

The Crusader News

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THE INCREDIBLE CRU PUCK B



Join Luke Perrett as he interviews Cru Puck B players and chronicles their fantastic season

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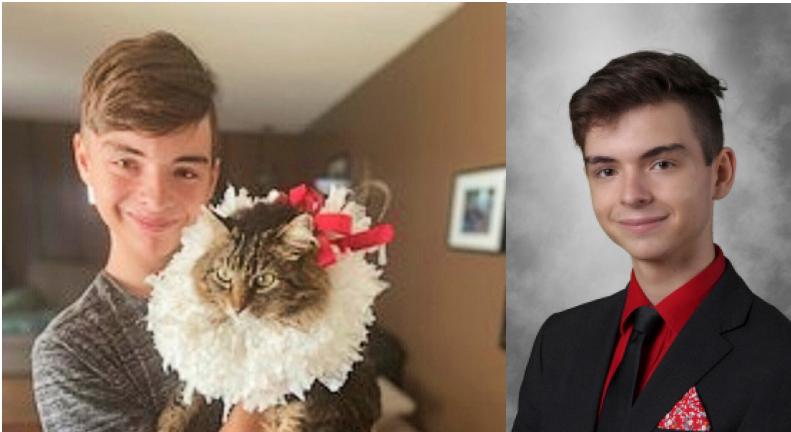
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Quebec’s Precarious Position as a Province in Canada



Sean Ehmann '24
Contributor

Quebec is well-known as Canada’s French-speaking province. Being the only francophone majority province in a country dominated by English speakers gives it leeway to brand controversial actions it takes as “protecting the French language and culture.” But some of the steps taken by their government have led many to think that they have gone too far.

Non-French-speaking Canadians from outside Quebec often view it as a monolith of French speakers. However, this is not



the case. As much as Quebec nationalists may not want this to be a reality, just half of Quebec’s population only speaks French. 45% can speak both English and French, with English speakers located predominately in Montreal. The Greater Montreal Area also contains a wide array of languages other than French and English, with languages such as Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin, and many more being spoken at home representing 25% of the population.

Though Quebec is very multicultural, François Legault’s government continues to restrict the use of languages other than French in public places. Some restrictions include: disallowing non-French signage in businesses, limiting English schooling, eliminating bilingual requirements for judges, and more.

Many businesses oppose the laws saying they create extra hassle.

Opponents also criticize these laws, saying that they violate constitutionally protected language freedoms. This criticism was seemingly validated as the “notwithstanding clause” was invoked by Legault, citing the need to protect French’s

precarious position, which he claims is “under attack”.

There was also much uproar recently over the fact that Air Canada CEO Michael Rousseau isn’t fluent in French. Many were outraged, believing his lack of fluency was an affront to Quebec. He justified this by saying: “I’ve been able to live in Montreal without speaking French, and I think that’s a testament to the city of Montreal.” These comments were met with fire and fury, with Prime Minister Trudeau calling the situation “unacceptable” and the NDP even calling for Rousseau’s resignation.

Quebec has also come under fire for controversial Bill 21. The infamous bill bans public employees such as teachers, judges, and police officers from wearing religious symbols on the job. The bill, first passed back in 2019 by Legault’s government, underwent lengthy court challenges but ultimately prevailed this April.

The bill was opposed by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association who have called it an attack on religious freedom. Former Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi also opposes the law

saying that it specifically targets certain minority groups and is “blatantly unconstitutional.” It is opposed by federal Liberals, Conservatives, and New Democrats alike. Despite their vehement opposition to the bill, all of these parties have said they wouldn’t intervene, calling it “an issue for Quebec to deal with.” This is despite the fact Legault invoked the notwithstanding clause exempting the law from respecting certain constitutional freedoms.

Polling finds that the majority of Canadians oppose this bill, especially those outside Quebec. However, the law is supported by 64% of Quebecers. Bloc Quebecois leader Yves François Blanchet defended the law, saying: “[it’s] not about discrimination, but about the values of Quebec”.

The question: how can Canada move forward when one province is so determined to protect their “culture” through such dramatic measures? Or is Quebec justified in wanting to take these actions in order to preserve their supposedly unique culture? The only thing known for certain is that debate surrounding Quebec’s precarious position in Canada are not going away any time soon.

The Virginia Governor Election and the Future



Benjamin Swistun '22
Contributor

On November 2, 2021, state elections took place in Virginia and New Jersey. The most important race of the night was the Virginia gubernatorial election where Republican Glenn Youngkin was elected by a margin of 2%. His competitor, Terry McAuliffe, took the role of the incumbent Democrat in favour of previous Governor Ralph Northam. This election left many strategists split on what the results can show about future trends.

The Republican strategist in charge of Youngkin’s campaign, Jeff Roe, said “I think that there’s a kind of moment here in time where the Democrats have been

caught in an overreach.” Roe elaborates further on what he sees as political “overreach” by listing all his personal grievances with the Democratic platform, focusing on more progressive issues.

This opinion has common backing on both sides of the aisle as more Democrats somewhat agree with Roe. One of these is Clinton-era Democrat strategist, James Carville, who said “What went wrong is stupid wokeness,” when discussing the election. Both Roe and Carville thought the Democrats were picking policies that the average voter had trouble connecting to, though there is no solid data to back up this assertion.

Not everyone in the Democratic party agrees with Carville, however. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (New York) commented on the election by saying “Before the Virginia elections, it

was very clear that our help and our participation was not wanted or asked for.”

Her argument for why the Democrats lost the election was due to a “big youth-turnout collapse”, losing a much-needed base that is important for the Democrats to win.

This claim has backing as, according to exit polls, only 10% of voters were between the ages of 18 and 29, along with 22% being between the ages of 30 and 45. This drop in youth turnout, partnered with tumbling approval ratings for President Biden, stacked the odds against the Democrats in these elections. The future for the Democratic



party is anyone’s guess as there is a clear rift developing between moderates and progressives. This divide is being compared to the Great Schism that split the Catholic Church by some Republicans. Nobody knows what will happen within the Democratic party, but Republicans are optimistic about the future. Only time will tell.

The Commercialization of Christmas



Isacc Lavitt '25
Contributor

The holidays, for many, are no longer a celebration. They are a time to buy. Go to any store around Christmas. You will see lights, cards, wrapping paper, fake snow, artificial trees, ornaments, snowmen, and Santa hats. Every year, businesses can

expect a spike in sales as people buy gifts, decorations, and food. This cheery glow from these items masks a different objective of the season: the accumulation of profit.

Companies make money from Christmas because we all purchase goods. In the late 1800s, Christmas trees became a popular icon of the season. The phenomenon originated from magazines showing families posing with their evergreen. The tree had to be decorated with tinsel and ornaments, so com-

panies sprung up to serve that need. Decorations around and outside the house became a way to show holiday cheer.

Businesses capitalized on this with holiday advertising and sales. Our modern idea of Santa was propagated through the ads of Coca-Cola. Rudolph was conceived to sell groceries. We have loved these characters so much that Christmas is not a celebration without them, but we have forgotten their monetary origins.

Christmas movies are also great for business. One of the most loved holiday specials, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965) a movie explicitly about the commercialization of Christmas, was ironically sponsored by Coca-Cola. Coke was showered with letters thanking them for their funding of the iconic film. *Home Alone* (1990) made 477 million USD. *Elf* (2003) made 223 million USD. Entertainment is great money for the holidays. Christmas carols are sold by the

millions. Mariah Carey makes 4 million USD every winter from her songs. Every carol is played on the radio from November through December every year. Streaming services pay millions to artists to offer them to consumers. Carolling was once done to raise money for the impoverished; now it makes the artists rich.

Christmas is no longer just for Christians. In every country on Earth in December, there is someone celebrating the yuletide; and savvy marketers have noticed. It's ironic how a baby born in a manger, a symbol of poverty and humility, has become a reason to spend great amounts of money. For some, it is better to receive than it is to give.

I do not wish to take the joy out of the Christmas season. I just want to remind you that Christmas is not only gifts and Santa and movies, but a time of joy and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



Anime Reviews: *Dragon Ball*, *One Punch Man*, and *Visions*



Eric Fontaine '22
Darius Martin '24

Contributors

Dragon Ball

Dragon Ball is one of the longest-running anime ever and one of the first anime I ever watched. This connection I have with the show makes it one of my favourites. The main character, Goku, is hilarious and is on a quest to keep finding

and fighting the strongest people he can find to prove himself.

The fight scenes in the anime are some of the best I have ever seen, but unfortunately, they can last over many episodes. *Dragon Ball* is also one of the most iconic anime ever. Even those who do not watch anime have heard of Kamehameha, Goku's iconic energy-beam move. The characters are decent, and the story is great, but *Dragon Ball* is so drawn out that it becomes banal over time. Regardless of my criticisms, I still think highly of *Dragon Ball* due to the sentimental value it holds for me.

8.5/10

One Punch Man

One Punch Man is by far one of the funniest animes I have ever watched. The main character, Saitama, is easily one of the most nonchalant characters in anime, and it is hilarious to see him standing like nothing's happening during perilous situations. With a compelling storyline that questions the belief that power solves everything, *One Punch Man*'s first

season is filled with amazing action scenes that capture my attention.

These scenes are complemented by the excellent soundtrack, which sets the scene and really helps the audience feel the emotions of the characters. While the second season falls short of the expectations set by the first, the fight scenes are far more elaborate while still allowing for many comedic moments. Overall, the two seasons of *One Punch Man* make for a very entertaining watch.

9/10



Alec
Compton '22
Arts & Culture
Editor

Star Wars Visions

Star Wars: Visions is a collection of anime episodes based on the *Star Wars* Universe. Disney licensed seven Japanese animation studios to produce nice unique episodes, not within *Star Wars* canon. One of the major strengths of these episodes is

their art styles. Each episode uses its own unique colour palette and character design fantastically. The unique art styles help to make up for the very formulaic stories in a lot of these episodes. Despite often having similar stories, these episodes vary widely in quality. The opening

episode, "The Duel," for example, is excellent. The story follows a mysterious Jedi knight who defends a village from a Sith intruder, a plotline which resembles later and lesser episodes "The Village Bride" and "The Elder."

These episodes are of decent quality, but this formula does get very stale. Another very stale formula is the sibling rivalry formula, used by both "The Twins," and "Lop and Ocho," where one sibling is on the light side and the other, predictably, is on the dark side. Episodes that break from these formulas such as "Tatooine Rhapsody" often feel tonally off and are lacking in substance. But they serve as fun romps in between more serious episodes. *Visions* is compelling in premise, but its uniformity in storytelling, yet lack thereof in quality, holds it back from reaching its true potential.

6/10



Compton’s Red-Nosed Record Roundup



Alec
Compton '22
Arts & Culture
Editor

CeeLo Green: *CeeLo’s Magic Moment*

CeeLo’s Magic Moment is bizarre and eccentric, but consistently fun. The album has a distinct weird personality, with the strangest highlights being the Muppet assisted “All I Need Is Love” or the acapella “You’re a Mean One,



Mr. Grinch.” The album’s bread and butter are up-tempo tracks with layered instrumentals like the opener “What Christmas Means to Me,” an excellent tone-setter for the rest of the record. This intro’s energy is carried through on most of the tracks on the album, but even slower songs like “River” are made enthralling by CeeLo’s powerful voice. The only issue with this record is that it could be trimmed down one or two songs, as tracks such as “Please Come Home for Christmas” don’t add much to the album. Regardless, *CeeLo’s Magic Moment* is a uniquely joyous and fantastic Christmas album.

8.3/10

Alvin and The Chipmunks: *Christmas with The Chipmunks*

My second foray into the music of Alvin and The Chipmunks (see the 2020 December edition for the first) and not much has changed. The Chipmunks’ work is charming but tiresome. On this album specifically, the mixing is terrible. The vocals of The Chipmunks are

exclusively in the left ear, with all instruments in the right. This leads to The Chipmunks’ already irritat-



ing vocals becoming unbearable, as they whine exclusively in one ear. The tracks where Dave (Alvin, Simon, and Theodore’s adoptive father) sings thankfully have his vocals in mono stereo. This is sullied, however, for his vocals are far too quiet in the mix, completely ruining the songs. I would have some sympathy for the album if it were older, but it was remastered in 1999 so these mixing choices are inexcusable. The only genuinely great song is “The Chipmunk Song,” but other than that, *Christmas with The Chipmunks* is worthless besides being a textbook example of

how bad mixing can ruin a record.

2.3/10

Taylor Swift: *The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection*

Taylor Swift’s Christmas EP is a relatively standard affair for the pop-country superstar. Releasing a year after her debut, *The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection* maintains the same style as her first record with a few festive elements thrown in. It is airtight at 6 tracks and brings the country twang expected from the earlier era of Swift’s music. “Christmases When You Were Mine,” is a truly stellar cut; however, most of the tracks are only decent. A lack of ambition holds the EP back from being a truly realized work, as most tracks are simply a standard affair for Taylor.

6.2/10

For the rest of the article, visit www.thecrusadernew.ca

Franchise Fatigue: Can Marvel Move Forward?



John Ergon
Golpe '24
Contributor

It’s understandable why Marvel Studios has decided to pull out all the stops for 2021. The start of the pandemic last year forced delays on the productions of their 2020 lineup, with some of their release dates being pushed back by even a year. But all these delays have not preceded Marvel’s biggest issue: fran-

chise fatigue. A fatigue that was brought on by both the project quantity and quality of this year’s lineup.

So far this year, Marvel Studios has pumped out seven studio projects: *Black Widow*, *WandaVision*, *Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, *Loki*, *Shang-Chi*, *What If...?*, *Eternals*, *Hawkeye*, and *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. That leaves a total of nine MCU properties released in 2021. That is three times the number of films Marvel Studios released in 2019, and the exact number of MCU movies that have been released in theatres in the past four years.

As for the critical and audience reception of the projects themselves, people have been mixed regarding the quality of these new superhero stories. Audiences’ concerns first grew when the banal finale of *WandaVision* failed to maintain the creative streak the rest of the show had. When *Falcon and the Winter Soldier* aired, people criticized the political messaging regarding the dangers of refugee displacement, racial profiling, and anti-government sentiments that felt backhanded and preachy. *Black Widow*’s fan reception wasn’t warm, either.

One significant problem fans had with the film was how it expanded on the story of Natasha Romanoff, when her arc had already ended in *Avengers: Endgame*. To quote Peter Daza’s review in the last issue of *The Crusader News*, “the film turned out to be another run-of-the-mill superhero movie that was excessive in exposition and action and lacking in any meaningful writing.”

are appalling to say the least. On IMDb, reviews have bashed the movie with a 6.8/10. On Rotten Tomatoes, a total of 364 reviewers have given the film a 48% “fresh” rating. These reviews express how the usual MCU staple of engaging action scenes was downplayed in *Eternals* in favour of overwhelming exposition, inconsistent characterization, and a disjointed and incoherent story.

It is worrisome to witness what could potentially be the beginning of the end for the MCU. The MCU has overcome challenges in the past, having the occasional commercial flop or fan base outrage, but none of those hurdles can compare to this alarming downward trend in critical reception. Hopefully, this franchise fatigue will just be a small setback and will not scare Marvel Studios away from innovating within the superhero genre again.

The critical reviews for *Eternals*



Wilcosh’s Festive Flicks



Riley Wilcosh
'22
Contributor

Once again, it’s time for a fresh batch of Christmas movie re-views from yours truly. But this year, I have decided to dabble in masochism. I have decided to waste hours of my time by re-viewing sloppy snow, deplorable decorations, unpleasant presents, and horrible ho ho hos. For your entertainment, I have viewed and reviewed some of the worst Christmas movies of all time.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

The first movie on my list disappointed me when I watched it last year and I denounced it as a piece of trash. My opinion has not changed much after this additional viewing. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is the longest 90 minutes I have ever experienced in my life, probably due to the

studio’s attempt to extend a half an hour short to triple the original length. To give credit where credit is due, the makeup and set design is incredible, and Jim Carrey uses every weapon in his vast comedic arsenal to save the film. Sadly, even he couldn’t rescue the retched pacing which made me feel the process of aging as I sat and watched.

4/10

Jingle All the Way (1996)

Despite a lot of cult appeal, this film did not deliver. Although moments of this film did make me laugh, these moments clocked in at around once every hour. The plot is excruciatingly predictable, and the film meanders and stalls like a toddler at bedtime. Arnold is as sympathetic as the sociopath he plays, and the CGI is woefully bad. Overall, *Jingle All the Way* is just plain boring, and the only emotion *Jingle All the Way* inspired in me was the unrelenting desire to turn it off.

5/10

Jack Frost (1997)

No, this is not the Michael Keaton movie, but boy, do I wish it was. In concept, a film about a killer snowman sounds very entertaining, but unfortunately, *Jack Frost* is anything but. The titular snowman never moves and looks like a clay model I could have made in third grade art class. The jokes don’t land, and the budget is rivaled by that of a middle school play. The video quality of the film resembles a YouTube video from 2013 shot by a nine-year-old. I have never enjoyed a movie less, and if you ask me about it, I will deny having ever seen *Jack Frost*.

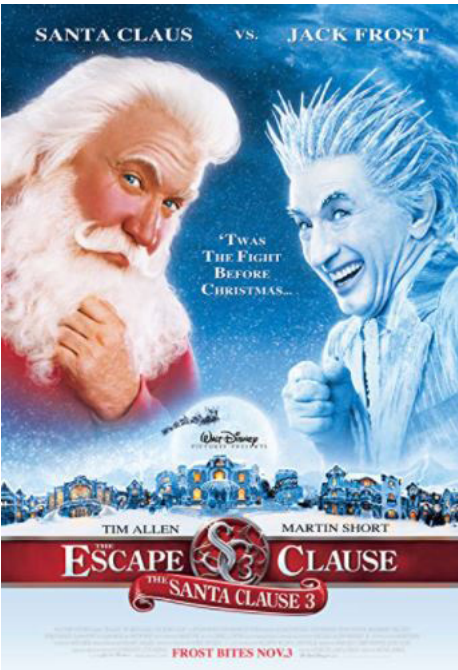
0/10

The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006)

My hopes were not high for a Christmas movie commonly considered one of the worst of all time. I don’t even consider the first *Santa Clause* redeemable. But among all the coal I have uncovered a hidden diamond, courtesy of Martin Short. Mostly

known for various SNL performances, Martin Short plays Jack Frost, in a performance among the absolute best I have ever seen. The Loki-like Frost carries this movie, a feat akin to Atlas carrying the weight of the sky. Everything that Jim Carrey’s Grinch wants to be is Martin Short’s Jack Frost. Without his scenery-chewing performance, this movie certainly wouldn’t have made back ten times its budget and been a massive box office success.

10/10



The Owl House, Season 1: An Escapist Fantasy (Spoilers)



Osahon Okoro
'25
Contributor

The Owl House is a fantasy horror-comedy created by Dana Terrace, who has worked on shows like *Duck Tales* and *Gravity Falls*. The show is aimed at younger teenage audiences but is suitable for all ages. The lighthearted comedy does not undermine the more mature and emotional aspects of the show.

The characters are the vehicle through which we traverse the uncanny world of the ‘Demon Realm.’ The protagonist, Luz, escapes conformity and boredom through luck and curiosity. She is led by Owlbert to a world of monsters and magic. Luz is accompanied by a witch named Eda, who acts as her mentor, and

a small warrior demon named King, who is her close friend. Luz struggled with being an outsider in the human world, feeling alienated from her peers due to her eccentricities and her

world where they are recognized as someone important. That’s why Luz is so eager to explore this new realm and go on a journey at the request of an old wizard. In this new world, the



lack of social skills. The Demon Realm allows her to express her authentic self, ironically feeling normalcy in the abnormal world. It’s the dream of those who feel isolated and worthless in mundane life to escape a fantastical

people close to her are supportive, unlike her biological mother; I say “biological” for, though she may have fulfilled her daughter’s physical needs, Luz’s mother did a poor job of supporting Luz emotionally.

In the episode “Enchanting Grom Fright,” we learn the full extent of Luz’s mistreatment. The ‘Grom,’ short for Grometheus the Fear Bringer, is a monster that turns into a person’s worst fears. For Luz, that was her mother. Not only did Luz have to confront a shape-shifting beast, she had to confront the reality that her mother’s mistreatment moulded her as a person.

A sense of Mystery is what gives magic its wonder, and *The Owl House* is steeped in mystery. There is much for our characters to discover, such as King’s lineage to the origins of magic. This sense of mystery and the countless plot points yet to be finished keep *The Owl House* an entertaining show leading into its second and future seasons.

The Best Blockbuster a Films of 2021



Ikem Nnadi '23
Contributor

2020 was an interesting year for the movie industry. Due to COVID-19, many of the year’s most anticipated films were delayed several months, and in some cases, years. Thankfully, these delays did not affect the releases of 2021 too heavily, as this year has been decent financially for the Hollywood film industry. Here are the ten best movies of the year thus far.



10. Free Guy

Starring Ryan Reynolds, *Free Guy* is a story about Guy, a non-playable character within the fictional open world video game called Free City. Guy is just a side character; he plays no real role in the game’s progression, and he follows the same routine daily. Yet when Guy comes to consciousness after a program is implanted in him by the game’s development team, he embarks on a mission to save the game from being shut down. This film is not a masterpiece by any means. The plot is familiar, the humour sometimes misplaced, and the script predictably written. However, *Free Guy* has heart. It tells a relatable story about a person searching for purpose in a world that does not accept them. Consistent from beginning to end, *Free Guy* is an enjoyable summer flick.

5.5/10

9. A Quiet Place II

Picking up right after the ending of the first film, *A Quiet Place II* follows the Abbot family as they recover from the death of their patriarch, Lee, played by John Krasinski. This movie is an engrossing rollercoaster that provides much needed context for the franchise. We get to see how life was for the family prior to the alien invasion, and how horrifying the alien arrival really was. This film also adds some revered new actors into its cast with Cillian Murphy’s Emmett and Djimon Hounsou’s unnamed character. The tension in this movie was magnificent, and the character work is sound too. The set pieces here also trump that of the first film. Overall, *A Quiet Place II* is a satisfying sequel to an already great film.

6.5/10

8. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings

Starring Simu Liu, *Shang-Chi* is a Marvel film featuring epic stunts and a heartfelt story. This movie follows Shang-Chi, also known as Sean, on his quest to save the planet from his tyrannical father Xu Wenwu. *Shang-Chi* has the best action scenes in any Marvel property since *Endgame*. A lack of quick cuts and good camera work kept everything engaging, which was a pleasant change from the CGI Marvel consistently uses. While the plot was conventional, I think the scale, action, and emotional aspects of the movie do enough to keep you invested. This was a nice introduction to an intriguing new sector of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and it serves its purpose well.

6.5/10

7. The Last Duel

Directed by the legendary Ridley Scott, *The Last Duel* features Jodie Comer, Matt Damon, and Adam Driver in a medieval time piece based on true events. It follows Marguerite (Jodie Comer) on her quest to get justice after Jacques (Adam Driver) physically and sexually assaulted her. This movie plays out from three viewpoints, each lasting about 40 minutes: Matt Damon’s Jean, husband of Marguerite; Jacques;

and finally, Marguerite, whose perspective concludes the film. This film succeeds at drawing you into this world where there are no real heroes. Noblemen are corrupt, and kings fight for their own glory and honour alone. While *The Last Duel* is a slow-burn, I found all three perspectives to be engrossing, and the sense of uneasiness is contagious throughout.

7/10



6. The Suicide Squad

Both a sequel and a soft reboot to 2016’s *Suicide Squad*, *The Suicide Squad* is an ultra-violent, chaotic, and oddly heartwarming movie directed by James Gunn. It does not continue the plot threads established in the 2016 film, and I found the movie much better off because of it. Most of the film takes place in Corto Maltese, a fictional island nation in the DC Comics. This was a great change of pace for the superhero genre, and it allowed for fantastic set pieces and spectacle. Think of this film as *Guardians of the Galaxy* on hyperdrive. Heart, style, action—it’s got it all. Gunn was able to resurrect this team of antiheroes with a solid, entertaining, and thoroughly enjoyable flick.

7/10

5. The Green Knight

This is a polarizing movie to say the least. Starring Dev Patel as Sir Gawain, King Arthur’s determined nephew embarks on a quest to prove himself to the world. This film has been called a boring, uninteresting slog to get through, but I find it to be the complete opposite.



While *The Greek Knight* is not a summer blockbuster, this film kept me interested throughout with its incredible visuals and world building. While watching, you really feel as though you are experiencing these trials with Gawain, and that alone makes this a great movie. This epic retelling of the classic Arthurian story is an adventure I found to be great.

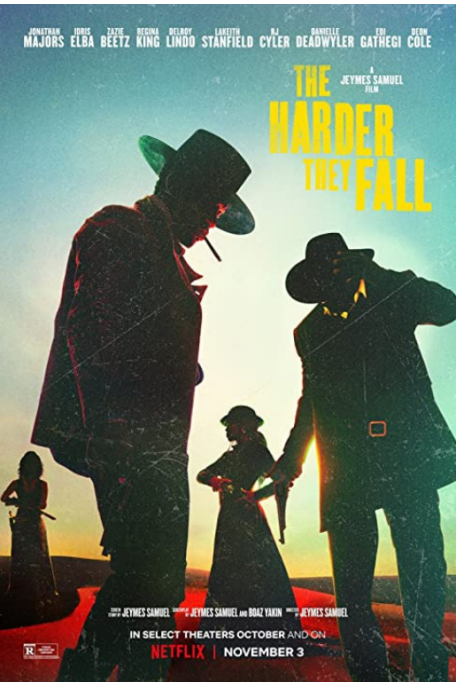
7/10

4. No Time to Die

No Time to Die marks the conclusion of the pentalogy of Daniel Craig James Bond films. After being delayed three times, the film was finally released on October 8, 2021. And, my goodness, this movie was intense, touching, and expertly crafted. It took the gritty realism of previous Craig movies and utilized some of the classic Bond tropes of the Brosnan and Connery eras (such as the eccentric cars and gadgets) to create an excellent homage to the legacy of James Bond. These components were aided by great performances from side characters such as Ana de Armas’ Paloma, as well as an excellent score from the mastermind Hans Zimmer. This film would be higher on the list if the villain was more memorable, but what we got was still great. I really enjoyed this movie.

7.5/10

Best Films cont'd.



3. The Harder They Fall

Yes, this is a Netflix movie, but my goodness is this film amazing. Set in the Wild West, this Black western features some of the best cinematography, editing, and pacing I have seen this year. Despite clocking in at around 139 minutes, I wasn't bored once. This long runtime allowed the character building to shine. I cared for both gangs (despite their twisted methods of justice) and did not want any of their members to die. One could go on and on about

the technical masterpiece that this movie is, but it would be a crime to spoil it here. Please, just go watch it.

8.5/10



2. Zack Snyder's Justice League

After the disaster that was 2017's *Justice League*, the DC Extended Universe (DCEU) was in turmoil. Joss Whedon was hired to finish directing the project after Zack Snyder stepped down due to his daughter's death. Critics and fans alike slammed the

movie, and it seemed to appeal to no one. It was too "Marvel-y," too quippy, and it completely scrapped the tone introduced in the first DCEU film, *Man of Steel*. So, when *Zack Snyder's Justice League* was announced on May 20, 2020, after years of protest, there was a renewed sense of hope for DC fans. The movie was granted 89 million CAD more to work with, and the runtime was going to be 4 hours long. It was clear that Warner Brothers, the company that produces the DC films, allowed Snyder to have complete creative control over his version of the film and, my goodness, was that an excellent choice. Thanks to the added 2 hours of movie, each member of the *Justice League* is allowed to shine, and their individual character arcs were fantastic. The score, cinematography, and action were incredible. The level of scope in this film is unparalleled, to the point where it resembles a Homeric epic. Restore the Snyder Verse!

8.7/10

1. Dune

This film is a masterpiece. Directed by Denis Villeneuve, *Dune* features an ensemble cast with the likes of Timothée Chalamet, Oscar Isaac, Rebecca Ferguson, Josh Brolin, and Jason Momoa. This film is based off the classic novel of the same name (1965), so naturally it follows the same story beats. *Dune* is remarkable in the sense that it's able to transport you to a word that feels lived in. Everything from the city landscapes, different houses, architecture, sound design, music, and political/religious allegories are handled expertly. While this film only covers the first half of the first novel in the series, the story structure is still incredibly solid, and I wanted to see where these characters would end up next. (Daniel Stipanovich has covered this movie in more depth in a separate article.) For me, this is movie of the year thus far. A masterpiece.

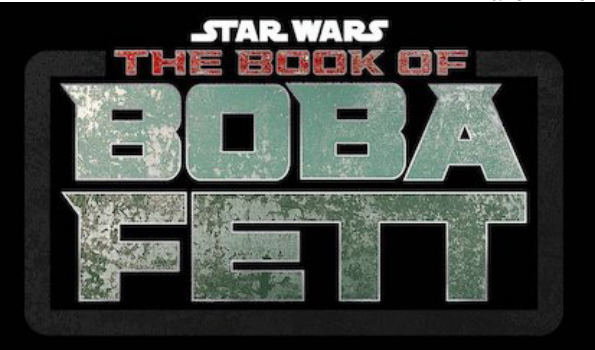
9/10

A Briefing before *The Book of Boba Fett*



Mikhail
Precourt '24
Contributor

The Book of Boba Fett is releasing on Disney Plus on December 29, 2021. After a long wait from the last canon *Star Wars* media, *The Book of Boba Fett* is a highly anticipated show for many *Star Wars* fans. Additionally, the last time we saw Fett was the last episode of *The Mandalorian*, when *The Book of Boba Fett* was initially announced in a post-credits scene. So, I think we all need a refresher on the story of bounty hunter Boba Fett.



At the end of *The Mandalorian*, we learn that Fett has decided to take over Bib Fortuna's palace, formally Jabba's palace. But to understand where things will go in this show, we must look back. Boba Fett is a genetically unaltered clone of Jango Fett, a Mandalorian foundling and bounty hunter.

Jango runs into some trouble on the desert planet of Geonosis and lost his head at the hands of Jedi Master Mace Windu. Boba then became a bounty hunter, following in the footsteps of his father. During the Clone Wars, Boba attempts to get revenge on Mace Windu for killing Jango, but his efforts were fruitless, resulting in his imprisonment in Coruscant. After he gets out, he creates a crime syndicate based out of Tatooine.

Over the next 20 years, Boba becomes one of the most feared bounty hunters in the galaxy, famous for his habit of disintegrating his targets. Boba takes over Jango's

ship, the Slave I. During this time, Boba also repaints Jango's armour, creating the iconic green beskar armour we know today. During the events of *The Empire Strikes Back*, Boba takes a job to catch the famous pilot, Han Solo, and deliver him to Jabba. Solo is captured at Cloud City and is delivered to Jabba. After Leia Organa, Chewbacca, and Luke Skywalker attempt to rescue Solo, and fail, Jabba orders them to be killed by the Sarlacc at the Pit of Carkoon. The Sarlacc is a fearsome creature which swallows its enemies whole.

This goes horribly wrong for Jabba who is choked to death by Organa. Boba is knocked into the Sarlacc, and Organa, Solo, Chewbacca, and Skywalker escape. Boba eventually escapes from the Sarlacc pit by using his jetpack. Then, six years later, he comes to meet Din Djarin to retrieve his armour, which had been given to Djarin after Fett's supposed death. After being given his armour and aiding Djarin in his adventure, Boba usurps Bib Fortuna and

takes Jabba the Hutt's throne. We should also talk about Fennec Shand. Shand is another bounty hunter but is not as legendary nor as feared as Boba Fett. She comes onto the scene at the same time as Boba, taking many bounties and gaining the respect of other hunters. She then squares off against the inexperienced hunter Toro Calican. She easily dispatches him, but Djarin comes to his rescue, and in the process shoots Shand, leaving her for dead. Boba finds Shand and saves her life. She then agrees to be his partner, in gratitude for being her saviour.

And that is where we have left off. The build-up of the story leading up to *The Book of Boba Fett* is what makes the show so highly anticipated. The major plot twists and turns, all the interesting plot points that happened to these characters, and discovering more about the *Star Wars* universe has me incredibly excited for the future of *Star Wars*, starting with *The Book of Boba Fett* in just one week's time.

Review: *Dune*



Daniel Stipanovic '25
Contributor

Movies nowadays have a bad habit of extending their runtime in an attempt to capture the aesthetic of depth. *Dune*, however, is long for a good reason. It takes its time to introduce the world and focuses on story and character development, rather than chocking the movie full of baseless action scenes or unnecessary plot devices. This focus on world-building helps to set the stage for the upcoming sequel, as the movie does not necessarily tie up all loose ends. *Dune* is based on the 1965 book written by Frank Herbert of the same name, which is widely regarded as one of the best sci-fi books ever written.

Dune is about a young boy named Paul Atreides, played by Timothée Chalamet. He is of Royal descent from the ancient House of Atreides. The Emperor gives the Atriedes family dominion over a spice-rich but dangerous desert planet named Arrakis. “The spice” is a crucial substance needed to navigate through space. Paul, his father (Oscar Isacc), and his mother (Rebecca Ferguson) must endure the political struggles of managing the planet while also protecting themselves from other Houses which seek to usurp them.

Dune pays careful attention to include details that add to the world-building and story development. For instance, on the desert plains of Arrakis where it is hot, people wear “still suits.” Still suits filter water emitted from the wearer so that it can be consumed and keep the individual hydrated. This detail adds to the portrayal of Arrakis as

a desert where water is sparse, and helps immerse the audience in this universe, making it feel real and lived in.

Another strength of the movie is its cast. *Dune* stars Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Oscar Isaac, Rebecca Ferguson, Jason Momoa, Josh Brolin, Stellan Skarsgård and Dave Bautista. This cast is full of popular and sought-after actors, but manages to cast accurately to the book’s descriptions of the charcters.

When I sat down to watch *Dune*, I was worried that the film was going to be akin to the Percy Jackson films, where the books were good, but the movie does not maintain the same level of quality. As a fanatic of the original book, I had high expectations. *Dune* surpassed these expectations while not veering too far from the source material. For me, the original books will always be better than the mov-

ie because they provide more detail and contribute more to character development and world-building, this due to the movie being constrained by a time limit and lack of easy exposition because of .

I personally loved *Dune*, and I am excited for *Dune: Part 2* and other TV shows that are being planned in the *Dune* universe.

9/10



A Retrospect of the CJI Advocacy Symposium



Baljot Rai '24
Contributor

“Solidarity” is defined as unity or agreement, especially amongst people with similar interests. However, over the past year and a half, we have learned that solidarity is much more than a common interest: it is essential. Pope Francis said it best last April, “As the tragic COVID-19 pandemic has taught us: we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst.” To elaborate on the many aspects of solidarity, Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) held an online advocacy symposium for secondary and post-secondary students from October 23 to 24, 2021.

The theme of this symposium was “Solidarity in a COVID-19 World.” There were four main topics of discussion at this event: the pandemic’s impact on forcible displacement and

migration; human rights violations and resource extraction; ecological justice and integral ecology; and inequalities that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. The advocacy symposium also included films, networking opportunities, and workshops on topics such as refugee issues, identity, climate change, and how to take action in one’s own community. Speakers included youth leaders, CJI’s partners from the Global South, Jesuits, and leaders of Indigenous communities. The event also gave participants an opportunity to learn, network, and build relationships among participants. In addition, the attendees learned about the work of CJI and its partners through online booths, videos, and interactive displays.

I, alongside many other students and teachers from St. Paul’s High School, had the opportunity to attend this enlightening event. This advocacy symposium was eye-opening on various issues faced by people around the globe, as well as potential solutions. For example, vaccine inequity based on wealth and development of nations was a topic which was widely discussed at this event. Many developed countries, including Cana-

da, have excessively over-ordered vaccine doses, while various others are suffering severe shortages.

One of the workshops, hosted by Fr. Charles Chilufya SJ, coordinator of the Africa task force of the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, discussed how critical the vaccine shortage is in the continent of Africa. In fact, of the 7.84 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered globally, only 7.5% have been administered in Africa, despite the continent making up 17% of the world’s population. These statistics compel Canadians to be grateful for their easy and free access to vaccines.

A film shown at the symposium also depicted the dreadful impacts of mining on water bodies and ecosystems. Thousands of people living near mining operations and a large amount of marine life are poisoned due to contaminants in water bodies. Often, treatment is too expensive. Further, war and poverty displaced masses all around the world, with many refugees living in inhumane conditions. Children are regularly stripped of the



right to an education and instead must take jobs to support their families. Financial stress has caused young girls and women to become victims of prostitution, and many turn to suicide as a last resort.

The information at the symposium made me appreciative of having the right to live in freedom in Canada. The symposium ended with an advocacy training workshop, helping youth to develop proper discussions and action items to work towards solving these issues. Canadian Jesuits International hosts various workshops, webinars, and symposiums, covering a wide range of topics. I would encourage you to attend. More information is available on the CJI social media platforms.

Pope Francis and Residential Schools



Samay Dadlani
'24
Contributor

There has never been a papal visit more anticipated than Pope Francis’s upcoming trip to Canada. The Pope agreed to assist with ongoing reconciliation efforts for the Indigenous peoples following the discovery of thousands of children buried at former residential schools. The Vatican has declared that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) invited the Papal journey to Canada.

The trip could have the Pope apologize on behalf of the Catholic Church for the atrocities of residential schools—an act de-

manded by many Canadians.

“The Catholic church must be accountable and acknowledge their responsibility for implementing and running these institutions of assimilation and genocide,” National Chief RoseAnne Archibald of the Assembly of First Nations said in an emailed statement to the Church on October 27.

Further, Saskatchewan’s First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme claimed that a pontifical visit must come with an apology to validate the pain and suffering that many survivors still live with today.

His Holiness agreed to meet in December with Indigenous survivors of Canada’s infamous residential schools. The CCCB stated that the Pope summoned the delegations to the Vatican and plans to meet with First Nations,

Metis, and Inuit peoples from December 17 to 20, 2021.

The Pope will preside over a final audience with all three groups on December 20, 2021. On September 24, 2021, Toronto’s Cardinal Thomas Collins stated, “The country’s bishops had apologized earlier this year as they sorrowfully acknowledged the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges faced by Indigenous peoples that continue to this day.”

Earlier in 2021, investigators and archeologists in Canada, using ground-penetrating radar, reported finding 215 unmarked graves at the site of Kamloops Residential School in B.C. Upon being alerted of this number, the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked for the pope to make a formal apology on his



visit. Now, over 6,509 graves at residential schools have been uncovered, and the call for an apology has grown stronger.

Indigenous communities express hope that the Vicar of Christ’s visit to Canada will include a formal apology towards residential school survivors, as it would be significant milestone in the long journey towards truth and reconciliation.

Thoughts after Touring the Mormon Temple



Nathan Poklar
'24
Contributor

Driving down Kenaston Boulevard near Bridgewater, you might notice a great brick building, decorated with stained glass and with a golden angel crowning the steeple. Over the past three years, the building has slowly crept up, with many wondering what it could it possibly be. Finally, we have the answer — a Mormon temple.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (better known as the Mormons) is a religious group largely left misunderstood and mocked by the public. Though not recognized as a denomination of Christianity by the Vatican, the LDS Church declares itself of the Christian faith, stating, “members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints unequivocally affirm themselves to be Christians.”

Mormons have places of gathering similar to churches called stakes and wards, but their most sacred places are temples. There are only 169 temples worldwide, and they serve the purpose

of hosting special ceremonies, such as marriages and posthumous baptism. Normally, only members of the LDS church are allowed into their temples. However, when temples are built or renovated, the Church opens them to the public before they are dedicated.

Earlier this fall, the Mormons finished constructing their Winnipeg temple and they hosted tours of the building. Not wanting to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I went to get a tour of this religion.

Walking up the visitor’s centre near the temple, I was anxious. Throughout my life, I had been told that the Mormons were some unknown, weird religious cult. It felt like I was walking into the belly of the beast, knowingly entering the temple of a clandestine and strange group of people. Yet when I entered the building, I was greeted by a group of enthusiastic missionaries.

After introducing myself, I was brought to a small room with a white screen, a projector, and a group of people who were also trying to learn more about the Mormon faith. In the room, the missionaries played an educational video that detailed the importance of temples, with testimonials from Mormons around the globe about the spiritual impact of the temple. After finish-

ing the video, we were directed by two well-dressed missionaries into the temple, where we met our tour guide.

The interior of the building was adorned with prairie crocuses displayed in every pattern. First, we were led to the Room of the Baptismal Font, where dead people are proxy-baptised through living members. On either side were great paintings of Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan and Jesus baptizing Indigenous people.

Next, we were shown the Instruction Room, where members pray and make personal covenants with God, which they proclaim on an ornate alter at the centre of the room.

We were then led by our tour guide to the Sealing Room, where witnesses sit and watch an engaged couple kneel at a giant altar and proclaim their eternal love for each other. On opposite sides of the bright white walls were great mirrors (symbolizing the eternality of love) and there was a chandelier of thousands of crystals hanging overhead.

With great reverence, we were brought to the holiest place in the temple: the Celestial Room. Decorated with mahogany furniture, giant mirrors, marble floors, white walls, and the largest chandelier that I have ever seen, our tour guide joyfully told us

that this room was a taste of what heaven felt like—it was the dwelling place of God on Earth. After explaining the room’s purpose, the organizers invited us to stand and just “feel the presence of God” around us. Standing in the room, I am not sure if I felt God, but it was a calming experience.

Five minutes later, we were brought outside, where we were given stickers, pamphlets, a King James version of the Bible, and a copy of the Book of Mormon. My experience with the Mormons has allowed me to understand a religion often treated like a joke. While I don’t believe that I will ever become a Mormon, being invited to their holiest place of worship has given me the ability to empathize with their unique faith tradition and see past the jokes that mock them.



Remembering Sébastien Ritchot



Donovan Martin '22
Bara Bashir '22

Chief Editor & Contributor

With great sadness, *The Crusader News* mourns the passing of Sébastien Brian D'Artagnon Ritchot. On November 23, 2021, Sébastien died in the Health Sciences Centre at the young age of 17 due to injuries sustained from a car crash.

Sébastien was an incredible student. He was on the gold honour roll and studied diligently to pursue his dream of being a surgeon. Not only did he excel in biology, chemistry, and physics, he was a formidable French speaker. He was a Francophone and took Advanced French at St. Paul's.

His teacher, M. Ray Comeault, shared that "Sébastien was an old soul — he was intellectual and worked hard. He touched so many around him."

Sébastien was involved in the religious community of St. Paul's. He served as a member of the Student Pastoral Committee and the Maroon & White Society, where he was Deputy Mass Coordinator. Sébastien worked closely with Fr. Boutilier S.J. to organize mass set-ups, tear-downs, and to arrange all the members and volunteers for liturgies.



Hans Alday '22, the 2021 Mass Coordinator, shared that, "Sébastien was committed to being a man for and with others. He would drop whatever he was doing to be of service to someone. As his partner for Mass Coordination, I could see that whenever he was serving others, he would do so with selflessness, passion, determination, and abundant love."

Outside of school, Sébastien was an avid angler. With his mother, he fished not only Manitoban lakes, rivers, and lagoons, but in Costa Rica, Florida, and Hawaii. Sébastien was also an exceptional gardener, growing crops in the warmer months and a variety of indoor plants all year round. Sébastien loved bingo as well. He played at the St. Peter and Paul's Bingo Hall and was beloved by the organizers. Sébastien also volunteered to clean up after bingo matches, sweeping up papers and other pieces of garbage after matches.

Sébastien worked at Canadian Tire as a customer service representative. Despite the complaints of customers often being bizarre, ridiculous, or even impossible, Sébastien always figured out how to deal with them. His staff admired this professionalism, but also the geniality he showed to them. Sébastien assumed a leadership role at the store, serving as a mentor.

Courage is a characteristic we all seek. It gives us comfort in our times of weakness, it shields us from the agony of doubt, and it satiates the hunger of our hearts to be the best versions of ourselves. Our late Sébastien was a

beacon of courage – not the kind found in the hearts of warring men, but rather the kind found at the heart of brotherhood and kinship. He knew how to wield courage, not for himself, but in the service of others, a truly admirable feat of grandeur. Sébastien toiled to expand his knowledge, fashioning a stool on which he might sit amongst the humble of thought. He crafted a vision that, without fail, inspired his hopes and goals. He honed a powerful degree of discipline, exemplifying a strength of character found in very few.

Sébastien was an inspiring young man whose kindness, modesty, strength and wisdom continues to nurture our community today. Sébastien espoused a dream: to work, labour and sweat, bend but never submit to the tyranny of tears should we be blessed with a tongue and voice capable of singing the songs of victory.

Every person at St. Paul's High School, student and staff, has been positively influenced by Sébastien. He was a remarkable student, providing profound insight in class. He helped organize and set up numerous masses. And he was a friend — a studious, caring, hilarious, courageous friend.

A Farewell to Dr. Uzat



Oscar Lavitt '22
School Life Editor

At the end of this December, Dr. Rod Uzat will be leaving St. Paul's High School to embark on a new career as a university professor. Dr. Uzat has taught at St. Paul's for 10 years, serving as an American History teacher, a golf and grade 9 basketball coach, and as the school's Vice Principal of Students.

Dr. Uzat will be moving on to the University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa Texas, taking up the position of assistant professor of education. As well as teaching masters' classes there, he will be working to create a doctoral program in educational leadership.

Dr. Uzat remembers his interactions with the students fondly, recounting, "A number of years

ago, the graduating class arranged to have a small mariachi band follow me around the school and play behind me as we were going. I'd go to my office, and they'd hang out there, and when I left, they trumpeted out behind me." Grade 11 and 12 students may also remember the time when Dr. Uzat agreed to be taped to the Cass Gym wall to raise money for charity.

One thing that students will remember Dr. Uzat for is his wardrobe. Many have wondered why Dr. Uzat always wears such nice suits, to which he answered, with a chuckle, "Well, it's a habit. I've worn suits the entire time that I've taught, and you just end up accumulating clothes. It's tougher to change than to just keep on doing it!"

Dr. Uzat was a tough coach for his grade 9 basketball team, but this coaching saw great success. During our interview, he recounted the time when both grade 9 basketball teams made it to the final round of the provincial cham-

pionships: "We always have two [grade nine] teams, and it was the two of us playing for the provincial championships. We certainly had good athletes, but there were better teams than us that year. When the chips were down in provincials, they did it." Ultimately, Dr. Uzat's team would go on to take the championship that year, and with both the championship and finalist wins, it was a tremendous victory for St. Paul's.

Dr. Uzat mainly taught American History at St. Paul's. Now having accumulated over 20 years of teaching the subject, his students were exposed to the material through a unique lens. Ronald Reagan and *Mad Men* are sure to ring a bell. The numerous in-class essays, papers, and projects made American History a difficult class, but one that was worthwhile for those who took it.

He is possibly best known for his role as VPS. Students are likely to remember a sharp knock on the door followed by someone being pulled out of class to receive

a talking-to from Dr. Uzat. This reputation inspired fear in the hearts of many a grade 9 student. Though Dr. Uzat was very intimidating as a VPS, when you got to know him, he was a very nice man to talk to, both in, and outside of class.

All in all, Dr. Uzat's time at St. Paul's is one to be celebrated, and as a student body, we wish him well on whatever endeavours he pursues in America.



Why Cameras are Better at Photography than Smartphones



Yash Varma '24
Contributor

Smartphones are an amazing piece of technology. They offer a variety of tools, one of which is the convenient camera attached to the back. They provide a wonderful, quick method for taking photos, whether it be mouth-watering butter chicken or a victorious hockey team. However, there are considerable shortcomings that continue to make them infe-



rior to hand-held cameras. This article will highlight why cameras are far better than the cameras on smartphones.

One of the first things smartphones don't have is the ability to zoom naturally. Instead, they rely on something called digital zoom, which doesn't change the magnification of the lens, but rather enlarges the whole image at a specific point. This results in the grainy images commonly seen when digital zoom is used on smartphones. When looking at handheld cameras, lenses with different magnification levels can be attached, allowing for a natural, optical zoom that provides

clarity and precision in whatever is being shot. Additionally, a lens being able to change magnification is significant when it comes to photos of people. This is because higher magnification levels can create less distortion within a person's facial

features. Contrarily, since smartphones generally have a lower magnification lens, facial features often look distorted.

Another shortcoming smartphone cameras have is not being able to customize your camera settings. Cameras have three basic yet powerful functions: ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. ISO refers to the sensitivity of the camera's light sensor. For instance, a darker scene would require a higher ISO sensitivity, as opposed to a lighter scene, which requires a lower ISO. The aperture settings also control the amount of light of the camera, but mainly contribute to the depth of field in an image. This is what creates the blurry backgrounds seen in professional photos, caused by a lower aperture and lower depth of field. Lastly, the shutter speed settings control how fast the camera's shutter moves, which also determines the amount of light that enters the camera. In the case of shutter speed, it portrays the motion seen in an image. To illus-

trate, a faster shutter accounts for a stiller image whereas a slower shutter accounts for an image filled with motion.

When these aspects combine, it leads to one key component smartphones cannot achieve: artistic choice. Photography is an art that allows people to express themselves, just as how one would paint or make music. This allows for cameras to be able to visualize the photographer's concept. For instance, a photographer could decide what feeling the viewer could get in a picture of a basketball game. When taking a picture of a player who is about to shoot at the net, the photographer can manipulate the camera's functions to create a stunning image of the player frozen in the air, complimented with a glossy background and a lot of light.

This is a mere fraction of the glory cameras possess, which will continue to make them superior to smartphones for years to come.

What is Team Seas?



Samay Dadlani '24
Contributor

Beginning with the #TeamTrees, and now on to a more massive stage, viral content creator and certainly YouTube's most popular philanthropist Jimmy Donaldson, more commonly known as "Mr. Beast," is back with a grander campaign called Team Seas.

For those familiar with YouTube's sensation Mr. Beast, you may recollect his goal of planting 20 million trees in 2019. With the assist of his 70 million fans, the goal was completely smashed out of the park – with the fundraiser still receiving generous donations every single day from October to December. Similarly, this year, Mr. Beast wanted to step up his game. Alongside former NASA engineer Mark Robert, they have organized a campaign called Team Seas. Team Seas is an international collaborative fundraiser project that wishes to remove 30 million

pounds of trash from the polluted seas, rivers, and dispersed along beaches by January 1, 2022. For each and every single US dollar (around 1.26 CAD) donated, one pound of trash (0.45 kilograms) will be taken out of from a body of water.

YouTubers all across the digital platform have donated surpluses



of money, including: Preston-Playz and Brianna (100,012 USD), Adin Ross (50,100 USD), and Dhar Mann Studios (50,000 USD). Everybody is contributing to this organization for a significant cause: preserving our oceans. As of December 8, 2021, at 5:47pm, 17,666,938 USD (22,334,543 CAD) has been aided, accomplishing more

than half of the milestone within only 2 weeks. In a Q&A session, Mr. Beast had explained why he and Mark decided to launch the ocean cleaning campaign. He stated, "our oceans, rivers, and beaches are full of plastic trash. It is estimated that there are 200 million tons of plastic already circulating in marine environments, with an estimated 11 mil-

lion tons entering the ocean every year. Pollution from bottles, bags, straws, and abandoned fishing gear is a health crisis for our entire planet. So, we are going to remove the equivalent of 85 football fields covered a foot deep in trash."

To decontaminate beaches, rivers, and oceans around the world, the duo has partnered

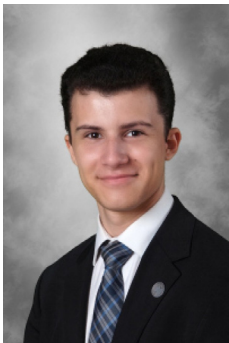
with two non-profit organizations: The Ocean Conservancy and The Ocean Cleanup.

Approximately 80% of the plastic that flows into the oceans approaches from 1% of the rivers in the world. To fight this, The Ocean Cleanup has developed a unique solution to efficiently stop the flow of plastic into rivers before it reaches the oceans: trash-collecting robots.

To raise 30 million dollars by the end of the year, hundreds of social media influencers will be uploading videos about donating to Team Seas and asking their followers to contribute as much as they can. This initiative is a creative and impactful way to make a notable difference in the fight against climate change. Together, you can be a part of Team Seas and do exactly that.

To support the cause and save our beaches, rivers, and oceans, you can visit www.teamseas.org and make a donation towards the 30 million USD goal. And remember, every small donation matters, so take hold of the device nearest to you and please donate.

The End of the Sedan Era?



Dan Latimer '22
Contributor

The four-door car, or sedan, has become increasingly unpopular with the shift towards trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUVs). As said by Lee Iacocca in Ford vs Ferrari, “People don’t want to drive the same boring cars their parents drove. Kids today want glamour.” The cars of the 60’s and 70’s were stylish for their time; but 50 years later, their look has gone stale.

Trucks do have luxury options but are designed with off-road or rough farm trails in mind. Because of that, trucks can be used for the average family. Sedans do not have the same standard of luxury as they used to; they have become smaller and are not as versatile for different lifestyles.

Trucks have taken their place as luxury vehicles having more advanced safety features, better creature comforts and an increased ride height allowing for more confidence behind the wheel.

Recently, there has been a push for trucks to become more economical, only broadening their demographic. Overtime, the push for more fuel-efficient trucks and more versatile SUVs

have made lessened the appeal of full-sized sedans to young buyers.

This trend has resulted in car companies putting more emphasis on SUVs and trucks rather than normal cars. However, smaller cars still do appeal to some demographics.

Today, it is more popular for a university student to drive a small car; they are fuel-efficient

and far cheaper. Further, trucks and SUVs would not be practical for the small university commute.

During the life of the sedan, cars were for families and trucks were for the working tradesman. Now with more comfort, luxury, and customization options, trucks are growing in popularity, and sedans are on the downturn.



Global Warming: The Fuel of Deadly Hurricanes



Baljot Rai '24
Contributor

Diving into paleotempestology—the study of past tropical cyclone and hurricane activity—, it is easy to notice that many hurricanes with the most detrimental effects have occurred after 1990. This was not long after June 23, 1988, when the United States acknowledged climate change and global warming as a serious issue.

The fact that these two time-stamps are so close to each other is not a coincidence. Climate change has had many negative impacts on our Earth, be it declining water supplies, droughts, endangerment, extinction of certain species, and erosion of mountains and buildings. However, the intensifying of hurricanes is one of the most danger-

ous on the climate change side effect list.

A study by researchers at Yale University states that since 1975, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of category four and five hurricanes, which are the most destructive. The likelihood of a hurricane of category four or five increases by

but does not result in more hurricanes. Global warming results in warmer sea temperatures and stronger tropical wind-storm speeds, which causes hurricanes to do more damage. Further, global warming’s impacts on land, ice, and glaciers cause an increase in sea levels, making storm surges worse.

the primary intensifiers of hurricanes—is lower above land when compared to water. Moreover, warmer temperatures on land continue to intensify the hurricane, which leads to hurricanes going on longer than anticipated, resulting in more damage.

The intensifying of hurricanes is only one negative impact of climate change, worrying specifically to coastal areas. In polar regions, climate change is causing the melting of glaciers and disruption of the ecosystem. In some agricultural regions, climate change is causing droughts, harming their economy.

Looking at current circumstances, it is essential that we make changes in our lifestyles to protect our planet. Politicians who recognize the severity of climate change and have plans to reduce its effects must be elected. Until then, we can do our part. Remember to reduce unnecessary consumption, reuse materials when able, and recycle what you can no longer use.



25-30% per degrees Celsius of anthropogenic (human-caused) global warming.

It should be noted that climate change intensifies hurricanes,

Global warming also impacts how long a hurricane continues once it hits land. In a normal situation, hurricanes tend to dissipate a short time after they hit land, since air moisture—one of

The Beautiful Blue Bombers Season



Sawyer Ramsay
'24
Contributor

Two years ago, Winnipeg Blue Bomber fans were ecstatic when the Manitoba team took home the first Grey Cup since 1990. This year, the Bombers dominated throughout their regular season with a near perfect score and a solid line-up, securing them the Grey Cup win once again.

This incredible season has the Blue Bombers finishing with a record of eleven wins and three losses. The Bombers played excellent on offence with many of their games being one-sided. It was a rare occurrence to see the Blue Bombers behind in a game.

Their offensive line was highlighted by quarterback Zach Collaros, running back Andrew Harris, and wide receivers

Darvin Adams, Nic Demski, and Rasheed Bailey. Collaros is an important asset to the team and is considered one of the best quarterbacks in the league. The Bombers also played well defensively throughout the season, with Willie Jefferson, Adam Bighill, and Jackson Jeffcoat as their star defenders. And the great coaching from Mike O'Shea made these victories possible.

Although the Bombers played a great defensive and offensive season, they had a difficult time finding a reliable kicker. The Blue Bombers have had a rough year determining who will replace their old star kicker Justin Medlock. Medlock won the award for the Canadian Football League's (CFL) Most Outstanding Special Teams' Player. After winning the Grey Cup and having not played in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, Medlock decided to retire, forcing the Bombers to find a replacement.

For a long time, the Bombers

could not find a suitable kicker. Most were not ideal and failed to convert on many attempts. It would take a trade with the B.C. Lions to resolve the issue. With the west coast team, the Bombers received Sergio Castillo as their new kicker in exchange for a fourth-round pick in the 2022 CFL draft. This is not Castillo's first time playing with the Bombers, as he began his CFL career with Winnipeg in 2015. The Blue Bombers were also able to acquire another kicker named Gabriel Ferraro, who is a highly reputable kicker in the CFL.

In the end, all their hard work paid off as they won their second Grey Cup in a row with an overtime win of 33 to 25 against the



Hamilton Tiger Cats. The Bombers suffered throughout the three first quarters and came back in the fourth quarter, managing to secure the overtime win.

The Bombers were able to overcome their kicking difficulties and continue with their defense and offense holding them together this season. This culminated in a fantastic season, setting the team up well for the play-offs and ultimately defending their title as Grey Cup champs.

Canadian World Cup



Caleb Pereira '23
Nicholas Mikawoz '25

Sports Editor & Contributor

Canada has only ever qualified for one World Cup, but a second appearance looks to be on the horizon. Amidst a golden generation of players like LOSC (Lille Olympique Sporting Club) striker Jonathan David, and Bayern Munich left-back Alphonso Davies, Canada has become one of the strongest teams in North American soccer.

Canada's sole World Cup appearance came at the 1986 tournament in Mexico. There, Canada finished at the bottom of their group, losing to the U.S.S.R., France, and Hungary, while failing to score a single goal. Despite this poor performance, Canada's participation in the World Cup sparked interest in soccer across the nation. This has led to a growth in quality for Canadian soccer since 1986, culminating now, on the cusp of qualifying for next year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

After topping their qualifying group in round one and defeating Haiti in the second round, Canada now sits in the final round of the CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football) World Cup Qualifier.



This third round sees Canada enter an eight-team group, featuring multiple countries with World Cup experience like the United States and Mexico. In the group, the top three teams gain automatic qualification to the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The fourth-placed team will play the winner of the Oceania Football Confederation's qualifiers in June 2022 for a spot in the World Cup.

Canada has had some significant performances up until now in this qualifying stage. Most notably, their draw against Mexico in Mexico City at the Estadio Azteca—one of the most difficult stadiums to play at in North America. For Canada to qualify, they will need to continue to gain points against these difficult oppositions. This was apparent for Canada heading into their home match against Mexico in Edmonton on November 16, 2021.

The stakes were high for Canada and Mexico leading up to this match because of the U.S.A. drawing against Jamaica. As a result, a win would advance either team to first place in the group.

Due to the young, in-form, and fast-paced counterattacking style of the Canadians, they were

favoured to win. The match took place in -11°C weather, as Commonwealth Stadium was covered in a blanket of snow. This game earned the stadium the moniker 'Ice Teca.'

For the first 55 minutes, Canada appeared to have better odds. There were two goals from Larin, who thereby became Canada's joint all-time leading scorer. His first goal was in the 47 minute and the second off a set piece in the 52. After Canada gained the lead, Mexico began to generate chances. Eventually, a powerful header from Atletico Madrid 31-year-old, Héctor Herrera, gave Mexico their first goal. Yet even after several more Mexican chances, Canada held strong. This secured Canada their first win against Mexico in over 20 years.

Currently, Canada sits first in their group with a one-point lead over the U.S.A. With six games remaining between now and March 2022, Canada will have to continue their current run of form in order to qualify for their second ever FIFA World Cup appearance.

The Incredible Cru Puck B



Luke Perrett '24
Contributor

Sitting high in their division, the St. Paul's B team has been taking the league by storm. Their rank has skyrocketed due to the outstanding goaltending of Ron Cailo, with league-leading records of 5-0-1 and a 1.81 GAA.

As of December 5, 2021, the Crusaders are eleven games into the season. Along the way, the

team has had some significant events. For the first time, advanced stats are being recorded and provided to players as well as staff. As the use of analytics has increased in the National Hockey League (NHL), I decided to propose the idea of keeping track of some numbers. The "calculated score" formula was born.

The formula uses statistics including points, shots, plus minus, and penalties. Each statistic is assigned its own point value. By combining their "scores" from each game, it creates their season total. Team play is the primary focus of this instead of statistics



like goals and assists. Using this formula, the top three "scorers" are Nathan Lazarenko, Jonah Crossland, and Sam Monnin.

On October 29, 2021, the Crusaders won an exhilarating game in the shootout against St. John's Ravenscourt (SJR). After an intense three periods and overtime, the Crusaders entered their first shootout of the season. The first skater, captain Zev Stern, ended up scoring the game winner. Max Olsen stood tall in net, stopping all three SJR shooters.

On November 2, 2021, the Crusaders set a team record of the most goals scored in a game with ten. Since the addition of the B team in 2011, no past Crusader team had scored ten or more goals in one single game (according to whshl.com). This came against Gabrielle Roy at the Bell MTS Iceplex and featured a hattrick from Alex Stibbard. Additionally, Evan Guercio and Nathan Lazarenko had two goal games, and Tyson Penner, Porter Holland, and Eamon Wallace each had a goal.

After careful consideration and input from players and staff, on November 10, 2021, Coach

Puchniak selected Zev Stern as captain, and Jacob Phillips, Carson Shewfelt and Alex Stibbard as assistant captains. Here is what Zev had to say after the announcement: "It's an unbelievable honour to be voted and chosen as captain for this team. Being named captain won't change the way I play, and I'll try and be as best a leader as I can be for this hockey team."

On November 16, 2021, Noah Friesen secured a win for the Crusaders in an unusual way. After a delayed call for head contact, the Dakota Lancers pulled their goalie, giving them a six on five. With a mishandled pass, Dakota cleared the puck to their own zone, straight into their own net. Since Friesen was the last to touch the puck, he was credited with the goal, one he will not forget.

What is next for the Crusaders? Make sure to visit whshl.com to see the schedule and come watch!

The Chicago Blackhawks Scandal



Grayson Berkowits '25
Kai Foulidis '25
Contributors

In May of 2021, a lawsuit was filed against the Chicago Blackhawks. Kyle Beach, a former professional hockey player on the 2010 Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup Championship team, filed this lawsuit for claims of mishandling his 2010 sexual assault

report. In May of 2010, two Blackhawks players told skills Coach Paul Vincent that video Coach Brad Aldrich had sexually assaulted multiple players. Vincent went straight to the General Manager, Stan Bowman, and Team President, John McDonough. He asked them to take these allegations to the Chicago Police for an investigation. Despite the request, the Chicago Blackhawks organization did not take any action against Aldrich.

A meeting later took place to determine how to handle the allegations. At that meeting, it was agreed that they would not take any further steps to address these

allegations and decided overlook the situation. As a result, the Blackhawks and Aldrich parted ways, giving him a positive employment reference for Houghton High School in Michigan.

The lawsuit was originally filed on May 7, 2021, by two former Blackhawks players on the 2010 roster. It was not until October 27, 2021, that Kyle Beach revealed that he had filed the sexual assault lawsuit against the Blackhawks. After Beach revealed that he was "John Doe" from the lawsuit, there was a spark of interest in the story. Shortly after, the Blackhawks organization hired an independent law firm to investigate the 2010 allegations. The investigation concluded that many members of the Chicago Blackhawks organization knew about the allegations.

Some of the Blackhawks players even teased Beach, using homophobic slurs. Even though many members from the 2010 Blackhawks front office and roster knew about these allegations, they failed to act on this issue. As Joel Quenneville, the Blackhawks' Head Coach at the time put it, "it was hard for the team to get to

where they were, and they could not deal with this issue now." It was believed that these allegations served as a distraction from their aspirations of winning the Stanley Cup.

The National Hockey League has made it their number one priority to address these allegations and repair the mistakes that were made during the 2010 Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup run. They started off by removing Joel Quenneville from Head Coach of the Florida Panthers, as well as Stan Bowman from General Manager of the Blackhawks. The club also offered to pay for Kyle Beach's therapy.

The NHL considered action against Winnipeg Jets General Manager Kevin Cheveldayoff, who was the Blackhawk's assistant general manager during their 2010 season. However, it was determined that Cheveldayoff was not in a position of sufficient power with the Blackhawks at the time and he was not punished. The NHL and Blackhawks organization continues to work towards repairing the lack of action taken during the 2010 Blackhawks Stanley Cup season.



Student Showcase:



Owen Taylor '25
"Fracturing Woman"



Evan Hirst '22
"Merry Grinchmas"



Sawyer Ramsay '24
"A Knight at Night"



Julian Brennan '24
"Nissan Leaf"

A holiday message from *The Crusader News*



Donovan
Martin
'22
Chief Editor

Hello St. Paul’s,

I hope you enjoy this Christmas edition of *The Crusader News*. Once again, our numerous writers, editors, and artists made a phenomenal issue.

Remember, you can find us online at www.thecrusadernews.ca. There you can find more articles and the full edition in pdf form.

And if you’d like to write for the paper, message me on Teams.

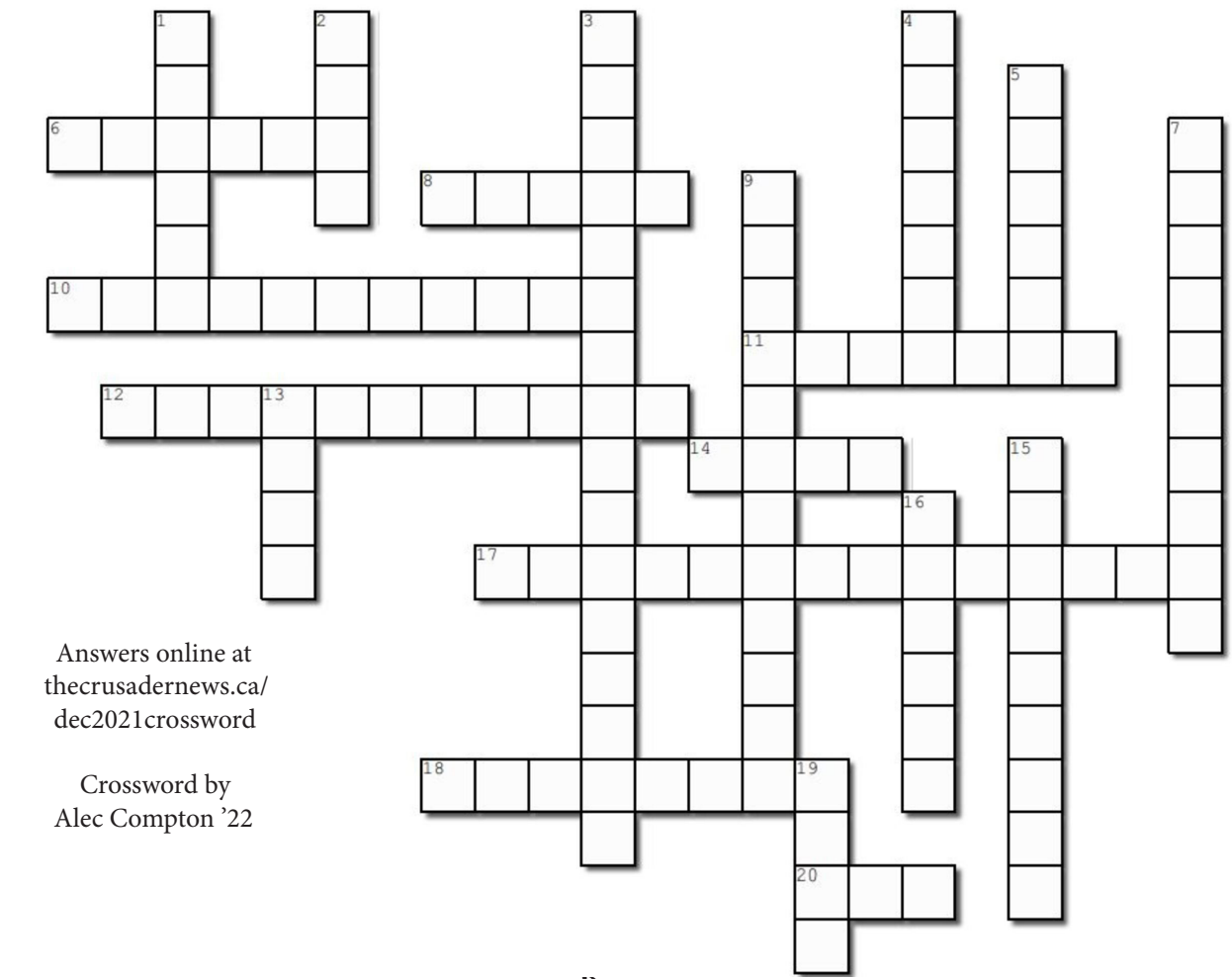
During the holiday season, I ask that you take it easy — take a break from work, spend time with your family, and celebrate.

On behalf of *The Crusader News* team, I wish you all a wonderful winter solstice, very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

Photo Credits

Christmas Reviews - IMDb
Dune - IMDb
Book of Boba Fett - Wikimedia
MCU Fatigue – Marvel Studios
The Best Films of 2021 So Far – IMDb
Red Nosed Round Up - Spotify
Virginia Governor Election and the Future- Forbes
Quebec’s Precarious Position in Canada - CBC
The Commercialization of Christmas – Coca Cola
The Owl House - Disney
Christmas Album Reviews – Spotify
Anime Reviews – IMDb
A Visit to the Winnipeg Mormon Temple – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Pope Francis Residentiql Schools - CBC
Solidarity in a COVID-19 World - WHO
Dr. Uzat - Oscar Lavitt
Sebastien -Wpg Free Press
Team Seas – TeamSeas.com
Sedan - Pixaby
Cameras- Yash Varma
Global Warming: Hurricanes - NOAA
Cru Puck B. – Luke Perret
The Blackhawks Scandal - Yahoo Sports
CAN Vs. MEX - Isaiah J. Downing/ Reuters
Globe and Mail - Blue Bombers

Cru Crossword #4



Answers online at
[thecrusadernews.ca/
dec2021crossword](http://thecrusadernews.ca/dec2021crossword)

Crossword by
Alec Compton '22

Across

- 6. The candelabra of Kwanzaa
- 8. Number of days in a Hanukkah
- 10. Most recorded Christmas song
- 11. City in which Kevin McCallister was lost in the second *Home Alone* film
- 12. The voice of the Grinch from 2018’s *The Grinch*
- 14. Number of love stories present in the movie *Love, Actually*
- 17. Most sold Christmas song
- 18. Star of *The Santa Clause* film trilogy
- 20. Number of *Home Alone* movies as of Christmas, 2021

Down

- 1. String Christmas tree decoration
- 2. Naughty children receive this from Santa
- 3. Friends call him ‘Snow Miser’
- 4. Country where candy canes originated
- 5. First mentioned in the song “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Rein deer”
- 7. Star of *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*
- 9. Jesus was given three gifts from the wise men: gold, myrrh, and _____
- 13. Kevin McCallister’s older brother
- 15. The Christmas Star often referred to as the star of this biblical town
- 16. Charlie Brown’s messy friend
- 19. Body part which Jack Frost nips at



Toe Toe
Moo '24
Cartoonist

