have not been as prominent as they used to be. The leading issues in more recent years have been racist and sexist prejudices. In 2016, for the second year in a row, all 20

nominees for the lead and supporting actor categories were white, and it did not go unnoticed. This controversy sparked the twitter hashtag #OscarsSoWhite, which was used by celebrities and viewers all over the world to show their disapproval of the all-white nominees. Shortly after the 2016 nominees were announced, famous Oscars recipient Spike Lee wrote on Instagram, "My wife, Mrs. Tonya Lewis Lee and I will not be attending the Oscars ceremony this coming February. We cannot support it." This was just one of many prominent celebrities who took a stand against this prejudice and exclusion.

Along with that, there is the profound issue of sexism. Though this has also improved over the years, it did take an unreasonable amount of time, and is still in need of improvement. At this year's Oscars, many noticed that there was a very low number of women nominated for the Best Directing category. Director Patty Jenkins spoke out about this, saying, "I have no idea. I'll tell you this: The Academy is working on this, but the real

particularly for director, are people who have been successful as directors. So who is that? That's where this pool [of nominees] is coming from. All of these votes are being made by the same people."

That said, since 2016 the Academy has improved their methods of nomination and

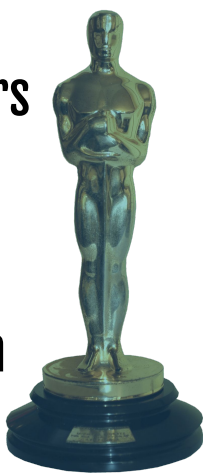


93% of Oscars lead actors are white (6% Black, 1% Asian)

(The Academy Awards Database)

Crews often pay off Oscars consultants to get the voters interested in their movie.

(BBC News)



issue to me is that at the end of the day, no matter what movie you make and no matter how much money it makes, and no matter how diverse the audience is, the voting academy is still very, very limited. Still!" Jenkins explained that she believes a change in the voting base would be necessary in order to make any change in this bias, as she stated, "As hard as the Academy is working on it, the vast majority of voters,

many more people of colour and women have been nominated than any other years before. For example, since 1990, the percentage of women nominated for Oscars has gone up by 5%. Depending on which way you look at it, that could be a very empowering development, or a disappointingly small development. Even so, this year's Oscars proved to show a lot of acceptance and diversity among the winners. Rami Malek earned the Best Actor award for his role as Freddie Mercury in the film "Bohemian Rhapsody", and was the first best actor of Arab heritage. In his acceptance speech, he acknowledged this, saying, "I am the son of immigrants from Egypt. I am a first generation American, and part of my story is being written right now and I could not be more grateful." Malek was just one of the several actors and actresses from diverse backgrounds who were awarded

this year at the Academy Awards. Overall, the Academy has definitely made substantial developments in the diversity among the nominees, however it is up for debate whether or not the changes have made enough of a difference. For two consecutive years, all twenty nominees were white, and now for three years it has not been that way, but who is to say what the years to come will bring.

In closing, it is very clear that at one point or another there has been bribery, prejudice and inequality in the granting of Academy Awards. It is clear now that the judges cannot be as easily swayed by money and fancy houses, but that is not to say that it does not happen from time to time. The number of people on the Board of Judges has increased substantially since the very beginning of the Academy Awards, and there is without a doubt a lot more diversity across the board, as well as among the nominees themselves. Changes are being made, and results are being seen, but there is still the question of whether or not the Academy Awards and other award shows will ever be completely just and fair. Though countless people may choose not to believe it, the fight for an honourable, upright and equitable voting system in award shows is still ongoing, and may be a work in progress for a long time to come.

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Though countless people may choose not to believe it, the fight for an honourable, upright and equitable voting system in award shows is still ongoing.



REVIEWS

ISU Book Recommendations

It can be hard picking out a book for it that can both lend itself to analysis, and not bore you out of your mind, but luckily, we've made it a little easier.

by Sabrina Cagampan – *Writer*

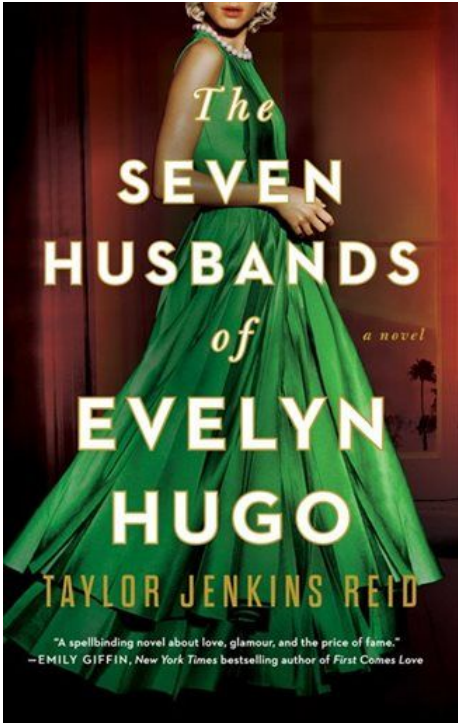


If you know me, you would know that there are two things that I love in this world: fictional creative works and over-thinking things. In other words, I really enjoyed writing an ISU. Though, one of my least favourite things was actually

choosing what book to study. There are the fears of accidentally choosing a book with not a lot to comment on, that you'll be stuck with a book you don't enjoy, or fall out-of-love with a book overtime because of an overs-

aturation of the text over several months of analysis (my personal fear). But do not fret!

As someone who is an avid reader, here are some novels that I've read that I think are perfect for an ISU.



The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo Taylor Jenkins Reid

Evelyn Hugo is one of my favourite books of all time and is always at the top of my recommendation lists. This adult-historical fiction gem follows Evelyn Hugo, a former 60s Hollywood star (who infamously had been married to seven different men), who enlists no-name reporter Monique Grant to write a tell-all memoir about Evelyn's long kept private life. While they are writing their biography, there are two questions that Monique is determined get answers to: "Who was Evelyn's true love?" and "Why did Evelyn only want her to write the memoir?"

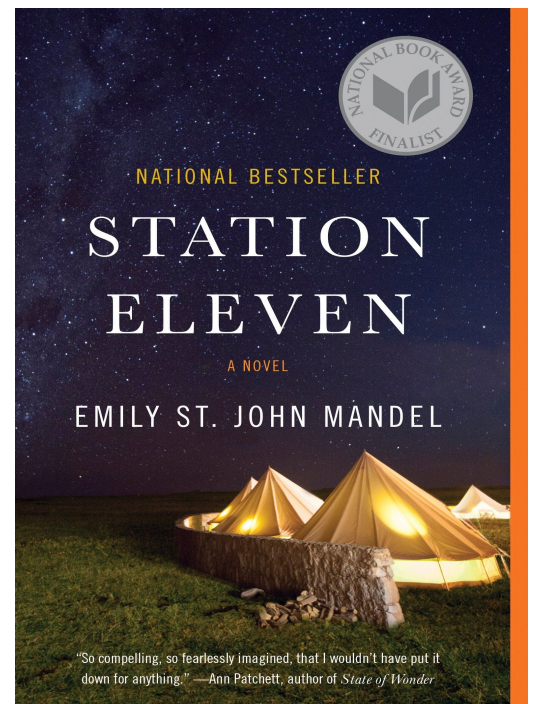
Featuring some of the most thought provoking commentary on relationships (romantic and platonic), identity, femininity and a vibrant cast of compelling characters, there guarantees to be plenty to comment on (especially if you apply a feminist lens). In addition, *Evelyn Hugo* proves to be especially relevant to the current climate of Hollywood with discussion about the discrimination of minorities and treatment of women.

Station Eleven

Emily St. John Mandel

This story is set on two timelines: before and after a flu wipes out a substantial amount of the world's population. We follow several characters before and during the collapse of civilization as they adjust to their new world, and a travelling theatre company twenty years after The Collapse that travel town-to-town performing Shakespeare.

Station Eleven has a lot to unpack with its large ensemble cast, unique plot structure and world building, which guarantees there will be plenty to comment on. Featuring interwoven character plots, it is a story about humanity and our relationships with one another. I also enjoy that Emily St. John Mandel is a Canadian author, which you can clearly see as there are parts of the story set in Toronto and Southern Ontario.

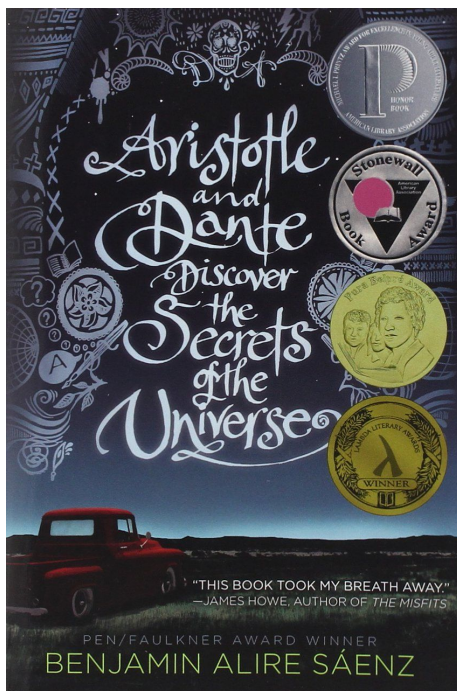


Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Another of my favourites, this near-universally acclaimed YA slice-of-life story is set in the 80s and follows these two Mexican American men named Aristotle and Dante and their friendship. The story is almost entirely character driven through the boys' friendship, and showcases their struggles with racial, ethnic and sexual identity, masculinity and family relationships. The novel also features discussion of philosophical themes such as intellectualism and artistic expression.

Though the story is simple, the themes are complex and fleshed out through Sáenz's poetic use of language. Throughout the book it becomes very clear why this book has been awarded numerous accolades for its Latino and LGBTQ+ representation. I would also recommend reading about the life of Benjamin Alire Sáenz and how writing fiction like this has impacted his life.

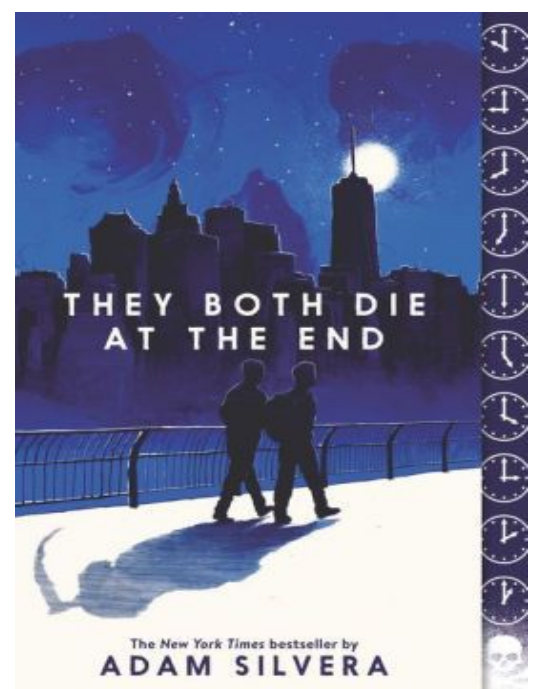


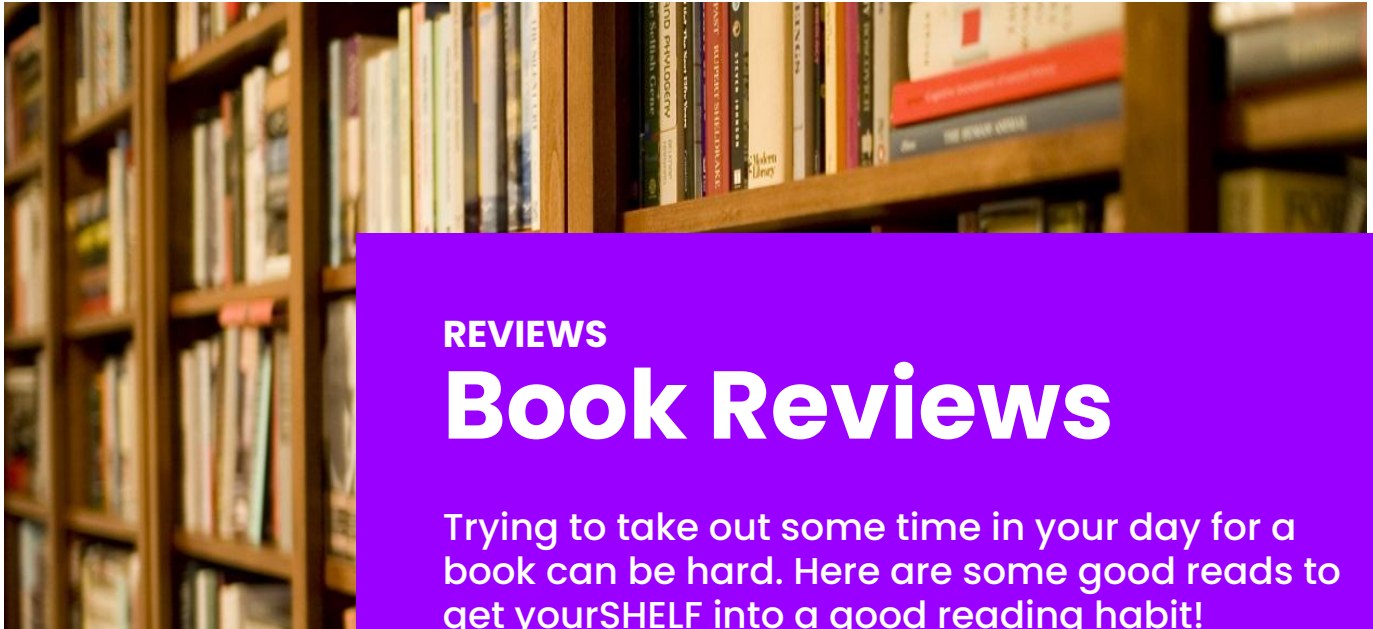
They Both Die at the End

Adam Silvera

This is the book I read for my 9th grade ISU. This book is set in a world where there is a service that contacts people to tell them that they are going to die within the next 24 hours. After 17-year-old Rufus and Mateo are told they are going to die, they meet through the "Last Friend" app and the two strangers try to live an entire lifetime in a single day.

In my ISU, I commented on how the events of the story took a toll on the characters psychologically, on the inner workings of this fictional society and on the interesting plot structure (e.g. know how the book is going to end from the title). Though, this is definitely a book where you have to read between the lines to find material, but I assure you that it is there and that I was very successful using this book as my ISU!



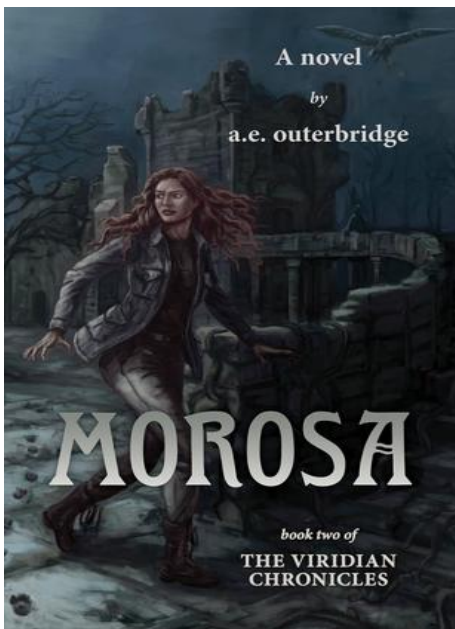


REVIEWS

Book Reviews

Trying to take out some time in your day for a book can be hard. Here are some good reads to get yourSHELF into a good reading habit!

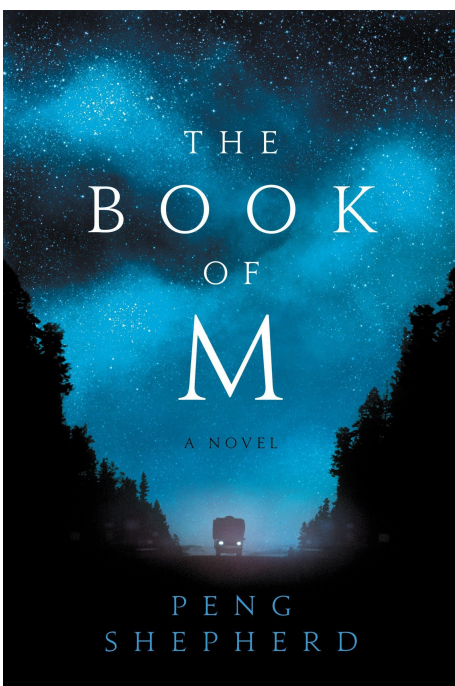
by Gabriel Farion– *Writer*



Morosa

A.E. Outerbridge

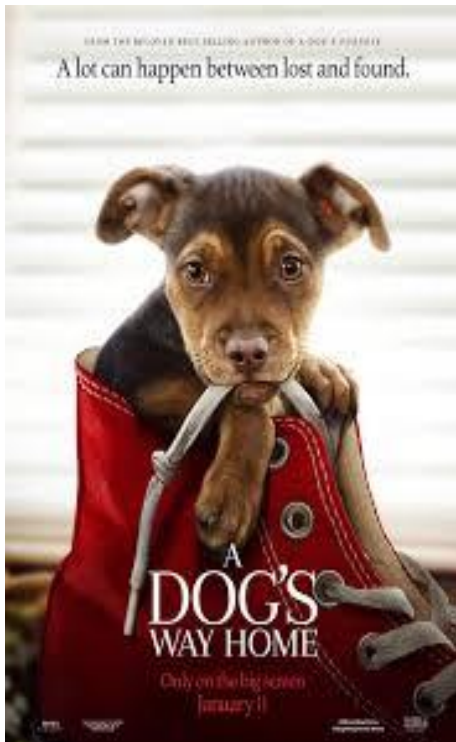
The sequel to Liornabella, Morosa, written by A. E. Outerbridge, delivers another spectacular look into the Viridian Chronicles series. Elle O’Sullivan attends Caillagh University in Morosa to compete in the Zenithal Cup. But just like last year in Liornabella, she does not know what she’s getting into. Her arrival into Morosa has caused ancient secrets and magic to come to the surface, putting Elle and her friends in danger. As she adjusts to her new life, and newfound powers, the vampire Valdis Lockheart has taken to trying to track down Elle. This book takes you on an adrenaline filled journey, throughout the mythical world of the Viridian Isles, and will keep you hooked right up until the end.



The Book of M

Peng Shepherd

This book is a highly underrated piece of fiction. It is set in the present day, with one very big difference: people around the world are starting to lose their shadows. It starts just like any other disease, with one infected person, and slowly it spreads to other countries. This would not be much of an issue if the loss of shadows was just that, but with the absence of a shadow, people’s memories also begin to fade until they are completely gone. This new author, Peng Shepherd, takes you deep into a new world of fantastic powers and confusion. As you get deeper into the story, you find yourself not knowing who to fight for, or who will be victorious.



REVIEWS

Movie Review: A Dog's Way Home

A heartwarming family-friendly adventure about a human's best friend, filled with love and emotion and based on the book by W. Bruce Cameron

by Anika Kanagaretnam – *Writer*



A *Dog's Way Home* is an interesting movie about a man's best friend. The movie is based on a dog named Bella and is told from her perspective and showcases all her thoughts. She is a pitbull who gets adopted by a young man named Lucas who lives in Denver. Many people may not know this, but pitbulls are actually banned in Denver. Throughout the film, Bella gets separated from Lucas and has to experience living in the real world without her owner, and she figures out how to cope with all the obstacles life throws at her.

This film shows human kindness, as well as the opposite. It demonstrates how people can be kind, but also cruel. Next, it also portrays reality very well. It shows the not-so-good side of reality that we sometimes tend to avoid. For example, the fact that pitbulls are not allowed in Denver. All the people Bella meets along the way give a truthful understanding of reality that adds to the uniqueness and originality of the film.

There were some features that caused the film to feel dra-

gged out and predictable sometimes, but overall it was quite a compelling movie. It is difficult to make a captivating film when the plot can be obvious at times. However, the movie was very emotional and there were parts that were effective, which made it more exciting. Another element that I enjoyed in *A Dog's Way Home* was how we were able to hear and experience what the thoughts of a dog could be like. At first I wasn't sure if that would work well, but I really appreciated the addition of being able to hear what Bella was thinking.

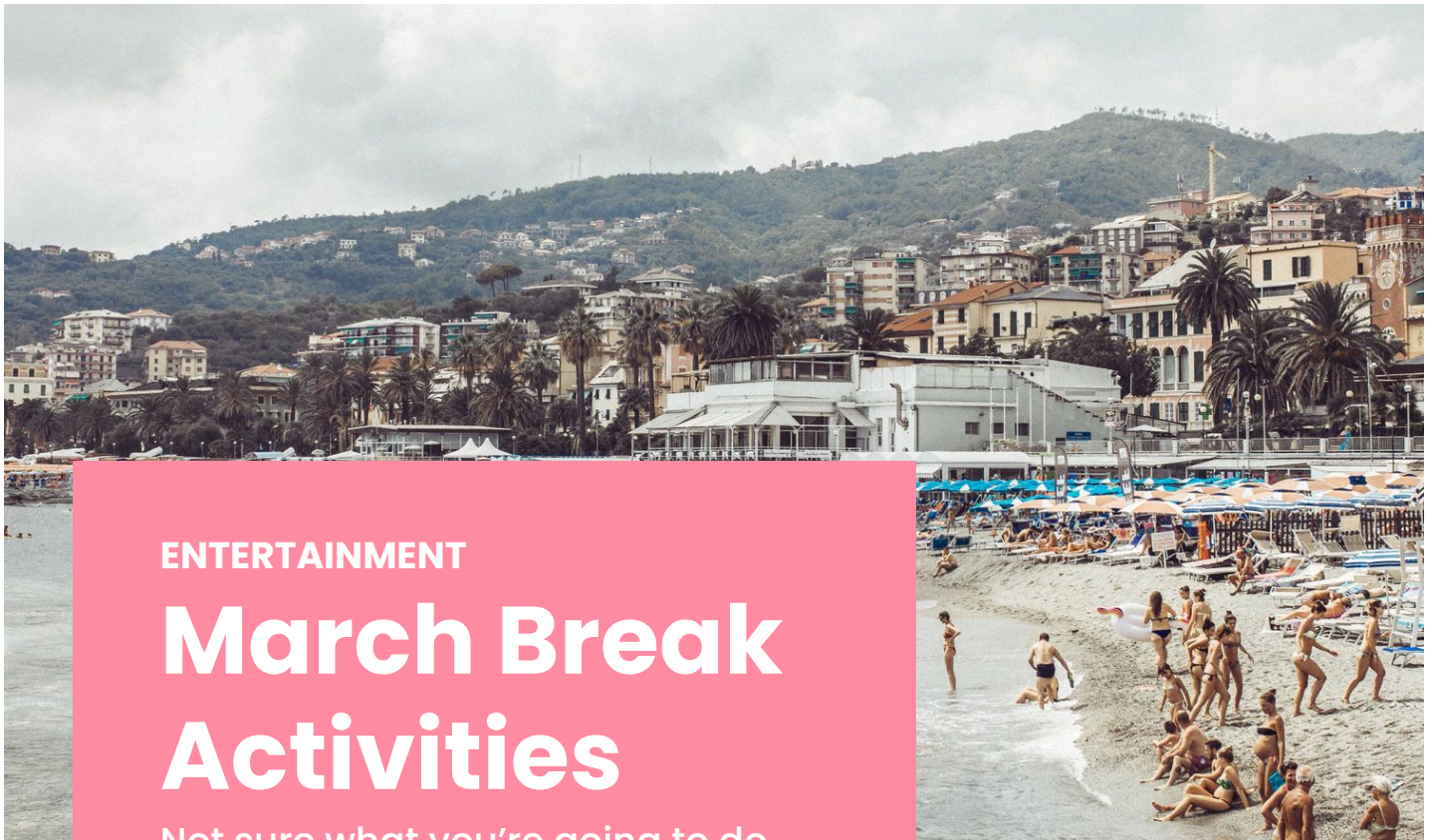
This movie is especially aimed towards dog lovers. Although

some people may be skeptic about movies like these, if it sounds intriguing to you, it just may be worth the watch. All in all, *A Dog's Way Home* is a touching film with a great storyline and a wonderful ending.

“

***A Dog's Way Home* is a touching film with a great storyline and a wonderful ending.**

61%
Rotten
6.5/10
3/5
Common
Sense
Media



ENTERTAINMENT

March Break Activities

Not sure what you're going to do this spring break? We have you covered.

by Erika Ehrenberg – *Editor*



With one blissful week of school-free days ahead, how are you planning on spending it? Here are 10 ideas to make the most of your March break.

Try a new hobby

Return from the break with a new skill to impress your friends. Here are some ideas:

- Baking
- Learning how to play an instrument
- Dancing
- Painting
- Drawing
- Writing
- Learning a new language
- Learn a new sport
- Juggling

Get your volunteer hours

No matter what grade you're in, it's never too early (or late) to earn some volunteer hours (remember, you need 40 to graduate and get your diploma). Many organizations and associations are always lo-

oking for an extra set of hands, so send some emails, make some calls, and get connected.

Catch up on homework and get ahead on projects/assignments

It's still early in the semester, and it's an important time to stay on top of your school work. Use the week off to organize your notes and catch up on homework or assignments if you're a little behind. If you're totally caught up, it's always beneficial to get ahead on studying and upcoming assignments. Your future self will thank you!

Refresh and practice self care

This break from school is the perfect time to relax, check in with your physical, mental, and emotional health, and practice self-care. Some ideas are to get a manicure, massage, or hair cut, develop a skincare routine, drink extra water and get a good night's sleep.

Go skating

Whether it's on an outdoor pond or rink or indoors at an area, lace up your skates and step on the ice! Make the most of the cold weather we have left and take some cute pics for the 'gram.

Start watching a new show

Netflix, Hulu, Crave, Amazon TV, cable... need I say more? Here are some classic must-watch series' to binge if you haven't yet:

- *The Office*
- *Grey's Anatomy*
- *Friends*
- *Stranger Things*
- *Orange is The New Black*
- *Black Mirror*
- *Breaking Bad*

Read a new book

Picture this: a cozy blanket, a cup of a drink of choice, and a great book. Relax, unwind, and get lost in another world for a

a few hours. Some must-reads include:

- *The Hate You Give*
- *The Perks Of Being A Wallflower*
- *I'll Give You The Sun, Everything Everything*
- *To All The Boys I've Loved Before*
- *Uglies*

Exercise

Try and get at least 30 minutes of exercise in each day, even if it's just going for a walk. If you're up for it, set a fitness

goal for the end of March break and work all week for it.

Clean your closet and donate or sell

Spring is around the corner, and it is the perfect time to go through your closet! Decide which winter clothes you won't be wearing again next year and try on your spring/summer clothes to see what still fits and what you'd want to wear. Try and sell your gently used clothes at Plato's Closet for some extra cash, or donate them at various

donation centres including Value Village.

Go on a day trip

Just because you're not on a luxury cruise through the Carribean or soaking up the sun on a beach in Mexico doesn't mean your March break has to be dull! We're only a one hour drive from Toronto, the home of hundreds of tourist hotspots, and an hour in the opposite direction to Buffalo, NY, for an international road trip! Grab your family or some friends and take a day trip!

NEWS//FLASH



ARTS

Concert Band's 59 Minute Fundraiser

by Sabrina Cagampan and Ashley Smith - Writers

The AHS Concert Band will be holding a “59 Minute Fundraiser” to gain funding for fun band trips, new sheet music, and other exciting band affairs that the Musical Arts Association is planning. Instead of your typical food fundraiser, ours is going to be a little more interesting. The band will only have 59 minutes to sell as much popcorn as possible to friends and family via phone, almost like a telethon, and will be a competition between the students, with rewards to be won for the student that sells the most.

The 59 Minute Fundraiser will take place in the music room on March 26th during lunch from 11:05 to 12:05. If you are interested in buying popcorn or have questions about the event, please see Ms. Wylie or email one of the Musical Arts Association members. As well, if you are in band and would like to sell and compete in the competition, please contact our MAA members during our rehearsals beforehand, or Ms. Wylie during the school day.

will be selling specifically Papa Jack popcorn in the flavours of: Butter, White Cheddar, Dill, and Sweet and Salty. The price is \$20 for five bags of popcorn, each bag being 70 grams of popcorn. The popcorn is peanut free, and is made in a peanut free factory, so you don't have to worry if anyone has any peanut allergies. Again, if you would like to participate in the fundraiser, or have any questions, contact either Ms. Wylie, Sabrina Cagampan, or Ashley Smith.

The AHS Concert Band

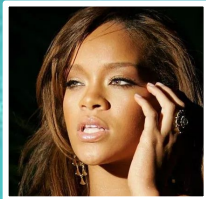
HOROSCOPES

PISCES ♓

(February 19 - March 20)

It's Pisces season! The Royal Gazette wishes Happy Birthday to all of our Pisces readers! Pisces tend to like being alone, but this month you should definitely try and be a bit more social. It's predicted an exciting new experience will take place for you if you do so. Lucky numbers: 12, 18, 46

Are you a Pisces? So are these celebrities:



Rihanna



George Washington



Justin Bieber

VIRGO ♍

August 23 - September 22

Virgo, now that a stressful time has passed, you must refocus on things you missed out on with studying. A new friendship will come from a rediscovered passion. Lucky numbers: 9, 14, 96

LEO ♌

July 23 - August 22

This month, Leo, you should focus on what matters most in your life, for it is foreseen that you will find great reward and new joy upon doing so. Lucky numbers: 5, 23, 87

CANCER ♋

June 21 - July 22

Cancers are known to be empathetic and understanding people. Due to this, you'll be asked by your friend Scorpio for help this month. Lucky numbers: 13, 24, 35

CAPRICORN ♑

December 22 - January 19

Excellent news, ambitious Capricorn. Something you have dreamed of for a long time will finally come to pass this month. Lucky numbers: 12, 34, 100

TAURUS ♉

April 20 - May 20

You've been finding it difficult to settle into your new semester. This month's wisdom is: always look on the bright side of life. Lucky numbers: 77, 81, 92

SAGITTARIUS ♐

November 22 - December 21

Bads news for you, Sagittarius. Though you just experienced a difficult time in January, more stresses will come this month. Better luck in April, pal! Lucky numbers: 17, 26, 42

By Sophie Hughes and Olivia Pasian

♈ ARIES

March 21 - April 19

Love is certainly in the air for you, Aries! It has been predicted that something romantic will occur for you this March. Keep a lookout for any secret admirers... Lucky numbers: 8, 21, 33

♏ SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

An interesting predicament will befall you this month, but if you make the correct choice when handling the situation, you will be rewarded. If you do not, things will become considerably worse. Good luck! Lucky numbers: 19, 37, 84

♊ GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Gemini: It can be hard for you to follow through on things and you're known for being unreliable, but this month overcoming this will be crucial. Don't let it block you from new possibilities. Lucky numbers: 8, 12, 26

♎ LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

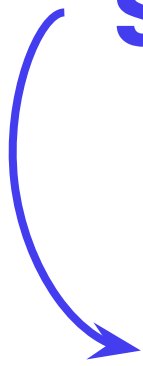
A new year has come, and it has been predicted that many other new things will come with it. Embrace the change, Libra, and you will discover something new about yourself. Lucky numbers: 6, 16, 72

♒ AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

This star sign is known for their progressive mindset and strong independence, however, this month collaboration will be key. Lucky numbers: 6, 10, 102

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Editor-in-Chief

Emily Outerbridge

Club Advisor

Ashley Barry

Graphic Designers

Anne Fu

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Jason Amri

Illustrators

Anne Fu

Supervising Teachers

Mrs. Bentham

Mr. Sheeler

Writers

Ashley Barry

Sabrina Cagampan

Erika Ehrenberg

Gabriel Farion

Anne Fu

Celia Harrison

Sophie Hughes

Anika Kanagaratnam

Maddy Kearns

Emily Outerbridge

Olivia Pasian

Ananya Singh

Ashley Smith

Ava Stechey

Contact Us



@ahsroyalgazette



gazetteroyal@gmail.com



royalgazette.ca

Join us.

Wednesdays

Room 205 (2036)