

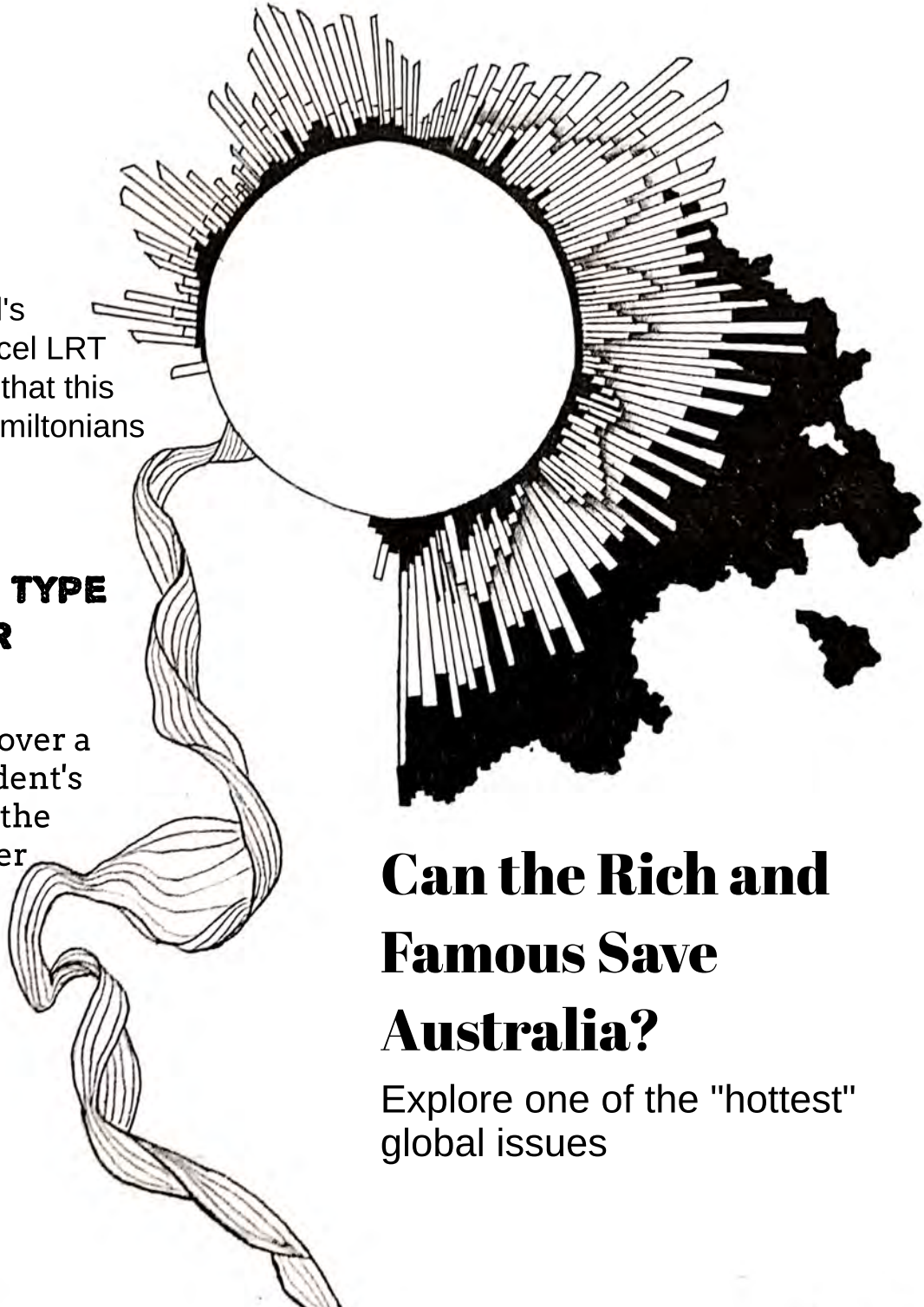
the Sequitur

LRT:

Discusses Ford's decision to cancel LRT and the impact that this will have on Hamiltonians

THE OTHER TYPE OF SUMMER SCHOOL:

Read and discover a Westdale student's experience at the Blythe Summer Academy



Can the Rich and Famous Save Australia?

Explore one of the "hottest" global issues

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Letter From The Editors

Hey Westdale!

It's been a hot minute since our last publication, but we are back and better than ever. We gave our contributors a well-deserved break in January so they could study for exams, which we are sure everyone is thrilled are over (for now, anyway). Now it must be nice to have entered into a fresh semester with new teachers, new classmates, and new classes.

We hope that the prospect of spring inspires you to join the different sports and clubs that start up during second semester. This is a reminder that The Sequitur always accepts new members! Just send us an email at laneandkaya.thesequitur@gmail.com and we'll be more than happy to provide you with more details on how you can get involved.

Love is in the air, or so they say. But we want to impress upon you that non-romantic relationships are just as important as those that are. That includes your relationship with yourself, dear reader. Be kind to yourself, maybe treat yourself to those discounted chocolates after February 14th. Especially if you are in your senior year, you are probably feeling a lot of pressure to get good grades so that you can attend that dream post-secondary institution (or whatever pathway in life you are pursuing). Grades are never more important than your mental and physical health, so it is perfectly okay to take a break once and a while so that you bounce back more vitalized and refreshed than ever before.

We encourage our readers to use their voice to inspire change about the things they care about. It is easy to feel that as a teenager, you are voiceless. Though the society we live in is far from perfect and it can be difficult to feel heard, it can be done through knowledge and persistence. If you see something in our community that is wrong or can be done better, gather some friends together one day at lunch and have a conversation about it. Do some research into why that issue is the way it is and how you can make a change. If it is a municipal issue, like public transportation, libraries, parks, or local police etc. you can write to the mayor or your city councillor and demand action on the issue. You can also register to delegate in front of one of the council's committees to tell leaders face to face about your experiences, your research, and what you want to be done about issue.

Speaking of youth advocacy, why not read an article written by one of the Sequitur's own advocates, Kate Folsetter, as she discusses the Ford government's decision to scratch the approved LRT project and the impact this will have on Hamiltonians. While you're at it, why not also take a look at Ramona Ribaud-Begin's article on her experience at the Blythe Summer Academy where she got to take a photography class in Europe. Perhaps you yourself may want to enroll in the program this year and become more global-minded as you learn about different cultures and countries. At times like these, it is more important than ever to look beyond the borders and develop a sense of worldwide compassion, as we experience the rife of global warming. Sonya Pallopothu explores one of these global issues as she contemplates whether the rich and famous could save Australia from the ravaging wildfires that are destroying the land.

Well Westdale, you have a lot of great journalism to catch up on this month, so we suggest that you get reading and maybe even take the next step to get involved!

Lane O'Hara Cooke & Kaya Shimizu
Co-Editors in Chief

HOW THE FORD GOVERNMENT FAILED HAMILTON:

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

By: Kate Folsetter

The Ontario provincial government had approved plans to start construction on Light Rail Transit (LRT) in the city of Hamilton. Plans had been put into place. Infrastructure was built and everything was ready to go. The LRT was set to have 17 stops, spanning 14 kilometres from McMaster University to East Gate Square.

The Ford Conservative government and transportation minister Caroline Mulroney cancelled the 1 billion dollar plan to build LRT in Hamilton. A news conference was promptly cancelled by Caroline Mulroney in Hamilton who was escorted out of Hamilton by police officers. She cancelled the conference because of protesters who anticipated the LRT be cancelled who were outside the Sheridan Hotel, where the press conference was taking place. According to City News, Caroline Mulroney said in a statement, "Although today's news is certainly disappointing, for Hamiltonians and for our government, we cannot afford to make unaffordable and unsustainable promises, "We cannot afford to continue the Liberals' approach of making empty promises today and accumulating a massive legacy of debt for our children and grandchildren."

The previous Liberal government estimated that the LRT would cost the province 1 billion dollars. However, the Conservative government exploded the number and said that it would cost the government 5.5 billion dollars which were their reasoning for cancelling the LRT. The Conservative government betrayed Hamiltonians by making promises that they decided not to keep.

The LRT would have benefited the city of Hamilton as a whole. Hamilton has some of Canada's worst air and smog quality in Canada. The LRT would have been an effective way of reducing carbon emissions in Hamilton. Additionally, the LRT would have been a step in the right direction to help with the climate crisis. Many people believe that using electric vehicles is the solution for environmentally-friendly transportation. Yes, this may be true for people who can drive and who have the means to purchase an electric vehicle. However, many people may not have the financial means to drive an electric car, are unable to drive, chose not to drive or don't drive for personal reasons. Jobs were going to get created from the LRT. It would have helped all of

us get across the city more effectively. Yes, we do have the HSR bus; however, the bus only runs on specific routes. It also it's not as accessible. We need more than one form of public transit in our city since public transportation is transportation for the future.

It's a shame that the conservative government chose to let down Hamiltonians this way. We anticipated the LRT for over ten years. I believe that Doug Ford wanted to bulldoze and target Hamilton which is a predominately NDP city, which is the official opposition.

LRT is an accessible form of public transportation. It's more affordable than owning a car and more people can use it to get to their destination. Public transportation is accessible to all citizens; young and old, no matter what ability.

All in all, I am thoroughly disappointed with the conservative government's decision to cancel the LRT. It would be a step in the right direction for Hamilton and would have helped make Hamilton a city ready for the future. And the worst part is, I don't even think that the Ford government even cares about what they did.

HAMILTON



Could The Rich And Famous Save Australia?

By: Sonya Pallapothu

The wildfires of New South Wales, Australia have been burning since late July of 2019, and with each passing second, they grow stronger and more difficult to control, endangering the lives of millions of animals and thousands of people. Since only a few months ago, my social media has been flooded with awareness posts and donation pages as users strive to educate and raise money for the Australian wildfires. Although it might not be impossible to raise a large amount of money in a short period of time, it's certainly difficult, especially if we don't have thousands and millions of dollars to spare. At this time, many people are looking towards celebrities and other wealthy individuals to contribute funds towards extinguishing the fires. However, so far only a handful have actually donated—why is that?

The Australian wildfires require *everyone's* immediate attention because they're a representation of the severity of climate change. So far, more than *one billion* animals and 27 people have been killed. More than eleven hectares of land have been lost, and 2 000 homes have been destroyed. These statistics were dated January 7, 2020, so by now the numbers have likely increased with the rate that the fire is spreading. Strong winds fuel the flames so they burn hotter and spread faster. More than 16 000 km away from Australia, people living in South America are experiencing the effects of the fires, such as grey skies, red sunsets and generally polluted air. This means that people and animals worldwide are being affected by these fires, and that this issue is not just localized in Australia.

Currently, only a handful of celebrities have donated towards extinguishing the fires, each contributing up to \$1 million in funds. Notably, Celeste Barber, an Australian comedian, went as far as to raise an estimated CAD \$45 million through a Facebook fundraiser. However, all of the donations since five months ago total to approximately CAD \$126 million, which is far from Australia's goal: \$2 billion. On April 15, 2019, when the Notre Dame Cathedral burned, France's wealthiest rushed to save their beloved monument. Their donations totaled approximately CAD \$1.3 billion in just ten months, and was even said to be *more* money than was needed. After doing some simple math, I found that only \$25 million is being raised each month for the Australian fires, while a comparably larger sum of \$130 million was being raised each month for the Notre Dame Cathedral. Why is a monument more valuable than millions of lives, possibly billions if the fires have a worldwide effect? I am a person who loves history and wishes for historical monuments to be preserved forever, but I also understand that fighting climate change is much more significant.

We, the people, can only raise so much money for the Australian fires, but, even though it's not labeled as impossible, it's difficult to accumulate enough money within the time constraints we have. It's time for the wealthy to step up and donate so that lives are not taken away ruthlessly, so that land is not reduced to a heap of ash, and so that people are not stranded on the streets, homeless. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Australia, and the victims of the fires.

Distribution of Days Off High School

By: Sara Abbas

Alas, the second semester has finally begun, and we are inching our way towards the summer break. While thinking about this, my mind started to wander to the other breaks we have throughout high school and how their organization could be improved. Now, don't get me wrong, I love having time off of school here and there, but it would be much more beneficial if someone rearranged the breaks to align more with what the students need instead of what many people want.

Think about the two-week long winter break, for example. When speaking to other students about how they spent their time during it, the answer was almost always school work, since they were loaded with assignments and tests the first week back. Some that tried to relax and do something they enjoyed, but they always had a nagging feeling that if they weren't occupying their time with their schoolwork, they would regret it during exam season.

That's not a way to spend your break, but people feel forced to do this. So many people have complained about this time and time again, but no one really knows what other structure would

work for the break distribution since no other arrangement in Canada or the USA has ever been used; countries like Russia have a slightly different arrangement, however, it still falls before exams. It is difficult to make a change and adapt to it, even if some believe it will be a change for the better.



After having many discussions about this topic, my friend came up with a way to organize the breaks throughout the year. Instead of having two weeks off for the winter holidays, there could be a two-week break between the first and second semester. I know what you're thinking, what about Christmas and New Years? There can still be time off for the holidays, but many others think that if we cut some of the days from that break and put it after the first semester exams, we can relax more. Students wouldn't have to worry about finishing school work since the second semester would have

yet to begin.

Another change many people were debating about was March break. It was first formed because children needed to help their parents out on the farm, but this isn't needed anymore for the majority of students since Canada is much more urbanized. Instead of having this break in March, it can be held a couple of weeks before June exams for students to destress and have time to figure out exactly what they need to do before the exam season hits. The name can be changed, for obvious reasons.

While the possibility of changing the breaks is very slim, it is important to use the time off that you have effectively. Focus on yourself for a portion of the breaks; it will definitely help you in the long run. Find a hobby and relax! If you don't destress and take time away from schoolwork, it will make your learning harder. Even if these modifications don't take place, use the time you were given to your advantage.

PRESENTS FOR NBA PLAYERS

By: Zeynep Berra Yilmaz

Santa Claus was back at it again. We all know the big-boned fella that somehow fits through chimneys and puts gifts under Christmas trees, and in return, eats cookies and gulps milk. He always flies in front of a full moon so he probably can't go far. He likely has an expired "flying sleigh license." Judges and categorizes people as "nice" or "naughty." Commercializes Christmas. One might argue that he has a sexist laugh. He has condemned elves and reindeers to servitude and always stalks us. His love for red - the colour of death and blood - is obvious from his clothes and cheeks. He lives in a hidden place in the North Pole because police everywhere are looking for him for breaking and entering. He has a huge puffy beard to hide his identity. Have you ever met a kid that has seen him? No. Why? They don't live to tell it. Anyway, I have said too much already... just read this list of gifts he should have brought (and probably already did bring) some NBA players.

James Harden and Russell Westbrook:

A romantic dinner reservation. These two used to be in Oklahoma City Thunder together from 2009 to 2012 until Harden left for the Houston Rockets. And this season, after years spent on enemy teams, the duo reunites. So bring on the moonlight romance accompanied by flickering candlelight and press play on "Reunited" by Peaches & Herb.

Ben Simmons: Basketball drinking game with shot glasses. In his three-year career, he has not made a single three-point shot. Not even one (except for the much-anticipated one he made against a foreign team you have likely never even heard of but that doesn't count because it was during preseason). As a gift, I'd recommend googling "what is 3 point shot basketball" or "wikihow: shooting a 3 pointer" or "3 point drills for kids" but I think what this guy needs is motivation. His coach said that he's "encouraging" him to shoot threes and with this gift, he'll be encouraged on an unmatched level since every 3-point shot he makes on this miniature court will earn him a shot. If this won't motivate him, then he's a lost cause.

Lebron James: The book *Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks For Dummies*. He made a bunch of lame videos of him saying Taco Tuesday with an offensive Mexican accent and made this unacceptable behaviour seem normal. I thought, y'know what? We're all human. This is a learning opportunity for him and everyone who is familiar with his videos. But then, he tried to trademark "Taco Tuesday" as if he invented it. Seriously? Is this how it works? Hey, why don't I just go ahead and trademark "drive safely" or "hello there" or "rock 'n roll"?

Stephen Curry: Anything with a four-leaf clover, a birthstone charm, a horseshoe, and lucky cat with laughing Buddha on an elephant. He became the supervillain that everybody loves to hate. He broke his left hand. His mini-golf series "Holey Moley" makes viewers go "Holy #@*\$&" and it's kind of a flop. His "Stephen vs. The Game" series didn't end with the fairy tale ending - a trophy. He had a rivalry with Chris Paul where he was kicked off the court. He has been losing money and making little profit from real estate. Michael Jordan said that he is not a hall of Famer. His wife had botched surgeries and went through difficult times. He had deep roots in Toronto as a teenager and Toronto beat him in the Finals. Toronto fans heckled his parents, and one of them even made vulgar comments about his wife and was ordered to stay away from her. According to HoopsHype, his team has the worst drop in winning percentage in NBA history along with the worst defence. The second-best player on his team will be out for months. They severely injured their star player and lost him to another team. The list just goes on, but to sum up, the man's been going through a lot recently. Somebody get this guy some good luck charms to lift the curse. Any lucky charm! Just a bit of something! Please! He desperately needs it!

THE OTHER TYPE OF SUMMER SCHOOL

By: Ramona Ribaudó-Begin



Summer school isn't supposed to be fun, but it definitely can be. Especially if your summer school just happens to take 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?

Even from the very beginning, you will have an enjoyable time. It won't feel real until you are hugging your family goodbye at the airport 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 hardly pronounce, but the real adventure starts as soon as your plane touches the ground.

A few summers ago, I got a photography credit in England, Scotland, and Ireland. I was away from my family for 18 days, but those strangers accompanying me on the plane quickly became my second family.

On my trip, there were about 14 students in total, some of which were taking photography and others English. We had two separate teachers and a program manager, who were all excellent. Despite differences in age and the subjects we were studying, everyone got along pretty well right from the start. This quick sense of community is amazing because there is a great change that you will be rooming with one or two people in a hotel room, which you get your own room key for. The lodging situation for Blyth is similar to sharing a college dorm with someone because from day one you have to be pretty independent.

The classes are smaller than most high school ones, which means that the teachers have more one-on-one time with everyone. The classrooms change depending on the location; in my class, we did a lot of our learning inside coffee shops and cafés, but the course you decide to take (and there is a very large variety to choose from) will also weigh 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 likely happen.



The trip was 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 for local information sessions in the area.

THE BURDEN OF TIME

By: Ellie Shimizu

The stories, they call you a thief,
The bearer of nothing but grief.
Your icy hands, your rusted face
At first, you walk, then quicken your pace.

You're catching up, oh so quickly,
Wasting away, oh so swiftly,
And in the end, you'll walk away,
Oh how I fear the dreadful day.

Some say that you will never wait
And in that place, simply dictate.
How true it is that time will tell,
An irony when all is well.

The sound of fate: tick tock tick tock;
The face of death: a broken clock.

I try to grab you by the hand,
You disappear and turn to sand.

The hourglass is running thin,
I close my eyes and clench my skin,
You laugh aloud, a broken sound,
Your empty roar starts to resound.

Could it be true that it is you
Who's prisoner to a sorrow blue?

The pigment of serenity
But also woeful entity?

Your turn to look me in the eyes
And yours are teary: a surprise,

Perhaps I missed a crucial clue,
That death does take its toll on you.

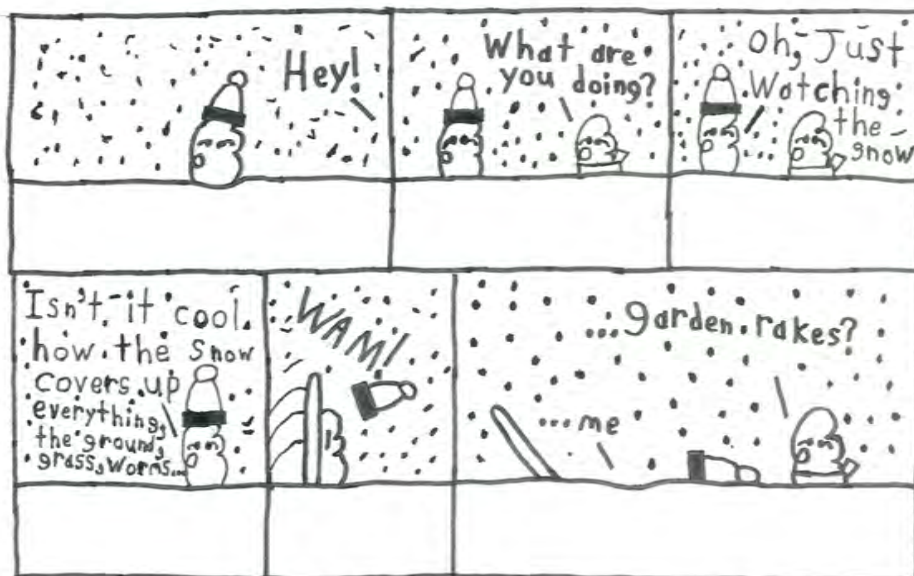
Away with monster, cold; aloof,
And welcome hero, kind; of truth,
You're not a killer at the heart,
Instead, a giver from the start.

My blind eyes can finally see,
Truly, you are setting me free,
Of chains of the impossible,
The mindset of improbable.

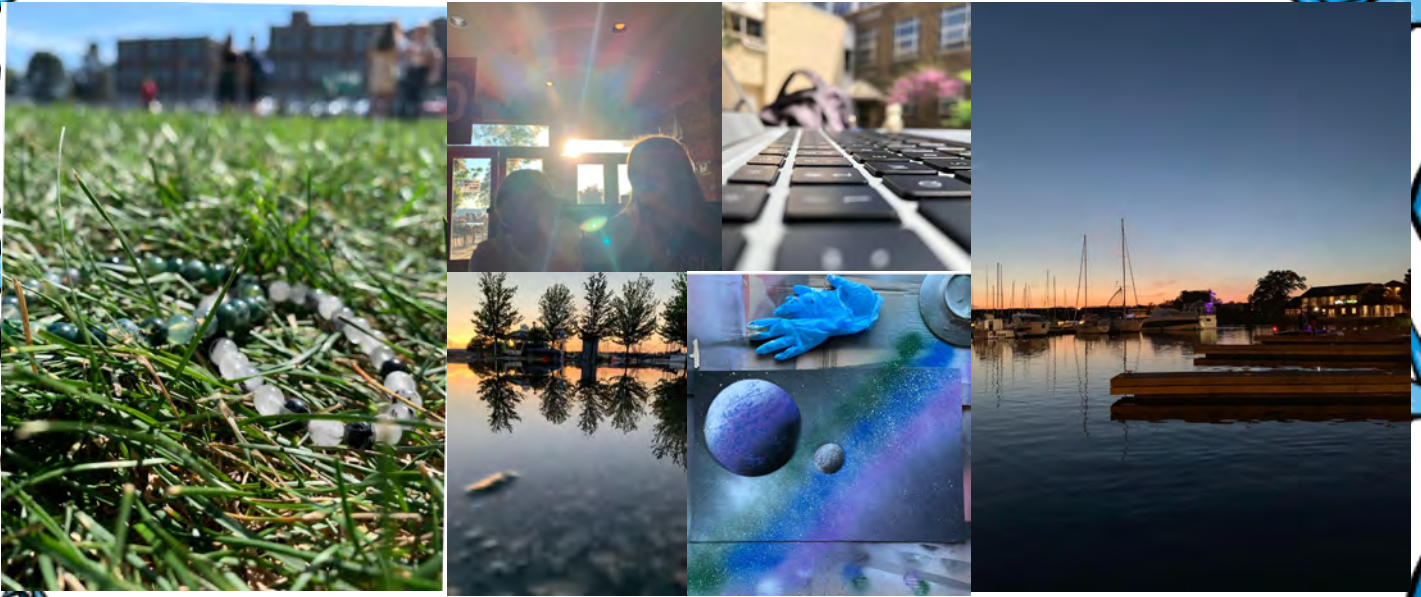
Oh how I have wasted your gift,
My mind not being all that swift,
But even still I'll start anew,
I know I can because of you.

My thanks to giver in the night,
You move so quickly out of sight,
So through my open window, I'm,
Whispering out "Oh thank you time."

Fuzzheads | Ethan Riemer



Photographs and Art



Photographs by Claire Kim

"The Slow Life" by Anonymous



Sudoku Answers

1	6	7	5	3	4	2	8	9
5	8	9	7	1	2	4	6	3
3	2	4	8	9	6	5	7	1
8	9	2	3	6	7	1	5	4
4	7	1	9	2	5	8	3	6
6	3	5	1	4	8	9	2	7
7	4	8	6	5	1	3	9	2
2	5	3	4	7	9	6	1	8
9	1	6	2	8	3	7	4	5

3	8	6	5	4	2	7	1	9
1	5	4	9	7	6	2	8	3
7	2	9	1	8	3	6	4	5
5	7	8	2	9	1	3	6	4
4	3	2	6	5	7	1	9	8
9	6	1	8	3	4	5	7	2
2	9	7	3	1	8	4	5	6
6	1	5	4	2	9	8	3	7
8	4	3	7	6	5	9	2	1

February Horoscopes

By: Esther Liu

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) ♈

Are you slacking, Aries? Good for you, it seems like you never let that energy tamper down. It's good to take a break sometimes. Let yourself rest.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) ♉

Are you silent, Taurus? We're surprised, that's quite unlike you. We do appreciate your commentary—in measured amounts—but I'm glad you're taking some time to reflect. You'll grow from this.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) ♊

Are you running, Gemini? The Stars and I think it's inherent. Not to you, in particular, but for everyone. Always gotta get away before it catches you, right? We're not even talking about metaphors—we're talking about that guy with the car, or your mom, or your English teacher. Well, good thing humans are animals of endurance.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) ♋

Are you conforming, Cancer? We all change ourselves for others but are you alright? You've been somewhat fake recently. Maybe you should let your true colours shine—no matter how difficult and unnerving—the right people will find you (or you will find them! Don't forget that this isn't a one-sided process). But first, pay back the money you owe me.

LEO (July 23 - August 22) ♌

Are you confused, Leo? It might benefit you to take some time to gain perspective. Maybe you'd like to go on a trip somewhere? Even going to the local diner a few blocks away would be nice—who doesn't love breakfast 24/7? Go alone. There you can order what you think you might enjoy in an alternate life. Sit and let your mind wander. Tip the waiter as much as you can afford. Yell out a *thanks* and *goodnight* right before you open the door to leave. Be thankful. Call a friend to tell them you love them. Might just do you some good.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) ♍

Are you wasting your time, Virgo? Of course not! Enjoying yourself is never a waste of your time. Remember that you are the one who decides what fulfills you in life—not capitalism.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22) ♎

Are you growing distant, Libra? Checking out all the time, huh? Perhaps you're trying to speak to the void. Not the wisest thing, but it's not like you *chose* to do this. The Stars wish you well and I'm sure that life will—at the very least—try to do you right in this. But! But. Fate tends to want to have fun. Good luck.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21) ♏

Are you feeling impermanent, Scorpio? That's perfectly fine. It's good to remind yourself of that often; the feeling makes everything feel more real when it's happening.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21) ♐

Are you feeling inquisitive, Sagittarius? Perhaps now is the time to reach out to others for help. The Stars appreciate your independence, but you should never pull away from your friends when you're in need. They're willing to help.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19) ♑

Are you failing, Capricorn? Build on it. Play around, dabble in some trial-and-error and grow. You'll feel better, especially the next time you go around to the coffee shop to search for some new version of yourself.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18) ♒

Are you being, Aquarius? Allow yourself to breathe now and again. Take it all in.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) ♓

Are you feeling romantic, Pisces? It may be the supposed month of love but remember: you don't have to let love be restricted to just 29 days! To add, why submit to the capitalistic holiday of love and loneliness? Sure, it's nice to gift your loved ones chocolate, but you could do that any time of the year. In fact, why don't you celebrate the leap year? You'll have yet another day to spend living. Or sleeping. Well, whatever you do, just make sure to get those discounted chocolates on the 15th.