



The Crusader News

Official Student Newspaper of St. Paul's High School

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How a U of M Prof Became the Face of a Cryptocurrency Scam



Rodmehr Filizadeh '25

Business Editor

On January 1, 2024, Netflix's documentary *Bitconned* was released. It told the story of three men who took advantage of the cryptocurrency market to scam investors and take millions of dollars with a fake cryptocurrency debit card.

Their elaborate scam consisted of a fake card that would supposedly make spending cryptocurrency seamless in daily life. In the middle of this ordeal: a University of Manitoba professor who was unknowingly the CEO of CentraTech, the fraudulent crypto debit card company.

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Remembering Yash Varma '24

One year on



"May the divine light illuminate our intellect."- Those are the closing words of the *Gayatri Mantra*, a Hindu mantra which was recited and played at Yash's funeral. To me, those Sanskrit words evoke the essence of Yash's spirit – *illumination* and *intellect*.

Through our many deep philosophical debates and discussion, his inner illumination always shined. Yash's jubilant personality was complemented by a smile on his face and his passion for the multitude of initiatives he participated in. Be it leading positive change in our community through Youth in Philanthropy, entertaining all of us through his acting in drama, or simply through a conversation, Yash was a catalyst for happiness. Alongside being extremely academically gifted, his wit was evident in everything that he did.

One year on, there's rarely a moment when his presence isn't missed. Walking through the hallways, sitting in the newsroom, or in conversations, I often wonder, "wouldn't it have been much better if Yash was here with us?" Today, he would've been The Crusader News' website editor, my co-leader in Youth in Philanthropy, and spreading jubilation wherever he went. Though he is in a much better place now, he's also at the heart of the class of 2024.

Yash, we remember you and we miss you. You truly are *unforgettable*.

Baljot Rai '24

Chief Editor

Ramadan for Beginners

Adam Haleis '25

Contributor



March 11, 2024 marks the day when Muslims across the world unite to participate in 30 days of the Ramadan, or *Sawm*, season.

The word 'Ramadan' stems from the Arabic root word *ar-ramad*, meaning 'scorching heat.' It describes Ramadan as a month of abstinence and giving up the luxuries we often take for granted.

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The Winter that Wasn't

Baljot Rai '24 on why it's so warm this winter on pg. 11.



New Jersey Designs in the NHL

Sports Editor Luke Perrett '24 shares his strong opinions on what the NHL has cooked up on pg. 9.



Unlocking Your Spring Break:

The Ultimate Guide to Adventure



David Ezekiel Klassen '25
Contributor

With spring break just around the corner, many students are wondering how best to relax from schoolwork and create exciting memories. If you still haven't decided on how to use your one-week hiatus from school, here is a sampling of some exciting things Winnipeg has to offer.

Are you looking for an amazing, nature-based, experience in Winnipeg? The Leaf is your best choice. A magnificent indoor horticultural attraction in Assiniboine Park, The Leaf introduces guests to four different biomes: the Mediterranean Biome, the Hartley and Heather Richardson Tropical Biome, the Babs Asper Display House, and the Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden. Visitors to The Leaf are introduced to a breathtaking display of the depth of nature through beautiful succulents and fragrant flowers, both local and global. Impressively, The Leaf also contains the largest indoor waterfall in Canada, great food, and engaging rotating displays!

Are you looking for some exciting sports events to watch? If so, why not watch a Winnipeg Jets hockey game? There is nothing more exciting than watching the Jets play in the Canada Life Centre alongside thousands of other fans. Enjoy snacks while watching the game to maximize the joyful experience. The intense feeling you get while watching the Jets play is something you will never forget.

Whether it's a small group or a larger team, embark on an immersive adventure together at an escape room. Solve puzzles, find clues, and dig through mysteries within an hour. You can challenge your critical thinking skills, and your creativity with a group of friends! Escape rooms offer a plethora of themes, ranging from fantasy to horror to science fiction.

Whichever of these options you choose, it will surely be a blast! Explore any of these marvelous marvels Winnipeg has to offer, and I guarantee you will have a splendid spring break!



Grand Theft Auto's Big Return



Joseph Lewin '25
Contributor

After what has seemed like an eternity, the long-awaited sequel to *GTA V* is finally here! In December 2023, the trailer for *GTA VI* was released, leaving fans of the series chomping at the bit for the new game. The upcoming release of this game has had a staggering impact on gaming culture, with the trailer becoming the most viewed video within 24 hours of its release. Although fans were upset at the release date being set for 2025, with no specific date in sight, the news of the game releasing soon was still well received.



Released in 2013, *GTA V* quickly became the highest-earning video game in history, making well over a billion dollars within the first three days of release.

GTA V's impact on pop culture is truly remarkable, with references to the game in every single medium of pop culture, whether it is books, music, television, or film. It has also been the subject of controversy due to the effect it's violent and sexual content has had on children. However, *GTA V*'s mature rating only made it more appealing to kids, desperate to get a hold of the game. Now that it has been a little over ten years since *GTA V*'s release, many fans (myself included) will be of age (17+) to buy *GTA VI* despite its M (mature) rating, indicating that the content is for mature audiences and parental discretion is advised.

The trailer for *GTA VI* looks astonishing and completely justifies the 10-year wait for the game. Every single scene within the trailer was packed to the brim with amazing detail, closely resembling real-life events, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication coming from the Rockstar team in the development of this game. It is a true masterpiece of a trailer that does its job of generating buzz for the game to the highest possible degree. However, since the trailer's release, Rockstar Games has gone radio silent on any new updates. We can expect the game to take place in modern-day Vice City (Miami's equivalent). The story will have a female protagonist, and the map will be substantially larger than *GTA V*'s, likely to include the entire state of Florida with nearly every building on the map featuring a detailed interior.

So, we know the setting, we have an idea about what the game and story will look like, and we have a general release date. The most pressing question for fans: will it live up to the expectations of the players? And will it leave an even bigger mark on pop culture than its predecessor?

The Glamorous Grammy's



Rishi Kapoor '26
Contributor

The night of the 2024 Grammy Awards, February 4, was filled with incredible talent, amazing performances, and well-earned victories. The event celebrated the extraordinary accomplishments of musicians and their contributions to the music industry, featuring music from an extensive selection of genres. The annual awards ceremony was kicked off by comedian Trevor Noah, whose hilarious jokes and enthusiasm proved once again why he was a perfect host for music's biggest night.

But what's a Grammy's show without breathtaking performances from artists? Opening the night was Dua Lipa who debuted her new song "Training Season", accompanied by other superstars including Travis Scott, Billie Eilish, 21 Savage, SZA, and U2. Together, they created an upbeat and exciting show that only the Grammy's could provide. Solo performances during the event were nothing short of spectacular. Each artist elevated the show by bringing their own unique style to the stage, highlighting the variety of flavours and genres in music. There were also some surprise performances from several older artists. In a staggering, 56 year-long career, Joni Mitchell sang at the Grammy's for the first time ever. Closing out the show, Billy Joel returned to the Grammy's after 22 years and performed his first new song in 17 years. Some artists also took time to devote songs as tributes to deceased loved ones. Stevie Wonder



sang a warm tribute to his close friend and duet partner, Tony Bennett. Jon Batiste memorialized his music executive Clarence Avant, "The Godfather of Black Music." Annie Lennox delivered a performance for her friend Sinead O'Connor who was a singer, producer, and activist who recently passed away. Lennox also took this opportunity to call for a ceasefire for the wars in the Middle East.

Finally, there is the main event of the Grammy's: the awards. In the 66th annual Grammy awards, there were many records broken by deserving artists. Taylor Swift broke the record of having the most "Album of the Year" awards, surpassing Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra, and Paul Simon. Canadian artist, Celine Dion, unexpectedly appeared to present the record-breaking award to Swift for her album *Midnights*. Swift then seized this opportunity and announced her upcoming surprise album, titled *Tortured Poets Department*. After being nominated eight separate times in the past, Miley Cyrus was presented with her first ever Grammy award for Best Pop Solo Performance for her 2023 hit "Flowers". Everyone had their eyes on SZA as she was the artist with the most nominations in the 2024 Grammy's, with an impressive total of 24 nominations. SZA took home the award for Best R&B Song and gave a heartfelt speech about her gratitude and joy for how far she's come. Karol G also made history as the first woman to win in the Música Urbana category, in its third year of being awarded, previously won twice by Bad Bunny.

As a celebration of music, the 2024 Grammys were a stunning success. From a variety of mind-blowing performances to many surprises and well-earned musical awards, the 2024 Grammy's lived up to and exceeded expectations. One can only hope the same for the 2025 awards!

Dune But Better



Daniel
Stipanovic '25

Copy Editor

I never thought that I would watch a movie that trumps my favourite movie: *Interstellar*. However, after experiencing *Dune: Part Two*, I must say, this has become my new favourite. *Dune: Part Two*'s actors were amazing, the score is perfect, and the visual effects are spectacular.

As a continuation of the first *Dune* movie, *Dune: Part Two* follows the rise of Paul Atreides and the coming of the messiah, the fabled "Lisan Al Gaib". *Dune: Part One* follows House Atreides as they gain control of Arrakis and the brutal betrayal from the Emperor and House Harkonnen.

Every single actor in the movie brought their A-game. Timothée Chalamet, who played Paul Atreides, deserves an Oscar for his performance. In addition, Rebecca Fergusson, who plays Lady Jessica, Paul's mother, is also ex-



ceptional. Lastly, Austin Butler's performance as the cruel Feyd-Rautha is one to compare with James Earl Jones' Darth Vader and Heath Ledger's Joker, among the most sinister portrayals of our time. Javier Bardem's portrayal of Stilgar, who was only surface level comic relief in the movie at first, masterfully becomes a horrifying yet relatable character.

Hans Zimmer's score was spectacular and added so much to an already perfect film. The emotion and the intensity that the music added was surreal. In every scene, the music made you feel as if you were in the movie and in an IMAX theatre, the music immerses you into the universe, experiencing the same things as the characters. Zimmer's score was extremely well crafted,

and it added so much depth to an already amazing movie.

The visual effects and cinematography of *Dune* was artistically done. As the sandworms crashed against the sand during Paul's first ride, you could almost feel it, and the VFX and cinematography immersed you into the scene so well. Another highlight of the VFX and cinematography was on Geidi Prime, the Harkonnen Home world. While on the planet, the scenes were filmed in infrared and made to seem black and white. While this seems boring and useless, this added something unique to the Harkonnen home world and showed us how different every single planet in the *Dune* Universe is. The cinematography and VFX made *Dune: Part Two* a better experience while watching the film and helped *Dune* become the best science fiction film of all time.

Dune: Part Two was an extremely well-made film and, in my opinion, is the one of the best science fiction films to be made to this date. Denis Villeneuve, the actors, the VFX artist, and every single member of the crew made this film into something special.

10/10

The Issue with A.I. Art



Steven Kosa '25

Contributor

It's no secret that artificial intelligence has not only been gaining attention but has also become more advanced. From initially only generating simple paragraphs to being able to produce full images, AI has become a tool of endless possibilities. Software such as DALL-E and CRAIYON can now generate full images in mere seconds.

But with these possibilities comes prob-

lems, one of the largest being AI art. AI art itself is contradictory. At its core, art is an expression of human creativity and emotion. Taking the human element out of art and simply letting a robot generate it through prompts rejects the entire purpose of its existence. Not only lacking human creativity, AI rarely matches the skill and craftsmanship of human artists. Frequently, certain objects and sections of a piece will merge, appearing quite off-putting. Its soulless expression places its creations squarely in the uncanny valley.

With that being said, there is a risk of artists losing work from the advent of AI.

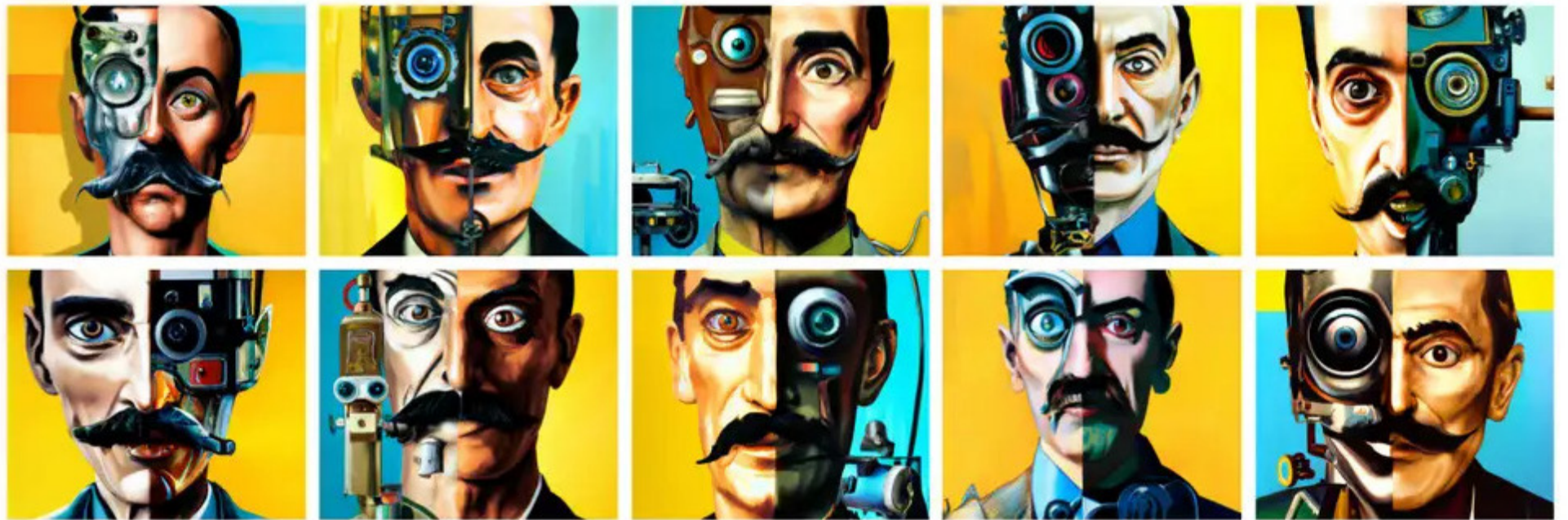
Should AI ever improve to compete with human creators, artistic roles such

as designers and illustrators will soon be replaced by unsalaried computers. While art markets, where human ingenuity is at the forefront, will likely remain untouched, the decline of creative jobs will undeniably cut the supply of artists, creating smaller niches which defy the wider trend.

That said, not all applications of AI are detrimental. For example, animators who worked on *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* used AI to assist in the animation of the film. They fed a library of reference drawings to an AI program and to train it to generate new frames from different angles and perspectives. This helped them to draw in-between frames and assisted them in animating sequences that would otherwise be repetitive and time consuming for humans.

The flaws of AI art shine when it generates images without human intervention. AI art is at its best when being used as a tool to assist with smoothing the rough edges and to helping processes that would otherwise be monotonous. There is a similar issue with ChatGPT: you could have it write a whole essay for you, but if you want excellence, do it yourself.

AI is just like any other tool. If used properly it saves time, energy, and stress. But if it is used carelessly, the consequences are more negative. Right now, we can only hope that AI progresses as a helpful tool than as a replacement for human creativity and expression.



The Concern Among Americans over Joe Biden’s Health



James Bailey ’26
Contributor

With another presidential election coming up this year, American citizens are conflicted over which of their two candidates to choose from. President Joe Biden has recently been doing poorly in the polls, with an average approval rating of just 38.7%. Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, had an average approval

rating of 49% near the midway point of his fourth year as president. This is extremely dangerous for Joe Biden, as no president in recent history has been able to continue to a second term with an approval rating below 40% this close to the election.

Not only has the Biden Administration lately been staggering in popularity, but the president himself has done a multitude of things that raise concern about his current mental health and whether he is still fit for a second term as president. He has been clearly disoriented, unable to form proper words, and wandered off to random places numerous times, showing an alarming lack of mental focus. Even when he was asked

about his mental health in a press conference, he was unable to answer the question properly, along with several other questions.

Even Special Counsel Robert Hurr has stated that Biden cannot be prosecuted after leaving documents containing American secrets in his garage because he lacks the mental capacity to be prosecuted. As Hurr stated, “Based on our direct interactions with and observations of him, he is someone for whom many jurors will want to identify reasonable doubt. It would be difficult to convince a jury that they should convict him, by then a former president well into his eighties, of a serious felony that requires a mental state of willfulness.”

Meanwhile, Americans are also embarrassed with how Biden has represented the nation on the geopolitical stage, confusing Canada for China, Egypt for Mexico, Emmanuel Macron for François Mitterrand.

With many other serious concerns for Biden’s health, and new ones coming about every week, Americans are far less eager to vote for the current president, with a large handful of citizens seeing him as an unfit candidate for the role of leader of the free world. Whether Joe Biden will be able to overcome these obstacles or not will be the subject of much discussion amongst the American voters over the coming months.



Social Media CEOs Testify



William Mungai ’26
Contributor

Social media has become an integral part of modern society, offering quick and easy access to an endless stream of information at the click of a button. However, along with these benefits come mental health issues, ranging from cyberbullying, unattainable beauty standards, addictions, sexual predators, and more. These drawbacks are more prevalent amongst adolescents, who are particularly vulnerable due to their developing brains.

On January 31, 2024, the CEOs of major social media companies such as Meta, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and others went before the Senate Judiciary Committee to testify due to parents and lawmakers becoming concerned about the effects of social media on adolescents’ lives. The hearing was also emotionally heavy, as parents whose children committed suicide because of social media silently held up the images of their passed children. A recorded testimon-

ny was also presented from youth and parents who experienced exploitation on social media.

The CEOs of social media companies underwent harsh questioning, and in response, highlighted some of their downfalls, but also pushed back on some criticism.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina stated, “Mr. Zuckerberg (CEO of Meta which encompasses Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp), you and the companies before us, I know you don’t mean it to be so, but you have blood on your hands.” This statement received applause from the crowd filled with parents of children

who lost their lives to social media and its impacts. Shortly after, Graham, the Republicans’ ranking member on the panel, added, “You have a product that’s killing people.” This again received applause.

The most memorable part of the hearing was when Republican Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri asked if Zuckerberg was going to apologize to the families in the room who lost their children to social media. Zuckerberg proceeded to turn to face them and said the following: “It’s terrible. No one should have to go through the things that your families have suffered, and this is why we invest so much and are going to continue doing industry-leading ef-

forts to make sure that no one has to go through the things your families have had to suffer.”

In response to the criticism, the CEOs highlighted ways they have tried to solve their problems. Meta announced that they will hide content that is inappropriate for teens and is also pushing for age verification when people download their platforms. The CEOs of Snapchat and X also publicly endorsed the “Kids Online Safety Act” which will create guidelines to make social media platforms safer for minors. TikTok is aiming to create change by increasing its investment in safety by 2 billion dollars this year.

Despite all the fiery comments, criticisms, and promises, there is a sense of frustration because these hearings have occurred many times but nothing significant or substantial has been done to aid minors on social media and protect them from going down a dark, and potentially fatal, path.

It is hard to see that these recent meetings will be any different. As social media becomes more and more prevalent, especially among teens, it is becoming clear that without any action taken, the effects of these platforms on the youth will continue to worsen.



Navalny: Putin's Harshest Critic is Dead



Alessandro De Groot '24
Contributor

William Hudson '24
Science & Technology Editor

The man Vladimir Putin feared most is dead. On February 16, Russian authorities reported 47-year-old Alexei Navalny, Russian opposition leader and anti-corruption activist, had died in a Siberian prison. According to the prison service of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District, Navalny died suddenly, falling ill after a walk. They hypothesize the cause to be a blood clot.

Navalny spent three years in prison, and approximately three hundred days in solitary confinement. Throughout his sentence, he claimed that he was denied medical care and was awoken by officers at night. Navalny's health deteriorated during his sentence, as he suffered extreme back pain, fevers, and continuing nerve issues.

His mother noted that he was happy and seemed healthy during her final visit on February 12. These details seem suspicious, especially in the context of the series of other Russian opposition politicians, uncooperative oligarchs, and critical journalists killed under mysterious circumstances, a phenomenon known as "Russian Sudden Death Syndrome". They have led, among other heads of state or international organizations, American President Joe Biden to say, "Make no mistake, Putin is responsible for Navalny's death." Russia had already tried to neutralize Navalny at least once

before, in December of 2020. While flying over Siberia, Navalny fell ill, forcing the plane he was flying in to make an emergency landing. Navalny accused Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) of poisoning him. Traces of the Russian-made nerve-agent Novichok were found on his body, and Navalny later recorded a phone call with an FSB agent where it was admitted that the nerve-agent was applied to Navalny's underwear. When Navalny returned to Russia in 2021, he was instantly arrested on charges of "extremism" and "corruption".

Navalny was labelled Putin's greatest critic by media sources, having spread information to expose the Russian Government's corruption. One of Navalny's most notable exposés is of the bribe that led to the construction of "Putin's Palace", funded by oligarchs and the money of the Russian people. The palace, built on the Black Sea coast as a residence and potential bunker for Putin, allegedly cost 1.86 billion CAD, with construction running from 2005 until 2020. The video released by Navalny including his claims was released after his final arrest.

His death
comes
a



month before the Russian election, where Putin is practically running uncontested to stay in power for another six years; this would be his fifth term. The question is: following the death of the most successful critic of Vladimir Putin, do hopes for a Russia governed by law instead of Putin also die?

Analysts disagree on a motive, if any, for a possible murder of Navalny. They all, however, agree on one point: Putin has an iron grip on power in the Russian Federation. According to Andrei Soldatov and Irina Borogan of *Foreign Affairs*,

"Navalny's death marks the culmination of years of efforts by the Russian state to eliminate all sources of opposition." Without the force of Navalny, there is no figure for Russians to rally behind against Putin.

However, the same analysis found that those willing to oppose Putin will not disappear, and that Navalny created real change in terms of revealing Russian corruption and encouraging people to fight for change. Navalny's wife has promised to continue her late husband's work, but it will take time for another figure as prominent as Navalny to establish themselves as a leader for a Russia without Putin.

Clearly, the Russian government, or, more accurately, Putin, has no issue partaking in tyranny and corruption. Alexei Navalny's passing is no exception to this rule in Russian society. One must hope for an end to the corrupt rule of Putin and his kleptocracy, especially as the war in Ukraine has raged on for two years.





UM Prof caught up in crypto-scam

Rodmehr Filizadeh '25 - Business Editor

(Continued from pg. 1)

Dr. Andrew Halayko has been a professor at the Max Rady College of Medicine for 25 years and is the father of two boys. Unbeknownst to him, he was also Michael Edwards, the extremely wealthy and secretive CEO of Centra Tech. Dr. Halayko was contacted by the Royal Canadian Mountain Police on behalf of the FBI in 2019 and was informed that his image had been used for fraudulent purposes. In 2023, he was flown to Los Angeles to be interviewed for the Netflix documentary. It was during filming that Dr. Halayko learned that Michael Edwards had been apparently killed in a car crash. When internet sleuths had investigated, they exposed “Michael Edwards” as a fictitious invention, after which the perpetrators of the scam claimed the invented CEO, who bore the face of Dr. Halakyo, had died in a car crash.

Dr. Halayko’s main question when he was informed of his image being stolen was “Why me?” This very question was answered in the documentary. Upon being asked, Ray Trapani, one of the scammers, revealed that Dr. Halayko’s picture was selected after they searched “old white guy”, which has since become a new nickname for the innocent University of Manitoba professor. Dr. Halayko took the entire situation in stride, commenting on his “fifteen minutes of fame” in the documentary. Despite the amusing aspects, the situation has also shed light on the very real problem of online scams. What is on the internet can easily be used for malicious purposes and it is important to be cognizant of one’s online presence. Nevertheless, Dr. Andrew Halayko’s experience is a remarkable story of the unlikely involvement of a Winnipegger in a large-scale crypto scam.



Closing the Cap on Nestlé

Castiel Harisperad '25 - Copy Editor

Nestlé has long been involved in the Canadian market, bringing business to the country as far back as Confederation in 1867. Nestlé bottled water was one of the last products Nestlé brought to Canada, followed by Nescafé powdered coffee and MAGGI bouillon cubes almost 100 years earlier, after buying Perrier Vittel Water in 1992.

Nestlé re-named the company Nestlé Water and set up multiple plants in Hope, British Columbia, Aberfoyle, Ontario, and along Lake Erie.

Running seamlessly, these plants extracted billions of litres of water without any objections due to the inadequate laws protecting against withdrawal from underground reservoirs. However, by 2013 residents living in communities around BC and Ontario reported drought due to excessive withdrawal by Nestlé. The conflict only grew worse when Canadians realized that Nestlé was not taxed for extracting freshwater and the water was being sold back at inflated prices.

Provincial organizations such as the Water Supply Association of British Columbia amended their legislation in 2014 to create stricter laws to protect water. Nestlé was undeterred and continued extracting water by the millions of litres daily. Nestlé’s extraction just outside of Toronto left 63 000 residents of Six Nations Treaty Land without clean drinking water and, as a result, many residents contracted illnesses due to

contaminated water.

Finally, after complaints from all over the country, the Council of Canadians—an activist group made up of Canadian citizens and the various affected communities—decided that it was time to sink Nestlé’s involvement with Canada. The Council of Canadians encouraged a boycott of Nestlé products and advocated for a ban on permits to withdraw water. Years of continual opposition towards water withdrawal from both the Council, First Nations groups, and local communities affected by the withdrawal led to Nestlé’s secession from Canada in 2020.

With Nestlé Water’s absence, there is now a flood of new water companies trying to fill the gaping void in the bottled water empire. Incumbents like Ice River Springs still have control, but new companies like Davren Springs are trying to expand into the free real estate left by Nestlé.

However, a watchful eye has been placed on these companies with new laws and united communities ready to battle should a new



Sora: the End of the Information Age

Momooreoluwa Oshinaike '24 - Contributor

On February 15, OpenAI revealed its latest product: Sora. The official OpenAI X (formerly Twitter) account posted the following: “Introducing Sora, our text-to-video model. Sora can create videos of up to 60 seconds featuring highly detailed scenes, complex camera motion, and multiple characters with vibrant emotions.” Along with this reveal, OpenAI released numerous videos created by the model.

A few months prior, AI generated videos were unconvincing and easy to separate from real videos. However, the videos created by Sora contain hyper-realistic and stylized depictions of people, vehicles, and animals. Sora has object permanence, meaning objects temporarily hidden from view by another object passing in front of them do not permanently vanish, but instead reappear on the other side. Sora has also demonstrated the ability to capture multiple shots and angles of a subject, even creating cinematic cuts when prompted.

Currently, Sora is not publicly available, but the videos and the prompts used to create them are. The prompts show that Sora has a significant understanding of language, as it can easily create specific objects, specific styles, specific settings, and even specific emotions.

Open AI has noted that the model is far from perfect: “It may struggle with accurately simulating the physics of a complex scene and may not understand specific instances of cause and

effect”. Many oddities generated by the model have been revealed, such as a man running on a treadmill backward and a chair appearing from thin air. OpenAI has also made statements regarding safety. They indicated that they would be working with experts in “areas like misinformation, hateful content, and bias” to test the model. They will be taking several measures to halt prompts that might contain content like “extreme violence, sexual and hateful imagery, celebrity likeness, or the

intellectual property of others.”

There are still some ways to tell Sora-generated and real videos apart. The model still suffers the same pitfalls other generative AI models do. Signs, text, hands, and close views of subjects are occasionally inconsistent or outright wrong. Ultimately, if you were to look at a video generated by Sora for long enough, there will inevitably be a detail that gives it away.

When Sora is released to the public, it may become impossible to distinguish reality from fiction, especially for those susceptible to media manipulation, such as children or the elderly. A myriad of questions and concerns will be raised by the sudden advancement in AI technology, such as: what would happen if safety measures were breached? Or, how does OpenAI guarantee consent for every video Sora was trained on? Perhaps most importantly, will this be worth all the harm it could cause?



The Mysteries of The Great Euphrates River



Gabriel Arias '27
Contributor

Since 2014, the Euphrates River has been drying up. Located in the Middle East’s fertile crescent, the Euphrates has been a key freshwater source for thousands of years and for dozens of different civilizations. Due to the drought affecting the river and surrounding area, many have been forced to leave the place their family has called home for centuries.

The Euphrates is at a considerable risk of drying up due to climate change in Syria. Compared to 100 years ago, the average temperatures of the country have increased by one degree Celsius, and rainfall has decreased on average as well. Scientists from the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources determined that the river will be completely dry by 2040, resulting in massive dehydration and migration all over the country, as people search for a new water source. Since Syria shares the river with Türkiye and Iraq, political tensions have arisen over the fate of the river.



Many historians have tried to pinpoint the true location of the Garden of Eden, the garden where Adam and Eve lived before God exiled them in the Bible’s Book of Genesis. Many postulate that the garden is where the Euphrates River meets the Persian Gulf, but it is not confirmed.

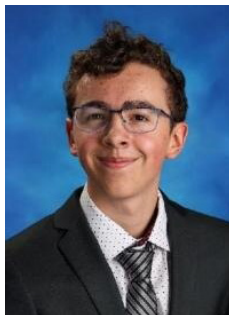
The drought, however, has led to the

astonishing discovery of an ancient city underwater. Known today as Zakhiku, it is believed to have been constructed in the Mittani Empire between 1600 and 1260 years before the Common Era. Once it reemerged in June, 2022, it was used for quick research since it was unknown when the water levels would rise again. The discovery of Zakhiku also fulfills a major prophecy from thousands of years ago stated in the Bible’s Book of Ezekiel, where God

says he will rise the waters to destroy the cities.

It is strange to think that there might be more to the river than just the water. With the waters continuously drying up, there may be many more jaw-dropping discoveries from the great Euphrates River to unpack. In the face of these magnificent discoveries, humanity will continue to struggle as the drought will lead to fearful human consequences.

Prosthetics



Michael Wolanik '25
Contributor

Prosthetics, replacements for missing limbs, have been developing for hundreds of years. Though initially cosmetic imitations, they have developed into fully functional robotic limbs. Recent developments in prosthetics have even granted amputees the sensation of touch in their replaced arms. Replacing limbs has been an issue since humans have had limbs to lose, resulting in the development of a variety of replacement limb designs throughout history.

The first ever recorded prosthetic is from Ancient Egypt, between 950 to 710 BCE. These were not limbs, but rather toes—the big toe to be exact, made from wood and leather. Recordings of semi-functional prosthetics began in approximately 200 BCE with Marcus Sergius. Sergius was a Roman general who lost his hand in the Second Punic War but returned to the battlefield with a prosthetic arm that held his shield.

By the 16th century, prosthetics started to become intricate, with the ability to make more elaborate movements. Götz von Berlichingen, a knight from Germany, returned to battle with an iron

hand attached to his armor. His prosthetic was able to grip reins and weapons. Prosthetics were also used outside of combat. Venetian surgeon Giovanni Tommaso Minadoi described that after replacing his appendage with a prosthetic, he could remove his hat, untie a purse, and most shockingly, write with a quill. However, these early prosthetics were not autonomous and required another hand to use.

Mechanical prostheses began as early as 1818. Leather straps were attached to the remaining arm muscles and, when the muscles contracted, parts of the arm would move. Even today, the

latest robotic prosthetics use the same principles to function.

Present-day bionic arms are the most advanced prosthetics ever created. These replacements are the crowning achievement in prosthetic science. By implanting electrodes in the muscle, which pick up the brain’s electrical signal for movement, those with artificial arms can now regain their sense of touch. This basic sense of touch allows people to hold delicate objects without breaking them by squeezing them too hard, previously an issue for those with prosthetics.

So, where can prosthetics go from here? To start, the touch sensation has been described as low definition, similar to the feeling of your hand waking up after falling asleep. While prosthetics are rapidly developing, the necessity of treatments before the ability to use prosthetics, like physical therapy, act as barriers to those who have recently lost limbs. Finally, the price is astronomical, and the cost is often only partially covered. The typical bionic arm costs from 20 000 to 80 000 CAD. If these issues can be sorted out, and with further development of this technology, one day amputees may live as if they never lost anything.



The Biggest All-Star Snubs this Season



Adris Haleis '24
Contributor

The NBA season has been an intense one thus far. Earlier this year, the selections for both the Western and Eastern conferences were made, with some questionable decisions. With the league getting more competitive every year, players are getting snubbed off these teams more frequently. Today we will be looking at the biggest snubs this season.

Domantas Sabonis: Sacramento Kings

Despite being named an All-Star last season, Domantas Sabonis of the Sacramento Kings was not included on the Western team. Sabonis was mostly ignored because the West has many excellent frontcourt players, and he mainly stays under the radar. Yet, this is a somewhat unfortunate pass, given that the



Lithuanian star is shooting over 61 percent from the field, scoring close to 20 points per game, and leading the league in rebounds with over 13. Even with the All-Star snub, Sabonis is dominating, with three of his last five games consisting of him getting a triple double.

De'Aaron Fox: Sacramento Kings

While the Kings try to stay afloat in the competitive Western Conference, De'Aaron Fox was left off the All-Star team this season after being selected for the first time the previous year. It's a tough time for Fox

because he's been playing as a great player on a strong playoff team in Sacramento this season, averaging over 27 points, four rebounds, five assists, and a steal. Fox is among the best players in the conference, so it's a tough rejection given how many elite guards the West has to offer.

James Harden: LA Clippers

While it was unlikely that 3 Clippers would have made the All-Star team, Harden still made a case for his 11th All-Star appearance. James Harden has played at an extremely high level, and, despite having to give up some scoring touches, has looked like an All-Star after taking a little while to get used to life with the Clippers. Los Angeles is 13-3 (wins-losses) in its last 16 games, and Harden is averaging about 17 points, five rebounds, eight assists, and more than a steal every night.

Harden is having a great season. An All-Star appearance this season would have been very impressive for Harden, after all the controversy he went through when he first joined LA at the start of this season.

Is the MLB Pay to Win?



Grayson Berkowits '25
Contributor

Major League Baseball (MLB) is at a crossroads. With the Los Angeles Dodgers' recent signing of Japanese super star Shohei Ohtani to a 700-million-dollar contract, sports fans all over the world are left asking themselves: are the best MLB teams simply the ones who spend the most money? In other words, is baseball a pay-to-win sport?

The MLB has never had a concrete salary cap. In 1903, the North American Professional Baseball Organization (now the MLB), was established with the merging of the National and American leagues. It's nothing new that wealthy teams outspend small-market clubs each year during free agency. According to Bleacher Report, the New York Mets led the MLB with the highest payroll during the 2023 season: 336 million dollars. On the other hand, Oakland Athletics spent a mere 40.9 million dollars. This disproportionate amount of spending among clubs is mainly due to the lack of a salary cap in baseball, and contrarily, a salary floor such as the National Hockey League (NHL).

The MLB does have a system used to maintain an "even" playing field for all teams. In 2022, the MLB and the MLBPA (Major League Baseball Players Association), signed a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). This agreement protects the rights of players and ensures both owners and athletes follow the set rules. This CBA adjusted the Competitive Balance Tax or Luxury Tax. If a club exceeds their payroll threshold during that year, they are taxed for every dollar above the threshold. If teams continuously exceed this threshold from year to year, their tax rate is increased. The New York Mets broke the luxury tax record this past season, and therefore had to pay 101 million dollars, even after a disappointing season. This luxury tax system is only somewhat effective, as simply paying more money will get owners out of any "pickles".



The Competitive Balance Tax is used to deter owners from spending more than the relatively flexible payroll threshold. There is a huge divide among MLB owners, as some are more than will-

ing to exceed this limit if it gives their team a chance to get some of the best players in the game. For example, the LA Dodgers spent 1.2 billion dollars this offseason on four players. In contrast, according to spotrac.com, the Oakland Athletics have spent a total of 12.25 million dollars plus an additional 9.25 million dollars in a recent trade for a veteran pitcher. To put this into perspective, the Dodger's highest paid player will be making 70 million dollars this season; the Athletics' highest paid player will make 25 million dollars. This alone is a difference of 45 million dollars between the two clubs. Keep in mind, Oakland spent a total of 41 million dollars in payroll salaries last season and finished in last place in the MLB by a long shot. So, the highest paid Dodger player makes more in a year than the whole Athletics team.

As was previously mentioned, the Dodgers spent 1.2 billion dollars on four players this offseason. This alone shows how unfair the current "salary cap system" in the MLB is. On top of that, Ohtani and the Dodgers decided to defer 68 million dollars per year. This will allow the Dodgers to still have spending money to work with in the near future, to ensure they can buy their way to staying competitive. So, Ohtani will make 2 million dollars a year until 2034, when he will earn 68 million dollars for another nine years. Shohei is already 29 years old, so he will continue to get paid well into retirement. He will be 40 years old by the time his contract officially expires. Even without the best

player in baseball, the Dodgers have consistently been one of the biggest powerhouses with their large spending, resulting in nine straight playoff appearances.

The Dodgers have made deferrals with other players in the past. Mookie Betts' contract will officially end in the year 2044 and teammate Freddie Freeman's contract will expire in the year 2040. According to *The Sporting News*, the LA Dodgers will spend a total of \$852 million for those three players over the next 17 years. That's a lot of money to spend on players that will be well into retirement and long past helping their team win a World Series.

From owners willing to break the bank in order to see their team succeed, to those only willing to pay the bare minimum no matter the outcome, Major League Baseball needs to make a change. Whether that is imposing a concrete salary cap system, or significantly increasing the Competitive Balance Tax, change is needed.

Throughout the history of baseball, there is a pattern of large market teams buying talent to help take their team to a championship. Small market teams can simply not afford to do this. This creates a major competitive disadvantage among those smaller teams. It's time for the MLB to level the playing field, so that all are given a fair chance to succeed. Only then can we truly honour the game of baseball and view it as a game of sportsmanship and equality.

New Jersey Designs in the NHL



Luke Perrett '24

Sports Editor

Embraced by millions of fans across North America, an integral part of a city's identity and the core of a profitable industry, the hockey jersey has become a modern-day staple. With that in mind, what exactly makes a "good hockey jersey"? It is based on three things: uniqueness, wearability, and attention to detail.

Uniqueness is a factor that will set a team apart from everyone else. A great example of this would be the Los Angeles Kings' use of purple on their jerseys, as they are the only team that uses it as a major colour.

Wearability is a fan's willingness to buy the jersey to wear to a game or to the ODR on a cold winter's night. An iconic jersey like the Habs (Canadiens) or

Bruins is quite wearable since it can be styled with most outfits, and the team will most likely never change the jersey's main design. Other teams, such as the Columbus Blue Jackets, have gone through multiple logos and jersey styles in their short time in the league, making their jerseys less durable and desirable.

Lastly, attention to detail is the jersey's effectiveness in using its design to tell a story and convey significance. For example, for the Buffalo Sabres' 50th anniversary, their specialty jerseys featured five stripes on each arm and the bottom to represent each decade of the team's existence.

From 2007–2017, American fitness-clothing company Reebok, had their hand at making NHL jerseys; however, at the start of the 2017-2018 NHL season, Reebok's lease with the NHL expired, and Adidas took over the jersey rights. Most teams' home and away sets have remained very similar, but Adidas has done a great job at creating new jerseys for teams across the league. Below, I will be analyzing Adidas' best projects since 2017.

The Rebranding of the Arizona Coyotes

Although far from being the best team in the league, the Coyotes are one of the best-dressed squads. In 2021, Adidas worked with the team to leave the coyote head logo and go back to the late 90's look of the fan-favourite "Kachina" jersey, which features local Indigenous American inspired artwork. The modernized vintage work pops out on the ice and differentiates itself from any other team's home and away set. Additionally, in 2023, in collaboration with artist Rhuigi Villaseñor and Adidas, the team came up with the "Desert Night" jersey, a simplistic Kachina design with a simple wordmark. Although the jerseys were not worn a lot, they were a favourite among fans.

2023 All-Star Jerseys

One would think that it can't be that hard to design an All-Star jersey, right? Well, Adidas has failed at this time and time again, but things changed for the 2023 All-Star game in Florida. Using the 1996 All-Star jerseys as design inspiration, Adidas used iconic neon colors from the Miami nightlife to cre-

ate these unforgettable jerseys. They weren't boring like past years, but also weren't over the top and gimmicky like the 2024 jerseys.

Reverse Retro Series 1.0 and 2.0

On two separate occasions, Adidas has run a program called "Reverse Retro", where they designed a jersey for every modern team using a mix of present and past colours and designs. This created some nasty pieces but also some masterpieces, such as fan-favourites in both years for Minnesota and the Kings. Most jerseys in these programs have been decent, but some were remarkably close to exact copies of current or previous jerseys, undermining the entire point of the project.

Overall, Adidas' impact has been positive since the signing of their contract with the NHL in 2018. It will be interesting to see how Fanatics will be able to work alongside Adidas in this new era of jersey production. I can guarantee fans are hoping things do not go south as they did with the 2024 MLB jerseys alongside Nike, which have not been well received by fans and players alike due to their poor quality.

AFCON: Football's Most Unpredictable Tournament



Eleojo Audu '24

Contributor

One of the more underrated football (soccer) tournaments that occurs yearly is the African Cup of Nations (AFCON). The tournament follows the same format as the immensely more popular UEFA Euro's competition, though in AFCON, only African nations are permitted to compete. Most football fans don't watch AFCON because they think it won't be entertaining due to the lower quality of most African national teams, but they are sorely mistaken. The lower quality of teams allows AFCON to shine where many other tournaments like the Euros fail, revealing AFCON's greatest trait: unpredictability. In tournaments such as the Euros, there is a large gap between higher quality teams such as Germany, England, and France, and inferior teams such as North Macedonia, San Marino and the Faroe Islands. In AFCON, the gap in skill between teams is significantly smaller, allowing underdogs to take home victories more frequently.

This year's AFCON Tournament hosted in Cote d'Ivoire is a great example of this unpredictability, with upsets happening immediately after the beginning of the tournament, starting in the group stage of the tournament. In

a turn of events, smaller nations such as Equatorial Guinea, Cape Verde, and Angola were winning their matches against historically more competent teams and were able to finish in the top of their groups. Meanwhile, countries favoured to win the tournament, like Ghana and last year's winner, Algeria, were all knocked out in the group stage of the tournament. These amounted to major upsets.

The excitement continued into the round of 16, with neck-and-neck games such as the Egypt vs DR Congo game, with DR Congo dealing Egypt a massive upset by winning 8-7 in penalties, and Cote d'Ivoire beating Senegal 5-4, also in penalties. In the quarter-finals, Nigeria (who at this point were the favourites to win the tournament) edged a 1-0 victory over Angola with Adeola Lookman scoring an absolute banger from inside the box. Cote d'Ivoire narrowly made it to the quarterfinals in a tense match with one red card and three yellow cards on each side in extra time. DR Congo put on another impressive performance to beat Guinea 3-1 after going down 1-0 in the first 15 minutes, and South Africa won a narrow victory by beating Cape Verde 2-1 in penalties. In the semi-finals, the matches were equally

exciting with Cote d'Ivoire beating DR Congo 1-0, but the Nigeria vs South Africa game had many fans on the edge of their seat with Nigeria scoring first, 67 minutes into the match, another Nigerian goal being denied by VAR (Video Assisted Review) 16 minutes later, and South Africa scoring a late equalizer in the 90th minute of the game. Nigeria eventually won 4-2 in penalties, setting them up to face the hosts, Cote d'Ivoire,

when Nigerian captain Troost-Ekong scored a header 38 minutes into the match. However, this match proved once again why AFCON is such an excitement to watch. Cote d'Ivoire came into the 2nd half playing better than ever with Kessie scoring a goal in the 63rd minute equalizing the match. Cote d'Ivoire's momentum didn't stop there with Sebastien Haller scoring a 2nd for the home side 18 minutes later. Nigeria couldn't produce a goal, allowing Cote d'Ivoire to win their 3rd AFCON trophy. Not only was Cote d'Ivoire able to win their 3rd AFCON in their own country, but it also marked a triumphant return for Sebastien Haller who beat cancer after two operations and four rounds of chemotherapy at only 29 years old.



in the final. The third-place match between South Africa and DR Congo was not a thriller with the match ending 0-0 in extra time, but it definitely lived up to the hype in the penalty shootout with South Africa just barely beating DR Congo 6-5.

Now going into the Final, many people believed that Nigeria would easily beat Cote d'Ivoire who had struggled to get to this stage. This belief was solidified

ire's anthem for the tournament: "Coup de Marteau" by Tam Sir and many other artists, for its upbeat catchy beat and the popular dance it's accompanied by), and unpredictable matches that would surely bring fans of all nations together in joy and excitement. So, my challenge to all of those who read this article would be to step out of your comfort zone and watch AFCON next year. I'm sure you won't be disappointed with whatever the outcome may be.

Ramadan: A Time of Reflection



Adam Haleis '25
Contributor

(Continued from pg. 1)

Ramadan commemorates the month when the Qur'an, Islam's most sacred text, was sent to Earth from heaven through the Angel Gabriel (*Jibril* in Arabic) and delivered to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). One of the most sacred nights of Ramadan is *Laylat al-Qadr*, the very night when the Qur'an was revealed.

Because the Muslim calendar is lunar, Ramadan's schedule shifts every year. During the month of Ramadan, many Muslims celebrate and pray for the night of the revelation of the Qur'an, which is believed to occur during the last 10 nights of Ramadan, on a calm and peaceful night.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, and then break their fast by eating a date. This means no consumption of any food or drinking of any water until after *Al-Maghrib*, the sunset prayer, is prayed. Of course,



there are certain exemptions. They include prepubescent children, people suffering from affliction, or pregnant women.

The purpose of fasting during Ramadan is to worship Allah, and to discipline a Muslim's soul by sacrificing the pleasures of eating. Fasting is also a means to empathize with the less fortunate and to understand and feel their

hardships. Through the act, one solidifies and grows in their relationship with Allah.

Fasting and actively participating in Ramadan is an important tradition for Muslims, as it is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

After the 30 days of Ramadan have concluded, *Eid al-Fitr* is celebrated. It is a celebration that commemorates the end of Ramadan. During *Eid al-Fitr*, it is prohibited to fast during the day, and there are large community prayer services that occur during the morning.

Usually, gifts are also exchanged during the celebrations, and Muslims are encouraged to be benevolent during this time by participating in a form of alms-giving known as Zakat. Zakat is also another pillar of Islam, and performing it grants great rewards.

Ramadan is a month of self-reflection and focusing on one's own faith. It is important for every Muslim to participate in it and to seek forgiveness for their sins. It is a month of peace, uniting all Muslims throughout the world.

Around the School

Our Next Play: The Odyssey



Samay Dadlani '24
School Life Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, hold onto your seats and prepare for a theatrical journey like no other. From April 11 to 13, the St. Paul's High School Dramatic Society will be bringing to life Homer's timeless epic, *The Odyssey*.

The Odyssey will be the St. Paul's Dramatic Society's second play of the year, following the spectacular success of *The Wizard of Oz* which included students from both St. Paul's and St. Mary's.



At the heart of the story lies Odysseus, the King of the Greek island of Ithaca. Set after the events of Homer's *Iliad*, the play chronicles Odysseus' perilous attempt to return home after the Greek victory after the Trojan War.

As he travels home, our hero faces a series of challenges that test his wit, courage, and resilience. From fierce encounters with the gods to navigating the treacherous waters to the buffoonery of his half-witted sailors.

On its own, Odysseus's quest is a rollercoaster ride of excitement and danger, but the drama does not end there. Back in Ithaca, Odysseus's faithful wife Penelope and their son Telemachus attempt to hold down the fort, holding on to hope that after 20 years missing, Odysseus is still alive. However, barbaric suitors have taken over their palace, each trying to win Penelope's hand.

Homer's tale of *The Odyssey* is a classic piece of Greek mythology and a tale beloved through the millennia. Will he make it back to his beloved family and kingdom in one piece? There's only one way to find out.

From action to magic to romance to political intrigue the *Odyssey* has something for everyone. To find out whether Odysseus makes it back alive and if Penelope and Telemachus can hold off the rebellious suitors, come to Murray Hall on April 11, 12, or 13 for the thrill of a lifetime.

Cru Wrestling Wants You



Alden Minuk '26
Copy Editor

The squeaking of shoes on the mat, the roar of the crowd, the clash of two wills and bodies in one-to-one combat; the wrestling ring is the ultimate test of discipline, strength and cunning, and you can be a part of it. Wrestling is not just mastering moves and pins, but rather is the building of mental fortitude, strength, comradery, and unlocking your inner potential. It is the gateway to self-improvement, resilience, and a sense of belonging between all of those who dare enter the ring.

Wrestling is an immense test of physical prowess as it is pitting two people's strength and speed against one another. Training for a fight will unquestionably improve your performance in all other athletic endeavours. It is not simply a test of physical strength, but also mentally stimulating, requiring a certain amount of psychological strength and discipline to master. The sport is rooted significantly in how much you want to win as at the end of the day that is what drives you to continue even past your last amount of strength.

There is no reason not to join the team, or at least try it out. Worried about injuries? Wrestling has far lower and less severe injuries compared to oth-

er sports such as hockey, football, and rugby. Worried that you are not fit enough? The whole point of joining is self-improvement, so any effort is a success. Worried it might cost too much? A season of wrestling consists of two two-hour practices for five months that only costs \$50, and each tournament is around \$25-\$35. On top of that, you do not need any equipment which also contributes to the cost of other sports. Worried you won't make the team? Wrestling is a no-cut sport, so you are guaranteed a spot on the



team. There is no reason not to come to a practice at least once to make sure you aren't missing out. If you ask anybody on the wrestling team, they will confirm that the sport is exhilarating, inclusive, and overall, a worthwhile experience. To sign up for the team, contact Mr. McPherson on Teams or look out for the announcements for next year's season.

Mission Week 2: A Week of Tremendous Support and Awareness!



Matthew Wardrop '24 & James Chapman '24
Maroon & White Society Members

The second Mission Week of the 2023-2024 school year was one for the ages. The Maroon and White Society conducted Mission Week 2 in support of Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatawin (OPK), an organization dedicated to supporting, nurturing, and walking with at-risk youth and families in Winnipeg.

Serving one of the nation's most impoverished neighbourhoods, OPK works with those who are in a vulnerable state and in need of assistance, with a focus on Indigenous

men and youth.

The Maroon and White Society, alongside the St. Paul's community, supported OPK in their programming with two of the Universal Apostolic Preferences in mind: "Walking with the Marginalized" and "Journeying with Youth Towards a Hope-filled Future".

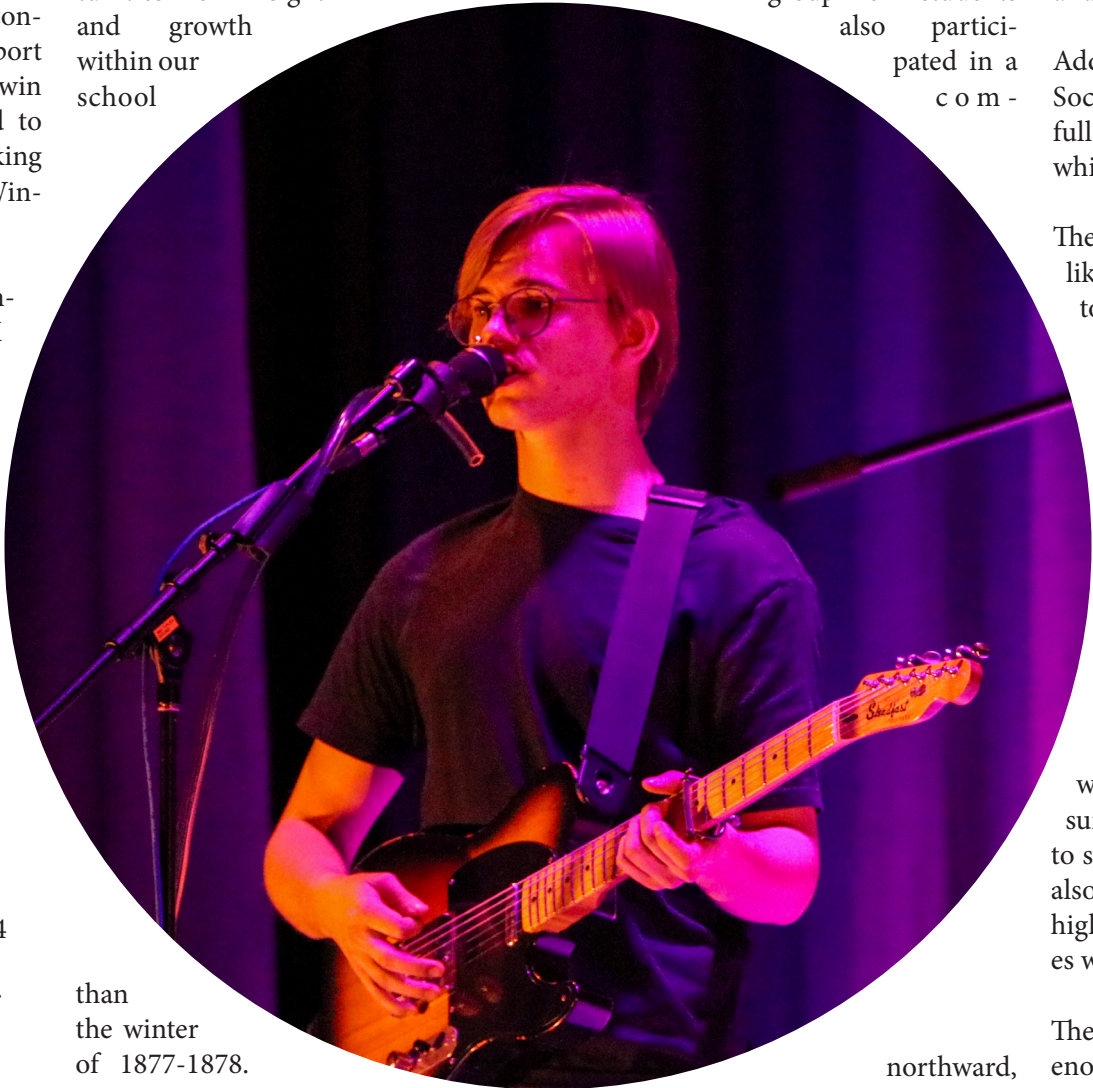
On March 1, St. Paul's High School welcomed Mr. Daniel Hidalgo to inform the student body about the goal and vision of OPK. After this assembly, Mission Week had officially begun!

Mission Week provided opportunities for insight and growth within our school

community. On Wednesday, March 6, St. Paul's High School invited Ms. Leah Gazan, Member of Parliament who represents Winnipeg Centre in the House of Commons, and Mr. Mitch Bourbonniere, an extremely devoted volunteer at OPK and alumnus of St. Paul's High School.

Ms. Gazan and Mr. Bourbonniere shared their extremely valuable knowledge and personal stories regarding the ongoing crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.

Inspired by OPK's mission, a group of students also participated in a c o m -



community walk through Point Douglas, distributing food items and essentials to the vulnerable and marginalized in our city.

The week ended off with a bang at the Benefit Bash! Featuring students from St. Mary's Academy and St. Paul's, the Benefit Bash brought together over 200 people for a thrilling night of music, education and fun!

Through casual dress code fundraisers, bannock sales, a pizza lunch, and the highly anticipated Benefit Bash, the St. Paul's community raised thousands of dollars to be donated to OPK Manitoba and their wonderful mission.

Additionally, the Maroon and White Society was able to collect many bins full of non-perishable food items which have been donated to OPK!

The Maroon & White Society would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all students, teachers, parents and community members for their overwhelming support during this Mission Week!

weather, which have led to beautiful sunshine and clear skies one morning to snowy, cold conditions the next, are also induced by climate change and the high concentration of greenhouse gases within our atmosphere.

The effects of this weather phenomenon are expected to linger beyond the next few weeks. Certain businesses, including outdoor skating rinks, ski resorts, and festivals have already faced a financial hit due to the weather, whereas others, such as golf courses, have opened early due to warmer conditions.

While some may be celebrating the "nicer" conditions, farmers fear another rough crop season due to lower moisture levels in the soils, caused directly by lower snowfall this winter.

In order to prevent even milder future winter temperatures, we as Manitobans are called to educate ourselves on such issues, especially as we head into Earth Month. Be it awareness or tangible action items such as carpooling and proper waste disposal, there's much we can do to act and reverse the crises.

Though a warm, mild winter may seem abnormal to us, the harsh reality is that winters such as this one are expected to become more common in the future. Circumstance calls upon us to reconsider our identity as a province; "Winterpeg, Manisnowba" may soon become a title of the past.

The Winter that Wasn't



Baljot Rai '24
Chief Editor

Winterpeg, Manisnowba. After a peculiarly warm winter season, many around our city and province have been left wondering if we still live up to this moniker. As December mornings and January nights have passed with fewer snowstorms and higher temperatures, Manitobans have been left with an uneasy sense of malaise. Though the 2023-24 winter season consisted of fewer hours shoveling and less frantic drives, Manitobans were also prevented from partaking in activities we cherish during the winter-time: ice-fishing, skating at the Forks, and spending afternoons tobogganing and skiing. For the first time in my life, there was no snow in the traditionally freezing month of February.

It goes without saying that this winter was one that broke many previous records. The season has been recorded as the warmest winter in Canadian history, primarily due to drastic temperature anomalies in Manitoba and Ontario, breaking the previous record (held by the winter of 2009-10) by 1.3°C. The Weather Network has also identified this winter to be the second warmest winter in the history of Winnipeg, with its temperatures being slightly lower

than the winter of 1877-1878. Normally, the seasonal mean (average) temperature is -14.3°C, however, this year's mean was -8.1°C. Though numerically, it may not seem drastic, this abnormality has caused havoc and disruption on many fronts.



The cause of this phenomenon is far from simple and consists of a combination of climate change and unusual El Niño conditions. El Niño is a Pacific Ocean climate cycle, which has severe impacts on weather conditions globally. Warmer water from the ocean affects jet streams, which in this year's instance, have travelled eastward and

northward, causing milder and less snowy winters. In an El Niño year, more heat is released into the atmosphere, causing warmer and drier winters. This year's El Niño phenomenon is one of the five strongest and most drastic El Niños on record.

At the core of the mild winter issue, however, is the phenomenon we would all like to avoid admitting — climate change. This winter season is emblematic of the phenomenon which has unfolded before our own eyes, and the result of nearly a century of destructive environmental practice truly is catching up to us. The recent swings in

- Across:
- 1. He wants *YOU* to join Crusader Wrestling
 - 4. An alternative to fries at the caf
 - 6. Current President of the United States
 - 9. “God’s Time” or “Right Time” in Greek
 - 12. Its theme this year is “on the streets”, a night of style and suave
 - 14. A splendid name for an unmarried gnome, or a misapplied term
 - 16. One the rivers in Mesopotamia
 - 17. A peak or point
 - 18. An AI image generator
 - 19. The home of Jets, The Leaf, and many escape rooms
 - 20. _____ to riches
 - 22. A state near New York, or new sports uniforms, as described by Luke Perrett ’24
 - 24. A sport with pins, cradles, and takedowns
 - 26. University of Manitoba professor who became the figurehead of a crypto scam
 - 29. From March 23 to April 1
 - 32. The late Russian opposition leader
 - 33. CEO of Meta who testified before congress
 - 34. Bottled water company bought by Nestle
 - 36. St. Paul’s talent show in support of OPK
 - 37. Park where you can find the Leaf, the Pavilion, and other attractions
 - 38. They’re saying goodbye to the Canadian water market

- Down:
- 2. Host country of AFCON
 - 3. Blind anger
 - 4. Eco-friendly
 - 5. The fabled “Messiah” of the Dune series
 - 7. Smart, or rather, not dim
 - 8. The president’s challenger in November
 - 10. Crusader News sportswriter on soccer in Africa
 - 13. The St. Paul’s Dramatic Society’s next production
 - 15. A pilgrimage in which students will em bark upon this Spring Break
 - 21. Music awards, or a way to say grandma
 - 23. What our choir will do in Edmonton on their tour
 - 25. Month of fasting in Islam
 - 27. Namesake of a speech contest
 - 28. An antihero? A lover? A mastermind?
 - 30. Like speeding, cow rustling, or murder
 - 31. May 12
 - 35. When He is risen



Comic by
Toe Toe Moo ’24

Cartoonist

Crossword

Answers online at thecrusadernews.ca
Crossword by Isaac Lavitt ’25



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Upcoming Events

Mar. 19: Winter Sports Day
Mar. 20: Sacrament of Reconciliation (PM)
Mar. 25-29: Spring Break
Mar. 28: Holy Thursday
Mar. 29: Good Friday
Mar. 31: Easter Sunday

Apr. 1: Easter Monday
Apr. 3: Easter Liturgy
Apr. 8-11: Grad Photos
Apr. 11: Progress Reports
Apr. 11-13: Drama Production: The Odyssey
Apr. 16-19: K87
Apr. 17: Fashion Show
Apr. 23: Grade 11 Faith Roadshow
Apr. 25-26: Parent-Teacher Conferences
Apr. 30: Bing Crosby Speech Competition

May 3: Gr. 12 Mother Son Liturgy & Gr. 9 Men for Others Day
May 12: Mothers Day
May 13: AP Calculus AB Exam
May 14: Grade 11 AP English Exam
May 15: Grade 12 AP French Exam
May 23: AP Physics 1 Exam
May 24: AP Physics 2 Exam
May 27-31: Student Council Spirit Week
May 28: Evening of Performing and Visual Arts

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam