

the Sequitur

JOKER:


Who is the Monster
Here?

Oysterhead:

Inside scoop on a
retro supergroup

FEATURING

Iqbal Masih's
actions of
fighting against
child labor



Children should have pens
in their hands not tools

Table of Contents

01	Cover page
02	Table of Contents
03	Letter from the Editors
04	Triune Update
05	When All Else has Been Done or Said: A Brief History of Oysterhead
06	Women in Politics
07	Student Voice in Canadian Politics
08	Online Classes
09	Joker: Who is the Monster Here
10-11	Iqbal Masih
12	Halloween: A Holy Day But Not A Holiday for NBA
13	A Book Review of Michelle Obama's <i>Becoming</i>
14-16	Mr Van Harten's Interview
17	Rain- A Poem and Word of the Month
18	Puzzles
19	Comics
20	November Horoscopes

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Letter

from the Editors

Hey Westdale,

Wow, we cannot believe that it's November already! Time really does fly by when you've got a full plate. Since the last issue we've both been bustling about, scrambling to put together university and scholarship applications that will determine the next chapter of our lives. Amongst all of the "Where do you see yourself in 25 years?" and "What sets you apart from the other applicants?" it is hard not to feel as though we are being judged based on a list of extracurriculars and the grades that we've earned throughout our high school careers. The anxiety of "am I good enough?" and "everyone else has done so much more than me and has much better grades" can easily set in during this point of our lives when it seems as though our worth is measured in comparison to everyone else.

Some of you reading may not feel that you're ready to leave high school yet. In this case, we cannot stress enough that it is perfectly okay to take a victory lap. Often this choice is stigmatized. People may ask "why would you ever want to come back here?" and "how can you not be ready to leave?" Just know that everyone is growing at their own pace. There is no universally correct path.

Or perhaps you feel like we do and have been done with high school since it started. Even so, it is not at all strange to experience feelings of fear and uncertainty; we certainly do. The fact that we will no longer live at home next year and will be on our own is an exciting yet scary realization. After 14 years of prescriptive schooling, it is our turn to embark on the path that we choose and forge our own way in life. Though it is exciting and the opportunities for adventure and new beginnings seem endless, stress and a feeling of being overwhelmed seem to predominate this time simply because there are *too many* options. Up to this point, someone has always dictated our lives and education by telling us what we are to strive for and do every school day. Now we are being cut loose, told to fly away from the nest to pursue a whim or gut feeling that we aren't sure we can entirely trust. After all, how are we supposed to know who we want to be and what we want to do at the age of 17?

When we feel stressed out about the pressure to make decisions that seem to be life-changing, we try to remind ourselves that we have the ability to change our minds and that life goes on. Choosing a wrong course or work path isn't the end of the world, but rather a means to learn more about yourself and what you do and don't enjoy. Another great thing to do is not to worry yourself too much and to take some time to relax and destress. We recommend that you do so by reading this issue of the Sequitur. Want to learn more about a cool retro supergroup called Oysterhead? Give John McCormack's article on said supergroup a read to get the inside scoop. Saw the new *Joker* movie recently? See what Maria Chzhen has to say about in her review of the movie. Ever heard of Iqbal Masih? Check out Ellie Shimizu's feature article to find out how a young boy became a symbol for the fight against child labour all over the world. Whatever you do, keep calm and read the Sequitur!

Wishing you all a happy November,

Lane O'Hara Cooke and Kaya Shimizu



TRIUNE STUDENT COUNCIL

October Triune Update

Hey Warriors!

That's a wrap on our Halloween Spirit Week! Hopefully you participated in our Grade Colour Wars, Costume Contest, Halloween Carnival, and Pyjama Day! Not to mention having some free hot chocolate and cookies in the foyer. Expect more free snacks, more spirit days, and fun events throughout the year. Right now we're in the middle of planning our Winter Variety Show and Formal!

We are happy to announce that formal will take place at Liuna Station on December 11th. More information about that will be coming soon.



Think Triune can do better? Meetings are open to new members. As with the holiday season, the more the merrier! **Meetings are held in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) after school on Tuesday's every other week. Follow @WestdaleBuzz on Instagram to keep up to date on when meetings will be hosted!**

Furthermore, we want to hear your voice! Make sure to scan the QR codes or visit bit.ly/2PgqOz6 to complete the Triune Performance and Climate Survey so we can hear your opinions.

Finally, Triune is excited to welcome our internally elected members. This year, our internally elected members include:

Graphic Designers	Jersey Mike-Tomlison	Sameer Waheed
Instagram Coordinators	Sabrina Parthun	Natasha Brousseau
Secretary	Camila Moran-Hidalgo	Nour Elbadan
Student Senate	Arooba Amir	Amman Waheed

Congratulations, everyone! We look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year!

Happy November!

Ryan Truong

Triune President

Catherine Mulcaster

Triune Vice President

Raymond Chen

Triune Vice President

When All Else Has Been Done or Said: A Brief History of Oysterhead

By: John McCormack



Supergroups can be hit or miss. For every Audioslave, there's a Prophets of Rage. Most tend to go down one of two ways: either they make it big and everyone forgets they were a supergroup in the first place (e.g. Led Zeppelin, which I bet you didn't know until now!), or they fizzle out after the release of one album because of other musical commitments (e.g. Temple of the Dog. Say hello 2 supergroup heaven!). Then there's Oysterhead— a group so super that the world could only handle one of their albums.

What exactly is so special about them anyway? To answer that, I must talk about the three brains who masterminded Oysterhead. First, there is Guitarist Trey Anastasio, the leader of Phish, a group who, through their large cult following and legendary live performances, earned the title of "the most important band of the '90s" by Rolling Stone magazine. Then, Bassist Les Claypool redefined how the bass is used in modern rock music, through his band Primus. All thanks to a lot of slapping, tapping, and whammy bar abuse. Last but certainly not least, drummer Stewart Copeland was in The Police. Need I say more?

Now, that's cool and all, but what brought them together in the first place? In 2000, the three were set to play, what was initially supposed to be, a one-off show in New Orleans. However, expectations for this concert were inflated almost immediately. The show was sold out within five minutes and included attendance from Francis Ford Coppola, the man behind The Godfather, of all people. Despite



instant success, it wasn't until Copeland began cutting down the performance (tsk, tsk) for potential release that talk of an album began.

The result? The Grand Pecking Order, unleashed in 2001. There's a real uniqueness about Oysterhead that separates them from your typical "jam band" outing. No song conveys this better than the anthem "Mr. Oysterhead". Yeah, the lyrics are a bit cocky, but they have a right to be! Especially when they sound so good! The musical chemistry that seeps out is unreal. Anastasio and Claypool bounce off of each other amazingly when it comes to both their playing and

their singing.

There isn't a single song on here where one of the members doesn't shine. The beauty is that they managed to do this while still allowing each track to stand on its own. It's a real feat that a blissful song like "Radon Balloon" can coexist with a quirky, yet chilling number like the title track, without throwing off the tone.

There's also humor that can be found in places you wouldn't think, such as in "Oz Is Ever Floating". It's catchy as heck and it's about the band's recording engineer and his idolization of Dr. John C. Lily. Then there's "Wield

the Spade", which was based on a speech from the final Communist leader of Romania. It's menacing, yes, with Copeland's narration, but then Claypool comes in and starts vocalizing in a kind of sing-songy, mocking way. There's also Anastasio, blabbering in gibberish before Claypool's arrival. Could this symbolize that everything being said is utter nonsense? Who knows! That's the beauty of analyzing! Needless to say, The Grand Pecking Order is an amazing album and with the band reuniting in 2020, now is as good a time as ever to give it a listen.

Women in Politics

By: Kate Folsetter



Growing up, I did not see many women in politics or positions of power; the lack of women made me feel as though politics was not an option for me. This got me thinking: why can't women run the world like the Beyoncé song?

Throughout history, women have been underrepresented within political parties. They were not even allowed to vote in any elections until the 1960s. Men have always been allowed to vote and encouraged to run for politics and positions of power, while women were taught to be submissive and to obey men.

To this day, we have had only one female prime minister. In

1993, Kim Campbell took over as prime minister when Brian Mulroney stepped down, holding the position for 132 days. Other than that, we have not had a female prime minister.

Fast forward to 2019, where we live in a country that supports gender equality, and women make up more than half of the Canadian population. It's time for another female prime minister.

In the federal election this year, Canada elected 98 women as MPs, which is ten more than the previous election in 2015. That means women make up less than 30% of the House. This is not proportional to the current

population of women living in Canada. We should have a government that is representative of its citizens.

It is imperative that women are represented in politics. We should educate young girls that they can have a career in politics and government and that politics is an attainable career path to follow if she chooses. Having more women in politics leads to women in communities feeling more connected to politics and increases their involvement. It helps to provide different ideas and perspectives in the government. It's 2019, and it is time for a change, more women should be in politics.

Student Voice in Canadian Politics

By: Sara Abbas



On Monday, October 21, the Canadian election took place, throwing the fate of the next Prime Minister into the hands of citizens ages 18 and older. People all over Canada lined up outside of their local polling station, eager to officially state their opinion on the political party best suited to lead the nation's future. At the same time, there was a similar opportunity available for students all over the country to show who they thought to be the best fit: the student vote.

The student vote was brought to Westdale on Friday, October 18, mimicking the real-life federal election. It took place during both lunches, and every student was given the chance to vote so long as they had their student ID on hand. While the vote did not contain the same formalities and privileges as the federal election, this event still benefitted many students invested in politics, despite the common argument that it "took too much time out of students' education". Though some may think that students 'wasted' their time by researching Canada's political parties, I believe that this introduction to voting is actually quite the opposite: something of value.

The student vote educates students on the process of democracy and teaches them how to vote, preparing them for future elections.

It follows the same procedure as that of any government election: show your ID, take a ballot, walk over to a voting booth, pick your choice, fold the paper, and then put it into the ballot box. Although these steps may seem simple, people can get overwhelmed when it's their first time, causing them to stumble around the polling station trying to figure out what they're supposed to do. Practicing it beforehand and getting an idea of how democracy actually plays out in Canada greatly benefits everyone.

The student vote showed the similarities and differences between how the students would have voted compared to how people of voting age actually voted. After the votes were tallied, it became clear that a Liberal minority government would have taken into effect if these were the votes used to determine the next Prime Minister. Thus, if students were in charge of picking Canada's next leader, it would not have ended any differently than the way it has.

On the other hand, the number of seats won by the secondary parties greatly differed from election to election. In the student vote, NDP ended up coming in second after Liberals, earning 98 seats in total. Then, Conservatives won 93 seats—only 4 seats away from the NDP—and the Green party and the Bloc Quebecois followed suite. In reality, the Conservatives won 121

seats while the NDP achieved 24. The Liberals placed first with 157 seats, earning them a minority government. These results were not identical with the real-life election. Notwithstanding, they provided good insight on the differences in political preference between high-school students and those of age.

While there were students who decided not to vote, likely thinking it was pointless and would be without meaning, our country's political leaders do take a look at what the future voters would have selected. These results may influence them and cause them to alter some of their actions depending on what the soon-to-be voters want. This effectively can help change the future and what each political leader offers, in an attempt to persuade students to vote for them. Throughout history, there have been people who wanted more than anything to vote in this country. You are given this opportunity, don't waste it!

While the student votes do not count towards the elections, they do more than just show the world what the students under the voting age would have chosen. Taking advantage of these types of moments hold greater perks than people realize, and it shouldn't be something people take for granted.

ONLINE CLASSES

By: Sonya Pallapothu



For the 2020-2021 school year, the Ford government has decided to implement a new requirement for high school graduation: online classes. Each student must take at least four online classes to graduate, and that's a major problem. Taking online classes means a lack of one-on-one student-teacher interaction, a foreign teaching method, and the loss of valuable life skills that we inherit through group projects, class participation, and other in-class activities.

The beauty of learning in a classroom setting is its dependence on interaction between the student and the teacher. Over



the course of the semester, you build a special bond with your teacher that allows them to know exactly what your strengths and weaknesses are and personalize the lesson to facilitate better understanding. Online classes diminish this. Between you and your teacher is a screen, with the only form of communication being email. This means that the teacher doesn't know you as a person and cannot acknowledge the areas that you are struggling with, or the areas that you are excelling in. If the teacher doesn't know anything about you, how can they properly help you? That's why online classes can be so difficult; we can't better ourselves and learn from our mistakes if no one is there to guide us and point out where we went wrong.

The majority of us have been raised in a traditional classroom setting since kindergarten, consisting of a teacher, students at their desks, and a whiteboard or chalkboard. If we ever need help, we simply raise our hands and ask the teacher a question, and the teacher answers it for us. If we are still doubtful, the teacher can come over and explain the concept that we don't fully

understand. In stark contrast, during online classes you must sit in front of an electronic device and read the material that was sent to you. If you need to ask a question, you have to email the teacher and anxiously wait for a response, remaining utterly confused in the interim because you don't understand the coursework. The process of sending an email and waiting for a reply is so inefficient, and is so different from what we're used to, that it can greatly impact how we comprehend the information we're given.

Something most people hate about school is that it doesn't appear to teach any valuable life skills, but that's not true. Although many claim to hate group projects and participating in class, these activities actually help us learn life skills such as communication, collaboration, etc. When you take an online class, there's you, and only you, doing your homework for that class. There's no human interaction; there's no sharing of ideas or listening to different opinions.

Some may say that online classes urge self-regulation and independence, which I completely acknowledge to be important skills. However, these can still be achieved in classroom settings because group work isn't always necessary. Thus, classroom settings offer significantly more advantageous life skills than online classes do.

Online classes strip the indispensable interaction between the teacher and the student, all while introducing a completely foreign teaching style to students. These classes also fail to teach students important life skills that will benefit them later on when it comes to their workplace, family, etc. High school students need real classroom settings, and in order to preserve this, it's our job to stand up for what's right. The allowance of the Ford government's new graduation requirement is our loss to a proper education. It's time to stand up, Warriors!

JOKER: WHO IS THE MONSTER HERE

BY: MARIA CHZHEN



Hello everyone, my name is Maria Chzhen. This article is about Joker, a new 2019 movie that came out very recently and is still in the cinemas. If you haven't yet watched the movie, please avoid reading this article as it contains many SPOILERS.

Joker revolves around the mentally-ill Arthur Fleck. He is, in fact, the *Joker*. Life doesn't seem to care for Arthur: he gets jumped by street thugs every now and then, he is poor and unprivileged, has a mental illness that makes him laugh at inappropriate times, and still lives with his mother. Though Arthur tries to be comedic and make people smile, no one seems to laugh at his jokes. What doesn't help is the fact that the movie is set in the US during the 1980s, when the upsurge in crime rates was unbelievable. Gotham, the city Arthur lives in, is headed by a corrupt leader. As you can see, these negative circumstances didn't help Arthur's mental illness and only magnified his personal struggles. We, as humans, on the other side of the screen, realize and start to understand why Joker is the way he is. The movie's goal isn't to ridicule Arthur for all of his misdeeds, as can be seen by the dearth of cinematic effects and villainous makeup during Arthur's crime scenes. In stark contrast, the film's goal is to show how a mentally-ill, depressed, melancholic man can develop a second persona of cruel Joker. The city, life, and other people couldn't care less about Arthur. This carelessness led to the creation of a monster that would wreck Gotham.

I am not defending Joker. I really don't approve of his behaviours and I pity his victims—though they also tended to be jerks. But it is always like this in life: “Beat or get beaten”. Thus, the line of right and wrong is really blurry in *Joker*.

Post-movie, while browsing YouTube and listening to what others had to say about *Joker*, I came across an interesting movie theory. Here is the main idea: Arthur's hysterical laughing, awkward movements, and sporadic changes in personality all point to him having schizophrenia. This mental illness is particularly famous because the victims are known to build their own reality. What I'm trying to say is that maybe, just maybe, not everything that happened on screen *actually* happened in reality, but rather was a warped construct of Joker's perception of reality.

Joker is not based on any comic; it is an original movie that only borrowed the concept of Joker's character from the comics and then tried to explain the psychology behind his wicked transformation. The movie even gives Joker a new, human name: Arthur Fleck. He was played by Joaquin Phoenix and the performance was pretty brilliant. It made everyone else's acting seem inferior. I was particularly amazed at how Phoenix could laugh like a crazy madman the first second and then assume a normal demeanor the next.

How does he do that?

The producer and writer was Todd Phillips. The film cast included Joaquin Phoenix as Arthur Fleck, like I previously mentioned; Robert De Niro as Murray Franklin, who is a pretty famous person both in real life and in the movie; Zazie Beetz, Fleck's love interest; and Frances Conroy, who played Penny Fleck, the abusive mother of Joker.

My rating: 9/10. The movie attempts to justify the Joker's actions, showing me and other

viewers that reality can be harsh. It can and should be difficult to realize that nobody really cares about you on the same level that you care about yourself.



Feature Article:

Iqbal Masih

By: Ellie Shimizu



I am not old enough to change the world. I am not strong enough to lift the weight of wrong. I am not big enough to surpass the largeness of evil... this is what we think. We are fearful, doubtful. We know not what lies ahead, only what is in front of us.

The story of Iqbal Masih is both a brutal tragedy but also an example of brilliant bravery. The 12-year-old boy did not let his age stop or define him; he stood up for himself and every other child that worked as a debt slave.

At the age of four, Iqbal's mother needed money for an operation. His family took a loan from a Pakistani carpet factory owner, which was under Iqbal's name. Because of this, he was considered a 'debt slave', where he was required to work twelve or more hours a day, starting very early in the morning. He owed 5,000 rupees to the factory owner but only made 1 rupee for a full days' work.

Iqbal was not allowed to have an education because it was necessary that he spent his time working so that he could pay off debts as soon

as possible without too much interest. However, if Iqbal made a mistake while weaving or accepted food while working, more money was added onto his debt. By the age of ten, Iqbal's debt had grown to about 13,000 rupees (around \$260 USD).

Iqbal withstood brutal factory conditions, similar to millions of other children who work to pay off

"Children should have pens in their hands not tools."

- Iqbal Masih

the debts of their families. He travelled to the factory at four in the morning and was then seated in a cramped room that barely fit 20 carpet looms. Light was scarce, and the windows were firmly shut so that the wool wouldn't be damaged. To sit, he would have to crouch on a small piece of wood and dangle his feet into a narrow trench with the loom inside.

Although he worked beside 20 other children, they were not allowed to speak to one another. Instead, they were lashed on the back or head

whenever they made a mistake. On top of that, the children were given very sharp tools; if they were distracted, they could easily nick their fingers. Concentration was therefore pivotal to weave the complex designs.

They would rarely get any days off, and if a child complained of being sick, they would be hung upside down in a dark closet. If they ran

away or complained of being homesick, they would be severely punished.

Once, Iqbal was so drained that he started to fall asleep.

His tool slipped and dug into one of his fingers. The factory owner immediately yelled at him to not let his blood drip on the wool and poured hot oil on Iqbal's finger, to seal the wound. When Iqbal screamed from the pain, he was hit across the head and forced to get back to work.

All these inhumane factory conditions would often lead to diseases such as emphysema and tuberculosis because the children would inhale thousands of small wool fibres. (Continued on next page)

Their postures would become bowed due to constant squatting, and they would have constant pain in their hands from carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis

However, like some other children, Iqbal would stand up to his masters. Even when he was beaten and taxed for speaking up, he continued when he knew things were not right.

After six years of brutal labour, news spread that the Pakistani government had ruled forced physical labour illegal, and all pending loans to employers were cancelled. When Iqbal heard, he felt a glimmer of hope warm his heart. He shared the news with the other factory children, that they may have a chance at freedom, but the others had lost all hope for their futures.

The next day, Iqbal went to the police station and explained that the factory forced child labour, but the officers simply took him back to the factory in exchange for money from the owner. He was then punished in front of the other children, but nevertheless, he refused to give up on his freedom.

He then escaped a second time, knowing that his life was at stake if he was returned to the factory. Iqbal wound up at a meeting of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BLLF). There, he was able to get the necessary paperwork to be liberated from the factory. Once he was finally free, he also fought for the other children that worked with him to be freed.

After this, he finally had access to an education with BLLF and told himself

that one day he would become a lawyer. He worked exceedingly hard, completing four years worth of school in half the time. He displayed his natural leadership on multiple accounts and continued to fight for children still in slavery. He began taking dangerous steps to free others including: sneaking into a factory to interview children, speaking publicly at meetings; and speaking to activists and journalists. Masih's merciless and brutal story caught people's attention worldwide.

Unfortunately, his six years of forced labour took an extreme toll on his physical and mental health. He was about half the size of the average child his age (10 years old), was less than four feet tall, and weighed only

"He was an activist, a fighter, and most importantly, a hero."

60 pounds. A doctor described his condition as 'psychological dwarfism', which is where the body stops growing. Iqbal also experienced kidney problems, a curved spine, bronchial infections, and arthritis.

As Iqbal's story began to gain traction, he received multiple death threats. Despite this, he continued to speak up against child labour. On Saturday, April 6th, 1995, while riding a bike with his cousins, Iqbal was shot and immediately died. He was twelve.

It is unknown how or why this happened, but there are numerous theories. Some say that it was unintentional, from a farmer under

drug influence; others say the factory owner sent someone to assassinate him.

Though his life was short, he put everything he had into his twelve years. Not a moment was wasted. Iqbal Masih did not only fight for his own freedom but also the freedom of all other enslaved children. He was an activist, a fighter, and most importantly, a hero. Today Iqbal is a symbol child slavery abolitionism and the liberator of many.

Learn more about the BLLF at:

<https://www.endslaverynow.org/bonded-labour-liberation-front>



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Halloween: A Holy Day But Not A Holiday For NBA

By: Zeynep Berra Yilmaz



As soon as the calendars turned to the month of October, the countdown started. After 364 days of waiting, it finally arrived: HALLOWEEN! For most, this day usually means orange and black windows, and carved pumpkins and decorations seeing daylight after 11 and a half months. However, in the NBA it's more than that. Recently, everyone has been talking about how NBA players earning way too much money and being famous makes their life difficult. Being too rich equals too difficult of a life, huh? Ummm... ok... but I don't think I can put myself in their sneakers, so I'll try to understand them specifically in the context of Halloween.

There's enormous pressure in the NBA when it comes to a good costume; they can't simply be a fairy princess, bug-eyed alien, dead cheerleader, old-table-cloth ghost, sexy bunny, gothic vampire, or tiny minion. While most people can be SpongeBob or Harry Potter every single year and not get despised for it, these people need to bring their A-game every year. I can't imagine what someone like LeBron must be going through when trying to find celebrity costume ideas because it must be difficult to find someone more famous and more wealthy than himself. Also when they enter the arena with their costumes on the way to their games, they have lots of cameras broadcasting their outfit. I don't think anyone else has their outfit broadcast and commented on all around the world. My heart hurts for them.

Since Halloween is at the beginning of the season, I don't think they go trick or treating to demand strangers to feed them either because of their strict diets. Imagine having a day where you can solicit random strangers for candy and not be rebuked just because you're wearing a disguise on just the right day of the year. And then imagine not being able to do that just because you're way too famous and healthy for that. Tragic. Then imagine a day where you can blackmail your neighbours into passing out expensive candy, and threaten them by saying that if they don't, the whole neighbourhood will look down on them and will gossip about their lack of spirit. Then imagine not being able to do this to your neighbours because you live in a mansion on a mountain and don't have any neighbours. My thoughts and prayers are with you, my man... but



are their sufferings over? No! Imagine people making their houses as hideous as possible so that small kids will run off crying. Then imagine not being able to do that because your mansion would require a team of professionals to decorate the whole place.

Luxury and stardom really do make lives difficult. It apparently deceives people into thinking they can get away with anything. For example, it didn't keep some players (whom I will not use the name of to save them the embarrassment) from being a 6'10" strip of bacon, or a "Dalmatian/dead rock star (whaaat?!)", or a Luigi with no Mario, or a random doctor or just going as themselves. They might as well have thrown their money into the trash. I sure hope these embarrassments weren't allowed into LeBron's annual crazy Halloween party. I hope in the future they'll take Kyle Korver as a role model; the guy became Willy Wonka and rented Oompa Loompas to go everywhere with him! (*insert Keanu Reeves voice*) = "Woah".

Halloween is usually a day for youth and some adults who can get away with it. However, for the NBA it's a day to show off your creativity and wealth. So, NBA players get someone to do the whole thing for them. Think about it. They're so rich that if they don't have any characters they want to be, they can hire filmmakers to design a character they like, write a script for it, and shoot the film so they can be that character for the Halloween of that year. Perfectly affordable and yet... sad... sucks. Must be hard. My sympathies. Tough lives, eh?

Becoming

A Book Review by Sue Lee

"When I was a kid, my aspirations were simple. I wanted a dog," the memoir begins. Interestingly enough, by the time Michelle Obama is old enough to have two daughters of her own, so do they.

Becoming is a memoir by Michelle Robinson Obama, the former First Lady of the United States (often referenced in the book as FLOTUS), published in 2018. She guides us through the music-filled little home she grew up in, to the White House, a place "with more stairs than [one] can count—plus elevators, a bowling alley, and an in-house florist," and finally, to a peaceful home in which she can live quietly after the eight years in the American spotlight.

Michelle Obama was the youngest in her family, "dictatorial" and "unyielding" with a self-proclaimed "feistiness." She quickly became aware of the disparities of the world, but for her, it was simply another chance for her to prove wrong those who doubted her. At seventeen years old, when a school college counsellor told her she wasn't "sure [she was] Princeton material," she refused to accept that judgment and pushed through, ultimately receiving admission to Princeton University, where she'd pursue law for the next few rigorous years.

After many years of relentless study, a law student, charismatic and intelligent, enters her life. "Barack Obama was late on day one," Michelle Obama informs us, essentially exposing her husband. The two of them are drawn together, one with precise and lawyerly ambitions, the other breezy and confident, yet philosophical. Their marriage takes place in 1992. Fourteen years of hard work and new opportunities

later, with two young daughters, her husband is suddenly cast into public attention as a potential president. After an arduous period of campaigning, Barack Obama is elected the president of America.

Then follows eight years of the Obama family's life, dazzled with the luxuries and pained by the harsh public scrutiny that comes with being the First Family of the United States. Michelle Obama narrates her journey, and from it, we can see that through her seemingly bold, fearless actions and speeches all have roots in her perpetual fear inside: am I good enough? She narrates the ruthless shootings that took place within those

years, how she witnessed her daughters grow within the fame, how her husband became all the more resilient and hardworking as the United States gazed at him with the suspiciousness caused by the colour of his skin. Her process of discerning the fine line between truthfulness and deceit, and learning to not only live with her fame but to use it to heighten public attention for the causes she is passionate about, is long and rough, yet ultimately rewarding.

Michelle Obama concludes, "Let's invite one another in...there's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice." Reminiscing how she felt free and happy, even as

the First Lady, getting her hands dirty in the garden accompanied by children, she reminds us to protect the young, potent people and in turn, cherish our own voices. Becoming is a fascinating and empowering read; not simply because it was written by the First Lady, but because it outlines her extraordinary journey in becoming herself, herself who is not defined by that title alone, but instead by her own words that she uses to write this book.



Confused about Career Paths? It's Okay.

By: Maria Seo

Date: November 1, 2019



Mr Van Harten's Interview -- A Westdale English Teacher

Introduction:

Despite being a recent addition to Westdale's history, Toby Van Harten has quickly become a favourite to many students. Mr. Van Harten has been teaching for nine years, ranging from schools such as Westmount to Delta. He received his undergraduate degree at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, his carpentry certificate at George Brown College and then at Mohawk college. He achieved his Masters in Education and teaching certificate at Medaille College in the United States. Mr. Van Harten is known for his satirical sense of humour and enthusiastic approach to teaching. He can be recognized by the walkman headphones he wears from the '80s and the constant cup of coffee in his hand.

Q: What inspired your teaching career/What attracted you to English?

A: I actually, in highschool, really wanted to be a teacher, and if you asked all my friends from highschool, they would have said, "Oh, he's going to become a teacher, absolutely." Even in like Grade 10 that was really clear. And then I went to University, and I was so done with school. I didn't want to spend another day in school and I thought, "Oh I really shouldn't go into teaching now if I feel so burnt and done by years and years of schooling." So after University, I was going to travel the world for several years -- this was the grandiose plans. And so I was looking for this terrible job in order to save money, in order to travel, and I fell into this job in construction. And then, turns out I...this is a long, long story, so I'll skip all of that. But it turns out that that led to an apprenticeship, and then I took the apprenticeship, and then that led further and further and it was like 10 years later. And so I had left school, gone through the carpentry apprenticeship, I had a carpentry certificate, I had my own company, and it looked like I was going to become a carpenter. And after 10 years of that, I just kind've spent a minute predicting the future and I thought that I didn't really want to become a carpenter when I was like fifty or sixty or sixty-five or...that, and I didn't want that to be the rest of my life. So at that point, I sold my company and I went back to teacher's college. So to kind of answer your question, I really wanted to become a teacher, and then I really didn't want to be a teacher, and then it was much later that I came back to it. And as far as English, I always wanted to become a teacher, and there were subjects that I was much more comfortable in, and they were like History, and then I got my Tech qualifications, and like English were always kind of the three. So I got my teachables in that, but as far as the difference between those three, I would just like to teach anything. I love English, and I love what you can do with English, but I like being a teacher.

Q: What do you find challenging about teaching?

A: There's so much. I find it interesting about teaching that the things you find challenging are also the things that really give you the energy to keep going and that is so engaging...that make you put in all that work and put all that energy. So the individual story of each student and how to find a recipe that works for them, to get them is a really challenging and engaging process to go through. Because the challenge is that they are so varied and students react in so many different ways. I used to talk to a teacher about how you could be like a content teacher where just know the content incredibly well and you deliver it one way, or you can be a teacher of students and less of teacher of the content where you're really just looking at every student as an individual puzzle to figure out how you can get them to where they need to be. I think I am more of the teacher of a student than the teacher of the content. And the content can change, while there, we can trial different ways to try to get a student there, but that's really challenging. And it's just challenging from the perspective of like how many students you have and how little time

you have, the other expectations, all of that makes it overwhelmingly challenging. It's also an all encompassing type career, where you think about when you go home and you wake up in the middle of the night and you're thinking about it. When I was a carpenter, I would walk off the job site and that would be it. The next morning, I would walk on...But this all consumes you.



Q: What do you recommend for students wanting to better their writing?

A: Uh Yeah! I think the recommendation is to take any class that I teach? Ah no...I think reading is the best place to start obviously, like looking at how other people do it, and think about how they do it and noticing things. Even if -- and it would be great to be conscious of it -- but even if you're unconsciously [having] those thoughts flow through you, the best way to become a better writer is just to read and read and read and read. And the next best way to become a better writer is to just write and write and write and write. And try things. It takes so long, it takes so many thoughts, it takes so many tries, and it takes so many revisions, and it takes so much thought about how you did something, why you did something, or what the impact was for it to become better.

Q: What is something that most people do not know about you?

A: Aside from becoming a carpenter? [Van Harten laughs] I'll give you two things; one: I'm incredibly good at thumb wrestling. Yeah, I have very small thumbs and their really like...the skin of my thumb is really soft and so it's really slippery, it's hard to pin me down in a thumb wrestle. And they're pretty flexible and quick and so I feel like if there was some kind of professional league or way that I could've been successful in that...my life would have been very different. That's something that people don't know. I think that people don't know that I was at first interested, and still am interested in the connection between education and being outside. I always thought that the best kind of schooling was one where your immersed and outside of the building and in the natural world. And so I used to work a lot in the outdoor education field, and in running of an outdoor education program where we did a lot of experiential stuff and I think that's a very interesting way to learn.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: [Van Harten laughs] Yeah, it's only in the summer. We spend a ton of... so I have a family, which is what you do when you have a family. Hobbies are a little less, but we spend a lot of time outside. So we do a lot of camping or canoe tripping or hiking or climbing, or just things where we're outside.

Q: What is your favourite book/author?

A: Oh wow, that's so hard. I have so many. I like...oh where do I start. It's a recency bias. I'm going to say that my favourite ones are the one's that I've read recently. It depends on my mood. When I'm really in like a depressed, dark mood, I strangely like Hemmingway. Which is a terrible, terrible person to like and a terrible thing to subject yourself to. I really like Niel Gaiman. I like his style and I like the way...I like the kind of interesting blend of reality and fantasy that he does, and that it's often wrapped in some kind of social criticism or something about the world. Umm...what else am I reading? Right now I'm reading a lot of Stephen King. I haven't decided whether I like him or not, but he's certainly successful. And I just read...uh...American girl by...I can't remember her name -- I have a terrible memory, that's another thing that people don't know -- and that I thought the style was fascinating. So I don't know if I have a favourite, but I have tons...it's entirely recency bias.

Q: Do you have a favourite type of writing?



A: I really like short stories. I like how deliberate, and how every word is chosen so carefully, and how it's so focused. There's so much complexity in short story, in just this little moment of our life, and capturing it. If we can do that correctly, how it tells us so many things about the rest of the world and about the rest of our life.

Q: Do you have any place or thing you find inspiration in when you write your own material? If you write, that is?

A: I do. I think, just like personal experience. Kind of like what we talked about in class, just like noticing the weird things around you that you find interesting or you find engaging or that make you laugh. And then thinking about the why and recording those, so that they don't just drift through your brain and disappear. Because if we look closely, there's just so many strange and wonderful and weird things on a daily basis. And in high school, you get to see a lot of that as well. And with a family you get to see a lot of that. If you open your eyes a little bit, there's so much to steal.

[Do you write outside of school?]

A: I just do it for the creative process of it, and just for the crafting of it and the experience of it. I have no desires for a wider audience.

[Is that where you get your ideas for assignments for your classes?]

A: Depends on the class, but I like the assignments within classes to be, to feel more authentic. So to be something that you could send to a wider audience, and that you have a specific audience in mind, and that mimic the kind of things that are being produced in the real world. In my grade 11 class, our assignments are very real world assignments, and they're producing something that you could send on in a format that we're used to. In Writer's Craft, things that make people write differently or challenge them to think about something differently, is really the aim. And having lots of them; having lots of opportunities to write in a challenging and new way is kind of what I'm going for there.





Why try to hide behind closed doors,
When rain only seems to pour?
Why ever try to hide away,
When tomorrow is another day?

Each person has their troubled times,
They feel to fall and not to climb.
It's hard sometimes to recognize,
The sun will never fail to rise.

The birds will sing,
The stars will dance,
There always is a second chance.

No matter how the rain comes down,
Light always comes back around;
The storm will slow,
The clouds will part,
There's always power in your heart.

Word of the Month

By: Nina Veselovskaya

Facetious (adj.)

Treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humor; flippant.

Derived from latin Facetus meaning "witty" and French facétieux meaning "joke"

"Throckmortons' facetious remarks were quite inappropriate at his aunt's funeral."

Puzzles



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

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

Answers for the Sudoku from the last issue:

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

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

Comics



"WHITE SHOE GANG" By: Samantha Potts



Fuzz heads | Ethan Riemer



November Horoscopes

By: Esther Liu

ARIES ♈

Hope you're well! Soon enough, you'll have to be well to keep on coping with what life is throwing your way. What you should, however, keep an eye out for is a fish. Any kind, any sort: one or two, red or blue. I wouldn't worry too much though, Aries. I'm sure you'll pull through, as always. But seriously. Go for swimming lessons.

TAURUS ♉

Why didn't you wish me happy birthday? Didn't you know that it was my birthday? I know that you know that it was my birthday. Well, I guess it's fine as long as you make it up to me. Nevertheless, remember that it's better to not make the mistake in the first place than to apologize too late.

GEMINI ♊

You've been ignoring me... I guess that's alright, since I've been ignoring you too. Still, this conflict can't last forever, no matter how much we want it to. We should really work this out. In fact, this horoscope's advice is exactly that, it strongly urges us to work it out.

CANCER ♋

I've been reminiscing, Cancer. There are definitely some strange feelings surrounding you and me, but I would just ignore them for now. Instead, focus on a hobby! Crafting never hurt anyone significant for too long.

LEO ♌

Sometimes we confuse you with Cancer, just because. This isn't your fault, no, it's really just due to a coincidence with dates and markers. However, because of this, you may be feeling slightly off; a little bit strange in a way you can't seem to put your finger on. No need to worry, just reflect on what may be at the root of it and then push on through to the next step. After all of this, you'll be able to regain your balance.

VIRGO ♍

Consider: we are walking down some sort of sunny lane in early spring. The sun is high on the horizon and our spirits are up there with it. Can you see it already? Can you see the blooms curling out onto the road, or smell the crisp air, or hear the river rushing by? Does this make you feel anything? Is this a declaration of love?

LIBRA ♎

Why are you constantly lying to yourself? To everyone? We can all see it happening, but you continuously insist on your attempts at trickery to be nothing other than tomfoolery. Be more honest with everyone. Be more honest with yourself.

SCORPIO ♏

Tell me Scorpio, since you know me so well, am I just pining? Are you as well? I think it's time we come together and pine together. Not for each other, but just in companionship. It'd be good to stew in some sort of good and old-fashioned comradely passion. I think it'd be a nice step forward in our relationship.

SAGITTARIUS ♐

Oh boy. Oh golly. Your heart, your passion, your blood trickling through your veins...

CAPRICORN ♑

Remember that last message? That wasn't directed to you. There may be some grand plan for all of us and you're free to take whatever meaning you can out of that message, but just know it wasn't for you. If you would, however, like a message directed for you, please begin by approaching your loved ones with an honest tone of voice.

AQUARIUS ♒

It was nice to see you again! No offence, but I forget about how often you just seem to pop out from nowhere. Sometimes it feels like I'm seeing double, but it may just be warping in my perception of the supposed space-time continuum. Or I need glasses! Or maybe you need to work on that. Yeah. This actually sounds like a "you" problem.

PISCES ♓

Your month is soon arriving! In preparation, it may be best to go hang out with Aries for a jolly old time. I know they can be tiring, but this little escapade will be good for the soul. In fact, the Stars suggest that you may want to even go swimming with Aries! While you're at it, maybe bring along Sagittarius too. Remember: prioritize yourself so you can truly thrive in your coming month.



Art by Ella Morreale