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"Clarissa's Album Pick of the Month"
Image via Pitchfork

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VANCOUVER'S DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUG POSSESSION

BY MOLLY CHESMAN

On November 25th, 2020, the city council of Vancouver voted unanimously to decriminalize the possession of illicit drugs, requesting that the Canadian federal government grant them an exemption from the country's criminal code. At the time the voting took place, Vancouver had faced more resident deaths to overdose than to COVID-19, and the city stated that they hope that by passing the issue of drug use from criminal authorities to healthcare professionals, those deaths will decrease in the years to come. Black market trading of drugs is another issue hoped to be stalled with the proposed decriminalization, as well as incarceration rates. At the time of writing this, this request has yet to be met by the federal government.

It's important to add context to the increase in overdose related deaths within not only Vancouver, but the whole of Canada. While it is true that many deaths occur each year due to an excess amount of drugs in the system, it is also true that deaths occur because of the trace amounts of other substances within those drugs. To possess illicit drugs in Canada is a crime that can result in up to six months in prison (if a first offense) and \$1,000 in fines. This means that not only the possession of, but also the trade and distribution of illicit drugs is not regulated under law, and it has become a common issue of one substance being laced with a secondary, often more parlous substance, and it is secondary substance that results in the unknowing user's death. If possession of illicit drugs is decriminalized, we can remove the issue from a criminal context and introduce it to health-based regulation. There is already a site in Hastings, Vancouver where one can test their substances, and in other countries where one can even take them in a safe, clean environment. This allows for recreational drug use to be regulated and monitored safely, rather than villainizing and punishing users who might otherwise fall victim to a cycle of use and arrest. Addiction is something not solved by time spent within a cell, and realizing that mass arrest will not stop the use of drugs is a good first step towards making drug use safer. It would be exciting to see more of these facilities brought to Canada, as well as unbiased discussions on drug use become common practice outside of taboo.

DARK ACADEMIA AND THE AESTHETICIZATION OF OPPRESSION

BY GRACE HODGES

If you spend enough time mindlessly scrolling through Tumblr, Tiktok, or Pinterest, you'll eventually stumble across the aesthetic dubbed "dark academia." The name explains itself, taking a darker spin on academia and leaning into the romanticized versions of it. Dark academia has developed into an aesthetic with key works like *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt becoming staples of the community. However, concerning exclusionary and classist elements lie within.

In order to criticize dark academia, there has to be some sort of understanding of what exactly it is. To put it in simple terms, dark academia is where burnt-out gifted kids go to rot. The aesthetic highlights academia in higher institutions, drawing people in with defining pieces of classical literature and scribbled Latin phrases. Studying and learning are romanticized in order to create the image of the tortured classicist its admirers often yearn to achieve. All this seems innocent enough, it could even be positive. Dark academia encourages a more creative and appealing road in academic pursuit, pulling out the desire to learn and explore the areas that interest a student. The aesthetic houses those with more archaic interests, creating a common threshold for students that might be more drawn to Jane Austen and Homer. However, with the adoration of poetry and dedication to academia comes significant drawbacks, not only on the student but also in the concepts they perpetuate.

The most obvious issue is hinted at in the name: the best dark academic is the one who loses themselves in the pursuit of knowledge. If you can become a tortured soul, nearing exhaustion, all for the sake of academia then you seem to have achieved the quintessential piece of the aesthetic. Sacrificing self-care and mental health for academic pursuit is quietly championed, not hard to see for an institution like academia that never really cared much for those things in the first place. Due to its foundations, the aesthetic's roots and superstructure are often incredibly exclusionary. Cisgender and white bodies are those centered with non-heterosexuality, only showing up so authors can coopt queerness for the added layer of internalized homophobia. The most notable example of this are the characters presented in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, a novel widely considered to be a staple of dark academia. The central characters are all white, nearly all wealthy, and all cisgender. With two of the men, Charles and Francis, Tartt creates a devastating queer storyline. Their story culminates in a toxic, nearly predatory relationship that leaves both of them scarred. *The Secret History* shows how, in an aesthetic largely dominated by queer youth, queerness is only ever used for the appropriation of its tragedy and never genuine, healthy love.

Historically, and currently, academia is dominated by those with privilege, especially racial and class privilege. Dark academia strictly adheres to colonial constructs of learning and seems to fixate most on white authors and white musicians, while also having a huge issue with classism. Wealth and status are set as the ideals for the

aesthetic's following, who strive for some semblance of superiority and exclusivity in colonial measures of worth. All of this combined is harmful for youth who are interested in academic pursuit. When the only images and symbols of the aesthetic are the privileged pictures of perfection, it becomes a breeding ground for multifaceted oppression and microaggressions. So the question is posed: is dark academia worth salvaging?

The short answer is yes, but only after some serious reworking is done. The aesthetic should not be rooted in pursuit of exclusionary status symbols, but instead as what it presents itself to be: the pursuit of education and learning. At the very least, if the aesthetic can restructure itself around knowledge in ALL its forms, not just what is deemed adequate by colonial constructs, then it will have made leaps and bounds to foster a healthier community. Dark academia needs to expand its hallmarks to include more diverse stories and knowledge. There have been and continue to be brilliant composers, linguists, poets, and authors that are not just white and male among all fields. Amanda Gorman has been celebrated for her skill in poetry and @camrihewie on Instagram highlights the aesthetic portions of dark academia. The aesthetic can also be used as a tool for more radical change, if used correctly. Drawing aspirational and critical thinkers to the pursuit of diversified knowledge can be an invaluable tool for creating conversation, and giving people the tools to wield the language correctly. Dark academia holds the potential to foster a middle ground for those in love with academia and literature and the collective future they hope to pursue, we need only to seize it. In the words of one of the staple authors of dark academia Oscar Wilde: "Anyone who lives within their means suffers from a lack of imagination."

THE FUTURE OF BIDEN'S AMERICA

BY ISABELLA MCDONELL

Without a doubt, I can state Donald Trump is among the most eventful and amusing presidents in recent history. News sources never looked far for an outrageous story during the past four years. Alongside the mayhem, the Trump administration succeeded in the reversal of hundreds of Obama-era bills. This has left the Biden administration scrambling to get the country back to 'normal'. To do this, a massive four-year plan had been drawn up. Thousands of pages of indecipherable jargon outline plans for major issues like climate, Covid-19, education, healthcare, various coalitions, and the minimum wage. I have some highlighted key details in the new administration's plans. You can find more in-depth information at joebiden.com and whitehouse.gov.

Climate

Paris Agreement

In the first few hours of presidency, Joe Biden signed an executive order to rejoin the legally binding Paris Agreement, an international treaty that aims to protect the world from the disastrous effects of climate change. In June 2017, a year after the agreement was signed, the Trump Administration left the agreement.

100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 250

To achieve this feat:

- all future government buildings will be built with climate in mind
- Tax credits for electric cars will be reinstated to combat greenhouse gas emissions from transportation
- Demand public corporations to release environment risks and greenhouse gas emissions created in their production

Create Environmental and Climate Justice Division in U.S. Department of Justice

The creation of this department will insure guidelines and standards are being met for citizens, after the previous administration saw "...the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has referred the fewest number of criminal anti-pollution cases to the Justice Department (DOJ) in 30 years."

COVID-19

Mask Mandates

In a December 2019 poll, only 66% of adults in the U.S. "always" wore masks when they were not able to social distance in public spaces. Mandatory mask wearing made compulsory by Governors and enforced by authorities will dramatically improve COVID-19 case numbers.

Free Vaccinations

Similar to the Trump administration, COVID-19 vaccinations will be cost-free for every American. The Biden administration has also budgeted \$25 billion for vaccine manufacturing and distribution.

Education

Double number of health professionals in schools

Schools lack psychologists, counselors, nurses, and social workers. These professionals enhance and improve school life. The average American public school has a psychologist to student ratio of 1:1400, nowhere the suggested minimum 1:700.

Pay competitive teaching wages

With weekly public teaching pay not increasing since 1996, it is important to lure new educators to public education and for hard work to be recognized.

Tuition free public post-secondary for students with household incomes under \$125,000

With most jobs requiring some sort of higher learning, and student debt a strain on America, free tuition is necessary for future work forces.

Healthcare

Reinstating Obama-era Planned Parenthood funding

Throughout his term, Donald Trump continually shared his 'pro-life' beliefs and threatened to 'defund' Planned Parenthood on numerous occasions. Planned Parenthood is a non-profit that specializes in sexual health. They offer services such as sexual education, contraception, cancer screening, pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for STIs, and abortion services.

Coalitions

Ethnic Minorities: Improving Racial Wealth Gap

Joe Biden plans to better the racial wealth gap through programs such as the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and increasing funding to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs. The MBDA will receive \$5 billion in federal funding for small business loans annually. HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), TCUs (Tribal Colleges and Universities, and MSIs (Minority Serving Institutions) are set to secure the same level of federal funding as other colleges and universities with no racial alignment.

Women's Rights: Guaranteed 12 weeks paid leave

With the new legally protected family and medical leave, workers can take essential time off without sacrificing their next meal. This can be used for a recent addition to families (newborns, foster children, adopted children). Paid leave is also insured for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Indigenous Rights: Protecting the Aboriginal vote

Through the new Native American Voters Rights Task Force, Aboriginal voting will be insured and protected. In 2020, 22% of age eligible Indigenous people were not registered to vote. Many obstacles stand in the way of voters: few polling stations in remote areas, state restrictions on tribal IDs and mail-in ballots, and lack of resources in tribal languages.

LGBTQ+ Community: Revoke transgender military ban and ban conversion therapy.

On January 31st, 2021 Joe Biden reversed a Trump bill that denied transgender military personnel from serving openly, which left many to choose between their transition and military duty.

The Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act aims to ban conversion therapy, as it is legal in 31 states today.

\$15 Minimum Wage

Although many states and cities have adapted minimum wages of up to \$14 per hour, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25. This rate has been the same since 2009, and Democrats have been lobbying to gradually increase this for years.

EDUCATION EQUALITY FOR GIRLS

BY RIONA SARKER (UNICEF CLUB)

As of February 2020, 260 million children around the world do not have access to a decent education; a circumstance of which the severity is influenced by parts of each child's unique lifestyle and identity, some of which include financial ability, location, and in particular, gender. Approximately 132 million of those children are girls. Unfortunately, girls face a myriad of gender-based disparities that contribute to an unsafe school environment or a lack of education accessibility altogether. This failure to support girls and provide them with opportunities for a safe quality education denies societies of valuable social and economic betterment.

Gender inequality creates a wide range of issues and disparities for women in all aspects of their lives; a prime example of this being the barriers girls face when it comes to accessing quality and complete education. Poverty remains a massive hurdle for the majority of children out of school, but gender inequality finds a way to worsen this even further. For example, families without the means to fund the education of both their male and female children will often prioritize sending their male child to school, making the scarce opportunity to attend school as a child living under poverty even rarer for girls, simply because of gender. In some instances, people believe that education is a man's game and it is improper for a woman to trespass into such a "masculine" field. Though, as a human right, education is not meant to be monopolized by any one gender, race, class, or other group. This belief has stopped girls from attending school entirely, for the sole purpose of preserving fragile gender roles. Societal standards is another example of how harmful gender roles inhibit girls from accessing an education. The stereotypical role of a woman is to be a wife, mother, and caretaker, and while none of those things aren't necessarily bad, an issue arises when women are reduced and restricted to those roles, and those roles only. None of these jobs require completion of education, and so, since it is not socially acceptable for a woman to do anything else, girls are expected to drop out of school to be wives, mothers, and caretakers.

However, education can change the game for women, and this is why it is so important to support the pursuit of education for girls. Globally, for every two seconds that passes, one child bride gets married off. Child marriage is an atrocious act; it is in violation of human rights, and puts millions of girls at risk of abuse. Girls become three times more susceptible to child marriage when they do not attend school. By that logic, ensuring that girls are able to access an education directly counteracts the chances of child marriage.

Not only will doing so lower rates of child marriages, but supplying girls with a proper education gives them autonomy over their lives, skills to make life decisions on their own, more career options, and in turn, financial independence. Girls will be able to contribute to society, and have the access to enter professional jobs, thus promoting economic growth. Additionally, they will be able to provide for their families, and break poverty cycles, making for safer cities and a decrease in crime. An increase in the number of educated girls will break social stigmas regarding women's rights and help defuse harmful gender roles. Education can transform a society, and making sure girls

get an equal chance at one by removing the barriers girls face when trying to do so, has the massive potential to change societies for the better.

UNICEF believes every child deserves an education, regardless of gender, race, age, location, or financial ability, and recognizes that girls can face unique barriers due to gender inequality. UNICEF works to tackle these barriers in a number of ways; the first being advocacy. In Niger, less than 10% of the impoverished girls aged 12-15 attend school. However, with the influence of UNICEF's advocacy, the compulsory age of schooling was raised to 16. In addition, UNICEF helps girls deal with the financial costs of school through cash transfers, to cover expenses like supplies, uniforms, and textbooks. UNICEF will also work with governments to make schools more accommodating for girls, particularly for gender specific issues, such as menstrual cycles. This means having separate bathrooms for girls, and improved hygienic resources available at school. Lastly, UNICEF supports programs that make the transition from school into the workforce more accessible for girls.

Our world is far from perfect. Inequalities among all sorts of groups are bound to create privilege, and in turn, a lack thereof, which is exactly why we must recognize the problems this imbalance brings forward and work towards change. Shying away from addressing these issues robs our societies of valuable social and economic progress, as aforementioned. Knowing all it can do, it is safe to say that education is an invaluable gift we should appreciate and strive to share.

MANIFESTATION: A HOAX OR A MAGICAL CURE

BY ISABELLA MA

Manifestation is known as the act of creating an ideal reality through your thoughts, beliefs, and energy. This form of pseudoscience has grown in popularity amongst the new generation of teenagers since trending on TikTok. With one wish, one press of a button, or one comment, their problems can be resolved and dreams are satisfied. Our own personal fairy godmother. However, this begs the question, is it realistic? The entire concept of manifestation is based on the assumption that we have attracted every single event in our lives. Every success or misfortune, every moment of happiness or sadness—we are in control of every aspect of our life. If we follow this argument, we would conclude that illness, poverty, or any unfortunate event is derived from negative thoughts. Although the theory of manifestation proves to have numerous logical fallacies, teenagers around the world continue to preach the miracles brought by this trend. Through various social media platforms, we are able to delve into the world of manifestation and uncover this craze that has infatuated the new generation.

What is the allure? Is it the need for an escape from reality or just another “wishing well?” It may be both. Manifesting creates our perfect imaginary world where the only barrier to every dream or ambition is simply the act of focusing. We can imagine that we have the perfect body, friends, grades, or life. However, isn't this just another version of playing “pretend”? There is a general scientific consensus that pretending we are the embodiment of everything we desire will not change the current course of reality. Nevertheless, people continue to flock around this idea and indulge in the alleged “magical” results. Why? Although this form of escapism may appear highly exaggerated or unrealistic, this desire for everything to be completely perfect often obscures our perception of reality. It is the need for life to be an easy breeze without any mishaps or failure. It is a life that only appears in our dreams. If manifestation exists, who wouldn't want such a simple solution to everything?

While the concept of manifestation continues to spawn within social media and teenage culture, it has become a viral sensation, practically creating a new lifestyle. However, it's important to note that this isn't a new revelation. As humans are constantly in the search for absolute perfection and happiness, this trend has existed for centuries just in different formats. From astrology to witchcraft, the hope to find control within the uncontrollable has become a factor within human instinct. The only difference is that these magic-based beliefs have now become mainstream. This has led to a mass influx of users from Tiktok, Youtube, and other platforms seeking the “truth” of life while devouring every word from beauty-gurus or spiritual guides who offer assistance with crystals or tarot cards. Manifestation is essentially the new age of magic.

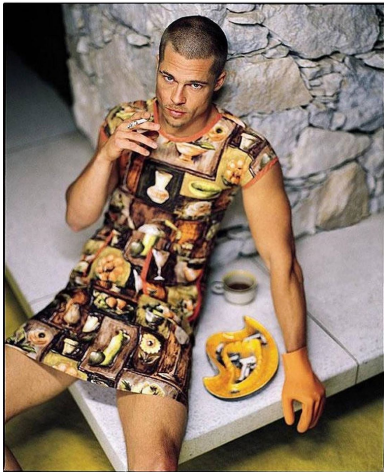
Does it actually work? No, not by itself at least. Writing something down thirty times isn't going to bring your dream to life and listening to subliminals won't make you lose

weight; this cold hard truth is a fact. None of these forms of manifestation have proven scientific support and are simply built on the sense of creating change in your own life. Yet, we must wonder if there are any possible repercussions. It's fine to believe anything you want, but to what extent does this mindset become toxic? There must be obvious limits. One concern circulates around the negative effects it may have on people who suffer from mental health conditions. As manifestation is structured around the belief that you are in control of everything, this may resonate negatively with those who are fighting depression or other serious issues. While these victims are more likely to internalize the emotion of "not being good enough" or "not trying hard enough", it may ultimately lead to discouragement and desperation. The real danger also lies within our human nature. How easy is it for humans to accept specific beliefs without any evidence or basis? Does this innocent belief of trusting our gut lead to a heftier issue of naivety? If we translate this into our modern world, filled with baseless claims from politicians or extremist groups, an individual can easily latch onto these beliefs and be manipulated. Does manifestation reflect this potential threat or is this an exaggeration?

All in all, this is not against positive thinking or dreaming, as those do have proven benefits on mental health and the willingness to work for success. By thinking positive we might not receive immediate results, however, it can create the motivation and energy required to pursue the ideal life. The actual question lies upon the idea of immediate gratification with manifestation. Although it is promoted endlessly online, the results are highly vague and questionable. At the end of the day, if manifestation makes you feel good, do it. However, it's important to note that: dreams are only dreams.

MEN IN SKIRTS: MORE NORMAL THAN YOU WOULD THINK

BY AMY VURDELA



Amid much controversy, many masculine-presenting individuals, including celebrities such as Harry Styles, have been exploring the feminine side of fashion with bright colours, skirts, dresses, and makeup. Some do it for self-expression, others as political statements. The social and political liberation of women has cut the bonds keeping them to specific gender norms in fashion and since the mid-20th-century, women have been able to wear whatever they want, specifically more masculine clothing like pants and blazers. However, why is femininity in men so stigmatized in society? While it seems that only recently a wave of popularity in men wearing skirts just popped up; this is not the case. It is more bizarre, relative to history, that men are not wearing skirts. When talking about exploring fashion from a political perspective, some words that are widely misconstrued are "gender roles" and "drag." Gender roles and gender norms are the wide-spread and limiting social barriers that influence the behaviors regarded as acceptable for people to do. Drag is different from dressing femininely, in that drag plays with the idea of gender and fashion and is largely defined by the person. Expressing yourself as feminine, masculine or androgynous may just be

the clothes that you wear on your back. There can be an intersection between drag and gender expression, but boiled down to the basics, drag is something confined to queer culture while dressing feminine is open to everyone.

There is a long history of robes and men, dating further back than men wearing pants, as dresses are the origin point of all clothing. The difference between clothes was based on social classes which was differentiated by the colours and styling. In the beginning, men and women wore the same clothes because they did not have the chance to evolve fashion at the time. During the time of the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, everyone wore robes. The creation of pants was presumably because of the need to ride horses, and to protect against the cold. The gender divide of pants originates from the divide of those farming and in the military. The 16th century marked the adoption of breeches and other forms of pants for men. From the middle ages to the 20th century, specifically in Europe, pants evolved. In the crossroad of fashion, men's style had the shortening of skirts where women's style had the lengthening. The longer robes went out of style, with pants emerging. From that point, the popularity lowered in age, with boys wearing dresses and men wearing pants. The only propagated use for

MEN IN SKIRTS: MORE NORMAL THAN YOU WOULD THINK

dressings today is christenings. Finally, in the 20th, it was a move towards suits for men as the style of fashion developed. More recently, movements towards more androgynous fashion emerged in the 1960s. Many designers tried to re-introduce skirts for men, but ultimately the style never caught on.

Though wearing skirts became uncommon, that did not stop many celebrities from breaking boundaries in fashion. Recently there has been much controversy surrounding many male celebrities sporting skirts and dresses alike. Toxic masculinity emerged, though the toxicity was not only confined to men. They equated wearing traditionally feminine clothing as the ultimate sacrifice of one's masculinity. Not only do you pay with your credit card to buy the skirt, but you are also asked to turn in your masculinity badge. It is important to recognize the movement towards the normalization of men in dresses. Before Harry Styles posed on the cover of *Vogue*, Billy Porter broke barriers wearing a tuxedo dress to the Oscars in 2019, despite receiving great backlash. Before the cis white guy did it, a black gay man did it, pointing out the inherent need for sexualization to validate expression. It has yet to catch on to the vast populous, though many designer brands have tried to reintroduce skirts and dresses, with failing results. In the past it seemed impossible for femininity to be embraced by men, but that may be changing with the new generation.

Today, we are seeing much more self-expression in the form of embracing feminine styles. There has been much more exploration of style and fashion as Gen. Z starts to mature and evolve; stepping into their independent self away from past generations. Feminine clothing amongst Gen Z has shot back into popularity through protests, expression, and even the pandemic. For one



example, in Quebec, many schoolboys wore skirts as a way to expose the unfair dress codes which limit girls and self expression, showing that revealed skin is not as big a deal as many administrators may think. Due to the pandemic, people have had more time to explore their fashion and self-expression; breaking free of the potentially constraining view of their peers. Trends on social media have emerged, showing not necessarily that more men are wearing skirts than before, but that there is a growing acceptance and encouragement of exploring one's gender expression through fashion. Whether this movement grows and can last, is something only time will tell. The trend of wearing feminine fashion is coming back.

THE ART OF VAGUENESS

BY LAI WEI

Extensions of phrases that serve as unnecessary accessorization of speech are commonly apparent within the structure of academics. Inherently holding no contextual meaning, but often applicable for justifications to conceal, to deceive, or out of the convenience of decor --- I can repeat that exact phrase in a less pretentious way: "People add useless language in writings to make something sound better than it is."

Education has evolved for us to use extremely formal, yet useless ways of speech for, like, whatever reason. I am fascinated by this development, as it is like witnessing a reverse evolution of the human languages. The uniqueness of language that distinguishes us from other animals lies in its specificity - though things seem to be moving backward, and I am seeing what appears to be our monkey ancestors waving at us from the destination of human revolution. Hmm, a circular plot structure.

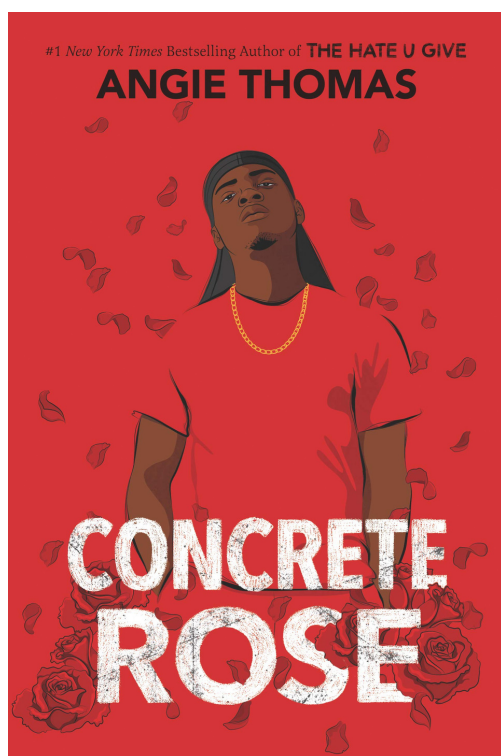
As a humanities student, I am exposed to creative and artistic manipulations of language. But can being vague for the sake of being vague stand on an equivalent pedestal? However, this may be human nature. If we can use functionless decors for our homes to make it look "nicer", then we can decorate language to make it sound "better". Vague language can be viewed essentially as the vase on the shelf, the bracelet on the arm, the charms to the keychains, and the wallpaper of the desktop screen.

The same goes with structure, another restrictive formality that could either contribute to a composition's birth or death. I find the latter outcome to be more persuasive. You may notice that I have given up on structuring this article.

My question is, why are we so obsessed with how "smart" a piece of writing sounds? Why not be more concerned with how much meaning the 800-word essay actually translates to? How much weight lies on the aesthetics of speech in the real world? Does it matter if I can make 100 beautiful words out of something that can be answered within a single sentence?

Because length also does not matter, I am ending this extremely vague and fragmented article right here, right now.

NEVE'S RECENT READS



Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas

Following the release of author Angie Thomas' gripping 2017 debut, *The Hate U Give*, a prequel has been long-awaited. Having just hit the shelves this January 2021, *Concrete Rose* returns to the Garden Heights neighbourhood of *The Hate U Give*, and follows seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter who must push through his youth, growing up as the son of a former gang lord, and dealing for the King Lords themselves. That is, until he finds out he has a three-month-old son. Maverick knows that the only way to properly support his child will be to find his way out of the King Lords' clutch, but a gang is not something you can escape from without consequence—and bloodshed. As the murder of a loved one follows, Maverick finds himself struggling even more than before to provide for his family.

For those who have read *The Hate U Give* (abbreviated as *THUG*) or watched its film adaptation, you will surely recognize Maverick and his baby Seven to be the father and brother of Starr Carter, the protagonist of the former book. Similar to *THUG*, *Concrete Rose* is narrated in AAVE (African-American Vernacular English), which provides a feeling of personality to the story and more insight into the characters' culture. The story itself gives even more depth to *THUG* and paints a picture of young, Black men as what society denies them to be capable of being—gentle, loving, and strong. Although the plot is less action-packed than *THUG*, it is still charged with emotion and shows the reality many Black youth face when brought up within a system working against them. At its root, Angie Thomas' *Concrete Rose* is yet another show of her inspirational writing, and a timely story of love and hope for young people of colour.



Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay

As someone who is both half-Filipino and an avid reader, it's disappointing that *Patron Saints of Nothing* is only the second YA book I've ever found with a Filipino protagonist—but it is by far a great novel for a variety of reasons.

Written by Filipino-American author Randy Ribay, *Patron Saints of Nothing* is extremely timely. Its plot revolves around the war on drugs currently happening in the Philippines under Rodrigo Duterte's presidency, who has been in office since 2016 and completely abusing his power and his people. In addition to the thousands of unarmed drug users and dealers murdered as a result of Duterte's drug war, he has incited violence in many

other ways. He has excused abusers and rapists (including the condemnation of his own daughter's survival story), and has expressed many times that he has no problem with violence and the murder of those who oppose his policies. In fact, he actively allows citizens and police alike to kill those who may be using or selling drugs, whether or not they are, and whether or not they are able to defend themselves.

In Ribay's novel, he addresses these horrors that many Filipino citizens have been witnessing, as the protagonist, Jay, learns that his cousin has been murdered as caused by this drug war. But because of his family's shame and refusal to tell him more about what happened, Jay decides to travel to the Philippines and uncover the truth himself about his cousin Jun's death, no matter the risk or pain this truth will hold.

Patron Saints of Nothing is a very important book for both Filipino and non-Filipino readers. These crises in the Philippines have been so buried, and essentially accepted, amongst citizens while those outside of the country have little knowledge of what is going on. Moreover, this story is a great representation of love and family, especially that of which is outside the norm. It pays homage to immigrants and people of colour, to those who have had to fight to find their home.

NEVE'S LATEST LISTENS

Collapsed In Sunbeams by Arlo Parks

Arlo Parks' music is the type that makes you feel like you're either sitting in a quiet café glowing with sunlight, or riding through town at night with the windows rolled down. *Collapsed In Sunbeams* is her first full-length album, but the sounds are mature and melodious, and her talent is palpable. Born in the UK (with Nigerian, Chadian, and French heritage), Arlo's accent combined with her poetic songwriting makes for songs that are easy to enjoy and relaxing while also making you want to dance.

This album has undertones of R&B smoothly incorporated into Arlo's signature indie pop sound, and although the term "indie pop" sometimes suggests a jangly type of music, hers is instead, very sophisticated and unique, despite her young age of twenty. Her lyrics are direct, yet artistic in their portrayal of mental health, friendship, and love, and she never skirts around the edges of difficult subjects, including her personal experiences as a woman of colour. Arlo Parks is an artist to look out for, and she has already garnered substantial recognition and two music awards since kickstarting her music career in 2018.



Selected Singles:

From left to right:



Top row:

- "My Limb" by Hayley Williams
- "Static Drone" by Vision Video
- "OK" by Wallows, with Remi Wolf and Solomonophic

Bottom row:

- "Ember" by Yana Laskov
- "Sensitive" by Serena Isioma
- "Good Days" by SZA

CLARISSA'S ALBUM PICK OF THE MONTH

Immunity by Clairo

Consisting of only 11 songs, *Immunity* by Clairo has touched so many listeners because of the story behind each song. Looking at the title of the album, the word "immunity" means the ability to be able to resist from something. The reason as to why she named it this is because she talks about her struggle with arthritis in one of her songs and immunity is a word that is used when someone can avoid getting a disease. Here is some background information about her. Clairo's real name is Claire



Cottrill, and she is an American artist from Atlanta, Georgia who makes indie pop/bedroom pop music. She has collabed with many other indie artists/bands like Wallows, as previously covered in a past Student Press newsletter. Being only 22 years old, she has already won the NME Award for Best New Act in the World. Many of her songs from her album like "Sofia" and "Bags" have been very popular in the past year. This album mostly revolves around her feelings towards a woman, Clairo making an album about women loving women is powerful, because it goes to show that artists like Clairo who are also in the LGBTQIA+ community. If more well known celebrities speak about this topic, more people around the world would understand that love is love, and gender should not matter at all. Due to the messages behind each song, her amazing voice, and groundbreaking talent, *Immunity* is worth a listen. Enjoy!

Song Analysis

1. "Alewife"

Many people might have thought that this song title is about a person. But, it is actually a train station in Massachusetts. This song is about how Clairo's best friend saved her from almost killing herself in grade eight. The lyrics are very deep and emotion-evoking.

2. "Impossible"

"Impossible" is about Clairo's intention of wanting to have closure with her past partner. In the song, she constantly asks questions about how they are doing or how they are feeling. This is to show that she still cares about them and would like to be friends again.

3. "Closer To You"

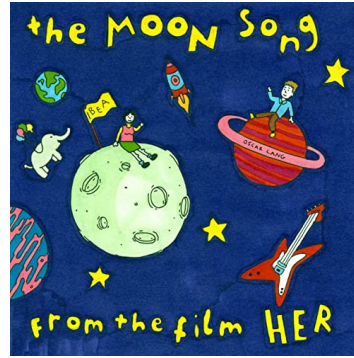
This song, being the most rap-influenced and electronic is about Clairo having feelings for someone and wanting to be more than friends. There is also contrasting in the song too, as she uses lyrics that seem like she does not want to talk to the person. An excellent example would be the part of the song where she says, "Shut up, don't wanna hear it now, I'm fed up."

4. "North"
Being the most upbeat song on the whole album, the song is about finally being able to be with the person she loves and having an intimate relationship with them. Though Clairo enjoys being with the person, she also does not want this feeling to end so the repetition of her contemplating if she should go up North is showing that she might need to leave to not face the truth of not having requited love.
5. "Bags"
The one song that never fails to make me cry would be "Bags" by Clairo. This song is about Clairo's unrequited love for a girl. The lyrics, "walking out the door with your bags" means that once Clairo confesses her love for the girl, it will not turn out the way she wanted. Thus, making her walk out with bags. The lyric "call me by the name I gave you" is inspired by the movie "Call Me By Your Name" which is a movie about a gay relationship between two men, similar to the sapphic theme of the "Immunity" album.
6. "Softly"
Listening to this song while making coffee in the morning is a perfect way to start the day! This is the happiest song out of the other ones in the album and the beat is one someone can dance their heart out to.
7. "Sofia"
TikTok has overplayed this song many times but it is an amazing song nonetheless! Looking at the title, the song is about the different "Sofias" Clairo has loved in her life. It is the song that demonstrates her first ever girl crushes like Sofia Coppola or Sofia Vergara.
8. "White Flag"
"White Flag" is similar to "Impossible" meaning-wise. It is about Clairo wanting to go end on good terms with her exes and remaining good friends.
9. "Feel Something"
This song is about difficult relationships and how it can be difficult when it comes to breaking up. The lyrics contradict each other with one of the many mesmerizing components of Clairo's songs.
10. "Sinking"
Apart from Clairo coming out as bisexual and releasing this album to her fans about her sexuality, "Sinking" talks about her battles with having arthritis ever since she was 17. In the next song after this, it falls more into detail about her first diagnosis with arthritis.
11. "I Wouldn't Ask You"
Being the longest song on the album, it does not disappoint at all. Clairo continues on talking about her struggles with arthritis and using "I wouldn't ask you" as the song title to show that the people around her will never understand what it is like to have this disease. Halfway through the song, the whole melody changes which was quite interesting to experience.

CLARISSA'S ALBUM PICK OF THE MONTH

Songs of the Month*Genre: Indie Pop*

- "She Doesn't Like You, She's Being Nice" by Brodie Wilson
- "Killer Whale" by Boycott
- "The Moon Song" by Beabadoobe and Oscar Lang

*Genre: Indie Rock*

- "Call This # Now" by The Garden
- "D is for Dangerous" by Arctic Monkeys
- "Orange" by Mt. Eddy

*Genre: Alternative Rock*

- "Deceptacon" by Le Tigre
- "Punk Rock Girl" by The Dead Milkmen
- "Fire in Cairo - 2005 Remaster" by The Cure

Genre: Rap/Hip Hop

- "Yesterday" by Lil Peep
- "California" by Childish Gambino
- "I'm Glad You're Mine" by Airr

Genre: R&B

- "Pretty Girl hi!" by UMI
- "Self Control" by Frank Ocean
- "LIKE I WANT YOU" by Giveon

Genre: Pop

- "Cigarettes On Patios" by BabyJake
- "Go To Town" by Doja Cat
- "Effy Stonem" by Nick Mono

NEVE AND CLARISSA'S LATEST LISTENS

Clarissa's pick: *Sweet '17 Singles* by Twin Peaks

Want an album that describes spring perfectly? *Sweet '17 Singles* by Twin Peaks is the one! Twin Peaks is a five part indie rock band consisting; Cadien Lake James, Clay Frankel, Jack Dolan, Colin Croom, and Connor Brodner. The band was formed in 2010, originating from Chicago, Illinois. *Sweet '17 Singles* is composed of 12 songs which make up approximately 47 minutes. During the year of 2017 starting July, the band would make two songs each month and add it onto this album. Hence, the name *Sweet '17 Singles*. Out of all five albums they have made, this one is by far the best. Each song flows perfectly and makes one

feel as if they were living in the forest with a group of friends without a care in the world. The songs have amazing vocals as well as impeccable guitar riffs. Fun fact: Twin Peaks actually helped Calpurnia (a Vancouver-based band) with their EP, "Scout"! The songs that stood out the most for me were "Tossing Tears" and "Come For Me". The last song is mostly instrumental and is one of the best endings to an album that I have ever listened to, giving the feeling of the soundtrack at the end of a movie. Enjoy!



Clarissa's singles of the month, from left to right:

"Idaho" by Slow Pulp

"Backward In Love" by shy kids

"The Meaning of Life" by The Lottery Winners



Neve's pick: *FLOWERS For VASES / descansos* by Hayley Williams

For fans of Paramore, you may recognize Hayley Williams as the frontwoman of the alt-rock/pop punk band. Since the release of their latest album, *After Laughter* (2017), Hayley has taken time to record solo music, with *FLOWERS For VASES / descansos* being her second solo album released in the span of a year.

There is a stark difference between Hayley's work with Paramore and her solo music, the latter of which being softer and more acoustically-inclined. Although Paramore's music is much more upbeat and loud, Hayley's solo work is just as bold and honest as ever, many of her songs touching on her personal experiences with depression and heartache. But for those who aren't wild about all the soft sadness on *FLOWERS For VASES*, it's easy to enjoy some of the other tracks on the album, such as "My Limb," or "Cinnamon," "Dead Horse," and "Simmer" off of *Petals For Armor*. Looking at her new music as a whole, one of the most noticeable things about it is the maturity and darkness in her lyrics and melodies. It shows how much she's grown as both an artist and a person, and exciting to observe for long-time fans of hers. Whether or not she continues with Paramore, Hayley has definitely gone on to prove that she doesn't need to be in a band of men to make it.



Neve's Singles of the Month, from left to right:

"Choke" by Gurldoll

"Digital Release" by Ludic

"Lux" by Pom Pom Squad



A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO NEW WAVE MUSIC

BY: BELLA MCDONNELL

The term New Wave has been used to describe various artistic movements: French New Wave Cinema, New Hollywood/American New Wave, and New Wave music. New Wave music is typically used as an umbrella term for pop and rock music with synthesizers released from the mid-late 1970s and early 1980s. It started off as approachable post-punk with pop and disco themes, although eventually the punk influence was eradicated from the sound. This collection of albums are great starting points for people who are interested in the genre. Today, New Wave's signature synthesizer is used in hip-hop and pop. The New New Wave movement emerged in the 2000's alongside the post-punk/garage rock revival with Interpol, The Killers, and LCD Soundsystem.

Parallel Lines - Blondie

Parallel Lines is the album that brought New Wave to America. Led by singer Debbie Harry and guitarist Chris Stein, Blondie was a pioneer in it's sound. Recorded in just six weeks, *Parallel Lines* received critical acclaim and is known as the band's most impressive release. "Heart of Glass" and "One Way or Another" were released as singles, and are the most popular songs on the album. Softer tracks like "Pretty Baby" and "Sunday Girl" display Blondie's artistic diversity, with the latter sounding similar to a '60s teen ballad. "Fade Away and Radiate" is the most unique song on the album, with its dreamlike feel and exceptional lyricism. The songs "Picture This" and "One Way or Another" exemplify the early New Wave sound.



Power, Corruption & Lies - New Order

Joy Division is known for pioneering post-punk and their signature freshman album, *Unknown Pleasures*. However, in May 1980, a year after the release of *Unknown Pleasures*, frontman Ian Curtis committed suicide. The remaining band members formed New Order. Their first album, *Movement*, was released in 1981. During the two years before New Order's next album, the band experimented with more dance music. *Power, Corruption & Lies* was a departure from their previous sound, and was met with universal acclaim. The infamous 12 inch single "Blue Monday" was not included on the tracklist, although it was released two months prior. The most popular song on the



A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO NEW WAVE MUSIC

album "Age of Consent" is bursting with youth. "Ecstasy" has a distinctly New Wave sound. "The Village" has a surprisingly uplifting and joyous feel, while tracks like "We All Stand" and "Your Silent Face" are mellow but bursting with emotion. Whether *Power, Corruption & Lies* is post-punk, dance, or New Wave, is up to the listener. Regardless, it is an essential album for any Joy Division or New Wave fan.

Rio - Duran Duran

Duran Duran was one of the biggest bands of the '80s. Leading the second British invasion, the boyband from Birmingham, England was propelled by MTV. Their videos often had storylines and huge budgets, making them a favourite of many teens. *Rio* was their sophomore album, and solidified their status as a 'New Romantics' band. The New Romantics genre includes bands such as Spandau Ballet, Flock of Seagulls, and Boy George and emerged in the early '80s and drew from glam rock artists of the '70s. The album includes the band's most popular song, "Hungry Like the Wolf". On "New Religion", heartthrob John Taylor offers an epic bassline. *Rio* was originally intended to be a dance album, and songs like "My Own Way" and "Rio" make that clear. The final track, "The Chauffeur", is unlike any of the songs on the album and has a captivatingly mysterious feel.



Songs from the Big Chair, Tears for Fears

Aside from housing their biggest hit, *Songs From The Big Chair* is Tears for Fears' masterpiece. The album perfectly grasps new waves' pop-y, synth sound. The title drew influence from the 1976 made-for-TV miniseries, *Sybil*, which introduced much of the public to Dissociative Identity Disorder. In the series, a DID patient referred to her psychiatrist's chair as the "big chair". The chair was the place the patient felt most comfortable, and Tears for Fears used this album to grow comfortable with their place in the media. The most popular song from the band is featured on *Songs from the Big Chair*, "Everybody Wants To Rule The World". "Shout" is a popular anthem that is included as well, but the greatest song on the album is neither. "Head Over Heels/Broken" is the dreamy, powerful perfection that solidifies *Songs from the Big Chair*. The film *Donnie Darko* wrote a scene specifically for the song, capturing its unearthly beauty.



Other recommendations:

Dare, Human League, *This Year's Album*, Elvis Costello, *Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!*, Devo, *Sound Affects*, The Jam and, *Remain in Light*, Talking Heads

REDBULL REALLY DOES GIVE YOU WINGS: EXTREME SPORTS AND ENERGY DRINKS

BY KARINA ION

On October 14 2012, millions of people tuned in to watch Redbull Stratos Project affiliated athlete skydiver Felix Baumgartner jump into the history books as he broke eight world records in one day. He became the first ever person to break the sound barrier outside of a vehicle, have the highest untethered altitude outside a vehicle, be inside the largest balloon ever flown with a human aboard, and several others. Thanks to the Redbull Stratos program, countless scientific discoveries about the human body and its ability to withstand such incredible forces were made. This is just one example of Redbull's drive to show the world that many things can be done through their programs.

Redbull represents themselves in a way that has influenced the popularity of extreme sports in ways that are undeniable. Perhaps the largest factor is Redbull's refusal to "sponsor" most events, instead, they must have a sort of ownership within the sport, opening new areas of revenue and brand attention. From snow sports to motorsports, Redbull has a stake in just about any "extreme" sport you can think of. They even host an entire series of cliff diving competitions, all under the Redbull name. With Redbull being a huge company, this not only makes them look good and even cool in the eyes of consumers, it also brings attention to sports that wouldn't be as widely watched if Redbull (and other energy drink companies) didn't promote them so consistently.

This isn't just Redbull wanting to promote their name worldwide, this is a way for the company to create links in the minds of the public. When someone talks about famous snowboarder Marcus Kleveland, Redbull wants to make sure the public knows he's a Redbull athlete. The same goes for MotoGP seven time world champion Marc Marquez, who has been a Redbull athlete since 2009 and is closely affiliated with the brand. In fact, Redbull not only has an entire brigade of athletes and their dedicated fan bases to promote them, they also own several teams within the sports which their athletes dominate. There's a number of football (also known as soccer to all the people who have never had to deal with a very frustrated European father after his favourite team got out of the champions league) clubs, as well as several motorsports teams, the most notable of which being the two F1 teams owned by the brand, Redbull Racing and Alpha Tauri.

So what exactly is the Austrian Company's influence within the sports sphere? Well, you don't have to look further than pretty much any extreme sports competition. By playing to a niche (yet ever expanding) market, Redbull has become so much more than just an energy drink company. For many young athletes-especially those interested in the more extreme side of sports-Redbull's programs and sponsorships are a lifeline for their career, so they can continue to do what they love, without worrying about funding. From snowboarding to cliff diving to racing, Redbull will sponsor just about any caffeine addict with a substantial following or talent to be introduced to the world (ideally both). This business plan has been a huge success, and seeing how popular the brand is with young consumers, I can only see more and more companies following suit, dropping sponsorships into niche sports and promoting the absolute heck out of them.

Maybe coffee companies should take note. A cup of Joe has more caffeine than a Redbull anyways.

MASTERING THE ART OF SOUFFLÉ

BY YVONNE ILAO // @GOURMETNOWAY ON TIKTOK

As the archetype of *fancy schmancy* desserts, soufflés may seem intimidating; but with proper care and attention, they're a piece of cake to make. Impress your friends and family with this culinary classic — but be quick to serve them before they deflate!

General tips:

- Make the base first before whipping egg whites.
- Separate eggs while cold, then leave them out to come to room temperature; it whips a lot better.
- Make sure there is zero trace of fat in the bowl. Metal bowls are preferred.
- Bake on a baking sheet on the bottom oven rack; the baking sheet will catch any overflow, and placing the soufflés low in the oven will prevent scorching.
- Do not open the oven door or they will deflate!
- Be prepared to serve immediately, as it will sink within *minutes*.

For sweet soufflé:

- These use a meringue base; sugar is whipped into the egg whites, creating greater stability. As a result, these are slightly less likely to deflate.
- Sprinkle granulated sugar into the greased ramekin so that the batter has something to hold on to and “climb.”

For savoury soufflé:

- Many savoury soufflés use a rich sauce, such as béchamel, as a base into which the egg whites are folded. The heaviness of the base will prevent it from lifting as much as a sweet soufflé.
- Because the egg whites have nothing added to them, they are not very stable. It is crucial that you try not to deflate them while folding them into the base.
- Sprinkle parmesan or breadcrumbs into the greased ramekin to allow the batter to “climb.”
- Once the sauce and egg whites have been folded, get the soufflés in the oven *as quickly as possible* or they will deflate.

MOCHA SOUFFLÉ (SWEET)

- 2 tbsp granulated sugar, for ramekins
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 5 oz dark chocolate (chopped or chocolate chips)
- 2 tbsp coffee liqueur, Baileys, Kahlúa, or heavy cream
- 1 tbsp espresso powder



1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Grease 4 ramekins and sprinkle the inside with sugar.
2. In a large bowl, beat egg whites using a hand mixer or stand mixer until foamy. Gradually add powdered sugar until you get soft peaks.
3. In a small saucepan over very low heat, melt butter and chocolate while whisking constantly. Remove from heat and stir until smooth and shiny. Mix in liqueur and espresso powder. Whisk in egg yolks one at a time.
4. Carefully fold chocolate mixture into meringue with a rubber spatula, making sure not to deflate the egg whites too much. It is okay to have streaks of white.
5. Place ramekins onto a baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes or until soufflés have risen and centres are gooey. Serve immediately — they'll deflate quickly.

CHEESE SOUFFLÉ (SAVOURY)

- 2 tbsp butter, plus more for greasing
- 1/8 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cups warm milk (microwave for 1 minute in 20 sec intervals)
- 3 eggs, separated*

**note: let separated eggs come to room temperature*

- pinch of salt and pepper
- pinch of cayenne
- 1/2 cup total of grated cheese, ex. parmesan, jack, white cheddar

1. Grease 4 ramekins with butter.
2. Make a blond roux: melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour. Cook for 3-4 minutes, whisking frequently to prevent burning, until it turns a tan brown colour.
3. Slowly whisk in warm milk. Cook for another 1-2 mins or until it starts to thicken. Remove pan from heat and whisk in cheese, salt, pepper, and cayenne.

4. Temper egg yolks: whisk egg yolks in a small bowl, then add a ladleful of the warm sauce. Whisk quickly until smooth, then pour egg yolks into the pot. Whisk to combine.
5. Preheat oven to 375°F. Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, beat egg whites to medium stiff peaks.
6. Working as quickly as possible to minimize deflation, add a small amount of egg whites to the cheese sauce base. Fold with a rubber spatula to incorporate, then fold in the remaining egg whites, making sure not to deflate them. It is okay to have streaks of white. Immediately pour into prepared ramekins and place into the oven. *It is crucial that it gets into the oven as soon as possible after the batter is mixed to prevent deflation.*
7. Bake for 15-20 minutes. Pray that it doesn't collapse. Serve immediately.



SO YOU WANT TO BAKE: HELPFUL TIPS AND TRICKS FOR AMATEUR BAKERS

BY YVONNE ILAO // @GOURMETNOWAY ON TIKTOK

CONVERSIONS

As a baker, memorizing conversions will save a lot of time when adjusting recipe yields.

For most dry and wet ingredients:

Cups	Tbsp	mL	ounces (in general)
1	16	250	8
$\frac{1}{2}$	8	125	4
$\frac{1}{3}$	$5 \frac{1}{3}$	~83	~2.66
$\frac{1}{4}$	4	62.5	2

Other useful conversions:

1 tbsp = 15 mL = 3 tsp

Butter: 1 cup = 2 sticks = 8oz

Dry yeast: 1 pkg = $2 \frac{1}{4}$ tsp

BAKING METHODS

In order to become a more efficient baker (as well as learning to write recipes), it is important to know the general methods used for each type of baked good. Here are some of the most common ones:

- Muffin method: one bowl holds dry ingredients, one bowl holds wet ingredients. Wet is mixed into dry using a minimal number of spatula strokes to prevent over beating.
- Biscuit method: fat (butter, margarine, lard, shortening, etc) is cut into flour. A small amount of liquid is added, resulting in a crumbly dough. Used for biscuits, shortbread, and pie dough.
- Quick bread method: fat and sugar are creamed together, then eggs are added. flour is added to wet ingredients and mixed into a batter. The process of coating the sugar molecules in fat ensures that the gluten in the flour is not overdeveloped, which would result in a tough and dense cake. Used in cakes and cookies.

EQUIPMENT INVESTMENTS

- If you bake often, invest in a stand mixer. It'll save so much time, trust me. If not, make sure you have access to a good electric hand mixer.
- Digital food scales are incredibly useful for many recipes — and they measure more accurately.
- Essential pans include a large rimmed baking sheet, muffin pan, pie plate, loaf pan, 8x8 square pan, 8- or 9- inch cake pans, and 9x13 pan.
- Essential equipment depends on what types of baked goods you'll be making. In general, mixing bowls, rubber spatula, wooden spoon, wire whisk, sifter, pastry brush, and measuring equipment are a *must*. For cake makers, you'll want a rotating cake base, offset spatula, and good-quality piping bags and tips. Cookie, biscuit, pie and bread bakers will need a dough scraper, pastry blender, rolling pin, and trigger-release scoop.

PREP TIPS

- Use *mise en place* for things that require stovetop cooking (basically, measure each ingredient into separate containers before starting). This allows for better speed and efficiency in time-sensitive situations, and ensures that you don't forget ingredients.
- MEASURE ACCURATELY. Level off dry ingredients, especially leaveners such as baking soda and baking powder. Fluff up flour with the measuring cup, then scoop and level. Incorporating air into flour is crucial for proper lift.
- Use liquid measures for liquids. A measuring cup for dry ingredients has a different volume than a liquid measuring cup.
- Crack eggs on the counter, not on the edge of the bowl. This keeps the inner membrane intact, which prevents tiny shell pieces from cracking off.

WEIRD FOOD COMBINATIONS

BY CLARISSA TANG

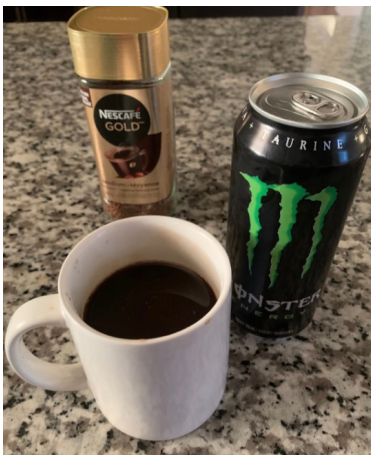
1. Popcorn Twists and Ketchup



Comments: The ketchup adds a vinegary zest to the popcorn twists and does not taste too bad. It tastes a bit different from ketchup chips because of the texture but nonetheless, it's pretty good! It's an **8/10** from me.



2. Black Coffee With Monster Energy Drink



Comments: If you need an intense pick-me up, black coffee with Monster Energy drink would do the trick! Though the two drinks taste amazing separately, drinking them together at the same time is disgusting. But, the after effect is quite fun so if you want a lot of energy, this would be the ideal combination. Taste wise, I would rate this a **3/10**.



Winner: Popcorn Twists and Ketchup



1. Macaroni and Cheese with Syrup



Comments: This is probably one of the weirdest combinations I have tried so far in this weird food combination series. The texture stayed the same, but the sweet flavour of the syrup with macaroni and cheese was too abnormal. It tasted like butterscotch but with a macaroni texture. Overall, I would rate it a **6/10**.



2. Lemon Meringue Pie with Cheese



Comments: This was not a good combination at all. The cheese did not fit well with the lemon portion of the pie and it was a bad experience overall. I will give it a **1/10** because I want to give myself a point for actually trying this combination.



Winner: Macaroni and Cheese with Syrup

More weird food combinations are to come!

LES EXPÉRIENCES ET LES RÉALISATIONS D'UNE ÉTUDIANTE EN IMMERSION FRANÇAISE

PAR JULIA MOSI

La langue est à la fois un facteur d'unification et de division dans notre monde. La compréhension de plusieurs langues permet de jeter des ponts là où il y avait autrefois des lacunes, en raison des barrières linguistiques qui existent entre les personnes de cultures ou d'origines différentes. Il est généralement admis que la connaissance de plusieurs langues est un outil utile, mais dans quelle mesure devrions-nous nous permettre de parler des langues qui ne sont pas les nôtres dans un cadre éducatif ?

Je me suis posé cette question plusieurs fois tout au long de mon éducation. En tant qu'élève en immersion française depuis la maternelle, j'ai été à la fois loué et critiqué pour avoir participé à ce programme. Certaines personnes m'ont dit que l'immersion française était une occasion en or, car elle m'a donné les qualifications nécessaires pour accéder à davantage de possibilités d'emploi et de carrière. Cependant, certains m'ont également dit que l'immersion française avait été préjudiciable à mon éducation en anglais.

Surtout dans les premières années d'école secondaire, où presque aucun de mes cours n'était en anglais, mes camarades en immersion anglaise ne voyaient pas l'intérêt d'apprendre d'autres matières, comme les sciences et les sciences humaines, en français. J'ai donc passé beaucoup de temps à réfléchir sur mon parcours d'immersion française de la maternelle à la douzième année, et j'en suis venu à la conclusion que l'immersion française en valait la peine.

Comme je l'ai déjà mentionné, l'immersion française n'est pas seulement utile pour les opportunités de carrière qu'elle peut vous offrir. À mon avis, l'immersion française a eu le plus grand impact en raison des innombrables possibilités qu'elle m'a offertes au cours de mon éducation. Le plus remarquable, c'est que cela m'a permis d'utiliser mes compétences linguistiques en dehors de la Colombie Britannique.

En 8e année, par exemple, j'ai eu le privilège de voyager au Québec avec mon collège, ce qui a été ma première véritable expérience culturelle dans un endroit francophone. Au début, il m'a été très difficile de m'adapter à leur langue, qu'ils parlaient rapidement, et à leurs menus déroulants. Mais en quelques jours, mes amis et moi avons réussi à surmonter ces obstacles et à nous sentir intégrés à la culture québécoise. Avant ce voyage, je n'avais pas vraiment eu la chance de comprendre ce que signifiait parler une autre langue. Je savais que cela signifiait que je pourrais un jour voyager dans un endroit où les gens parlent français, ou que je pourrais peut-être obtenir un emploi au gouvernement. Quoi qu'il en soit, ce n'est que lorsque j'ai eu cette première expérience que j'ai pu pleinement comprendre l'importance d'être dans le programme d'immersion française. Être capable de parler différentes langues, aussi ringard que cela puisse paraître, vous permet vraiment de ressentir un sentiment plus profond de connexion avec des groupes différents du vôtre.

Similairement à mon expérience au Québec, en 11^e année, j'ai également eu la chance de me rendre à Ottawa avec une organisation appelée « Rencontres avec Canada ». Ce n'était pas un programme exclusivement français, mais il m'a permis de rencontrer et de communiquer avec des personnes du Québec et du Nouveau Brunswick dont le français était la langue maternelle. Cette occasion a contribué à renforcer les leçons que j'avais apprises au Québec.

Toutefois, elle m'a aussi fait prendre conscience de quelque chose. Je me suis rendu compte qu'il est en fait très difficile d'être un étudiant en immersion française en Colombie-Britannique. Contrairement à l'Ontario, les personnes qui vivent sur la côte ouest sont très peu exposées à la langue française en dehors de leurs salles de classe. Même pour ceux qui apprécient l'immersion française, nos méthodes d'apprentissage ici sont si exclusivement anglaises que nous n'avons pas la possibilité d'exprimer cet intérêt de nombreuses autres manières. Je ne pense pas que cela détourne des compétences que vous procurez de l'apprentissage d'une deuxième langue, mais je pense que cela remet en question le fait que nous soyons réellement un pays bilingue. Aussi bénéfique que puisse être l'immersion en français, il est parfois décourageant de ne pas avoir la même accessibilité aux activités en français qu'en les provinces de l'est.

Mais voulons-nous que français devienne plus intégré dans nos communautés ? J'ai beaucoup réfléchi à cette question, et j'en suis arrivé à la conclusion que pour les élèves en immersion française, ce serait bien. Cependant, ce que j'ai réalisé au cours de l'année dernière, c'est que ce n'est pas le français lui-même qui était l'outil précieux, c'était juste le processus d'apprentissage d'une deuxième langue qui l'était. En tant que Canadiens, nous devons reconnaître que le français est une langue coloniale. Par conséquent, pousser plus loin son intégration dans nos sociétés n'est pas nécessairement la bonne tactique alors que nous sommes en train d'également intégrer le mouvement de décolonisation. Je pense plutôt que l'inclusion de plus de différents programmes d'immersion, peut-être aussi dans les langues indigènes ou des autres minorités visibles, serait une intégration significative dans notre programme d'études. Comme je l'ai dit, l'immersion en français a été un outil formidable pour moi au fil des ans, et je suis sûr que j'emporterai ces compétences avec moi lorsque je commencerai à rechercher de nouvelles opportunités de voyage et d'emploi tout au long de ma vie. Ainsi, j'aimerais voir plus d'élèves avoir la possibilité de participer à un programme d'immersion française ou à un autre programme d'immersion qui correspond mieux à leur culture ou à leurs intérêts. Après tout, l'apprentissage de n'importe quelle langue est un outil extrêmement précieux qui ne doit pas être négligé. Plus il y aura de personnes dans la société qui connaissent mieux des langues différentes, plus nous commencerons à favoriser la diversité et la sensibilisation culturelle.

WORD SEARCH: SPRING

Words can be found vertically, horizontally or diagonally, forwards or backwards.

W H M Z A L K R S G U B E C H T Q I
 F T U L Y I J B E P Q N O P A S D X
 S J N I B O R H L V M C S U T L E K
 P E D W G X E K J O A Z R M C Q F B
 R C Y Q U S A V N T S I E K H R O L
 O L A M B F D T E U P S W G X T J E
 U N P H Y G Z R L K D H O V C E N R
 T B E J D W P Q I S G X L M F P A U
 V M Z C A I K D H B N U F S E B R T
 D K Y T L X G O R F P E J Q B W O A
 E P G L E B S U A M O C H I C K S N
 B N A R F Y O J T H Z M T D L I P G
 G R K E N R T S N A I L Q W U S R V
 A D O N P H E M B J S T C E S N I F
 K W U F I N L T Q E R M E A Y O N D
 I B S E C K F X T D V J R H P A G Z
 N E D R A G M W K U L G S O R C L E
 H Z M T U L I P V E B A D Y W F X J

Word search via [Tree Valley Academy](#).

Birds
 Blossom
 Bugs
 Bunny
 Butterfly
 Calf
 Caterpillar
 Chicks
 Flowers
 Frog
 Garden
 Grass
 Hatch
 Insects
 Ladybug
 Lamb
 Nature
 Nest
 Rabbit
 Robin
 Snail
 Spring
 Sprout
 Tulip
 Worm

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

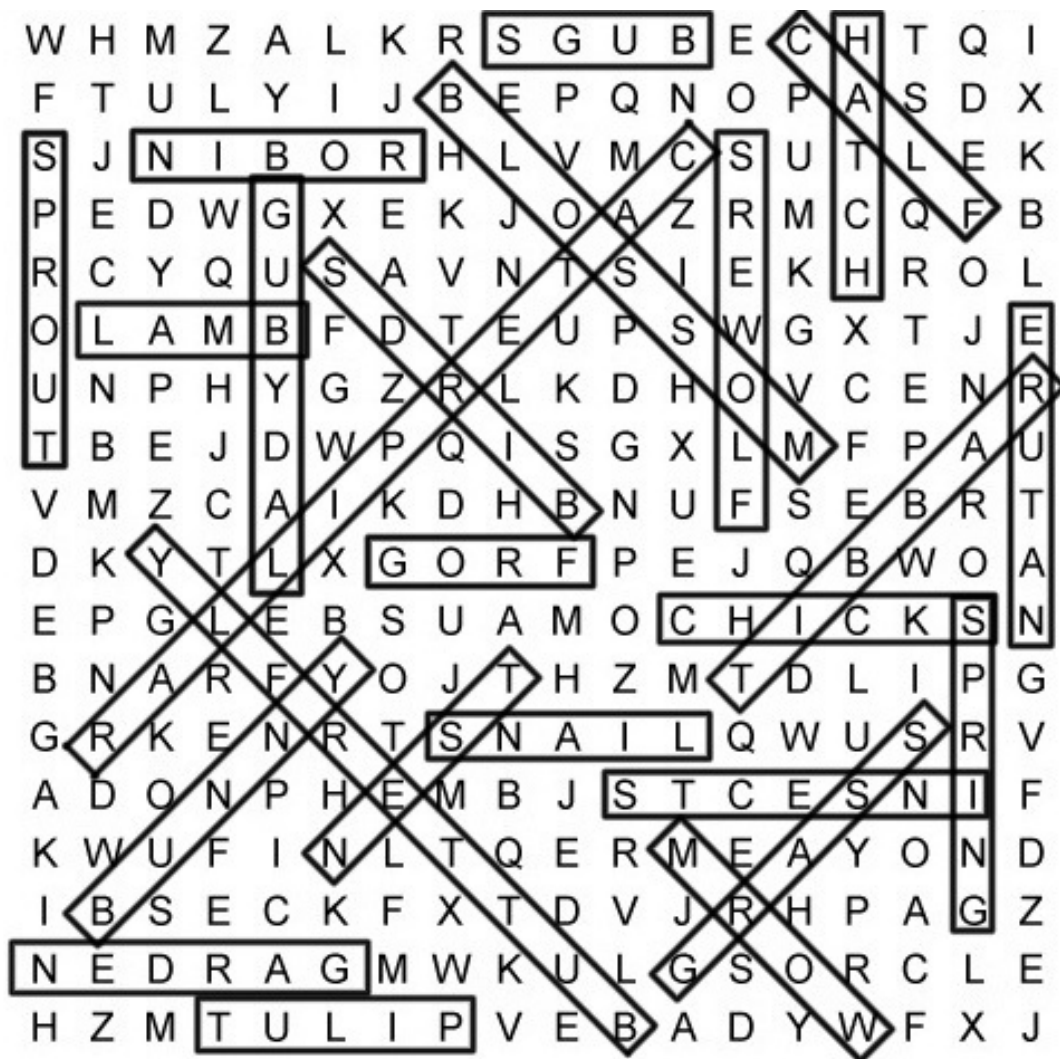
SUDOKU

Each row, column, and 3x3 box (defined by the bold borders) must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Difficulty level: medium

Answers can be found on the next page.

ANSWER KEY



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT PRESS

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