



The Sequitur

WESTDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2016

What the heck is Triune, anyway?

An introduction to Westdale's student council

By: Julia K. Watson

Westdale's Student Triune is back again this year and better than ever! With so many strong willed individuals, it's hard to not be inspired by all positive energy and ambition that everyone has.

I would like to humbly introduce myself as Triune's Public Relations Coordinator. It is my job to promote Triune events and post on all of the Triune's social media accounts. Triune is very grateful to have an extraordinary cabinet full of hardworking and diligent students who strive to make Westdale even better than it already is. The incredible student Senators are Corbin McBride and Hanif Karim. They will be meeting with representatives from other schools at the HWDSB student senate, to represent the voice of Westdale.

Our Triune meetings have amazing representation from each grade. The elected members for each grade are Amman Waheed (grade 9 rep), Ruby Hye (grade 10 rep), Theodor Aoki (grade 11 rep) and Mahir Khandaker (grade 12 rep). (**Triune** is continued on **page 4**)

In this issue . . .



. . . commentary on the LRT debate . . .

. . . a beautiful student poetry page . . .

*. . . It turns out colour is not so delightful after all; /
It cuts like a knife, / And cracks like a whip, / And
stifles like a gag, / And shoots like a gun / And the
currents of segregation / Always run. . .*



. . . a Halloween Fun & Games section . . .

AND SO MUCH MORE!



OUR TEAM

In this issue:

Editor-in-chief: Morghen Jael

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@SequiturWSS



GET IN TOUCH!

Visit Ms. B in room 209 for information, or email us at thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com

We meet occasionally in room 209, and snacks sometimes make a surprise appearance! Come check us out!

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WE NEED. . .

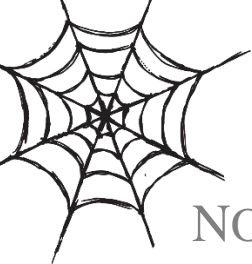
The Sequitur

- ☐ Journalists
- ☐ Reporters
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- ☐ Outside-the-box thinkers
- ☒ YOU!



Be part of Westdale’s hottest student-run publication! We always welcome new contributors!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS: Stay tuned in the coming weeks and months for fundraisers and events run by The Sequitur! We’re looking at a clothing-swap (only 5 bucks for unlimited access!) and a Kernels popcorn sale, to name a few! More details to come.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Halloween is finally here! It's my absolute favourite time of the year (What? Better than Christmas? *Gasp*. How unholy of me). It's true, though; there's something special about the way October feels as it whips through my hair, crunches under my feet, and paints my imagination with swaths bright orange and deep, rich black. October feels tangible and exhilarating, and we're in the thick of it, right now.

To me, October is Fall at its best. Fall is the smells of cinnamon and nutmeg swirling together with wafts of warm, rich coffee at a downtown café. Fall is the crunch of freshly roasted pumpkin seeds, just out of the oven. Fall is digging my beloved old combat boots and snugly oversized hoodies out from the depths of my family's downstairs closet. Fall is watching B-grade horror movies on my best friend's couch at midnight, curled up in blankets and predicting which characters will die first. Fall is screaming about a thousand decibels higher than you're willing to accept your voice could go as you navigate through an ear-piercing, strobe-lit haunted house. October is what I consider to be the epitome of Fall, and Fall is something magical.

This issue of Westdale's student-run newspaper is full of Autumn goodies to delight your figurative tastebuds. We've got an October-themed Fun & Games page (crossword puzzle, here I come!). We've got a spooky short story, complete with an abandoned old house and glowing eyes staring out from a dark corner. We've even got two different but equally perfect Fall-vibe playlists (not one, but TWO! You heard me right).

This month, I could practically hear the air buzzing with excitement and ambition at Westdale – the Terry Fox walk was unprecedentedly spirited, Triune meetings have been so packed with eager students that I was once forced to eat my lunch standing up, and more and more students (even the insecure little grade nines – kidding) are loading up their schedules with all kinds of extracurriculars. Most encouraging of all though, particularly to us here at The Sequitur, is seeing people stop in the entrance of the library to obey the "Take One" sign, watching people snatch up all the copies of the September Issue from the English classrooms within days, noticing people reading the paper together in the cafeteria at lunch. I've had people say to me, "What?! Westdale has a school paper?" I tell them, "Yessir, and we're only getting bigger!" I love how I can say that now with not just cautious hope, but with complete certainty.

So while you read the paper this month, take with you this simple yet profound life truth: enjoy yourself. Take a minute to look up from your phone and out the window at the beautiful display of Fall around us. It isn't going to last, I promise – before we know it, the temperatures will be dropping like the leaves from the trees. Enjoy the Halloween festivities, keep an open mind and a light heart, and watch out for the Boogeyman (don't look above you). Bet you couldn't resist peeking at the ceiling to check just there.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Halloween,

Morghen Jael

Morghen Jael



Triune continued from page 1:

Triune is another word for trinity, which means “three existing as one” and the heads of Triune strive to do just that. The two wonderful Vice-Presidents are Dee Mills and Sam Mills who collaborate together in order to help the President plan and oversee all Triune meetings and events. Our unbelievably hardworking President is Tony Wang. He represents the entire student body and is the main voice of the students. Together, they work tirelessly to make sure Triune is running smoothly and making Westdale a better school to be at.

So far Triune has put together some awesome events such as the Terry Fox Walk, the Club Fair and Grade 9 Day. We wouldn't have been able to pull it off without our amazing volunteers and we'd like to thank them for their help. Currently, we are in the works of starting to plan the most anticipated event of the year: The Winter Semi- Formal. It's time to pull out your dresses and tuxes and get ready to have the most memorable formal yet!

Triune has a meeting every Wednesday at lunch in room 212. All students are invited to join in and get their voices heard! We are always looking for general members to help us with planning activities/events and to voice their opinions, new members are always welcomed with open arms. If you do not want to go to the meeting but want to share your opinions/ideas then feel free to approach any elected member of Triune. Or, you can always follow and comment on Twitter @WestdaleTriune and on Instagram @official_westdale_triune.

Triune looks forward to making this year the most unforgettable school year yet!

Crackers and Cheese: Just a Tasty Snack? – Theodor Aoki

WELLBEING – TIPS FROM TEDDY

No, this is not about Christmas cookies. Where did you get that idea?

Saltines and Graham crackers have one thing in common. They are both crackers.

Stilton and Gorgonzola have one thing in common. They are both round.

But what does this mean in 2016? Aren't crackers and cheese simply cultural constructions onto which we project our own fears and insecurities? There are no more crackers, no more cheese; there is now only Crackers and Cheese.

When the world ends what will you take with you to Mars? Crackers and Cheese? How basic. How sad. Lonely little Crackers and Cheese dancing in a line on the marble top counters chanting for your blood.

Don't take any of my words to heart. They may get stuck in your aorta, and I've grown fond of you.

The little ducklings eat your crackers but what you don't know is that they break into your house at night while you sleep to eat your cheese. Don't feed ducklings cheese. Don't leave your door open for ducklings.

In the great year of 2010 Stromae released an album entitled Cheese. Give it a listen.

The revolution is starting with or without you. Will you be the one eating Crackers and Cheese or the one complaining about it in your tidy little group forum on Wikipedia?

In summary: Ducks with teeth.

For future reference: If you want to be fly, you can still be walk.



In May of 2016, Dundas four-piece Good Anya released their first EP, titled *Good Effort*, a four-song, dreampop perspective on growing up, breaking up, and everything that comes with the high school experience of an introspective kid. Vocalists Noah Spencer and Zoe Smith exchange lines that deal with the timid first steps of a relationship, the hopelessness one feels after it ends, and the times in between when you have to come to terms with a rocky relationship.

“Big Mistake” - The first song on the EP and sung mainly by Noah Spencer, “Big Mistake” is a strong opener, with Noah telling an intriguing, relatable story about trying to make a good first impression on a date. Alongside Noah’s vocals is a soundscape of outdoors-y soundbytes as well as one of the more upbeat melodies on the EP. The lyrics follow a tale of a failed attempt to impress a crush, and end with a warning against reckless pursuit of love. Sam Anderson’s drumming and Craig Jackson’s bass playing provide a solid rhythmic background to accompany Zoe’s synth playing and Noah’s happy-sounding vocals.

“Mental Health” - My personal favourite on the EP, this track is about coming to terms with the emotional disaster that comes after a breakup, and finding out how to rely on yourself for emotional support, rather than your significant other. The radio-worthy chorus says just that, and leaves the listener with a feeling of hope, even though the narrator of the lyrics admits to being in “mental hell”. Zoe’s softer background harmonies provide more emotional backstory to Noah’s lyrics. One imagines this song to be a continuation of the story Noah begun at the beginning of the EP, but that is entirely up to the listener’s interpretation.

“Stargazing” - The first intimate portrayal of Zoe Smith’s vocal talents we are allowed is heard in “Stargazing”, the third, and penultimate track on *Good Effort*. “Stargazing” follows the lyrical trend of the EP, focusing on a narrative about a relationship, but this time lyrics come from both perspectives. This song is a less hopeful turn away from “Mental Health”; the subjects of the lyrics are in a relationship that seems to be lacking in a strong emotional connection and don’t seem to be happy together. Noah also provides background vocals on this track and soundbytes similar to the ones heard on “Big Mistake” are present, with children laughing and waves crashing in the background.

“Neighbours (making love)” - The fourth and final song on the EP, “Neighbours” ends with a crash. The upbeat tempo gets listeners ready head-bopping, moshing, air-drumming, or whatever any individual does when a song pulls them in such that they feel the need to express that through their own body, which essentially becomes a performance in itself. This track follows a narrative of a kid feeling socially lost, something that many listeners at our age and possibly any age, can relate to. In the end, the subject of the first-person lyrics, sung by Noah, realized he has to work on being good at being alone, and I think this is a strong message to leave with the listeners, as being okay with being alone is an important thing to learn, and a wise piece of advice to find on a young band’s first four-song release. “Neighbours” feels like the most intimate song on the record, and ends with a seemingly “forgotten about” clip from a studio session after the song ends. Zoe’s (or possibly someone in the studio’s) one line to the drummer, “Hey Sam, it’s over”, ends the song after a one-minute sound clip with the words “stress and anxiety” played over and over again over the residual feedback of the band’s studio performance.

Good Effort continued on page 6. . .



THE MONTHLY MIXTAPE

Playlists created by students just like you
(but with world-class music taste)!

Autumn Acoustics Playlist – Vidhiya Jeyanathan

1. *Berlin* - RY X
2. *Budapest* - George Ezra
3. *Holocene* - Bon Iver
4. *Howling* - Nathan Ball
5. *Mykonos* - Fleet Foxes
6. *Only Love* - Ben Howard
7. *Running with the Wolves* - AURORA
8. *Sedona* - Houndmouth
9. *Smother* - Daughter
10. *The Wait* - Tobias Jesso Jr.

Falling for this Playlist

— Julia K. Watson

1. *Family Friend* - The Vaccines
2. *Part of Me* - Neck Deep
3. *Suburbia* - Troye Sivan
4. *Somebody else* - Clones of Clones
5. *Two Fingers* - Jake Bugg
6. *Jack and Wilson* - Hozier
7. *Falling for you* - The 1975
8. *Taking pictures of you* - The Kooks
9. *Single* - The Neighbourhood
10. *We Won't* - Jaymes Young
11. *Sara* - Fleetwood Mac
12. *The Way You Look Tonight* - Frank Sinatra

Have a song suggestion? Email us at
thesequitor.westdale@gmail.com to let us
know!

THE SEQUITUR IS ON SPOTIFY!

Follow us at [TheSequitor](https://www.spotify.com/playlist/TheSequitor) ☺

You can find these two playlists there,
as well as playlists from past issues and
albums we’ve been reviewing. We’re
constantly updating it, so check back
often!



Good Effort continued from page 5

Good Anya is: Noah Spencer on vocals and rhythm guitar, Craig Jackson on bass, Zoe Smith on vocals and synth, and Sam Anderson on drums. Good Anya play shows around Hamilton and the surrounding area and have opened for artists such as Trunkweed, Black Baron, and lo-fi underdog Alex G from Philadelphia, PA.

Zoe Smith also organizes shows around Hamilton for anyone interested in the music scene here.

Good Anya have both Bandcamp and Soundcloud sites for anyone interested in their music, I strongly suggest you check them out if you've already read this far in the article.

Letter to The Sequitur from St. Mary– Anonymous



Dear Westdale,

First off, Happy Halloween! October is lit.

I'm a grade 11 student from St. Mary Secondary School down the road, and I am writing to you... for no real reason at all. I want to say that no one here is 100% sure whether it's actually Wesdale or Westdale – we always forget. Some people think that there is some sort of competition between our schools, which is ridiculous, considering the fact that all high schools are practically dumps anyway. You're not any better than us, and we're not any better than you.

I was considering going to Westdale, but here's the thing – I don't like indie music and I'm not a rebel. But to be honest, I don't fit in at Mary's either; I'm not rich, I'm not emo, and I'm not a jerk. Oh well.

We are all really the same, anyway: a bunch of copied and pasted faces, cool kids, not so cool kids, and a bunch of others I don't need to mention, because why would I?

High school has always been this way – just one big skeleton war.

Sincerely,

-hoo cairs

P.S. It's not harassment, it's Hugh Mungus.

DEAR A . . .

Advice from the best

Dear A,
What's with the IB kids' obsession with Adderall jokes?
Sincerely,
Adderallics Anonymous

Dear Adderallics Anonymous,

This is more than I signed up for. Are you a part of an HWDSB sting operation? I'm innocent! I don't know anything!

-A



Dear A,
How do I get over my procrastination habits? Everyone else is doing well in school but I just can't get focused...
Sincerely,
Pro Procastinator

Dear PP,
Self-control seems to be a skill that many of today's youth lack, so don't worry, you are not alone. It's important to discover by yourself what it is that is distracting you from completing your work. For most of our generation, the internet is the most culprit. If this is the case for you, consider using the Cold Turkey program (macOS and Windows, free) which blocks you from visiting certain distracting websites for a self-designated amount of time. Another option is the Yelling Mom app (iOS, \$1.99), which makes annoying alarm sounds to alert you to finish a task. Good luck!

-A



Why Donald Trump? Why Now?

Political Commentary – Tara O’Neill

The past year or so has been a crazy election time in the United States. It seems that Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate, has made a political election into a crazy media circus. His lewd and rash statements and many scandals get into the news every week. The political candidate, who started off as a reality TV star and a joke to many people, now has a big following of supporters. Many people have been wondering how Donald Trump could have become a party nominee. Like them, I think there is something wrong with the American political system.

The two US political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, have become very polarized. There is so much hatred between them. Getting things done in the US government is really hard. It is surprising that the American government can even run the country, let alone try to improve it. Obviously some tensions are needed between political parties; that is how different opinions and ideologies are taken into account when making laws. But often the tensions between these two sides stop laws from passing, or changes to be made. For example, President Obama was not able to promote better gun control laws, an important issue in the US, because the congress stopped him. Because the two parties are so polarized, people are clinging to their own side no matter what, and they will not compromise. This is why at first many American politicians supported Donald Trump, even if he was saying irrational things.

The polarization of the US government is raising anger amongst the American people. Many Americans are fed up with politicians, and want to support independent politicians who they think will “change the system”. This has led to a rise of more “down to earth” politicians, like Donald Trump, who portray themselves as being apart from the elite. Yes, Trump is a Billionaire, but he also is not an experienced politician. Because many Americans are so suspicious of politicians at this point, someone with no political experience or connections to the political elite is appealing.

On top of that, the social and economic scene in America has changed. People cling to right wing politics because they hope it will bring them back to where America was before. Many Americans are angry, for example, with the decline in manufacturing jobs, or because of how their previous social structure of power over minorities has changed. Donald Trump uses fear tactics and paints a picture that social and economic changes are dangerous. Since plenty of people tend to be more pessimistic about their world, Donald Trump’s negativity is very appealing. He also represents an ideal for a lot of Americans: he is rich and successful (and loud as well). People say that Donald Trump “says it like it is”. The fact is, some people agree with Donald Trump’s racist and sexist remarks, but they are too afraid to say anything about it, whereas he is not.

Politicians have used fear tactics to get votes before, and they will in the future. Donald Trump did not just pop up onto the scene of American politics. People have supported him to get him this far in the presidential race. And there have been others like him in the past. The question is, how do we stop this from becoming a pattern?



Light Rail Transit: The For, The Against, and a Compromise

A Local-Issue Commentary – Justice Tomlinson

There are many arguments for and against the implementation of a one billion dollar Light Rail Transit system proposed by Metrolinx in Hamilton, but there's certainly a compromise that provides ameliorations to every party involved in this debate. The Light Rail Transit, or the LRT, is the proposed form of electrical transportation that relies upon a reserved lane to get from point A to point B. The idea is that with the projected increase of Hamilton's population from 500,000 to 660,000, the LRT will afford



citizens the option of safe, reliable and contemporary transportation.

The proposed transit system's B-Line would span from McMaster University and along Main and King to Eastgate Square; if resources permit, an A-Line will be implemented from the AEGD along James Street down to the Waterfront. The arguments for LRT focus on the LRT as a necessary action to accommodate the future, while the arguments against it focus on a lack of benefits when juxtaposed to the potentially life changing costs; however a third option of privatization accommodates the concerns from both sides.

Starting with those who are in favour of the Light Rail Transit implementation, perhaps the strongest argument they will bring forward is the environmental one. Yes, the LRT will provide a carbon emission free transportation option to environmentally conscious citizens in addition to drawing in those who would usually drive cars. Reduction in usage of greenhouse gasses is scientifically necessary for the future of the human race. Furthermore, Hamilton has an increasing population, and by 2031 that population will have reached 660,000. With current public transport system being in such high demand already, adaptations must be made in order to provide a larger population such services. The LRT demarcates itself as a promising necessary choice, boasting the lowest cost per person to operate among other viable options (including the currently used busses). Additionally, the LRT is boasted to potentially increase the resale value of homes in Ward 1. This increase in resale value would supposedly come about through being in proximity to such a sleek, modern method of transportation. This boost in property value viewed as necessary to some, would contribute to the Hamilton economy, helping all residents. The prospects put forward here are no doubt beneficial to all who wish to use it, but must be cross examined with the costs.

Opponents of the LRT also hold strong arguments, the strongest of which being the objection to the economic deficit. One billion dollars of government money means that some burden must be placed on the taxpayer. It doesn't really make sense for anyone in wards 5-15 to opt for a tax increase for a service that they will likely never use. The current LRT plans asks taxpayers from outside the first four wards (as well as many in Ontario who will never see an LRT) to pay into it with no direct incentive. The cost of living in Hamilton is already high, and many families are in debt and are simply unwilling (or cannot afford) to pay more taxes. For these people, the benefits which often don't exist plentifully simply can't make up for the con of being coerced to pay for someone else's' transportation when supporting their own family is so much more pressing. Furthermore, the Contra-LRT argument observes that regular traffic from Main and King Street would be displaced, causing inconvenience and congestion for drivers forced to take to side streets. For many drivers who rely on their automobile and are closed off to the idea of switching their method of transportation, being forced to use side streets and take longer to reach their work is unacceptable (not to mention the fact that more carbon emissions will be emitted). Fuller streets in a city like Hamilton means everyone takes longer to get everywhere, making the city more undesirable to all (even potentially decreasing home values). The positives in this case fail to outweigh the con of more full streets and slower traffic.

Light Rail Transit continued from page 8:

Additionally, construction of the LRT (estimated to take 5 years) would harm small businesses, as shop entrances will be blocked off. This is directly detrimental to the way of life for many business owners, as the government offers no tax breaks or assistance for them. Not only would LRT construction harm business owners, but it also harms Hamilton's developing economy by hindering the exchange of goods and services in such a popular area. For those on this side of the argument, the pros (which are often few) simply do not outweigh the potentially life altering cons for those who stand against the LRT.

With arguments from both sides noted, there is a clear solution: privatization. A private business would simply do it better, cheaper, and more efficiently than a government agency like Metrolinx. Private businesses are more motivated to generate profits because they don't have the government to prop them up. This makes them more competitive and more innovative, therefore producing better products for cheaper amounts. Next, you need look no further than Tokyo, Japan, where the mix of private and public sector transportation is a world benchmark. The role the government plays in Tokyo with regards to public transit is simply one of regulating fares and small scale subsidization (not ideal, but certainly doesn't disqualify some form of privatization from viability here in Hamilton.). This means that private business is at the forefront of innovation in public transportation, drawing emulation from even Tokyo's public sector. Lastly, this compromise satiates the contra-LRT argument in its removal of a taxpayer burden. This is because the business would be able to issue bonds to investors or receive a loan from a bank instead of relying on taxpayer money. As a private business is obligated to either use private funds or become indebted to the government itself, citizens need not worry about having to contribute to a service they don't want. You also see all the benefits from the pro-LRT side of the argument factored in. Citizens will see their dream to have an environmentally friendly, attractive form of transit introduced realized. Privatization proves its merit by providing a comfortable position for people on either side of the argument to agree.

Observing points from both arguments, the compromise of privatization satiates both the desire to avoid unnecessary economic obligations, while also reaping the potential benefits of the LRT. It would not be difficult to find a company to take on this project (as soon as Metrolinx is taken off the job), as many developers within the city of Hamilton have already expressed interest. A private business taking over the LRT accommodates both those who want it, and those who don't want to pay for it.



Thoughts, anyone? If you have an opinion on either of these issues, or about any controversial topic the internet is yapping about these days, write about it! We'll publish your submission! Email us at thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com

See the next page for reader responses to last month's opinion article!

DISCLAIMER: Contributor opinions published by The Sequitur do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or represent the values of the paper itself. We are looking only to provide a platform for open discussion to take place among Westdale students and staff.

No battle for equality should be belittled

Re: The Truth About the Wage Gap (September)

I found the article “The Truth About the Wage Gap” to be offensive and not in keeping with Westdale’s ethos of respect and inclusivity.

The article starts by stating that only by disregarding “education, differences in values, simple economic logic, hours worked, and women’s autonomy” is it possible to say that a wage gap exists. It then goes on to oddly cite a study claiming that higher paying education paths are mostly dominated by men, and lower paying ones by women. What this illustrates is that the education system is engineered against women pursuing careers in fields like engineering. The article argues that this is not a proof of discrimination but simply a result of differences in applications. This is uncited. It also goes against everything we are taught about systematic gender oppression in school.

The article tries to argue with logic, claiming that a free market would only be hiring women if the wage gap existed. It states that “if the free market considered work done by women to be worth less while at the same time producing a product equal to that of males,” men would be replaced by women to maximize profits. This would require companies to accept that the wage gap exists and for salary makers to consciously self-identify as sexist. At the same time, they would have to accept that women produce work equal to that of men. To summarize, the industry would have to be run by sexists who think men and women are equal. I fail to see the logic in that statement.

I believe strongly in the school newspaper and love that it showcases the journalistic talents of our fellow students, but I believe this article has no place in this publication. It strives to retract our steps towards Westdale’s goal of complete social tolerance. I know that one who completely believes the opinion of the article could probably find many statistics to counter my counter-arguments. However, I do not want to make this a battle between data. This is about more than paying women better. No battle for equality should be belittled. This is about empowering minorities and restructuring society’s perception on equality. This is about applying an inclusive mindset to our daily activities. If we fight against social justice, claiming that we’re already doing everything right and nothing needs to be changed, we ignore the struggles of countless individuals against systematic and everyday oppression.

-Anonymous

Dangerous simplification of a complex social issue

Re: The Truth About the Wage Gap (September)

First and foremost, I would like to disclose that there is in fact a distinguishable wage gap among full time workers, whereas the article published suggested ambiguity in this fact. There are countless factors that contribute to the issue, including race, age and occupation, how the gap is calculated, etc. This makes the topic extremely complicated. Simplifying the idea of the wage gap in a single sided argument in a school article is dismissive and unfair.

The main idea the article emphasized was that a lot of the wage gap can be attributed to the personal choice of occupation. It was noted that women were more likely to study and eventually start careers in fields such as child care and teaching, while men were more likely to go into things such as engineering. While this is generally true, this does not attribute to all of the wage differences - much can be attributed to direct discrimination against women. It's not necessarily the jobs that more women work in - the wage gap is present in nearly every line of work. For example, women make up the majority of librarians, yet men in this exact area of work are generally assigned higher paid positions, usually positions of authority.

Another important point that I was disappointed to see unnoticed was that women of colour are at an even greater disadvantage, regardless of their education, past experience, or field of work. The largest gap being for Hispanic and Latina women: 54% of what men were paid as of 2013. Intersectional feminism is often overshadowed, but so important to publicize and talk about! It's also important to view the wage gap from an international perspective, as this is not only a Western issue! The facts behind the disadvantages women of colour face around the world are too strong to be ignored.

I felt that publishing an article that simplified and passively dismissed the direct discrimination that women - and women of colour - specifically experience is not only dangerous to the progress being made, but also quite insulting. Publishing such ideas only promotes the stereotypical 'angry feminist' trope of a woman who wants to play the victim at every given opportunity. This is not what a feminist looks like, and this image of feminism that is so commonly referred to scares people away from its important values and social progress.

-Anonymous

Colourless

Nicola Lawford



I used to find it delightful
That people come in different colours.
I would notice the spectrum
And its coffee browns and moonlit greys,
Skin like stained mahogany and cherry and pine
Or warm like caramel and fawn's fur
Or dark like vanilla and ivory and ink
Or pale as a rose, with freckles
Like cinnamon dusted on a bun;
And my world was colourful.

Kids at my prestigious science camp argued
That black and white and grey
Were not colours, but "shades";
At science camp, they were proven wrong.
In qualitative observation
"Black" and "white" are colours.
Ivory and ink and moonlight are colourful.
In qualitative observation
"Clear" is the only property that is not a colour.
You classify water as colourless.

But it turns out that colour
Is not so delightful after all;
It cuts like a knife,
And cracks like a whip,
And stifles like a gag,
And shoots like a gun,
And the currents of segregation
Always run. And we are ignorant
And in denial, and no black boys made it
into my prestigious science camp.

Ironically, at science camp,
I stood out as a white girl
In my project group of mostly
Asians. And I was embarrassed because
I could not tell you which country they were from
By their bodies, accents or cultural traditions.
None of my close friends are religious, and
My Sri Lankan friend doesn't talk about
Her culture, and I cannot
Differentiate it from Indian or Bengali.

This is not apathy, but ignorance; I believe
All of the colours that I am not
Are beautiful, but their cultures are
Shrouded in mystery. Mine is
Blared on every speaker and
Plastered on every billboard and
Idealized on every television.
I was not assigned any difficult jobs
By my project group at science camp.
Seen like this, white appears colourless.

Dear Granddad

Faizaan Madhani

Dear Granddad.
When did the world start to crumble?
When did life ease into paralysis?
When did you turn from writing comic books to dropping your pen?

Dear Granddad.
The pocket knife you left me,
Was an aching memory of God cutting life from your soul, bit by bit.
When did talking to you become as challenging as learning another language?
When did we start to fade into black?

Dear Granddad,
When did our family turn into a broken vase?
Elaborate designs turned in pieces of plaster.
Pieces strewn across the planet earth,
Pieces slowly dissolving into nothingness.

Dear Granddad,
Our family has been turned into a flurry of electronic communication,
scattered across oceans, driftwood, like trees fallen away, washed over on
foreign shores.
Pixels on a screen and low resolution videos are the talks I have with my
father.
The vase that carried your achievements is a vase that carries our fears.
The world that you built for us we tried to build on it, but the storm has gone
on long enough.
The storm of prejudice, hardships and immigration has turned into a
hailstorm.
Has turned into an avalanche.

Dear Granddad,
I wish I could go back to being innocent.
Reading your comic books and listening to music from your Walkman.
Everything you drew was always joyous
All the songs were beatboxes of rhyming alliteration that always fit together.
The songs we played after you left were broken memories of what we never
want to forget.

Dear Granddad,
I remember your smiles,
a curved crescent that even the moon couldn't falsify.
I remember your words,
Eloquent dialogue my eight-year-old mind perceived to be as gentle as songs
from hummingbirds.

Dear Granddad,
You were an open book that soon turned into a puzzle box.
Those were days I still remember; ones I hope our presence still brightened.
You could never answer our calls, dialogues that went to voicemail.
Voicemails I'm sure you never deleted.

Dear Granddad,
You were a soldier,
you fought long and hard against the tides of illness.
You were a scholar,
your wisdom was branded on our souls from birth.
You were a man who couldn't be defined by the words: "I'm sorry for your
loss"!

Dear Granddad,
You still live without illness in our hearts.
You still live without sorrow in our minds,
You still live as a fighter in our souls,
You still live as a pinnacle in our home.

-Love, Faizaan



Siblings

A Scary Short Story –

Esther Liu

Maybelline used to love the fields she grew up in. She loved the way the trees surrounding her house changed over the seasons, and how you could always see the stars at night. But she loved it less when her dog died, and even less when her father followed the dog's footsteps. She started to hate it when her mother stopped caring, and stopped baking cookies for her and her siblings. She loathed it when her brother got lost but never found in the same patch of trees that she used to love to climb so much.

As soon as she could, Maybelline moved away. She was at the tender age of 20 and had packed up what was left of what she cared about in a small, yellow bag. That bag had nothing but money.

A few years had passed since then, and Maybelline rarely thought of her childhood home. She had a new home now, one without a father 6 feet under and a mother who only passed the time by sleeping and drinking. She missed it sometimes, but only the way it had felt when her whole family was there. When she could still hear her brothers laugh like bells instead of the clinking of scattered beer bottles littered on the ground.

In her mother's will, she had given Maybelline ownership of the old house. It had been the first time in years since she had been there, but she didn't shed a single tear. When she walked in the front door, she almost expected there to be cans and bottles covering the ground, but it was clean. Maybelline couldn't remember the last time she had seen it like this outside of her dreams. She took gentle steps inside of the house, still hearing her mother's wet sobs echo in her ears. She felt empty as she went, not feeling any emotion as she passed what used to be her brothers room. She wasn't quite sure if that was good or bad.

She sighed as she stood before the door of her old bedroom. The door gave a loud groan as she gave a gentle push, as if she was worried that it would fall apart. It was almost like how she had left it all those years ago. With all her fragile dolls in the closet and the same blankets that covered her bed, but with a layer of dust and some strange feeling as if this was a dream. It had some ethereal quality that she couldn't put her finger on, and she almost pinched herself to test her theory. She furrowed her eyebrows in confusion and reached her hand out to brush her surroundings as she looked around. Suddenly, she felt as if the room got colder, with the hair at the back of her neck standing on end. Maybelline inhaled and tensed as she heard the door creak again. She turned her head towards the door in trepidation. She gasped as she thought she saw something move in the shadows. Maybelline took cautious steps forward as her eyes widened; she saw something hiding in the safety of the dark, and it saw her too.

Maybelline let out a shaky breath as she looked into its dark, glossy eyes. Even though she couldn't see its face, she could tell that it was going her a smug and knowing look. She couldn't tear her gaze away from its threatening grasp, even as she tried with all of her might. It was like the being had somehow entranced her. Maybelline was so caught that she didn't even notice the light around her dimming and the temperature dropping until she gave a violent shudder. It was as if she finally came to her senses and tore her gaze away from the little creature's eyes. Not looking at it was a mistake.

Maybelline gave a deafening scream as the door slammed shut. It was too dark to see anything in the room. Her eyes darted around wildly as her face contorted in fear. She froze and didn't dare to even breathe as she felt something tickling her back and her neck. It felt like cold but wet puffs of air against her skin. The room was chilled and everything seemed hypersensitive. She could hear its soft little pants behind her. She gulped and slowly twisted her head around to face the thing.

"Siblings" continues on page 13

“Siblings” continued from page 12

She could see the faint outlines of its soft and round features of its face. It was much smaller than she had expected; only the height of a young child. Even though she could barely see her own hands, she could somehow see the eyes of it; they gleamed in the dark.

Maybelline flinched as it quickly grabbed her hand and held on so tight to the point of pain. Her mouth was open in terror as she looked into its tiny black eyes. She felt a sense of familiarity with something, be it with the child-like creature or with this situation, she wasn't sure. All of a sudden, it looked like a light illuminated it. Its ghostly pale skin, its wet raven hair that was matted to its head, but especially its eyes. Those eyes that glimmered and twinkled even though they were the darkest shade she has ever seen. But she could also make out punctures and lacerations on its skin, ones that were covered in dried blood and muck, and ones that looked fatal. The thing looked as if it had been beaten and drowned. After she saw all of this, she realized. It was a boy.

Maybelline scrutinized the boy's features and appraised him once more. She froze, recognizing the boy. It was her brother. Her dead brother. Her dead brother was somehow here again, looking as young as the day he went missing. It was as if he had been through hell and back, clutching onto her forearm as if that was his lifeline. He gave her a vicious look, knowing that she had finally recognized him. He shook his head up and down, but almost seemed disappointed that she didn't notice who he was sooner.

“B-brother?” she stuttered out. Disbelief showed on her face.

He clicked his tongue and looked to the side, giving the look of being ashamed. Maybelline wasn't sure if it was because of himself or because of her. It was unnerving, that look was something that her brother wore too much when they were young.

“Oh dear,” he gave a sheepish smile. “You must be terribly confused. I'm not your brother. Not anymore.”

Jia Panpan and Jia Yueyue: A Miracle in the Making

Supporting pandas and the environment – Raymond Chen

There are many people in the world who have their own sets of likes and dislikes. Several of these preferences are universal, like social media, pizza, and pictures of cats. Among them is an exotic species of animal that many find absolutely adorable. Pandas. Now, many people may think that they have to travel all the way to China to appreciate these special creatures. However, they aren't as far away as you imagine. Right in our neighbouring metropolis Toronto is the Toronto Zoo, which has two panda cubs for the public to enjoy!

The journey to bring along these pandas was a lengthy one that began on the 10th of August 2007 when a female panda, Er Shun (and the future mother of these two baby pandas) was born in Chongqing, China. In 2013, she was transferred from China to the Toronto Zoo, along with a male panda, Da Mao. In May 2015, Er Shun underwent two non-surgical artificial insemination (AI) procedures. Artificial Insemination is an operation which allows Er Shun to become pregnant with cubs without having to mate. The panda donor may have been Da Mao or other possible fathers from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding (Qiubang and Xiongbang).

The eventful day finally came on October 13, 2015, when Er Shun gave birth to two panda cubs of unknown gender. After the birth of one cub, Er Shun demonstrated excellent maternal instincts and began to clean and cradle the first cub right after its birth. Right after the first cub came the birth of the second one shortly after. For the next few days after their birth, the giant panda team continued to monitor the two cubs and Er Shun, as the hours and days after birth are the most critical to survival for vulnerable infants like these two.

Day 6 after their births (October 18, 2015) was when the cubs' appearances started to resemble the black and white pattern that we are familiar with. The white fur on their bodies began to appear fuzzier and black pigment started to show up on the skin over their ears, around their eyes and around their shoulders. These features became more prominent on Day 10 (Oct 22).

“Pandas” continues on page 14. . . .

“Pandas” continued from page 13

Day 21 was their 3-week milestone, with their body weight tripled from their birth. After one month, the twin pandas remained in good health and continued to grow. The larger cub weighed over 1 kilogram, while the smaller cub weighed a close 750 grams. At this point in time, the mother and children pandas were still kept in the maternity den, away from the public's eyes.

Week 8 (December 9, 2015) marked the day when the twin pandas were moved to a larger incubator due to their rapid growth. The pandas displayed significant growth changes on their 10th week, as their weights were recorded as 2.5kg and 3kg, with their eyes fully open and mobility capabilities increasing. Week 16 was a memorable date for these adorable panda cubs as it was the day when their genders were confirmed. The larger and smaller cub turned out to be male and female, respectively. Identifying the sex of a giant panda cannot be based solely on appearance. As a result, the cubs were sent to the Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre in Trent University for a cheek-cell sample.

Another monumental time period was late February to early March when the identity of these two pandas was fully established. The male panda was named Jia Panpan (Canadian Hope) and the female was named Jia Yueyue (Canadian Joy) after an online vote open to the public. The next few months of their life was met with more growth in size and weight, as they also begin their extensive training program that Er Shun and Da Mao participated in.

One of Jia Panpan and Jia Yueyue's most exciting moments finally arrived. On October 13, 2016, our Hope and Joy celebrated their first birthday. This was met with a festive celebration with other Toronto Zoo babies (artwork display versions) bearing gifts of different varieties including "Prosperity", "Happiness", "Wealth", and of course, "Lots of Bamboo". And now, we are caught up with the lives of panda cubs Jia Panpan and Jia Yueyue.

Another amazing feat related to giant pandas in recent times is that the species in question is no longer on the World's Endangered Species list. What was once considered an icon of endangered animals now has brought their numbers back up and away from extinction. Their current population comprises of 1,864 adults. However, the update on the numbers of worldwide animals brought bad news as well. The world's largest primate, the eastern gorilla, has swapped with the panda for a spot on the endangered list. This is a harsh wake-up call to remind the world of the immediate conservation efforts needed to be made in the near future to prevent more of the world's inhabitants from being wiped out. Also, the giant panda's safety may be short-lived; it is predicted that one-third of the panda's bamboo habitat will be wiped out by climate change in the next 80 years.

It is a good thing that the world has realized that animals are going extinct and that measures should be taken to keep them around. Unfortunately, that is only the beginning of a long journey that our society will take to preserve what we have. Every day, countless of acres of forests are being cleared out and destroyed for farming purposes, which in turn eradicates the habitats and food of vulnerable animals and plants. Also, pollutants and garbage are being poured into the ocean around the world, sickening the marine life and environments underneath the surface as well. It is up to us as a civilization to join together and do something about this terrible issue. We can save the forests, the seas, the animals, and the plants. We have the capacity and potential to bring back what can be saved. Look at Canadian Hope and Joy. Jia Panpan and Jia Yueyue are just a sign of what we can do to save the Earth.

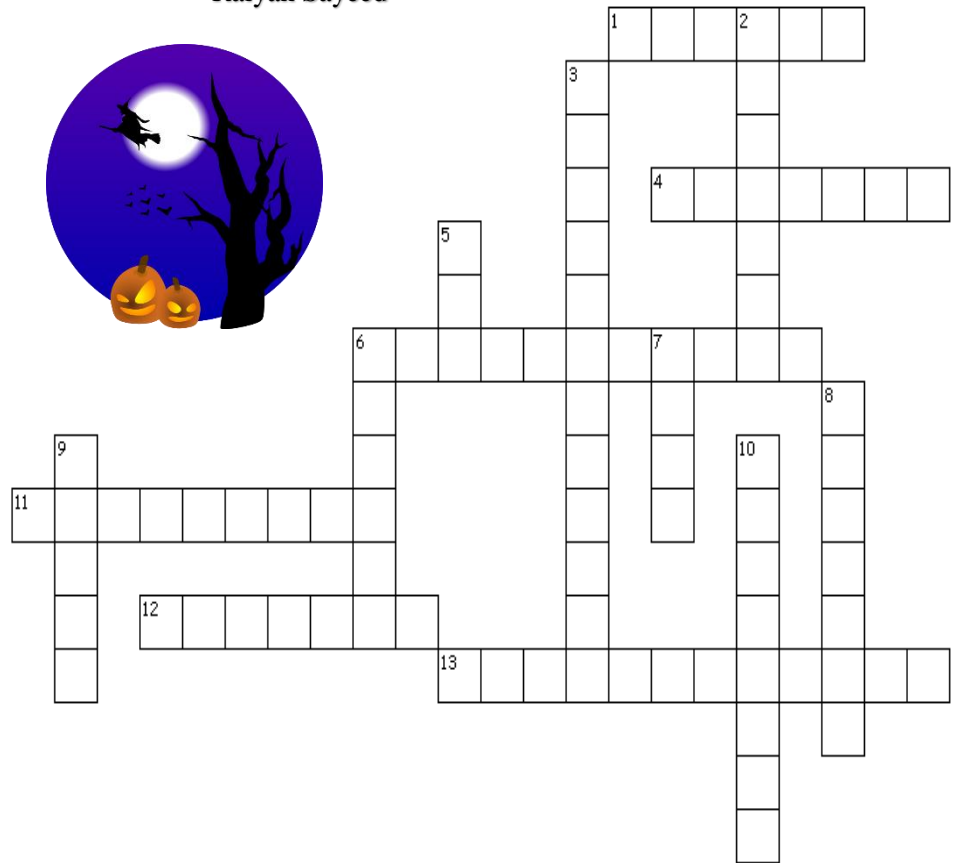


**Drawing: Jia Panpan
and Jia Yueyue**

By: Raymond Chen

OCTOBER CROSSWORD

Raiyan Sayeed



Across

1. People who look like The Joker and have been appearing in random places a lot recently
4. You'll be needing to wear these clothes more this season (rhymes with rackets)
6. Famous beer festival held annually in Germany
11. The only day in October we kids somewhat care about
12. Dead people who look like they're covered in toilet paper
13. A holiday that happens on November for Americans (and includes fat birds!)

Down

2. Women who are especially experienced in alchemy, potions, and obtaining warts
3. Creepy dude with metal rods in his neck and a famous novel by Mary Shelley
5. Signature animal of Bruce Wayne's alias and Halloween
6. Leaves like to change to this color during the season
7. A lot of leaves ____ in the season ____
8. Orange fruit that can be carved to be either really cool or really lame
9. Food that is given out during Halloween and usually the source of cavities that appear after it
10. These guys (or beings?) just love sucking blood

Inspirational Quotes

Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.

- Dennis P. Kimbro

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'

- Audrey Hepburn

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

- Theodore Roosevelt



Funny (and probably cringey) jokes:

When I see lovers' names carved in a tree, I don't think it's sweet. I just think it's surprising how many people bring a knife on a date.

Can a kangaroo jump higher than a house? *Of course, a house doesn't jump at all!*

What happens when you cross a snowman and a vampire? You get a frostbite!

Riddles:

- 1) A seven letter word containing thousands of letters.
- 2) What is harder to catch the faster you run?
- 3) The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?



Answers: 1) Mailbox 2) Your breath 3) Footsteps

The Other Type of Summer School

Travel Review – Ramona Ribaud-Begin

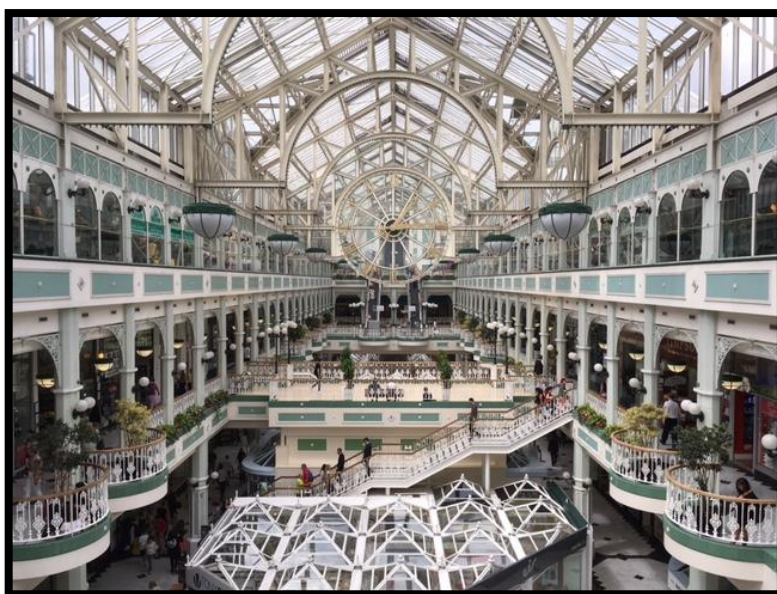
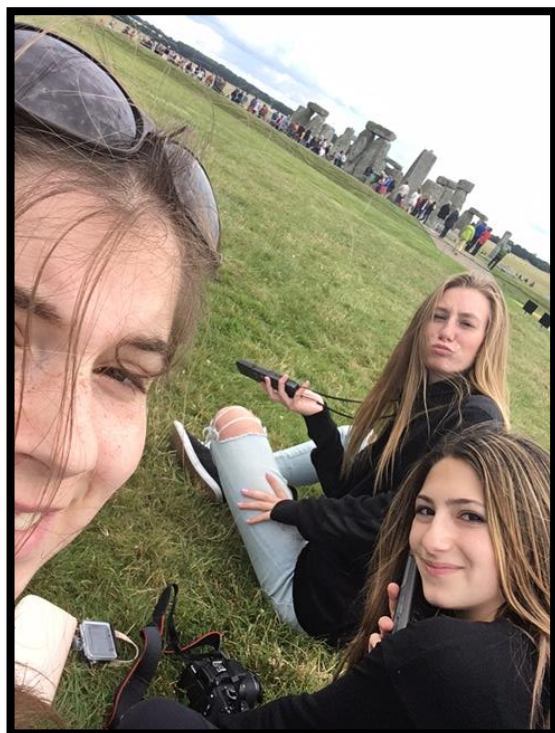
Summer school isn't supposed to be fun, but it definitely can be. Especially if your summer school just happens to be taking place in Asia, or Peru, or Spain, or... just about anywhere, really. If you want to get ahead this summer or need to catch up, why not do it abroad with Blyth summers International program?

From the very beginning of the trip, everyone is having a great time. It doesn't really feel real until at the airport you are hugging your family goodbye, and stepping onto an airplane full of strangers that could be taking you halfway across the world. It may seem exciting just to go on a plane ride and make friends while flying over places you can't even pronounce, but the real adventure starts as soon as your plane touches the ground.

This Summer, I got a photography credit in England, Scotland, and Ireland. I was away from my family for 18 days, but the people who were strangers before I left on my trip quickly became like a second family. On my trip, there were about 14 students, some who were taking photography and some who were taking English. We had 2 separate teachers and a program manager, who were excellent. Even though we weren't all studying the same thing and we weren't all the same age, everyone got along pretty well right from the first day. Which is good, because chances are that you will be rooming with one or two people in a hotel room which you get your own room key for. It's like sharing a college dorm with someone because from day one you have to be pretty independent.

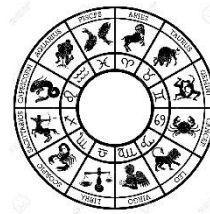
The classes are smaller than most high school classes, which means that the teachers have more time to work with everyone, one on one. The classrooms change depending on location. In my class, we did a lot of our learning inside coffee shops and cafes, but depending on what course you decide to take (and there is a very big variety to choose from) will also factor into where you learn.

You do have an exam at the end of your trip and some homework along the way, but that doesn't get in the way of sightseeing. Most of our classes only took an hour out of our day, and then a few more after dinner. If you want to see something, you just have to let the program manager know and it will probably happen. It's an amazing experience, and one I would recommend to anyone and everyone. If you are interested in getting more information, check out the Blyth academy brochures in the guidance office, or go to blytheducation.com.



Here are some photos taken by Ramona during her travels with Blyth!

HOROSCOPES



What should the Zodiac Signs be for Halloween?

By: Lily Afshar & Aya Alayche

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19): Your courage to take action and break the rules makes you a badass. Make sure to choose a costume that represents your attitude! You can choose any movie which Angelina Jolie plays in to dress up as her character's style; however, if you are a boy the joker from "suicide squad" is a perfect costume for you.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20): You are known for your love of luxury and opulent desire. Buying a gown and accessorizing it with all your most precious and valued embellishments truly screams Taurus.

Gemini (May 21- June 20): As a person with indefinite mindsets, you have the choice to dress up as your mood's desire. So for this Halloween try to track your mood and see where it leads you!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Being a home-lover, you will probably be forced by your friends to get out and have some fun this Halloween. In this case, you will be looking for something comfy and cozy to wear - but at the same time, something presentable. Hence, get your onesie and call yourself Pajamas Guy or Girl.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22): Capturing all the attention when you enter the room, you Leos seriously know how to dress up. This year is the time to shine again! Try to wear something unexpected. For instance, a clown costume brushed with red paint (representing blood).

Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22): Having this intellectual and rational mind you have, you may want dress up as a doctor or wear preppy clothes with set of glasses and call yourself a stereotypical nerd!

Libra (Sep 23- Oct 22): You have a natural grace and retro personality to you. Dressing up as Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, or James Dean will bring out this vintage Hollywood side of you.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21): Scorpios are highly mysterious and have unfathomable depth. Dress up as a dark and mysterious vampire; it's the perfect costume for a Scorpio like you.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21): As the archer of the zodiac, legend says that the Sagittarius is half-horse, half-human. A character from an action-packed movie like the Hunger Games or Divergent would be your go-to costume.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19): Capricorns are sensual earth signs who adore nature. You'll have lots of fun dressing up as a cute deer, fox or even a unicorn.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18): Being the artistic Aquarius that you are, you should bring out this side of you by dressing up as a famous artist like Frida Kahlo, Van Gogh, etc.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20): As a water sign with a creative and mystical personality, you would love dressing up as a mermaid, pirate, or ship captain.

October Business Horoscope – Graeme Farrand

If your business was incorporated this month, then your company's celestial sign is Virgo. That means that your company will have a complicated love life with other companies and you may suffer from indecisiveness.

If your company was incorporated this year, then your animal sign is the monkey. This means that you should watch out for other companies' animals trying to steal your product, and always make a moon offering of herbs, honey and the blood of an unborn lamb every other year.

With the approach of the end of the financial year, for some companies it is important to remember that giving thanks to mother Gaia is very important. Otherwise you are risking her becoming angry and cursing you with 7 years' financial loss. To keep mother Gaia happy, try disposing of all demon curse-adding machines you may have and try hanging dream catchers over the entrances to your workspace.

My stock recommendations for the coming month are: Amica Mature Lifestyles with a projected increase of 3% due to the company CEO make a deal with Abraxas, the demon of sleight financial growth.

