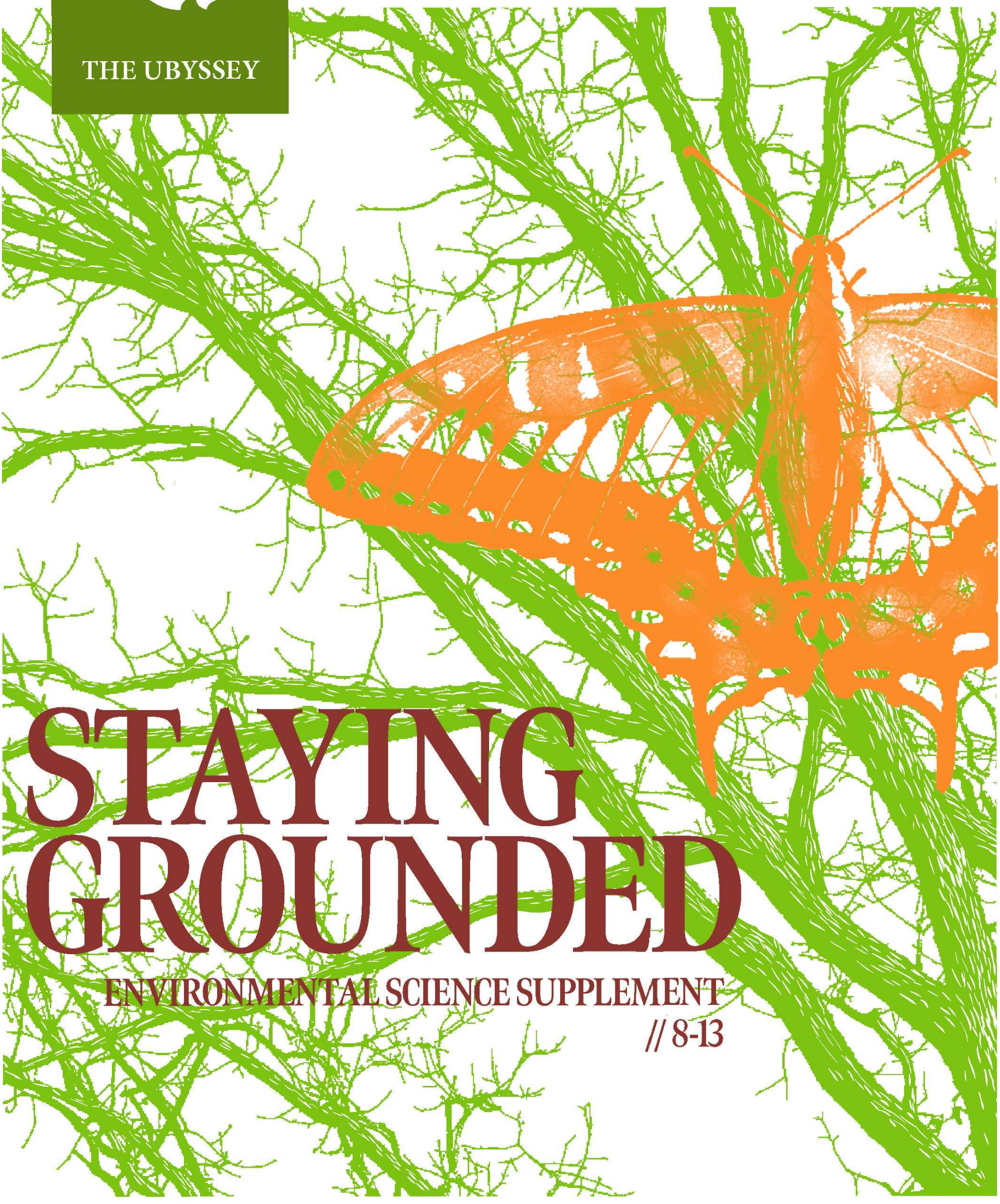
THE UBYSSEY



STAYING GROUNDED

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SUPPLEMENT

// 8-13

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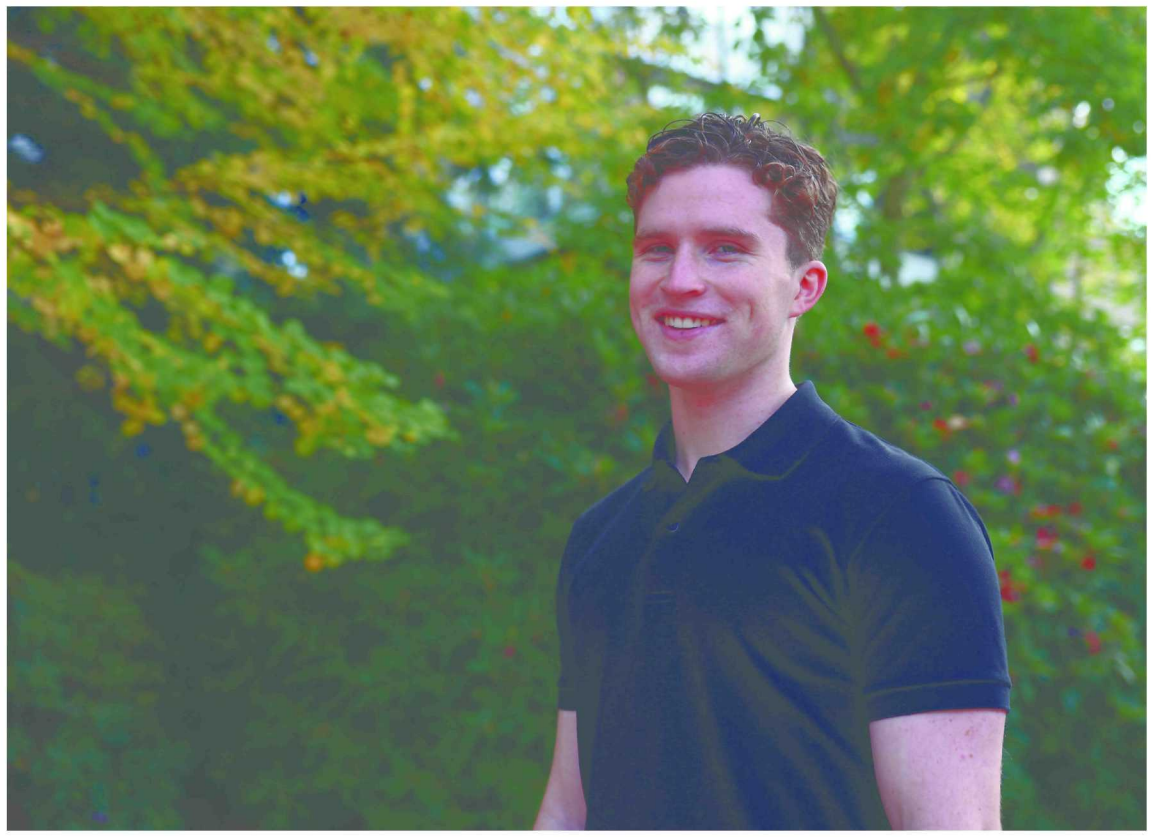

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EXIST.RESIST.RETURN.

CAMPUS SECURITY

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I'M GONNA MISS ALL MY CLICKER QUESTIONS //

UBC to mandate multi-factor authentication

Zoe Wagner
Senior Staff Writer

By November 1, every student will need to set up multi-factor authentication (MFA) to login to certain applications requiring their CWL when off campus.

UBC faculty and staff have already been using MFA, but starting next month students will be required to use it as well. The change comes amid increasing awareness and concern for cybersecurity and data privacy.

Phishing incidents are a common cybersecurity issue and have increased in recent years at UBC.

In January, an email sent to students by Gage Averill, provost and vice-president academic of UBC Vancouver, and Rehan Sadiq, provost and vice-president academic of UBC Okanagan, read, "[UBC has] received multiple reports of fraudulent emails being sent to UBC students," with certain cases resulting in financial loss or identity theft.

In a statement sent to *The Ubyssey*, Jennifer Burns, associate vice-president, information technology, and chief information officer at UBC, wrote the move to MFA is a proactive effort by UBC to "keep data safe and protected."

Students are required to use the Duo Mobile app for MFA in most cases. To use Duo, students need to access their mobile phone to approve CWL logins on other devices. Faculty and staff also have access to secondary authentication by SMS or phone.

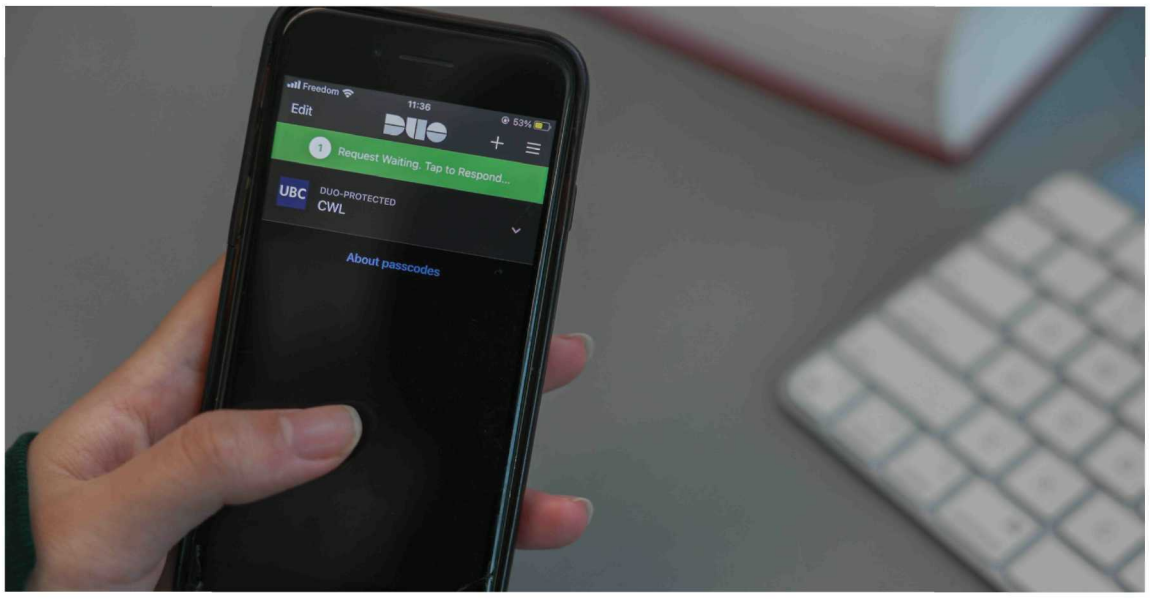
UBC is not the first university to implement MFA. According to Burns "over 300 educational institutions in North America, including UCLA, Harvard, the University of Toronto, and Toronto Metropolitan University," are using Cisco Duo to implement double authentication.

Burns wrote MFA offers an additional layer of protection by ensuring the user's identity is verified through their password and the Duo app.

In November, MFA will only be necessary to access the Student Service Centre, UBC email and Office 365.

However, Burns wrote it will expand to Canvas and UBC VPN "in the coming months" and to all UBC applications and services requiring the CWL in the future.

If on a personal device, using a browser's 'remember me' option to stay logged-in can avoid the use of Duo.



In November, MFA will be limited to the Student Service Centre, UBC Email and Office 365.

ISA S. YOU / THE UBYSSEY

However, according to the UBC service-now website, "you will likely be prompted for a second factor if you're logging into an application that requires a higher level of security, regardless of whether you have the 'remember me' option set."

Another common concern with MFA is the need for two devices to log on to UBC systems. In cases when a student does not have two devices available, the IT Service Centre will be able to issue a temporary password or access code through a support line.

UBC has also started a forum with frequently asked questions to help students.

Burns said UBC Information Technology will continue to ensure community members are protected online using the best recommended practices and offer help to students during the transition.

"By implementing MFA protection for all UBC community members using their CWL from off-campus, the university is committed to providing a secure digital environment that protects personal information."

FEELING SEEN //

Five is the new four: UBC students are extending their undergrad degrees

Bandari, Person and Turdy all said they would still choose to extend their degrees.

ANTHONY HARRISON / THE UBYSSEY

Nathan Bawaan
Senior Staff Writer

Ana Bandari knew she would take at least five years to complete her degree when she came to UBC.

She was going into engineering — a program that requires students take over five classes a term in their first year — and she wanted to do co-op.

"It feels like, to finish my degree in four years, I'd really have to rush, and I feel like that's not something you should really be doing with learning," said Bandari, a third-year electrical engineering student.

Now, three years into her degree, Bandari said she is likely going to graduate in six years as she juggles engineering courses during the school year with work terms over the summer.

"It's constantly like, 'I have to make sure I pass this course so I can take these courses,' or 'I'll have to take this course on co-op,'" she said. "So it's stressful."

Bandari isn't alone in taking more than four years to complete her undergraduate degree.

Although UBC Vancouver advertises almost all of its undergraduate programs as four-year degrees, more and more students are taking at least five years to graduate, according to data from UBC's Planning and Institutional Research Office (PAIR).

Between 2011 and 2018, there were an average of 4,170 students who took five to ten years to complete their undergraduate degrees each year, while only an average of 1,441 students took four years or less.

PAIR has not released full data for 2019 through 2023, but speaking to students around campus will reveal the popularity of studying for at least five years.

Outside of UBC, a Statistics Canada database on post-secondary education notes that the average Canadian university student took 4.53 years in the 2014/15 year to complete their undergrad. In the same year, students in BC on average took 4.82 years.

The majority of domestic, international and Indigenous students took more than four years to graduate between 2011 and 2018.

The same trend was seen when looking at faculty data, with most students in the four largest faculties — Applied Science, Arts, Commerce and Science — taking more than four years.

Notably, the Faculty of Applied Science had the lowest proportion of students who graduated in four years or less each year, followed by Science and Arts.

Of the six programs marked as taking longer than four years to complete on the UBC website, only two — environmental engineering and engineering physics — are from the Faculty of Applied Science. The remaining are in either the Science, Land and Food Systems or Education faculties.

"While many of UBC's programs typically take four years to complete, it is important to note that this is simply a standard and is not meant to be prescriptive," UBC's Associate VP Enrolment Services and Registrar Rella Ng wrote in a statement to *The Ubyssey*.

Bandari said while she appreciates the variety of engineering courses offered at UBC, she thinks that many of the classes currently required for first-year engineering students could also be lengthening degrees by reducing focus on one specialization.

"Streamlining degrees a little bit more [could] give the students the ability to get through their degree a bit faster, but again, that comes with the loss of losing a bit of breadth of knowledge," she said.

Students who spoke to *The Ubyssey* had different reasons for extending their degree, but many pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic as a factor.

"I also took it kind of slow during COVID, doing a couple semesters of four or three classes," Phil Person, a fifth-year geography student, said. He added that he took a gap semester doing a program that didn't transfer over to UBC, which lengthened his degree.

Similarly, Dana Turdy, a fifth-year sociology and political science student, said she took a break from school entirely during the pandemic.

She took a break from school entirely during the pandemic, which disrupted the in-person learning experience.

"It's almost like I get to compensate for that in these two additional years," she said.

Another common reason for taking more than four years was work and co-op programs.

Turdy said she has worked either full- or part-time throughout her degree, including as the 2022/23 AMS VP academic and university affairs. She said she needed to work in order to repay her student loans and save for after university.

"It's just kind of like peace of mind knowing that I won't be in as much debt when I get out of school," she said, adding that the high cost of living in Vancouver has been another factor.

Ng wrote the university recognizes that every student has a "unique" academic journey in her statement.

Bandari, Person and Turdy all said they would still have chosen to extend their degrees if they were to do it again.

Person said being a fifth-year is like being part of a "cool, little community."

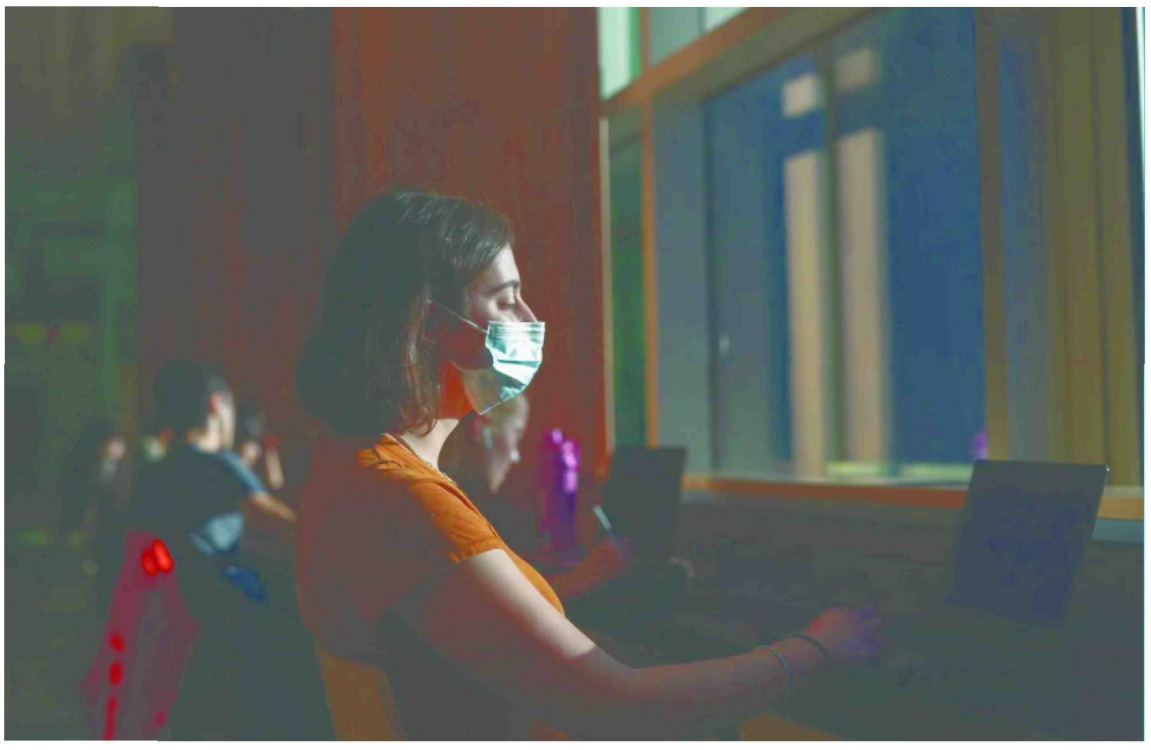
"Even though it's not a bad thing to take more than four years, it is nice meeting other fifth-years," he said.

Turdy said she has enjoyed her longer degree and that she has been able to do more as a result.

"I feel like the four-year model doesn't really take into account students who have other obligations," she added.

And, although there has been the added stress from planning courses and co-op work terms, Bandari said choosing to extend her degree has been worth it.

"There's no point in stressing yourself out over five courses and putting yourself through long periods of burnout," she said.



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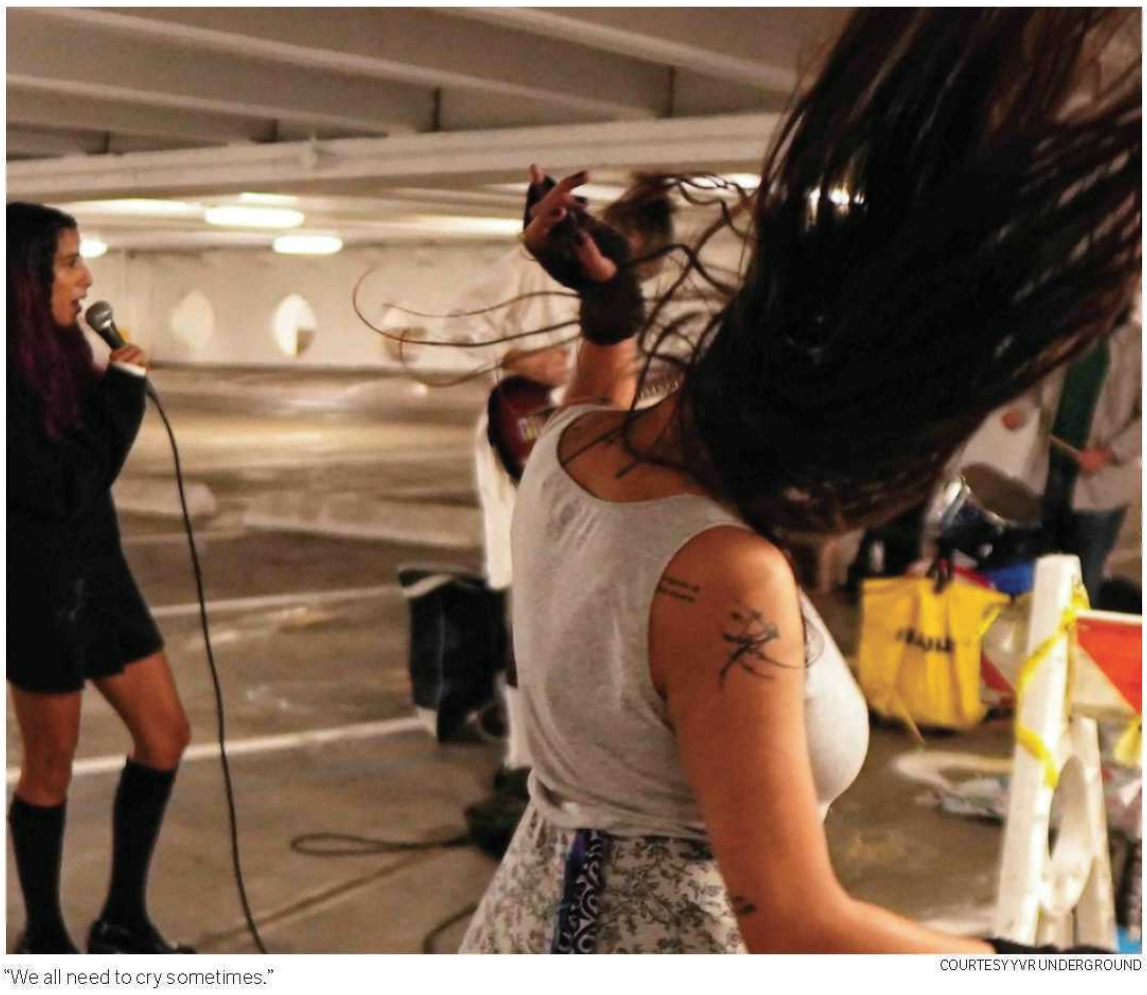
THE BOO!BYSSEY //

Banshees or buddies? A look at UBC Cry Club

Julian Forst
Senior Staff Writer



"We all need to cry sometimes." COURTESY YVR UNDERGROUND

From the werewolf eating first-years in the magic forest, to the tiny minotaur goring anyone who gets close to the top of Buchanan Tower, there are plenty of supernatural reports on campus. But this case was special. It was an old one — Vanier residents have been reporting drumbeats and ghostly howls from the Fraser River parkade for years now.

No discovery is born of comfort — I grabbed my aural spectrometer (my phone with a recording app installed, for the layman) and my proton pack (notebook), and made for the parkade in search of banshees.

When I got there, a loud rattle echoing off the concrete led me to Jack Warner, Alex Ostroushko and Jerome Cohen drumming away on the top of an old traffic divider. They told me the noise is from their crew banging drums and screaming, not an overzealous poltergeist.

"[Cry Club] started with an obscure but intense feeling," Cohen said

"[Back in 2021] I asked my roommate and only like-minded friend in the city of Vancouver at the time, Kit [Baronas], if [we] could just bring the guitar, an amplifier and a drum [and play together]."

That was the start of UBC Cry Club — and the phantoms of the parkade.

The club's name is a little misleading — if you come around, you're more likely to be screaming, howling or even smashing old cymbals and water cooler jugs. But the name has significance for Cohen and his comrades.

"The sound of crying is ... ugly and unpleasant," he said. "And I know that the sound we make here can be unpleasant and loud, and unbearable for some, but it's crying ... We all need to cry sometimes."

Things weren't easy in the beginning. Baronas and Cohen used to haul their instruments on the bus from Kerrisdale every Wednesday to make music for just themselves and a few friends.

"In our first two years we had no publicity," said Cohen. "We kind of did that intentionally."

Soon, though, people started taking notice. A Vanier resident heard their playing and offered to store the gear in his room. Those months also brought people like Warner, who bounded back up the stairs just in time to recount his first experience with Cry Club.

"You had a hospital gown on at some point," Warner said as he pointed at Cohen. "Everyone was wearing masks and wigs, and I actually thought you were being genuine and that I'd intruded on something." Warner had wandered into the parkade out of curiosity, but he stuck around. Now he's one of the club's longest running members.

Warner feels the kinship created by this natural discovery process was important to the club's burgeoning identity. "The core of that early time was people just coming by and hearing the sound," he said. "People who would come look at us and not know what to think ... then there would be the occasional person [who'd] just join in."

These days, though, the club is more well known on campus. It has a sizeable social media following bolstered by consistent coverage from Alexander "Sasha" Slavin of YVR Underground (*@yvrunderground* on Instagram), a notable documentor of Vancouver's live music scene. He's a regular at Cry Club meetings along with his tiny stud-collared punk cat. For better and for worse, Cry Club has an audience now.

"It's very sensitive," Cohen said about the club's growing visibility. "Because I know what we have here is so precious, I would never put it at risk of becoming something it's not meant for. But right now, I think it's safe ... and it's still free."

While the club may be growing in publicity (of which this article is a part), its core members aren't worried about it losing that fundamental spark.

At this point in the interview, people were beginning to show up ready to make some noise, so I stowed my phone and notebook in favor of a ball-peen hammer and a cracked cymbal and, along with some truly talented musicians holding everything together, made that parkade shake with noise. Before the night was through, my voice was fried and my mind was quiet.

So if you hear a wailing and the crash of drums one Wednesday night while strolling down Marine Drive under a clear autumn sky, don't be afraid! That's the UBC Cry Club, and they'd love to have you join them. If you hear it behind the hydroponics building on a Friday, you should probably run. We don't know what that is yet, but I'd imagine it's not great.

"Cry Club started with an obscure but intense feeling." COURTESY YVR UNDERGROUND

NOVEMBER EVENTS //

Arts and culture calendar

Ubyssey Culture Staff

SATURDAY FARMERS' MARKET AT UBC FARM
Every Saturday until November 25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., UBC Farm

This market is the perfect place to pick up organic produce from the UBC farm, and take a look at meat, nursery plants, crafts and other goods being sold by local vendors.

UBC OPERA: *THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN*
November 2–5, various showtimes, Old Auditorium

UBC Opera students are putting on a production of Leoš Janáček's Czech opera about a fox taken into captivity by a forester, and the barnyard rebellion that ensues. Student tickets are $15.

BLANK VINYL PROJECT OPEN MIC NIGHTS
November 9 & 23, 7 p.m.–10 p.m., The Gallery

Grab a drink and catch a few songs at BVP's bi-monthly open mic night. Who knows — maybe you'll end up wanting to sing a tune or two yourself! More information can be found on BVP's Instagram page (*@blankvinylproject*).

EASTSIDE CULTURE CRAWL
November 16–19, 5 p.m–10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, various locations

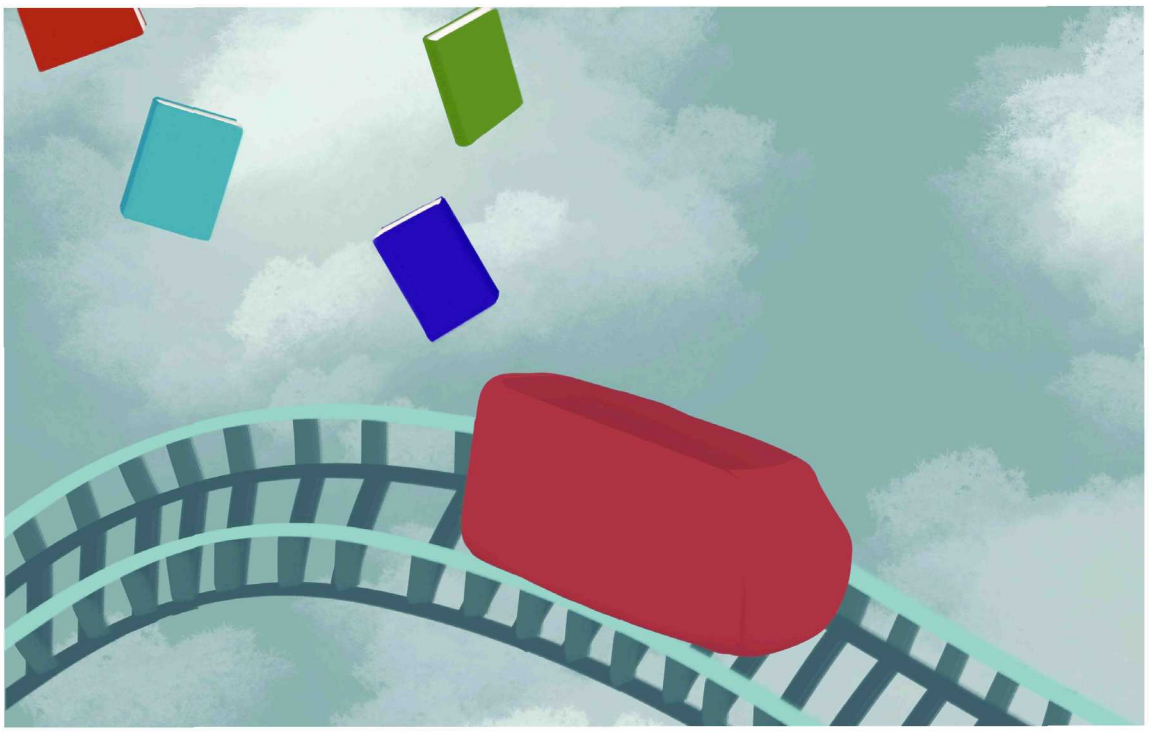
With a lineup of nearly 450 artists, this festival showcases every type of artistic practice you can imagine. Artists across Vancouver open their studios to the public, and host demonstrations and workshops. Free admission. More information can be found at *culturecrawl.ca*.

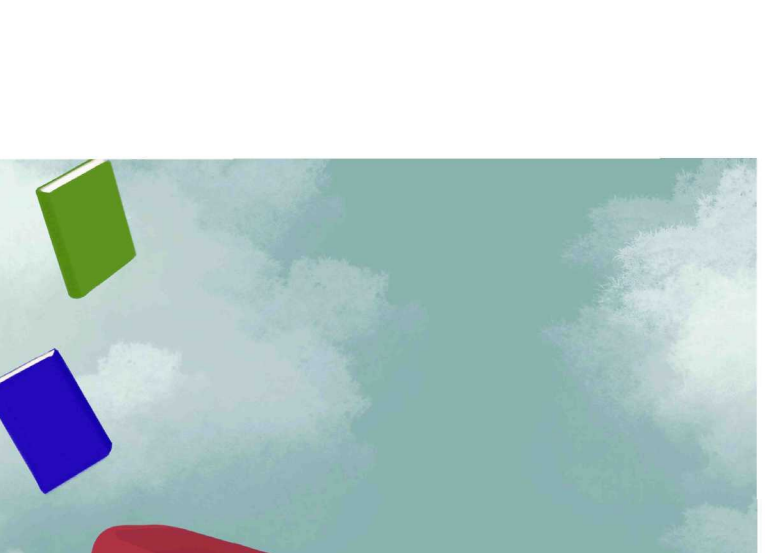
UBC MUSICAL THEATRE TROUPE: *THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY*
November 18–19, various showtimes, Performance Works

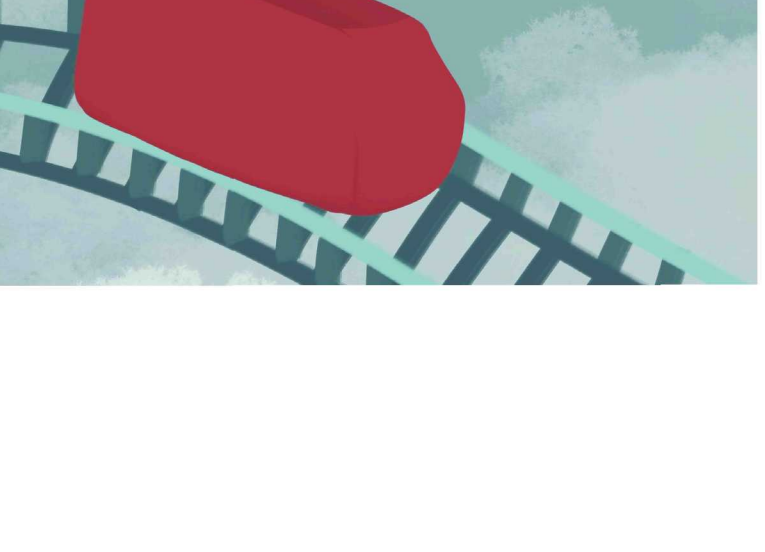
This musical by Neil Bartram and Brian Hill explores the unexpected interconnectedness of our lives and the search for human connection. Student tickets are $20.

UBC THEATRE: *CONCORD FLORAL*
November 23–December 3, various showtimes, Frederic Wood Theatre

In this play, teens take over an abandoned greenhouse — they throw parties, build friendships and discover an unsettling secret underneath the building's floorboards. Student tickets are $13.

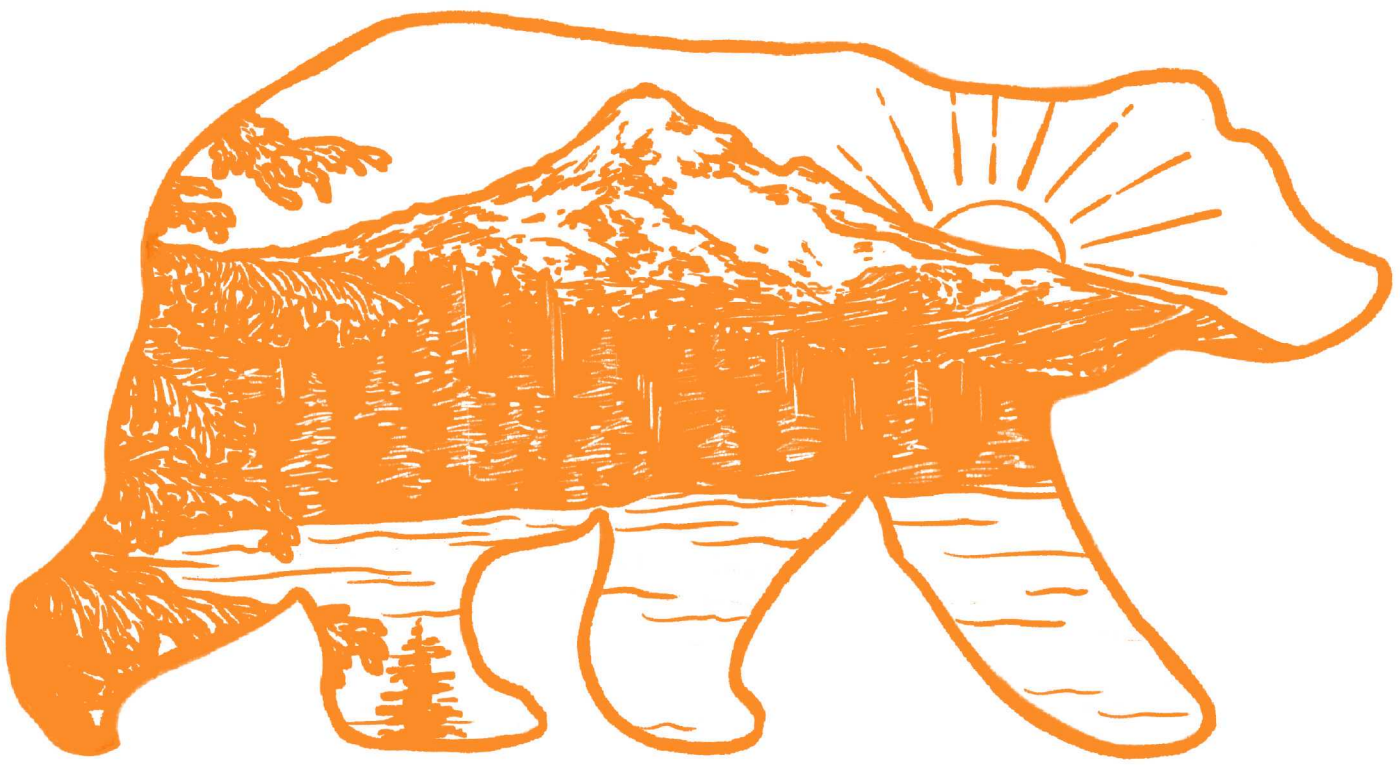






STAYING GROUNDED

PHOTOS BY Anabella McElroy, Bridget Stringer-Holden, Jerry Wong, Isa S. You, Amanda Yee
ILLUSTRATIONS BY Bessie Guo



The return of the giants: How rewilding megafauna is reshaping resilient ecosystems

Vicky Nguyen

Food security starts with seeds

Tova Gaster

What packrats can teach us about prehistory

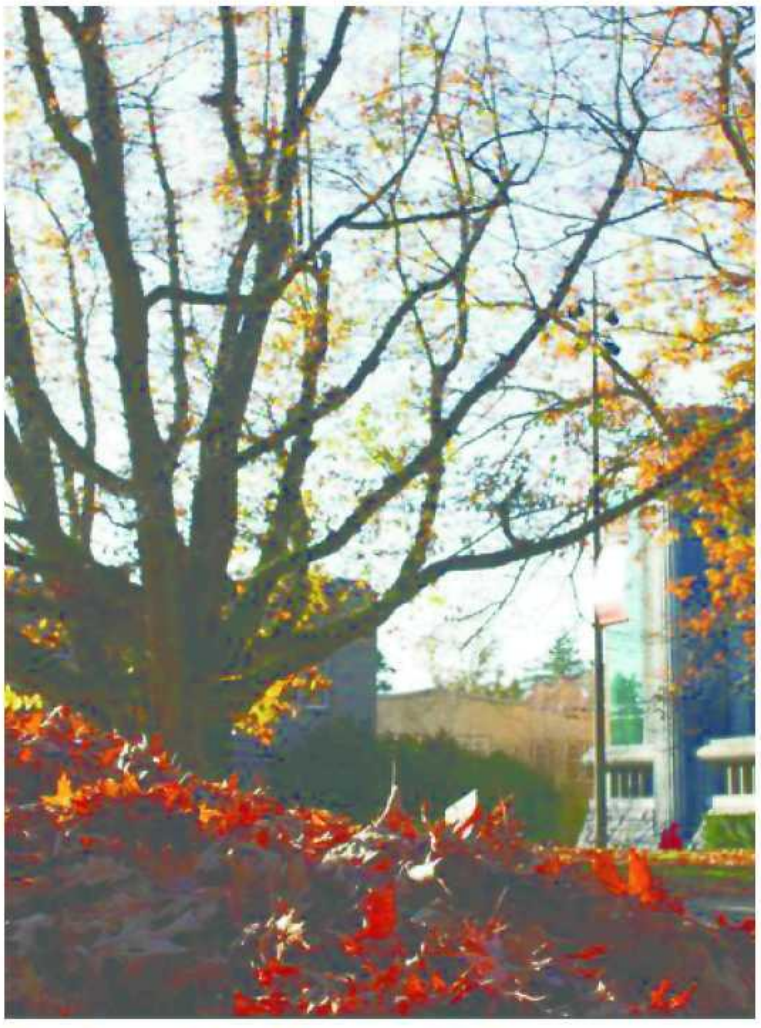
Elena Massing

Acknowledging climate justice in the EOAS department is a 'good first step' but is it enough?

Lauren Kasowski

Getting bogged down in Pacific Spirit Park

Anabella McElroy



Is this place bugged? Insect biodiversity researchers hope so

Gloria Rahgozar

UBC scientists use mushrooms to help compost human waste

Bridget Stringer-Holden and Luke Faulks

Mycopack design team is making plastic out of mushrooms

Roy He

Our nocturnal neighbors: The UBC research changing the way we look at pests

Alonso Daboub

Notes of smoke: How wildfires alter wine taste and what biochemists can do about it

Gloria Klein

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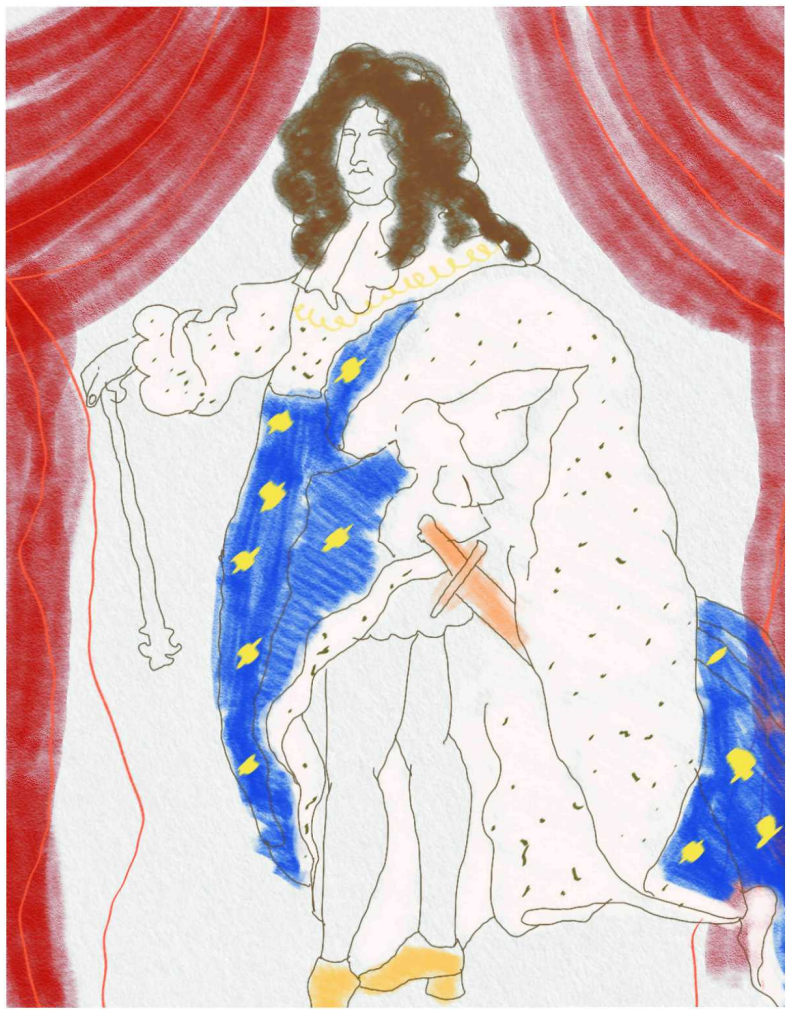
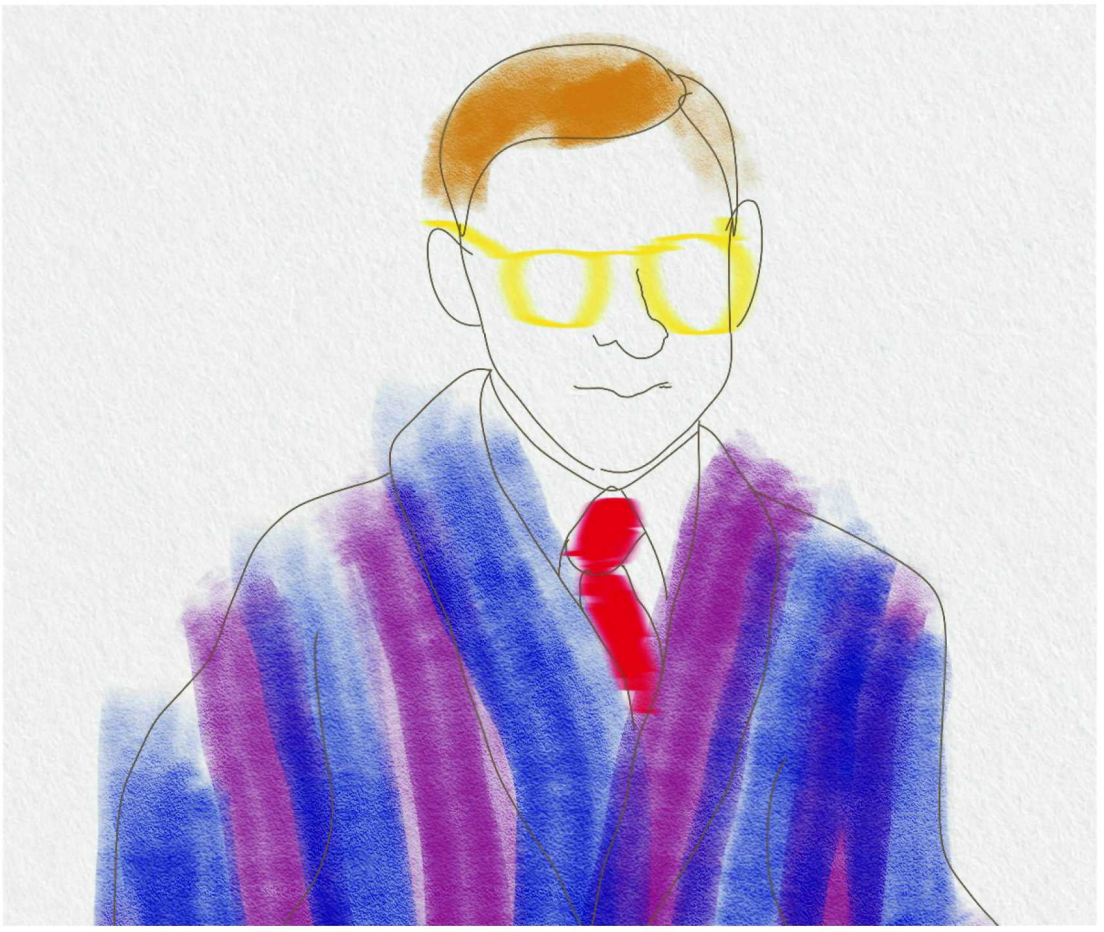
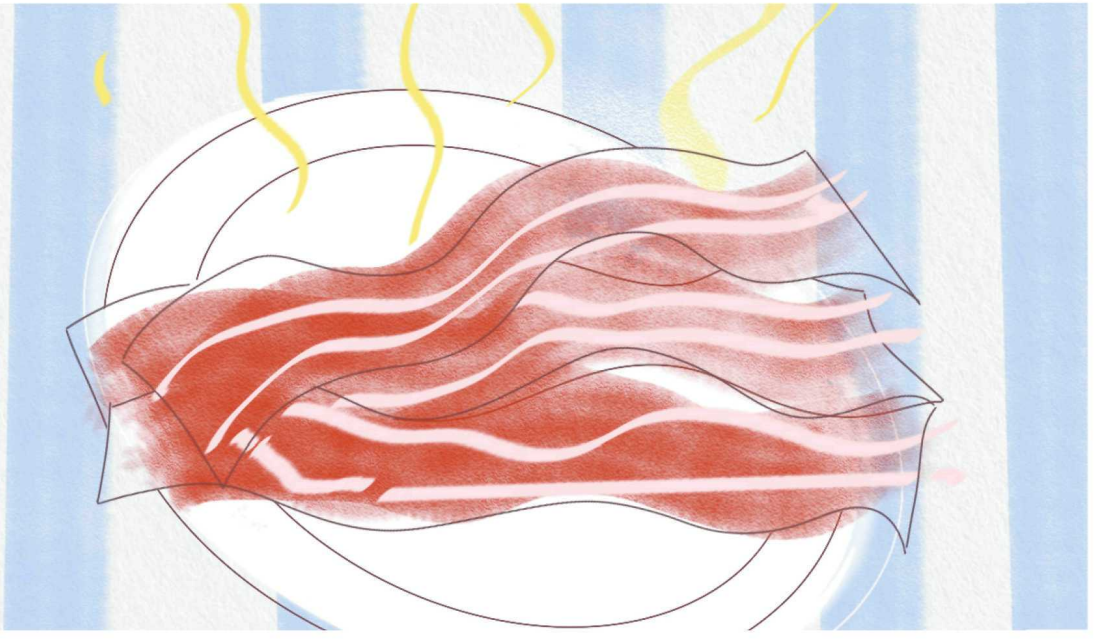
LIA HANSEN / THE UBYSSEY

PHOTOS COURTESY TIGER REALLY

The Ubyssey publishes campus voices. Submit an opinion by emailing *opinion@ubyssey.ca* or *visiting ubyssey.ca/pages/submit-an-opinion.*







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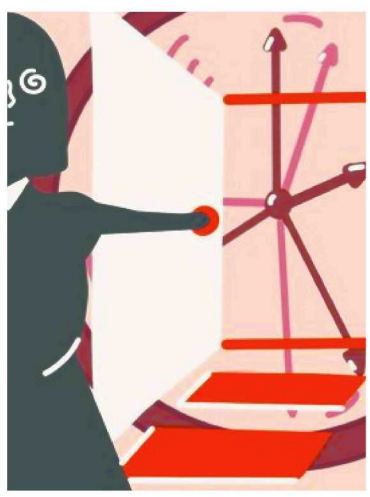
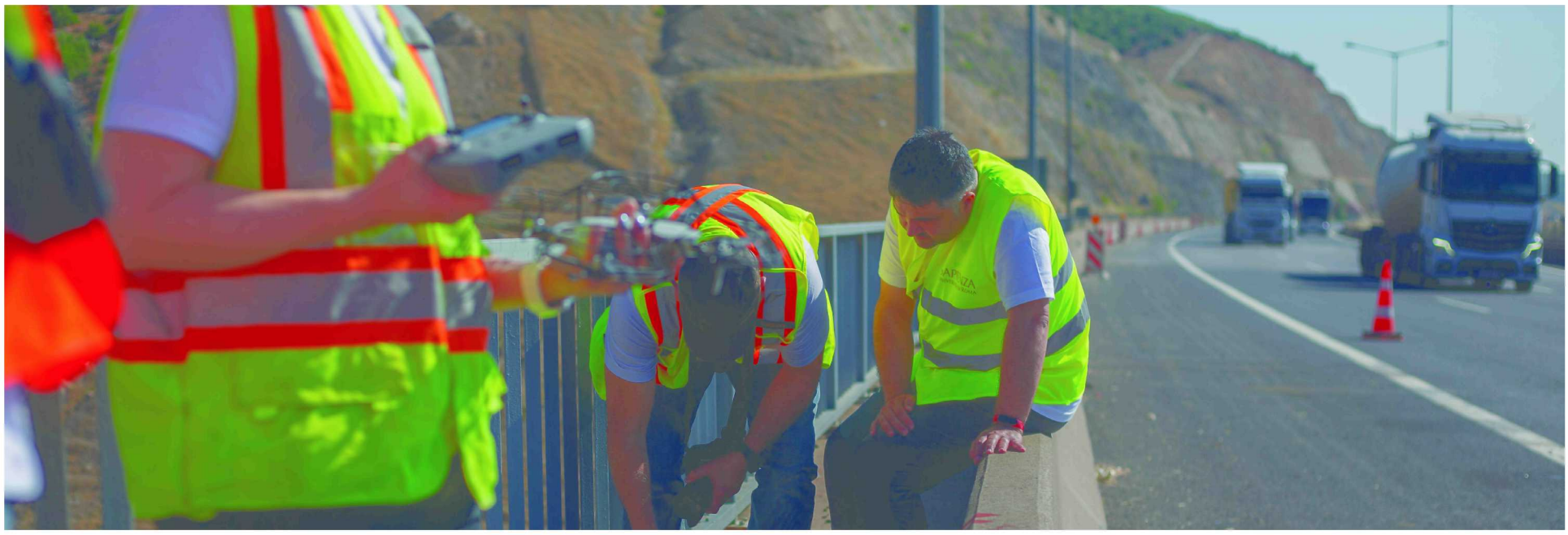
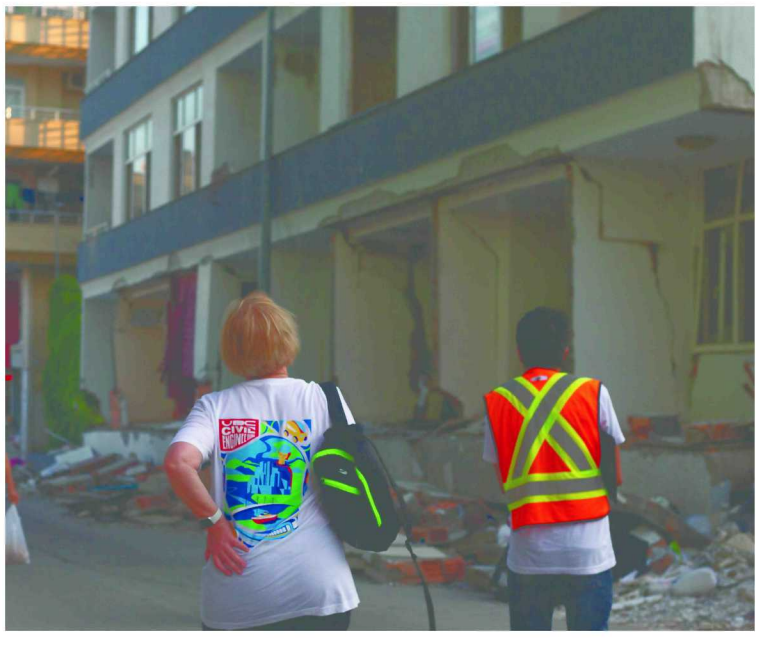






Canadian skaters triumph at Skate Canada International

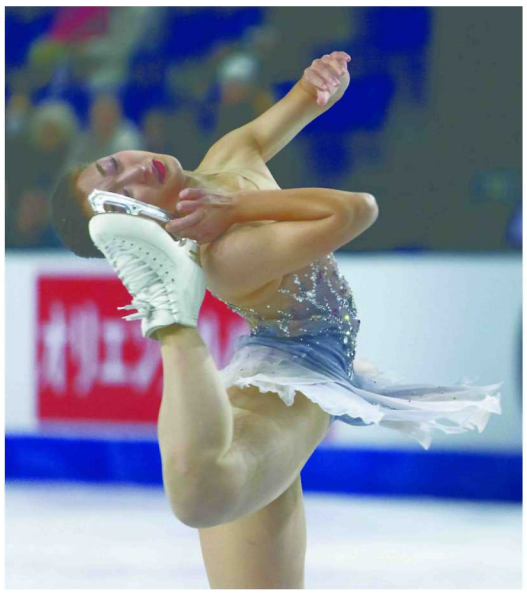
Words by **Anabella McElroy** Photos by **Isa S. You**

Skate Canada International took over the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre this weekend, with some of the best figure skaters in the world coming to UBC to compete. Fans with flags from all over the world filled the stands, but Canadian skaters got the loudest cheers throughout the event.

Skate Canada is one of six annual Grand Prix events organized by the International Skating Union (ISU). Skaters are assigned to one or two Grand Prix around the world, and the top finishers will compete at the Grand Prix Final this December in Beijing.

Canadian figure skating icon Patrick Chan took to the ice between events — not to compete, but to somewhat successfully use a t-shirt cannon as the event's ambassador.

In ISU figure skating competitions, individuals and pairs of skaters compete in a short and long/free program. Skaters are awarded points based on the difficulty and execution of their program, and the highest combined score from the two skates wins.



YOUNG SKATERS MAKE THEIR DEBUTS

The men's event served as a proving ground for a crop of young Canadian skaters. For two of them — Wesley Chiu and Aleksa Rakic — this was their first senior international event.

Chiu and Rakic both train in Metro Vancouver, and said it was special to make their debuts close to home.

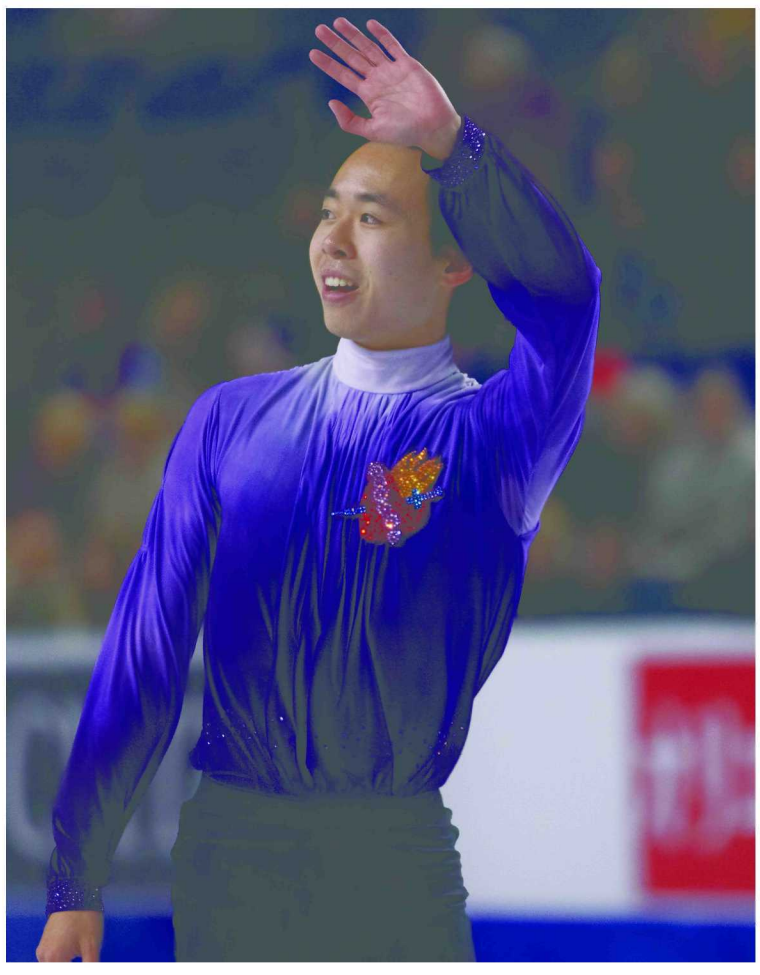
"I remember being here in the stands when [Skate Canada] was here two years ago, being able to compete here this time is a surreal experience," Chiu said.

"It's very special," Rakic said. "It's at home, my family can come watch and they don't normally go to my international events."

The hometown support was visible in the crowd, with homemade signs and extra loud cheers for the two skaters.

Rakic finished the event in 12th, landing a triple axel in the short program but losing points for several falls in the free skate. Chiu finished the event in seventh, landing a quadruple toe jump in the free program.

Chiu said his biggest take-away from the event was "learning how to handle myself, keep myself composed ... lots of clearing the mind and staying calm."



WORLD CHAMPION LEADS WOMEN'S EVENT

In the women's event, two-time world champion Kaori Sakamoto from Japan showed she isn't giving up the top spot anytime soon.

Despite finishing the short program in first place, Sakamoto had one wrong jump take-off and said she "really felt a need to focus" before the free.

She seemed to do so, finishing the free skate with no mistakes and a dominant score of 151.0, nearly 20 points ahead of the second place free program from current Canadian champion Madeline Schizas.

"I was able to perform exactly how I wanted to perform," Sakamoto said through a translator.

Schizas had a difficult short program, missing or stumbling on several jumps and earning the lowest short program score of her senior career.

"I was quite upset," she said.

It was impossible to tell on Saturday though, as she earned points for landing triple jump after triple jump cleanly, and setting a personal best free skate score.

She looked thrilled coming off the ice, calling the skate a "personal accomplishment."

"I'm taking away that I can skate a clean free, I just need to put my mind to it, and I need to have been well practiced, which I was," she said after the event.

Schizas rose from eighth to finish in fourth place overall, behind Sakamoto, South Korean skater Chaeyeon Kim and Japanese skater Rino Matsuike.

ICE DANCERS WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT SKATE CANADA TITLE

Canadian ice dancing pair Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier started the weekend off strong with an '80s-inspired rhythm dance, finishing one point ahead of second-place British team Lilah Fear and Lewis Gibson.

In ice dance, skaters do not complete jumps, instead earning points for synchronous spins, lifts and other choreography.

This event was particularly significant for Gilles and Poirier as it was at last year's Skate Canada that Gilles started to feel ill — what was later discovered to be a cancerous ovarian tumor.

Gilles has since undergone an appendectomy to remove the tumor, but this is one of the first major competitions the pair has competed in since her recovery began.

After the short program, Gilles said returning to Skate Canada had caused some anxiety in "reliving those moments" where she started to feel unwell.

But when asked if the health scare pushed her to retire from competitive skating, Gilles said it did the opposite.

"If anything, it pushed me more to do it. I think skating has become a part of my life, and it's become a great distraction actually, from all the health issues," she said.

On Saturday, their free program to music from *Wuthering Heights* scored 131.46, winning the pair their fourth consecutive Skate Canada gold. Gilles attributed their results in part to the pair's maturity, saying they have learned not to over-choreograph their dances.

"I think we're really starting to enjoy each moment ... we were so settled from the moment we went out there," she said.

CANADIAN PAIR IN THE SPOOKY SPIRIT

Canadian skaters Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps won the pairs event with a triumphant free skate to music from *Interview With a Vampire*.

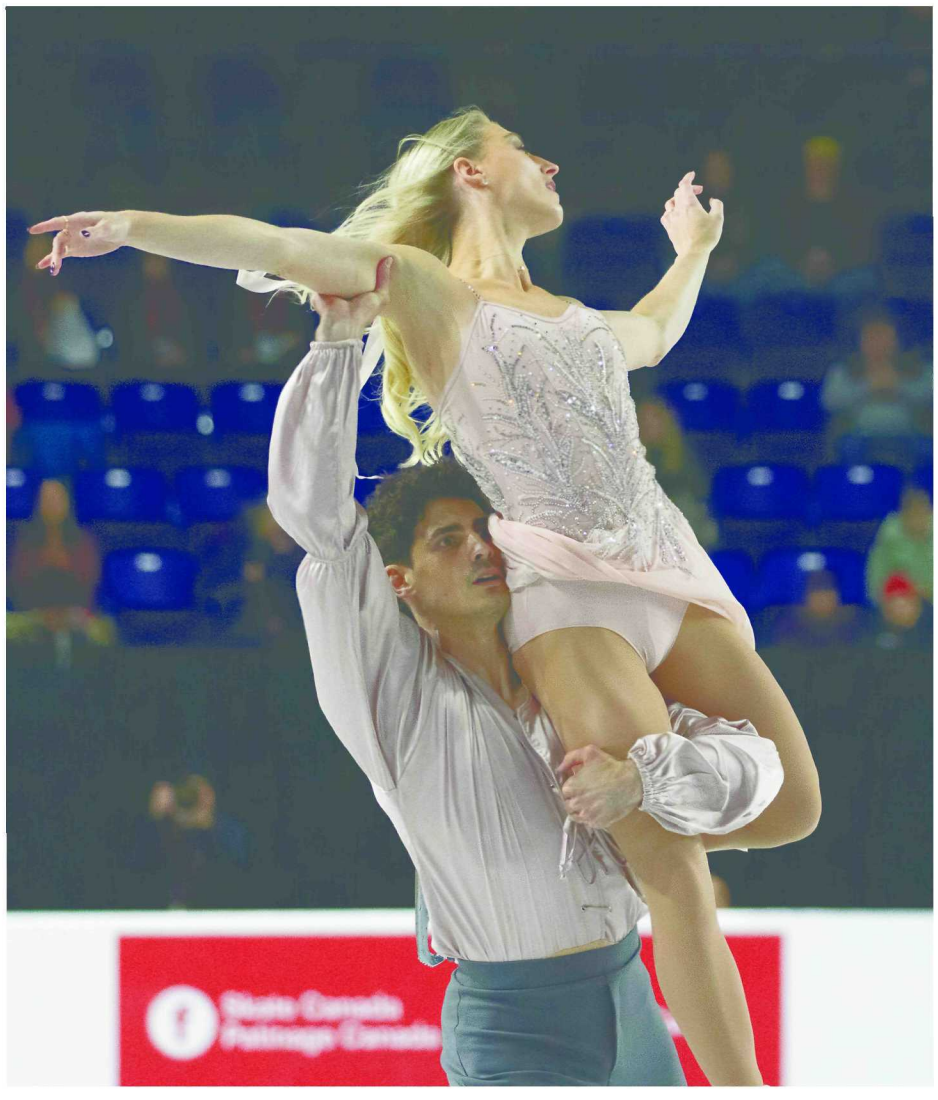
"We've been waiting for a performance like this for years," said Stellato-Dudek, who looked emotional when the pair received their scores.

"Last season [we] fell short of doing anything even close to a clean program, so today it felt really good to have a check mark beside every box," she said.

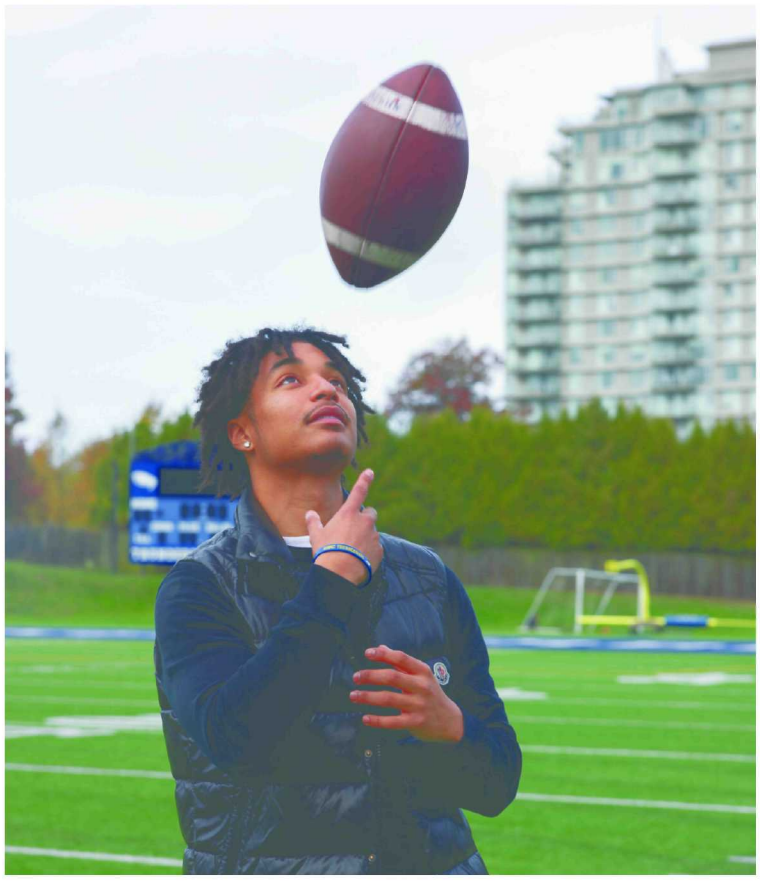
Notably, Stellato-Dudek is the oldest Grand Prix winner ever, having won Skate America last year at 39, and Skate Canada this week at 40. For reference, the second place pairs team, Maria Pavlova and Alexei Sviatchenko from Hungary, are 19 and 24 respectively.

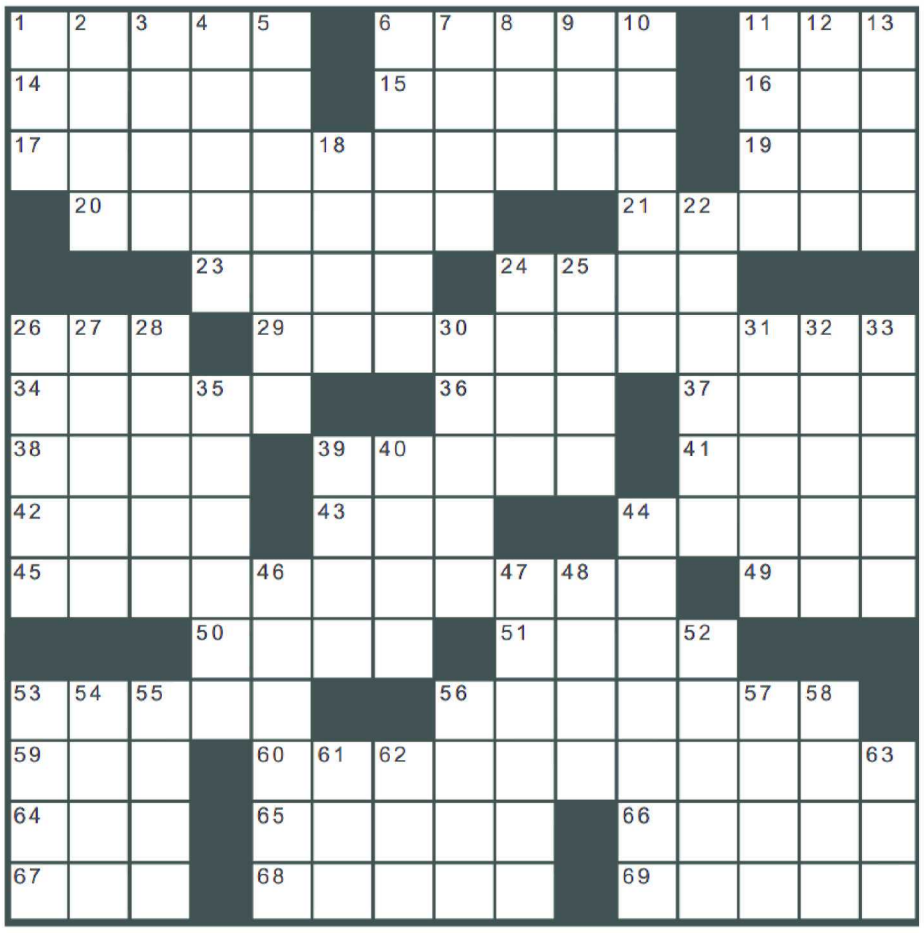
Stellato-Dudek and Deschamps' skate was well-timed for Halloweekend, with both skaters' costumes adorned with rhinestone faux-blood dripping from their necks.

But when asked if the Halloween spirit may have helped them with their win, Stellato-Dudek said "I hope not, because Halloween is almost over and the season is not!"



-BIRDS





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