

William Aberhart High School
March 12, 2026

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ALBERTA PREMIER DANIELLE SMITH ANNOUNCES NEW FALL REFERENDUM

by: Addison C.

On February 19th, 2026, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith spoke out regarding the “out of control immigration levels” in Alberta and announced that the province will hold a referendum in the upcoming fall. The referendum will ask Albertans to vote on a series of questions focused on immigration and constitutional reform. Voters will weigh in on nine separate questions, several of which centre on immigration policy and Alberta’s provincial autonomy. One of the key questions asks whether Alberta should seek greater control over who immigrates to the province, with the goal of prioritizing sustainability and job opportunities for Albertans.

In a televised speech on Thursday the 19th Smith stated “The fact is, Alberta taxpayers can no longer be asked to continue to subsidize the entire country through equalization and federal transfers, permit the federal government to flood our borders with new arrivals, and then give free access to our most-generous-in-the-country social programs to anyone who moves here.” Arguing that high immigration levels are placing strains on Alberta’s healthcare and education systems

as well as overall fiscal capacity, the Premier says the referendum is necessary to allow public opinion and organize a democratic response. However, many see this as a means to undermine Albertan immigrants in the workforce, those of which are vital to the very province and country we live in.

Economic cycles have historically played a significant role in Alberta’s immigration history. Both foreign and interprovincial migration contributed to the province’s population growth during times of oil and gas growth, especially in the early 2000s and mid-2010s. In order to address labour shortages in the building, energy, agricultural, and healthcare sectors, Alberta has long depended on immigrants. In order to meet labour demands, initiatives like the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (now known as the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program) were created to draw in entrepreneurs and skilled workers. This proves just how integral non-permanent residents are to the Albertan economy, and stresses the question of why Premier Smith is proposing a change in a system that unfairly discriminates against them. Some

may see her approach as xenophobic and dangerous, given the current political climate towards immigrants south of the border.

In recent years, however, population growth has accelerated. Alberta’s population surpassed 4.8 million in 2025, with tens of thousands of newcomers arriving annually through permanent and temporary streams. A significant portion of that growth has come from temporary foreign workers and international students, categories that fall mostly under federal jurisdiction. Smith has argued that the increasing number of temporary residents, compared to permanent residents, creates added pressure on housing, healthcare, and education systems without ensuring long-term economic integration.

The premier has indicated she would prefer a system that prioritizes permanent residents over temporary entrants, arguing that permanent residents are more likely to establish roots, purchase homes, contribute long-term to the tax base, and address skilled labour shortages in a sustainable way.



By seeking greater provincial influence over immigration selection and levels, Smith says Alberta could align immigration with labour market needs while managing infrastructure and service capacity. This argument is non-definitive, as immigration promotes desire to establish roots in the province. Immigration is the first step to becoming a permanent resident in Alberta, therefore everyone should be granted equal opportunities in their search for a home and place to raise a family.

Supporters of the proposed changes argue that shifting toward more permanent residency pathways could strengthen Alberta's workforce stability and economic growth. However, opponents argue that immigration levels and categories are primarily determined by the federal government and worry that altering access to services could raise constitutional challenges.

Opponents of the referendum say it serves as a diversion from Alberta's broader economic and budgetary challenges rather than offering concrete solutions. Bradley Lafortune, executive director of Public Interest Alberta, stated that budget shortfalls are not unusual in a province heavily reliant on oil and gas royalties. "That's nothing new in Alberta. But what is new, I think — at least with this degree of focus and tone — is the shift in blame towards immigration and newcomers," he said after listening to the speech Smith made on the 19th. Lafortune went further, characterizing the government as adopting rhetoric similar to that of U.S. Republicans, arguing that it involves "blaming newcomers, cutting services, reducing taxes and then telling everyone that we need to do more with less," while alleging that insiders benefit from public funds.

As Alberta moves toward the October 19th referendum, the debate surrounding immigration, provincial autonomy, and constitutional reform is expected to intensify. Premier Danielle Smith has framed the vote as an opportunity for Albertans to regain greater control over immigration levels and protect the province's economic and social systems. Critics argue it risks deepening divisions and straying into areas largely governed by federal authority. As a society, it is important to take into account how

this reflects on an international level. In reference to how President Trump and his MAGA supporters are treating immigration, Danielle Smith's referendum emulates a similar narrative. Ultimately, the referendum represents a significant political moment for the province that could negatively influence future immigration policy. Depending on how Albertans vote, this will redefine the broader conversation about provincial rights and responsibilities within Canada.

Immigration Questions:

1. Do you support the Government of Alberta taking increased control over immigration for the purposes of decreasing immigration to more sustainable levels, prioritizing economic migration and giving Albertans first priority on new employment opportunities?
2. Do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law mandating that only Canadian citizens, permanent residents and individuals with an Alberta-approved immigration status will be eligible for provincially-funded programs, such as health care, education and other social services?
3. Assuming that all Canadian citizens and permanent residents continue to qualify for social support programs as they do now, do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law requiring all individuals with a non-permanent legal immigration status to reside in Alberta for at least 12 months before qualifying for any provincially-funded social support programs?
4. Assuming that all Canadian citizens and permanent residents continue to qualify for public health care and education as they do now, do you support the Government of Alberta charging a reasonable fee or premium to individuals with a non-permanent immigration status living in Alberta for their and their family's use of the healthcare and education systems?
5. Do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law requiring individuals to provide proof of citizenship, such as a passport, birth certificate, or citizenship card, to vote in an Alberta provincial election?

Constitution Questions:

6. Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to have provincial governments, and not the federal government, select the justices appointed to provincial King's Bench and Appeal courts?
7. Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to abolish the unelected federal Senate?
8. Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to allow provinces to opt out of federal programs that intrude on provincial jurisdiction such as health care, education, and social services, without a province losing any of the associated federal funding for use in its social programs?
9. Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to better protect provincial rights from federal interference by giving a province's laws dealing with provincial or shared areas of constitutional jurisdiction priority over federal laws when the province's laws and federal laws conflict?

THE ADVOCATE

THE ADVOCATE is the official newspaper of William Aberhart High School. THE ADVOCATE is meant as a forum for student expression and is published to inform and entertain the students and the entire school community.

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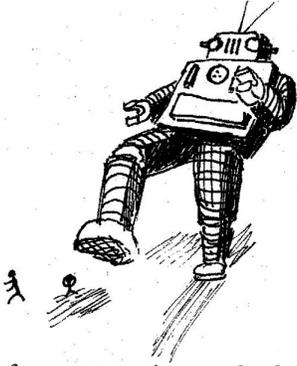
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Hello Abe!

No message this month, but here's a picture I drew of a robot:



Call for poets, artists, and other creatives:

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AI KINDA SUCKS: THE ENVIRONMENTAL & PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES OF USING AI

by: Lia A.V.

In our current age, there are countless digital resources available to the student body; being a high schooler can be rough, and it often feels like there are endless tests, assignments, and deadlines to juggle. Due to this constant pressure to meet whatever academic goals people set for themselves, sometimes, they get desperate for fast solutions and have to reach for said programs. While lots of the resources accessible to us double as good for students and okay for the environment, one of the most recent technological developments: Generative Artificial Intelligence, Gen AI for short, has actually been proven to be harmful to both us and our flora. Due to its ability to reduce critical thinking, its operative water waste, as well its need for large scale data centers, new evidence suggests that this “tool” is on the path to doing more harm than good. Hope must not be lost, as there are still a couple of actions we can take to help ourselves and the environment that will be provided at the end of this article.

According to a triangulation study done by the National Institutes of Health—though AI’s impact on one’s cognitive function is slightly underexplored, as it is still in its early stages—the current data suggests that students who turn to AI to get things such as: quicker answers, automated flashcards, and pre-made note packets, tend to become over-reliant on the resource. Thus, they may not only be misinformed, (as it has been demonstrated that AI is mostly still in beta and often provides disinformation), but also unable to think for themselves, create their own study methods, and form their own conclusions, as they are led to believe that this tool that sits at the end of their fingertips can carry the heavy lifting. Additionally, the study mentions that students who are reliant on AI miss out on important social aspects that education spaces bring, such as teacher-student and peer interaction, resulting in a negative emotional impact. Seeing as there is access to what is essentially a mini supercomputer in their pockets, these individuals feel less inclined to go and

speak to an educator about their questions. Likewise, they tend to feel more inclined to skip peer discussions / clarifying their doubts with peers, as simply popping the question into ChatGPT and getting an answer in seconds seems like the more viable option.

On another note, AI has demonstrated consistent harm to our environment. Did you know that each simple AI prompted search consumes about 500ml of water, or one whole plastic water bottle? Now you do! Prompting ChatGPT to write an email to a teacher, answer a question on a practice test, or grade an English essay not only takes away one’s ability to reason their way through their studying, but also wastes one of the most important non-renewable resources on our planet: water. These searches aren’t getting sent into thin air, here’s what’s actually happening: once an inquiry is put into a generative AI platform, the request is sent to a data center, run by thousands of AI chips. It is estimated that a single AI search uses ten times the energy as a regular search put into a standard engine, such as Google. Consequently, this large amount of energy usage generates lots of heat. In order to prevent the centers from overheating, there needs to be cooling systems put in place, and this is where water comes in: most cooling systems require fresh water to operate, as it is a cheap option, and is wrongly considered to be extremely abundant. The truth? Due to AI being promoted and pushed onto the masses, over 300 000 gallons of water are consumed by data centers per day, in the USA (source: NPR), which is equivalent to 19 000 extra showers! Contrary to popular belief, this water will never be recycled back into our environment, as it is either completely evaporated and trapped inside the data center, or partially used, but too polluted by heavy metals and metal waste to be recycled. In fact, the UN has declared a global water bankruptcy, due to our spike in water waste, prompting an urgent reform in how we understand the world’s most vital resource.

Not only do these data centers cause problems for the water cycle and environment, but it causes problems for humanity and our communities. For example, in Mansfield, Georgia, USA, citizens who live close to Mark Zuckerberg’s AI Meta data centers report having zero flowing water to their taps, showers, and toilets during high-usage hours, having to instead fill plastic buckets when water becomes available in order to flush toilets, and even having to fill up old milk jugs with water for emergencies, during longer no flow periods. Not only that, but there are also multiple accounts of the already scarcely available water being extremely polluted, and full of heavy metal sediment when it does arrive to the home’s water systems. Furthermore, it is clear that these facilities take up extreme amounts of energy, which, of course, has consequences that fall back on the populace, resulting in things like higher electricity bills, as well as regular power grid outages.

In summary, though AI is often marketed as helpful and as a force of the future, it is clearly something that should be avoided. In its early stages, it already presents a scary amount of both personal and environmental consequences, such as: lowering intellectual capacity, wasting water resources, and hurting communities.

Even though it is pushed onto us heavily, here are a couple ways to take action against AI: 1) Ask your teachers / friends for help! Seriously, it benefits us as humans to interact with the people around us at school, especially when we need help. 2) Still need to study? No problem! There is this super amazing, and free program called Solaro: a database with tons of practice quizzes and flashcards, tailored to the Alberta curriculum, that are NOT AI generated. All you need to sign up is a Calgary Public Library card, which is also free to get! 3) Adding a simple “-ai” (without the quotation marks) at the end of your Google search often disables the automated Gemini AI response. 4) Sign petitions! Your voice matters, use it to speak up against the exploitation of the earth.

JEROMY “PATHFINDER” FARKAS: AN ADVOCATE EXCLUSIVE

Your New Mountain Climbing, Video Gaming, Pancake Flipping, Dog Loving Mayor

by: Cameron W.



Now Mayor, Jeromy Farkas poses for a campaign photo during the 2025 election campaign., July 25, 2025. (Campaign of Jeromy Farkas/Previously provided by the campaign of Jeromy Farkas)

“I like to think that I’m now old enough to know, but still young enough to do,” says Calgary Mayor Jeromy Farkas, now entering his fifth month as mayor. The 38-year-old, formerly one of Calgary’s youngest city councillors, believes he brings a different perspective to the Mayor’s Office, being a regular rider of public transit, a frequent Reddit commenter and poster, as well as a mayor who is deeply involved in the community and is interested in bringing together Calgarians of all stripes. For the last four or so years, Farkas has kept busy outside of public office, hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and working as CEO of the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation. He decided to once again throw his hat into the ring during the October 2025 election and beat the runner up, Sonya Sharp by just over 600 votes.

“I don’t [have] the time for the MMO grinding sessions that I used to—as mayor, maybe after,” Farkas told me, referring to the video games he keeps in a cabinet beside his desk. Mayor Farkas talked about these “pressing issues” (and actual ones), when I visited him at City Hall for an exclusive interview with *The Advocate*.

The following excerpts have been edited for clarity.

In 2022, Farkas hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, a 4,270 km-long trail that goes along the Pacific coast from Mexico into Canada. He said that “after the 2021 election where

I ran in the election and I lost, I decided that I had an opportunity to do something special with that.” He also hiked the trail to honour his late grandmother, Elizabeth Ptycia, who he says was a big supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, a charity that connects young people facing various challenges with mentors. He ended up raising about a quarter of a million dollars for the organization, much higher than the original goal of \$50,000.

Farkas said, “I decided I’d use that career break to be able to do something special, ... I was able to get it done in about seven months. It was extremely grueling, physically demanding, mentally exhausting, but helped teach me a lot of things about myself, about leadership, about other people and it was an incredible experience. I would definitely encourage people to do it, but if I were to do it again, I’d probably stay in more hotels rather than in my tent,” he laughed.

Hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail are given a trail name by fellow travellers. These names can be based off a hiker’s personality, a specific event or something else. On his journey Farkas received the name “Pathfinder,” and he still goes by that name on some of his social media platforms. “I was given that trail name for a couple reasons, but a friend of mine gave it to me because I always had the maps on hand—my girlfriend insisted that I had paper maps, and when other

people’s phones died or we were up in the mountains and it was too cold, I could still navigate,” he said. “It was an honour to be given that name and it’s part of my social media handle so that people can find me. There are many friends that I met along the way over seven months that I wouldn’t be able to tell you their real name, but I could tell you who they are based on their social media handle having their trail name. I kept it after that so that people could still know who I was; there’s many people I met that became very, very close and are now lifelong friends, but they wouldn’t be able to tell you what my last name was, although now, I probably have a little bit more name recognition than I did before.”



Jeromy Farkas successfully completes the Pacific Crest Trail after a closure in the final 250-km stretch forced him to return to return at a later date., Aug, 2022. (Jeromy Farkas/Facebook)

When I asked Farkas why he decided to pursue politics, he told me that he really enjoys the interactions he gets to have as a municipal politician. “Here at the City, we get to help people. We get to help people

at the level closest to [them].” The issues found at the municipal level of politics are ones that really impact people’s lives the most. This includes maintaining public infrastructure and local parks as well as garbage and snow removal. He also said that municipal politics is “a much more pragmatic environment.” Up until recently, there haven’t been political parties at the municipal level and even after the election, around two thirds of Calgary’s elected officials are not affiliated with a party, including Mayor Farkas. He has previously stated that he doesn’t believe that political parties are a good thing for municipalities, and he told me that, “I can take a look at an issue and use my brain, look at the evidence and the facts and make up my own mind rather than being told what to do by a party leader.”

Farkas also mentioned another aspect of his job he enjoys when I asked him about the most surprising thing he has learned about being mayor. “Probably the most surprising thing is just the variety. I never know what a certain day is gonna have in store, but it’s always a positive. I get to meet such incredible people, huge diversity in Calgary. I get to see, not just boring city council meetings, but I get to be out in the community, and that’s definitely my favorite part.”

I asked Mayor Farkas how he believes that being a younger person in his 30s as mayor and as a former councillor shapes his perspective. He said that being in his 30s gives him a good level of experience and knowledge about issues facing Calgarians. He pointed out that he, Naheed Nenshi and his predecessor, David Bronconnier, were all either 38 or 39 when they assumed office, and that the current median age of Calgarians is also 38. “I like to think that I’m now old enough to know, but still young enough to do,” he said. When he became one of Calgary’s youngest city councillors at age 31, he felt like some decisions were not being made with a long-term view and he wanted to change that. He also noted, “On a practical level, I’m a lot more active on social media, on Reddit, and other platforms. I regularly take the train. I use transit in a way that probably our next generation does. So, for me, it’s my lived experience. I don’t try to pander or to look at it from that perspective, but certainly I want to make sure Calgary continues to be

more welcoming and probably a lot more socially ‘live and let live’ than some of the previous folks who have been in office.”

Farkas’s platform in the last election looked different than when he ran in the 2021 mayoral election. Here’s how he responded when I asked him about that. “Well, you know, I’ve been consistent in support for things like the LGBT community. I’ve supported policies like the low-income transit pass and even as a city councillor, I was strongly in support of affordable housing. For four years, I served on the Calgary Housing Company. There were some mistakes I’d made as a councillor, but I look back very proudly, having been and continuing to be a very strong advocate for financial responsibility for taxpayers. Sure, I didn’t get everything right, but I really appreciated the fact that Calgarians were willing to take a second chance on me. To my knowledge, I don’t think any candidate has been defeated in the election for mayor and gone on to win and do better their second time. I really appreciate the fact that Calgarians have given me that room to be able to learn, to be able to grow. I think it speaks to the kind of city that Calgary is, that you can make a comeback like that, you can work hard, and you can show people what you’ve learned, and they’re willing to credit you for it.”



Mayor Jeromy Farkas and others, including some of Calgary City Council at the swearing in ceremony on Oct. 29, 2025. (Jeromy Farkas/Facebook)

The Advocate also collected questions for the Mayor from the student body. One student asked, “what is your council doing that will noticeably improve Calgarians everyday lives?” Mayor Farkas said, “We’re stepping up immediately on public safety. The very first thing that we did in our City Council budget debate was to significantly get to the core of some of the issues that people are facing on transit. A significant increase on transit officer presence, support for the Calgary Police Service,

and not stopping there. We are also being tough on the root causes of crime—more support around mental health, addictions, housing, is a really central part. Another piece is just getting back to basics on essential infrastructure. We set aside an unprecedented \$1.1 billion for our water utility, catching up on the deficit that we’re facing. There’s still a lot more work to do in the next four years, but this has been a pivot back to practicality, focusing on the everyday experience of Calgarians. As an example, being a regular transit rider, somebody who’s very often taking the train, I want to use my lived experience and lead by example in terms of many of the decisions that we’re making, and to bring more people and include more people into the decisions that are being made.”

Another student asked where the mayor sees the City of Calgary in the next five years. Farkas said, “In five years, probably less than five years, we will have become a city of two million people, and that is a point of no return. We’re truly on the cusp of being a great international city, and that means there’s a lot of challenges around services, housing, infrastructure and ensuring that everybody who moves here has the same access to opportunity as the generation before. That’s really my focus—continuing to be a welcoming city, but focusing on those fundamentals so that every single Calgarian, whether you live here today or whether you’re a future Calgarian, still has that same access to opportunity. For me, it looks like safe streets for our kids, housing we can afford, jobs we can count on, leadership we can trust, making city decisions more open and transparent to Calgarians and being much more responsible with taxpayer dollars. Ultimately, it’s not government alone who can provide for a great city, it’s civil society, it’s non-profits, it’s the private sector. Getting to work in collaboration with those groups as well as post-secondary institutions means that in five years’ time, we will be the safest city in Canada, the most affordable city in Canada, where the world’s greatest minds can come here to solve the world’s toughest problems.”

The most recent municipal election saw a low voter turnout with only 39% of eligible voters casting their ballots. Farkas won the mayoral election with 26% of the

vote, which means that only around 10% of eligible voters voted for him. One of our readers asked how Farkas plans to be a mayor for all Calgarians. “Well, I am a mayor for all Calgarians and not just the Calgarians who voted for me. That said, I have a strong mandate around financial affordability. When you look at the debate stage and a lot of the issues that were raised by various candidates, we talked about the need to control costs to be able to keep housing affordable, to keep taxes reasonable. I think that that’s an area that shows broad support and that’s why my first budget passed resoundingly twelve to three, with broad support from a vast majority of my council colleagues with representation across the city. That’s why our support for moving in a more targeted approach to housing has received community support. But you can’t rest on your laurels. You have to continue to go back to the public. That’s what I’m doing by including Calgarians in Town Hall events, by being active in the community, by being present on other non-traditional platforms like Reddit. You can’t just go back to the constituents for a mandate over four years. You need to include them every step of the way. And that’s what our office is committed to doing alongside our incredible team of city councillors.”



Mayor Jeromy Farkas poses for a photo with two Peace Officers while on a walk on Stephen Avenue. Dec. 12, 2025. (Jeromy Farkas/Facebook)

When Advocate readers were asked to fill out a survey a few months ago identifying their top priorities for the new mayor and council to address, their overwhelming response was that the cost of living and addressing climate change are the most

important issues. In our interview, Farkas responded by talking about the steps the City can take to address the cost of living. “At the municipal level, we have relatively limited levers or ability to influence things like inflation, but when you take a look at an everyday household the two of the biggest cost drivers, firstly is housing and the second is transportation. When we look at housing, we inherited about a 6% proposed property tax increase, and we did the hard work to trim that down to 1.6% —we drove down the cost there. We continue to support an unprecedented level of investments around affordable housing, making sure that we’re supporting assisted living, not just for youth, but also for seniors as well.”

A reader of The Advocate was interested in hearing about how Farkas plans to make housing more affordable for young people. He once again mentioned that lowering property taxes could help reduce costs associated with housing for Calgarians. He also noted that the City can provide land for “non-market or affordable housing providers” but in the end, the City needs help from other levels of government in order to be able to lower housing prices.”

On the topic of addressing climate change, Mayor Farkas said “We’re putting forward practical ways to be able to live within our means environmentally. We’re looking at modernizing our utilities’ structure. We’re looking at making sure that our new builds for city facilities are more economically and environmentally efficient. It’s not just about climate change, but it’s also reducing the overall long-term costs for Calgarians. I think that’s something, regardless of your views on climate, you’re willing to support, because if you’re living within your means and reducing the carrying costs for fleets or for buildings, that’s something that ultimately the taxpayer benefits from as well.”

I followed up by asking him how he would be able to make meaningful climate policy despite the fact that Calgary is an oil and gas hub in Canada. Farkas noted, “Calgary isn’t just an oil and gas hub. We’re an innovation hub. We own energy in all of its forms. When you think about the leadership that we’re seeing on renewables right now, even small modular reactors, nuclear, wind, solar, traditional oil and gas, yes, but also carbon capture, right? Our objective as

a city is to own energy, period. It’s not specifically oil and gas. Obviously, this has brought in the bread for a long time, but it’s not anti-oil and gas to be talking about ways that we can cultivate more of a market around renewables. That is a pie that’s growing internationally, and I don’t see these two investments or these two areas as contradictory, I see them as complementary. So again, we can be advancing climate action while also supporting traditional energy as they continue to innovate. And then there’s also the social and moral element of that. While the world has demand for traditional oil and gas products, it should be Canada meeting that demand rather than, say, Russia or other third world regimes with dubious democratic and human rights records. So again, there is a demand out there, and it should be Canada and our responsible energy industry that’s rising to the channels to meet that demand.”

Farkas recently posted a statement on his social media accounts on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Alberta and the federal government about the construction of a new oil pipeline to the West Coast, which said: “today is a win for Calgary, for Alberta and for all of Canada.” The MOU has been criticized by some groups for reversing climate policy and its environmental impacts, including a lack of consultation with the BC government and Coastal First Nations in BC, although polling has suggested that approximately half of Canadians support this agreement. In our interview, Farkas reiterated several times that Canada should be meeting the demand rather than what he called “third-part dictators.” He also said that the possible boost to Canada’s GDP from the construction of the pipeline could benefit Canadians across the country.

An Advocate reader wanted to ask the mayor how he planned to stand up to what some people are calling “overreach” by the provincial government. For example, last summer, Devin Dreeshen, Alberta’s Transportation Minister announced that the province was going to launch a review into bikes lanes in Alberta municipalities. The Minister said that he was concerned about how bike lanes reduce road capacity—an argument that began after the Ontario government passed a bill

that required municipalities to seek the provincial governments permission to install new bike lanes that would remove vehicle lanes. The bill also allowed the province to remove already existing bike lanes, although a temporary injunction was granted after Doug Ford's government attempted to remove three major bike lanes in Toronto. The Alberta government also passed a bill in 2024 that allows the government to order a municipality to repeal a bylaw and provides a mechanism to remove city councillors. This was the same bill that introduced political parties into municipal elections.

Mayor Farkas says that the special council meeting he called on Wednesday, March 4, to discuss the increase in the provincial property tax, which is collected by the City alongside municipal property taxes on behalf of the provincial government, is an example of how he is standing up to the

provincial government. "The provincial government has decided to impose a 21% property tax increase on Calgarians and that's just not reasonable at a time where we're facing an affordability crisis." He said that he is willing to both work with the province and "push back when it's necessary." He further reflected, "We need to move beyond some of the previous acrimony that we've seen. We need to make it about the issue. We can't make it about the people. My own leadership style, whether that's working with the province or the feds, is to always attack the problem and not the person. That's how we actually get to get and deliver the results that everybody needs. There is a lot of common ground to be had, but again, it depends on the issue, whether it makes sense to support the provincial government or not. And that also applies to the feds."

Lastly, I asked Farkas about the most meaningful thing he has done since being elected. He first mentioned co-signing the City's Mental Health and Addiction Strategy in 2018 as the Ward 11 Councillor. He says that being tough on crime but also on the causes of crime is how the city can get ahead of social disorder. As mayor, he says he is most proud of supporting the workers who repaired the Bears paw Feeder Main after the watermain break on December 30, 2025. "I was very grateful for the frontline workers who worked their butts off to get there in the trench during the holidays." He would also like to remind Calgarians that the city is asking them to conserve water starting March 9, and that outdoor water use is fully restricted while further repairs are being done on the feeder main.

Inspired by the student survey submissions, I also asked Mayor Farkas a few fun and lighthearted questions:

What is your favorite park or greenspace in the city?

I like Southview Park near Dover where I grew up. That's up on the ridge. That's a beautiful one. The Weaselhead, Glenmore Park, also a highlight. I used to be CEO out at Glenmore Ranch, so that provincial park is one of my favorites. Haskayne Park is attached to it. There's also a number of great urban parks, too.

What is your go-to ice cream shop order?

We were just at Abby's Creations, and I think I did the butterscotch while I was there. But it was important for our office team to be out in Bowness and Montgomery to support some of the local businesses. It was just on Friday that we went out for ice cream to support and connect with some of the businesses who have been impacted by some of the recent feeder main construction.

Will you weigh in on the cats versus dogs debate?

[Long pause]... I'm going to say I'm a dog person. I like the more real-time feedback [from dogs]. I think you're the best friend of a cat, and the dog is your best friend.

What are your favorite video games?

I'm a big RTS [real-time strategy] fan. Right here I got StarCraft II, the collector's edition [the game makes a loud bang on the table]. This is Wings of Liberty, and I got the chance to actually travel and attend some of the major league gaming events. I'm a board gamer too—I've been on a Wingspan kick lately. And then I've always got a little bit of time for a D&D or a Pathfinder session. I bet you didn't think I had that in there. [He laughed.]

Next to Farkas' desk in the Mayor's Office, there is a large cabinet whose top shelf is devoted to video games. As he was talking, he reached in and slammed StarCraft on the table. He is still an avid gamer although he told me that "I don't [have] the time for the MMO grinding sessions that I used to as mayor, maybe after."

Do you have other hobbies as mayor? Do you have time for that?

This morning, I went up Prairie Mountain. It was about a 2,000-foot climb, so I was up and down the mountain before nine o'clock this morning. Yeah, so hiking, mountaineering, going outdoors, and on Saturday, I was one of the Hungarian Palotás dancers and Viennese Waltzers for the traditional debutante ball, so I do dancing as well.

Finally, an Advocate reader is dying to know whether you prefer pancakes, waffles or French toast?

Oh, I'm gonna go with the flapjacks, right? Like, how can you be the mayor without, uh [chuckles]. I was blessed to be the Ward 11 counselor, which included the Stampede grounds. I've definitely flipped my share of pancakes, and I think that's a challenge for rookie mayors. Getting the pancake flipping skills always takes a little bit of time, but for me, I'm going to hit the ground running. One tip I have is that not all griddle is made the same. The platform or the surface area that you have to work with the heat is not uniform—you would think that the pancakes cook in the order that you drop the pancakes on, which is why you got to do a first do typically a few test splotches. Most of the griddles that you're going to have are actually hotter on the outside than they are the inside, so you got to bear in mind that you've got to flip in the order that the heat is, rather than the order that you put them down. I'm looking forward to it. [He laughed.] This is a much more technical answer than you were probably asking.

1979 REVOLUTION, A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY

by: *Parisa L.*

1979 revolution, a 13-year-old boy.

Often worried, often afraid

I was watching

The reactions of kids, my peers, breaking things at the school, vandalizing, for some frantic struggle for control

The deafening cacophony of guns. Aggression.

Signs and remains of the wounded in the street.

The years passed with the endless continuation of the trace of blood

First, the execution of tens of people with the crown loyalist label

Then, arrests, executions, and raids on the minority political parties

who helped to make the revolution, but it was time to put them aside

Betrayal

Then came the war

The thunderous sound of bombs, collapsed buildings

Numbers, proliferating numbers of dead

Around us, empty, deserted chairs in classrooms. A hollow vacuum of presence where a classmate should have been

Funeral ceremonies, with the smell of sweat and rose water, yelling men with slogans, crying mothers.

Shahid baraye Eslaam.

Your death is the gift to Islam.

Had a few friends, close friends, huddling together, listening to music to forget about the world around us.

Our heads pressed against one another as we bathed in the vibrations of the speakers that surrounded us like the palms of an ocean.

Pink Floyd, Genesis, Camel, Rush, Tangerine Dream, Klaus Schultze

But the sound of the siren was loud, and bombs were louder, yet we were not still broken.

They started to take students to the war

I lost my friend somewhere far, somewhere in chaos, the instructor forgot the landmine was activated!

It felt as though we were blown away with every wind of destiny, taking away our childhood, taking away our friends, and anything left from our imagination, music, the only lifeline that kept us from going insane.

We were broken.

School finished, another push of destiny, the agony of military service.

Dwelling among the religious military, the eyes that don't like the way you dress, the way you shave, and the bigotry and condemning judgment.

Whispers, shrieks, and sneers that demean you in every way.

Still, I didn't give up.

A woven fabric of tunes wrapped my eyes blind. Chopin's Nocturne No.8 in D-Flat Major and No.1 in E Minor

An imperfect attempt to shelter me from inevitable insanity.

Saved my money, began learning piano, long bus rides, music school, a broken dusty old wooden piano, and momentary forgetfulness.

Though I shall never forget my piano teacher. How his body was lifted from the piano bench, with the force of the heavy, devastating, grandiloquent chords. Rachmaninoff Prelude, in C sharp minor.

He was an orphan, raised in a grim, destitute orphanage, but never let his spirit die.

"There is a fire beneath the red cloth, and when you remove it, the fire is ready to come out, so it is your responsibility as the player to make that happen." That was my lesson.

I worked for what I knew, a sense of hope for building something, composing something.

Yet even this was controlled by claws who defined every move.

Time for me to step out.

I brought my skills to this cold land, waiting for the Spring, for a tiny flower of hope, to grow in my sight.

Loneliness and long wait, loneliness and music, I became my own guide.

Bought a piano, and as the weight of my fingers made the fire's strength surge and wane to my will, I felt, for a moment, a glimmer of hope, and I resumed my classes.

I found a job, my life is so structured, work is consuming me.

Still, I tried, in fractions of time, to play my music, and call in my spirit, my loneliness, to sit with me in the zone that was created, under my fingers, into my ears, into my soul.

I was growing roots, eventually, just like a lucky plant. Now I have a family, friends around me. People to love.

Yet, the iron fist of power, the inevitable force of destiny, my troubled past, will never leave me.

Like a bothersome guest, the sucking of a leech when you're out of salt. If it goes untreated, it's sure to fester into an infection.

My innocent family, incriminated, rejected at the border, grueling, agonizing interrogation.

The loss of privilege, respect, and humanity

For my past, again. Paying the price for the forced labor of the military, refusal is punishable by death, inevitably imposed upon me by destiny's cold hands

Then I realized, I will always be a second-class citizen.

A feeling of almost being equal to the people around me, shadowed by a past identity that is still following

Slipping into each and every room, a grim shadow, hiding behind the door just out of sight, but sure to be noticed by the dogs of authority

Days become months, months become years, I still watch the fist of power on the people's backs, crushing them to the ground, in my home country, and the trail of blood, left with so many unanswered questions

Around me, millions of eyes, amused by the orchestrated noise.

And I am still thinking of the tiny flower of hope that I was waiting for.

This work is a collaboration between my father and me. I wanted to allow him to tell his story in his own words, and I did my best to translate it while also using additional figurative language to enhance the imagery.

SUPREME LEADER ALI KHAMENEI OF IRAN DEAD; NO END IN SIGHT FOR THE CONFLICT

by: Gavin D.

The head of the Iranian state has been killed by the Israeli-American strikes on Iran. American and Israeli officials were the first to announce his death followed by the Iranian state media alongside the announcement of a 40 day mourning period.

"He was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly Sophisticated Tracking Systems and, working closely with Israel, there was not a thing he, or the other leaders that have been killed along with him, could do," Trump posted on Truth Social.

The assassination of Khamenei throws further uncertainty into the unfolding conflict. With Iranian strikes already hitting the UAE, there are concerns that his death may lead the conflict to expand into other regions.

The Iranian authorities have long planned for a potential assassination of their leader. Barbara Slavin, from the Stimson Center in Washington DC, told the press that Iran has a plan in place in the event of Khamenei's death.

"There will probably be a council set up to run the country. It may already have been running the country, as far as we know," she said.

Any possible council flies in the face of the comments advocating for regime change that President Trump has made. Though what kind of regime change he is advocating for is unclear after the US intervention in Venezuela that resulted in the capture of President Nicolas Maduro at the start

of the year. Today, Venezuela is currently under the leadership of Delcy Rodríguez, Maduro's vice president. Control of the country didn't even change party hands, so what Trump aims to achieve remains unclear.

In any case, Israeli-American strikes on Iran seem lined up to continue. Attacks on the 28th of February targeted 24 provinces and killed at least 201 people. Israel bombed two schools, killing at least 108 at the Shajareh Tayyebah girl's elementary school and two others at a school east of Tehran.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his address that many senior figures had been eliminated during the attacks and that Israel had killed "commanders in the Revolutionary Guard and senior officials in the nuclear program."

Trump further indicated on Truth Social that "heavy and pinpoint bombing" of Iran would go on "uninterrupted throughout the week or, as long as necessary". Throughout these statements, Iran has been counterattacking US airbases in the region, but Air Defence systems prevent them from equal retaliation.

"Military action carries the risk of igniting a chain of events that no one can control in the most volatile region of the world," Said the UN secretary general Antonio Guterres at an emergency meeting of the security council. "I call for de-escalation and an immediate cessation of hostilities"

Iran's UN ambassador, Amir Saeid Iravani addressed the security council saying that the US and Israel had "initiated an unprovoked and premeditated aggression", attacking "civilian populated areas in multiple large cities of Iran, where millions of people reside".

He further argued that "This is not only an act of aggression, it is a war crime, and a crime against humanity."

Mike Waltz, the US ambassador, insisted that the American action was legal and that "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. That principle is not a matter of politics. It's a matter of global security."

China's ambassador said that Beijing was very concerned by "the sudden escalation of regional tensions," while Russia condemned the strikes and demanded that Israel and the US immediately cease their attacks.

All in all, the war in Iran is a continuation of Israeli and American policy in the region after last year's strikes on nuclear enrichment facilities that, according to the Americans, wiped Iranian nuclear capabilities off the map. This isn't the only front that the two nations are fighting on, with the continued genocide in Palestine and the American intervention in Venezuela and naval blockade of Cuba.

As of right now it is unknown as to whether or not peace talks will start or if this is just the start of a prolonged conflict.

ALYSA LIU: REFORMING NO PAIN, NO GAIN IN ELITE SPORT

by: Maya S.

Willingness to suffer has previously been considered the limiting factor for success in elite sport. As the saying goes: no pain, no gain. However, Alysa Liu—an American figure skater and two-time Olympic gold medalist—is redefining the requirements for success on the world's biggest stages.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines sport as “physical activity engaged in for pleasure.” At the elite level, however, the pleasure of the athletes is largely disregarded while the pleasure of spectators is prioritized. Instead of simple enjoyment, with the elite spotlight comes rigorous training schedules, intense pressure to succeed, judging scandals, and even doping. The majority of high-level athletes are introduced to their sport early on in their lives, which means they deal with these challenges before they're fully developed as athletes or humans. This often causes early burnout and retirement. Elite figure skaters, in particular, usually start their journey as young as age 3, as the sport requires a wide array of foundation skills that must be solidified early on. With this premature pressure and control placed upon these athletes, professionals often reflect on missing out on their childhood in their early days. Everything in these athletes' lives quickly becomes controlled, down to their sleep schedules, wardrobe, and eating habits. Consequently, rates of depression, anxiety, and eating disorders rise alongside the level of competition.

Liu is the oldest of 5 children, raised by a single father who emigrated from China to California. She was introduced to the sport of figure skating at the age of 5. She quickly became one of the United States' figure skating stars, and was promptly home-schooled to accommodate her



loaded training schedule. Eventually, she moved full time to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Centre in Colorado Springs, where she lived in a dorm by herself, centralizing her life entirely around figure skating. Her early career included collecting elite titles such as the youngest U.S. women's national champion at just 13 years old, youngest to win back-to-back championships, and placing 6th at the Beijing 2022 Olympics. Post Beijing 2022, she promptly retired from the sport at age 16 due to immense pressure, burnout, and loss of joy for the sport. She didn't set foot near another rink for the next 2 years.

After 2 years away from the ice, she returned to the sport at 18, “a lot happier now,” which she noted in an interview with CNN. From additional commentary, it is evident that she spent this figure-skating-less period building up other aspects of her life and reflecting on what it would mean to skate on her own terms. She spent time strengthening her support systems. In an interview with WRAL, she stated that “family is everything to me. Same with my friends. They keep me grounded.” When she returned to the ice, she made sure that her hair, clothes, music, and choreography were all up to her. She refocused the sport around fun, telling CBS News that “no one is gonna starve me or tell me what I can or can't eat.” She just wanted to skate again. On her own terms. Her emergence out of retirement with this

reframed mindset served as a reminder of what elite athletes go through outside the public eye, and how problematic it can be. For sport being defined in the dictionary as intended “for pleasure,” it shouldn't have been so surprising for Liu to have said she “doesn't feel pressure” to the press before her Olympic performances. But it was. It shocked the entire world because elite suffering has been normalized. How can one not feel pressure competing under the world's brightest lights with the world's most prying eyes on the world's biggest stage? Liu has cracked the code: fun.

This inception of this mindset in a sport with intrinsic and longstanding rigid norms provokes conversations over what it truly means to be an elite athlete. Evidently, success doesn't have to be attained through suffering. Liu's pair of Milano Cortina 2026 gold medals are proof. Liu is putting the “why” back into elite sport, through fun and autonomy. Not only can athletes compete at the same level (or higher) while enjoying their sport rather than resenting it, but they can compete for longer. This mindset reform was enough to bring Liu back from retirement, and it might very well do the same for others, even possibly keeping other athletes out of premature retirement completely. It reshapes the meaning of sport back into its pure form: a “physical activity engaged in for pleasure.”

THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL: A DEVASTATING LOSS & A BEAUTIFUL COMEBACK FOR ILIA MALININ

by: Lia A.V.

Ilia Malinin, aka, QuadGod, the name that has been on -- I'd assume -- everyone's radar since the very start of the figure skating event in the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympics, and maybe even before, when he won gold in the last two figure skating World Championships. Born and raised in the United States, this American superstar is the only figure skater in the world to have ever successfully landed a quadruple axel in international competitions. (Side note: the nickname "QuadGod" actually came way before international recognition; Ilia himself coined the title after landing his first quad axel ever... icon behaviour, honestly.) With radiant confidence, supernatural energy, and artistry so sharp it could injure, he was predicted to be an indomitable champion in both the team, and men's singles events. (Another side note, PLEASE look up his program called "I'm Not a Vampire." I'm telling you now, that one is otherworldly.) But when the performance is over, and maybe it doesn't go to plan, what do you do when things fall apart behind the scenes? Even with all the glitz and glamour that is complimentary to his programs & costumes, there is always something lying deeper underneath the surface; diamonds are said to be made under pressure, but where is the line drawn between perfection and crumbling into dust?

During his final program in the men's singles event, Ilia seemed to be completely

out of his element: stumbling and falling twice during the free skate, and dropping in the rankings from first to eighth; completely unheard of for him, considering he hadn't lost a competition in two whole years, up to that point! As he skated off the ice, he seemed absolutely devastated, and who could blame him? He lost his shot at Olympic gold... that night, his activity on social media reflected this painful loss: with multiple concerning, and very public reposts, he displayed his inner turmoil through upsetting quotes: "nothing hurts more than trying your best and still not being good enough," "I don't wanna live like this anymore..." Though they were later removed, they sparked questions, not only from those of us in the figure skating fandom, but also in the general public: who and how is he when the program ends? Why has no one checked in on him and asked about his heartbreaking battle with his mental health?

In one of his later interviews, Ilia finally answered these burning questions and opened up, letting the world know what happened: he crumbled under the pressure he put himself under. Stating that being in the Olympic spotlight, while also being an Olympic favourite is "a lot to handle [...] it's really something different." Additionally, Ilia claims there was a split second moment during his program, when everything started to go wrong, and he was going too fast to stop it, telling a re-

porter that there were "so many thoughts and memories flood[ing], [...] I let fear in and it ruined me."

Eventually, however, Ilia bounced back, removing the formerly mentioned depressing reposts, and taking their place, one that was more hopeful appeared: "Let it end. Let it hurt. Let it heal. Let it go." Ilia then returned for the Olympic exhibition gala, delivering a performance that was so clearly from the soul, set to Fear by NF. (Third side note because I have been waiting to talk about him for so long, him doing his signature backflips and quad axels timed to the lyric "is this what you wanted?" is such beautiful symbolism, because truly, some of the comments people made after his loss were sickening, we often forget that these athletes are human beings who FEEL, and do so deeply! He is more than backflips and axels...) Finally, he is rumoured to be continuing to the 2026 World Championships, and frankly, I cannot wait to tune back in, and watch as Ilia shows the world what he is capable of. I like to find a lesson in everything, and while I am not an Olympic champion, Ilia showed me that there is always a chance to bounce back, even when it feels like your world has crumbled around you... But you have to make sure to take care of yourself: yes, pressure creates gems, but pressure can also cause you to spiral into a mental space that is hard to get out of, costing you something dear.



“PUT A SNORKEL ON ME” : AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. MAC

by: Ruby T.

Tell us a bit about yourself, a little introduction

I was born and raised in Calgary. My mom was an avid reader, so my brothers and sisters and I are all avid readers to this day. She was Australian and raised a very proper British Australian, so speaking properly and having good manners was a big part of the way I was raised. And then growing up in Calgary was interesting because I was the only girl in a cul-de-sac with all guys. So I grew up as a bit of a tomboy: playing street hockey, riding a bike and doing those kinds of things. I also started playing Dungeons and Dragons at the age of 12 and then really developed a passion for Star Wars and Star Trek and just science fiction and kind of geeky things. I went to Western and did French immersion up to Grade 12. My goal was to be a veterinarian my whole life because I loved animals, so I went to the U of C and enrolled in pre-vet.

What are some of your hobbies/interests?

So I love, love, love bike riding, kind of a theme from being a kid. I think I feel very free, and you can connect with nature. I used to be an avid mountain biker. Whenever I get on my bike, I feel like a kid again. On the weekend, getting down on the bike paths, I love all the unexpected things you can come across as you bike around. I think it's just a great way to feel like a Calgarian. I think sometimes we live in our neighbourhoods and we only know what we know, whereas if you get out into the community, you get to see a bit more diversity and I like that. But I must say, my favourite thing on the planet is to snorkel. There's nothing more serene or beautiful or peaceful. Put a snorkel on me and I will stand in the water until I'm a shrivelled prune, basically.

I love it that much. I also volunteer for AARCs, helping foster animals, and then reading, watching movies, yoga, and hiking.

If you had to describe yourself in 3 words, what would they be?

I gave that a little bit of thought, because I thought about what I like most in others as my kind of motivation. And I found caring, genuine caring, and kindness is



number one. Humour as well, I'm drawn to people that are funny, and I think humour is a great way just to keep things light. I think the world can be very heavy, so I think keeping it funny and connecting is important. Kindness, humour, and curiosity.

You know, asking other people about themselves, so if you get into a conversation with someone and they're always talking about themselves, I often think that they don't have a lot of curiosity about others in the world around them. So I really like curiosity in people.

How did you end up at Aberhart?

So I was going to be a veterinarian.

I did a summer job at a veterinarian clinic and my supervisor talked me out of it. I didn't know what to do with my science degree at that point. My grandma encouraged me to go into teaching, and I tried to explain to her that, you know, grandma, women do more things than become teachers and nurses.

But I said, okay, I'll give it a try. And I got my education degree as well, I started teaching with CBE in 1991. And at first I wasn't sure if teaching was for me, and then I fell in love with it, and I still love it. So I was at junior high TB Riley for about seven years. Bowness High School for 8 years after that, Henry Wisewood, and then Aberhart. This is year 10 at Abe.

What's the craziest bio lab you've ever done?

All right. So I think the creepiest, was there was a physiology anatomy course that I was doing, and it was supposed to be about how the muscles operate. So they literally went behind a door, and killed a chicken. It was still warm, because it had just literally had its neck cracked, and then we had to dissect it and look at all the muscle tissue. That was disturbing as heck. The second creepy one was the cat dissection for introductory comparative anatomy. That was hard until my partner got the skin off, because I'm a cat lover. I actually almost didn't get my science degree because I didn't think I could do this lab, but it's part of getting your science degree. So I did it my last semester, and I'm like, I don't know if I can do this. So once the skin came off and then I realized it was kind of like a Barbie doll cat, because it was all so preserved, it got a little easier. So that was interesting. I actually won the gold scalpel award at U of C for my cat dissection.

And then the third one was another introductory biology course, and it was a frog who was alive but dead, so it had been pithed. And we'd cut it open, we took a hook to the heart, attached it to a device that would measure its heart rate, and then we squeezed neurotransmitters like acetylcholine onto the heart, and it would beat. The problem is when you're cutting into the frog because it's alive, but not alive, its arms would move as you were cutting into it, so a little strange.

How does your hair always look so good?

So I have crazy frizzy hair, and so I started very early in my life learning how to tame it. So my answer to you is that if I walked out of the house with freshly washed hair, it's literally, like, insane. So it's just been a lot of practice trying to tame it. I modeled for a spell before university.

What are some of your favourite franchises?

I love Star Trek, Star Wars, Game of Thrones, Stranger Things, Princess Bride, Ted Lasso, Lord of the Rings, Aliens, Harry Potter. One of my favourite books is Lessons in Chemistry. But the best movie



is Fellowship of the Rings. My favorite quote is:

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

What’s something you wished more people cared about?

I think I worry. I think capitalism and our society, about “buy, buy, buy”, and turning people into consumers is so powerful, and this whole sense of “id” is that’s become prevalent in our world, which is, everyone’s just thinking about themselves, and I want, and how does this affect me and the me, me, me?

And I don’t know where “we” went. And I know some people sort of think of “we”, and I’ve talked about this in my class as socialism. And I think a smidgen of socialism is a good thing when we think about the we and being connected and interconnected. I know it sounds really trite, but I think that we need to care more about each other. I really do. I think that we ultimately will be happier human beings if we care less about things. And there’s that great research and movie that was called The Happiness Project, I tell my students about it. And what actually will increase your contentment and happiness in life, is not money. It’s not things. It’s connections with others and service to the community.

So I wish people would come up for air, look around, and just be more generous.

Any advice for this year’s graduating class?

If you’re going into a program right away, let’s say you’ve chosen your post-secondary program or your secondary program, don’t narrow yourself too soon.

Take a bunch of random courses, because you might discover that you hate or dislike what you have chosen, and then what do you do? And I hear a lot of students that specialize way too quickly and too soon discover they don’t like it and then they don’t know what to do. So I would recommend you take a whole schwack of courses, see where your passions lie. You might be surprised that you actually enjoy something and that your talents lie elsewhere than where you thought you were. And I see that more than I think I’ve ever seen before. And there is more to life than making a whole bunch of money, which I know is a huge goal for people, which is to find a job that’s going to make you a ton of money, get you a bunch of things. But I really don’t think it’s going to end up making you happier in the long run.

If the world were ending, what would you choose as your last meal?

Thai food, because I love lemongrass and I love lime. So I think it would be Thai food. I think the soup, the Tom Yum soup, would be a big one. And I love Thai basil.

I love that. Chocolate mousse for dessert, probably.

What’s a fun or little known fact about you?

I think I know people look at me and they think I’m such a girly girl, but I’m actually, like, again, there’s the tomboy part of me having grown up with guys, the science nerdy, like serious Star Wars Star Trek, science fiction person. So I’ve been playing D&D since I was 12 years old when my brother started campaigns.

And I’ve played consistently until now and I still play with my university buddies. So we play every two months with one another. I love it. It’s amazing. My current character is Lythandra of House Tom Tor – a female Drow Cleric with a baby dragon. She has been ousted by her sister for control of the family house.

What are some of your biggest achievements?

I am most proud of my NABT (National Association of Biology Teachers) award. This is an international award presented in Texas In 2012 - I was honored as the top Canadian Biology Teacher. I authored the Environmental E.R. Science-in a-Crate for Science Alberta Foundation. This crate contains hands-on activities designed to meet and enhance the grade 9 science curriculum. It is used in classrooms across Alberta and is one of their most successful crates. As well, I co-authored the Care for the Land field study guide for the Chevron Cross Conservation School. This guide includes hands-on activities designed to increase students’ appreciation of Alberta’s natural areas.

Any closing remarks?

One of the things I was going to say are my heroes.

So Jonas Salk is one of my heroes. Jonas Salk creates the vaccine for polio and then gives the patent to the world for free.

And I don’t know if that would happen in today’s world anymore. And I really admire him for that generosity of spirit. My second hero is Jane Goodall, who continued to travel the world into her 90s. You know, she just died this year. And the reason that she went and continued was because she wanted to give the gift of hope, right to others. And I really admire that about her.

UNCHARTED: THE LOST LEGACIES

Artifact Smuggling And How It Impacts Our World

by: Levi T.

The lucrative world of artifact smuggling is prevalent in nearly every corner of the world. From the ruins of Egypt's pyramids to the jungle cities of the Maya, artifacts from all over are looted from archeological sites and illicitly traded on the black market by individuals and criminal organisations. While the exact scale of the issue is hard to determine, the UN ranks it as one of the most profitable illicit trades, rivalling both drug and arms trafficking. Additionally, weak regulation of the antiquities market and times of crises make the practice relatively low-risk making it an appealing choice for criminal organisations(1)(2). While cases of artifact smuggling do occasionally make headlines, (such as the famous case with the craft store chain, Hobby-Lobby*) the vast majority of cases fly under the radar, often because instances of these crimes remain undetected. Nevertheless, the illicit trade of artifacts has had a huge ramification on our modern world, and human history as a whole.

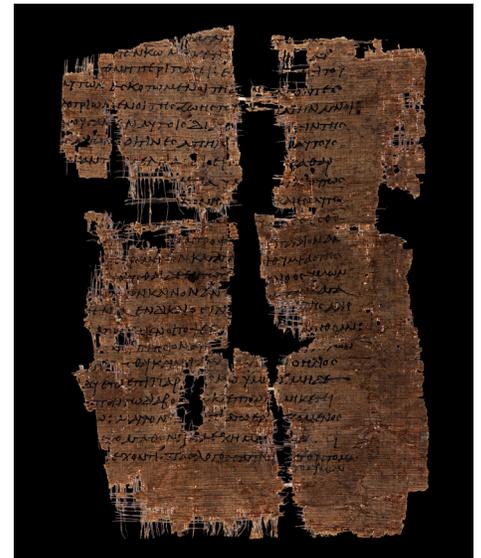


*The Gilgamesh dream stele was among the over five thousand artifacts looted from Iraq that the craft-store chain, Hobby-Lobby, attempted to smuggle into the U.S in crates labeled "ceramic tiles" for the owner's Museum of the Bible (15)(16)

History of the Practice

The illicit trade of artifacts is as old as many of the artifacts themselves. Surviving papyri from the Egyptian 20th dynasty details the trials of men (workers on the tombs) who had been accused of grave

robbing in the valley of the Queens(6)*. While the motivation of these workers was likely monetary, the Egyptian 20th dynasty under the late Ramesside rulers was one of economic and political crises(7), later examples of smuggling practices were fueled by different agendas. Take for instance the religious fervor that led to the theft and destruction of thousands of Mayan cultural artifacts and codices. This destruction, headed by Franciscan Friar Diego de Landa, was fueled by the desire to punish the perceived heresy of the Maya who had been worshipping their old gods despite the order's attempts at conversion to Christianity(8). During a series of autos-da-fé (acts of faith), thousands of cultural artifacts were gathered and destroyed. Dug-up remains of past Mayan rulers were religiously condemned and burnt, and thousands of Maya were given harsh punishments such as flogging or forced servitude(8). In a similar vein, the practice of artifact looting at the hands of institutions and governments evolved into a policy of removal (often labeled "rescue"), particularly during the European scramble for Africa in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1885, the governments of Europe and the United States met in Germany, without any participation of African rulers or governments, to divide the African continent into colonial prospects for each nation. While mainly focused on material exploitation, the act signed during the conference also included a section for the special protection of collections gathered by scientific organizations(9). This allowed for cultural objects to be targeted along with natural resources. Museums, private collectors, and academic institutions would often send lists of desired items to military expeditions. After being looted, these artifacts would then be willed, sold, or gifted to museums while others ended up on the market(5). In order to justify the removals, European powers would draw legitimacy from the protection of the cultural heritage of its colonies(4). Many of the cultural artifacts taken during the colonial era ended up lost in museum storage rooms and while there has been a recent push to return these objects to African countries, the vast majority still lie outside of the continent(5).



*Papyrus PM 49.11.1, which details the trials of a group of men accused of grave robbing in ancient Egypt (6).

The Smuggling of Today

The looting and smuggling of antiques in modern times have a huge impact on multiple regions and countries around the world. Antiques are often targeted for their high value by individuals as well as organised crime networks. They are often taken directly from archeological sites*, especially in regions that are affected by armed conflicts or natural disasters(11). Iraq's national museum was famously looted and destroyed by terrorist groups, an event in which around 14,000 objects were stolen(12). Once they are extracted from their place of origin, these items are usually shipped to foreign or online markets where the demand for antiquities is high. Tracking these stolen artifacts present a challenge for investigators due to the poor regulation of the antiquities market(11). The exportation of antiquities is not illegal so long as the individuals or organisations exporting them provide documentation proving that they were sourced legitimately(10). Regardless, criminals have found methods to bypass these regulations, such as providing fake documentation or through legal loopholes(2). Such as a case in Nigeria, where people attempting to smuggle wood carvings out of the country

argued to customs officials that they did not meet the legal definition of “antiquity” due to their recent fabrication(4). In an attempt to catch smugglers, organisations such as UNESCO and Interpol utilise technologies like X-Rays and artifact databases that search for high-risk items at customs checkpoints(11)(12). However, these methods are far from fool-proof as a large amount of artifacts smuggled are taken directly from archeological sites and therefore unknown on the databases(11). Additionally, the sheer number of cultural artifacts being exported internationally makes it difficult to determine which artifacts have been acquired illegitimately. An estimated 140,000 to 700,000 antiquities were transacted to Europe in 2023, and it is nearly impossible to distinguish licit from illicit transactions(11). In the majority of cases, stolen artifacts are brought to the online market where the demand is very high due to the larger customer base, leading to higher prices and a severe lack of oversight regarding the transactions(11). The sale of these illicitly procured objects do a great deal of damage to both the scientific field researching them and the cultural heritage of the countries in which they originated.

Why it's an Issue

The looting of archeological sites and museums and the illicit trade of their artifacts does a great deal of damage to the historical and cultural record. According to an archeologist and curator from

the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Center: “Looting removes artefacts from the context in which they have meaning. Without knowing where the artifacts were found, they lose their only real value.” They further gave the example of “a small pottery bowl means little, but when it is found in association with soil remains that might indicate what kind of food was served in the bowl, much might be discovered about the people who used it, what they ate, perhaps what trading they might have done if the food remains were not from local plants or animals.” The illicit trade of artifacts affects the ability of researchers to learn more about humanity’s past. Without being able to study an artifact and the context in which it was found, they lose the potential to gain insight into a nation’s past. Furthermore, artifacts and antiquities represent a nation’s cultural heritage and the disappearance of these cultural artifacts do a great deal of harm to the communities they represent(14). The profits generated from the sale of these items can also cause harm, particularly when sales are used to fund organised crime networks and terrorist groups. In Latin America for example, drug cartels and other criminal groups often steal cultural artifacts to use as collateral in drug deals due to their high value(13), or use them in money-laundering schemes in order to convert drug money into clean assets(14). Antiquities are highly favoured by criminal groups since they yield high rewards in terms of profitability for little risk, thanks in part to lack of adequate regulation and buyers who claim ignorance(13)(14).

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*Satellite imagery of the ventarron archaeological site in Peru. The highlighted area shows where a large concentration of illegal digs have taken place(17).

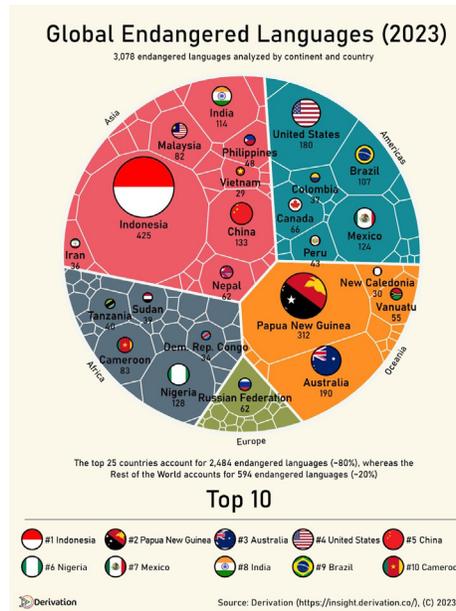
VANISHING VOICES: LANGUAGE DEATH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by: Laura Z.

“On average, a language disappears every two weeks,” says UNESCO. This statement may seem jarring, but from the recorded 7159 living languages spoken around the world, 3193 are listed as endangered (no longer being taught to children in schools), with 454 already being extinct.

Language death occurs when there are no native speakers left to pass it on. By extension, when there are no remaining traces—such as texts or second language speakers—to be found, it is called language extinction. I’m sure you’ve heard the phrase “Latin is a dead language” before, but have you ever considered what it means? While no native speakers exist today, Latin prevails as the official language of Vatican City, and its roots can be seen in many current day languages, such as Italian, French, and Spanish. However, the same can’t be said for the hundreds of languages that are being threatened. In March of 2024, UNESCO stated that at least 40% of the 7000 languages spoken around the world are endangered.

There are many causes of a language’s decline, most occurring naturally as societies evolve and speakers die out. Regardless, there are certain factors that increase this rate. Urbanization is the leading cause of language death, as it increases the pressures of cultural assimilation of a group, creating an urban environment where generations can gradually lose their homes, as well as their connection to culture. In addition, poverty plays a detrimental role. Individuals in search of economic opportunities often stray from their mother tongue in order to adapt to a more reputable language and benefit from work or living opportunities. Families will also emigrate to new countries in order to allow their children a better chance at succeeding in their futures. These factors, while beneficial for the individual trying to prosper in life, often lead to a failure to remember their original language. It is especially prominent in second or third generation speakers, ultimately resulting in a decline in the native population and higher endangerment of their language.



An example of a language that was recently declared extinct is the Hokkaido Ainu language, spoken by the Ainu people, an indigenous group of northern Japan. In the 18th century, the Ainu underwent forced assimilation during the Japanese colonization period of Hokkaido, and in the 19th century Japanese assimilation policies forced the Ainu to give up their traditional land and practices, and banned practice of their language and culture in schools. Two of the Ainu languages, Sakhalin Ainu and Kuril Ainu were declared extinct in the 1900s, while Hokkaido Ainu was declared extinct around 2017. According to Ethnologue, there are currently efforts to revitalize the language, as well as ascending resources present to support its attempts.

Another example is Caddo, an indigenous language that belongs to the Caddoan language group spoken in western Oklahoma. The last fluent speaker of Caddo, Edmond Johnson, passed away in 2025 at the age of 95, marking a great loss for the Caddo tribe yet sparking new efforts to revitalize the language.

The Digital Language Scale (DLS) is a modern representation of another factor that contributes to language death: the internet. In the era of global communications, media plays a large role in the dissemination of languages, and unfortunately, digital equality does not exist. According to Ethnologue, 54% of the world’s population has finite or zero access to digital language technologies. Out of the entire world, only 0.4% of languages are fully supported digitally, meaning they thrive in the media and have resources such as artificial intelligence, voice assistants, and translation at their disposal. The people not included in this statistic suffer from a deficit or complete lack of information and services in their languages, causing an online divide and in most cases forcing individuals to resort to languages such as English in order to gain digital equality. As media influence continues to grow on an international scale, languages without digital support are even more at risk of endangerment or extinction. The DLS is critical in our current world to provide education and opportunities to everyone, therefore a lack of balance impacts billions of people, and creates an even greater divide of society in terms of equality.

Language is key to understanding diversity on the deepest level, therefore it is crucial to practice preservation and cultural appreciation to continue promoting heritage across the world. Multilingual education is a gateway to preserving as many languages as possible, and fostering worldwide equality. The Government of Canada’s Translation Bureau at Public Services and Procurement Canada is playing a large role in preserving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples’ languages in our country, but internationally there is still a long way to go. If we continue to view language as a tool for passing along tradition and shaping new identities, then communities will strengthen on a global level. If you’re curious about some interesting language statistics, be sure to check out Ethnologue, where you can search and learn about every language in the world!

TIME

by: Parisa L.

At every turn he shows his porcelain face
Though seldom does he reveal his body
An impatient fellow, whether young or old, his temperament is always haughty

A hurried lad, a bright, witty grandfather with much insistence
With disdain for human ignorance and our ephemeral existence
Tick tock, tick tock

The white rabbit flashes its ears
A fine blue suit, the tapping of a little foot against the wet dirt
Flowers rest upon this soil for those who have already surrendered
to his ivory cheeks and ticking nose

One blink, and the moon is hidden
Her delicate eyes obscured by the palms of Helios
The true keepers try to guard their precious duties
But in vain, one more blink and it's twilight once more
Her lunar gaze returns to meet you

What is a moment, a second, a day... a week, a decade, a century?
Why would any of this matter to a God?
The self-proclaimed prophet, master of time
Who seats himself upon a throne of flesh, and drinks tears and wine
Mercilessly ticking away, Master of All

Tick tock, tick...

Please, I implore you
Catch this God
Grab him by the throat, squeeze it tight until his (flawless) (visage) wavers and cracks
Be wary not to slice your finger on the glass

Or prick it on the spaded tip of the ticking hand.

You must relish the moments, your fruits to bear
Make wine of them
And when the taste surrenders to oxygen, use the remnants of this dazzling blood to paint memories into illusory permanence

Gods are tricky, you know.

A GUIDE TO BURNOUT AND HOW TO AVOID IT.

by: Yekta G.

Have you caught yourself spiraling after watching countless videos of “productivity” and “discipline” online? First, you start feeling unproductive, and then lose yourself in a chaotic cycle of frustration and burnout. We’ve all been there, especially thanks to social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram, we catch ourselves constantly consuming videos of other people’s success, but you must realize, you are slowly drowning yourself in a made-up reality.

After a long time of analyzing this through not only the studies done online, but also in person, a key conclusion can affirm that it goes deeper, and that often times, we tie a different version of ourselves, created by the people around us, to the real person we are within, and that causes long term harm which will be expanded on in this article.

Recently it has become so normalized to increase your workload to be productive, to a point of extreme burnout. It has gone to a point where even teenagers are obsessing over maximizing their stress to feel a sense of accomplishment. Sometimes, this strict viewpoint may come from invisible external factors around us as well. Sometimes, without us even knowing, people impose inherent expectations on us, and we feed on them. For example, a student always seen as “smart” by friends, and “great student” by teach-

ers, may feel a heavy pressure to keep that going, even if these adjectives don’t even align with who they truly think they are, or want to be, (it is okay to not want to be something described as inherently “good” by society.) Naturally, as humans, we are competitive, and we try to evolve, even if it means comparison. Yet, this topic leads to understanding that an unhealthy habit most teenagers form is not just the simple act of comparing yourself to others, but comparing the version of you made up by your friends, teachers and family, with the one you truly are (since no one can truly know everything about a person.)

Chasing and consuming productivity is not productive, yet creating productivity is. Once you start to recognize your OWN values, (even if it goes against what everyone thought you valued) your intentions, and passions, you start to build a foundation to support your personal roots.

How can we strive towards healthy productivity?

Firstly, you must become comfortable with facing internal insecurities that link your productivity to your self-worth. This can include a low self esteem/confidence, or even trying to mask yourself in front of others. Social media, schools and even society have made it seem like we are defined by our grades, achievements, wealth, and health, yet we must understand that

what we achieve or do not achieve is not a directly defining factor of human capability.

Something that may be helpful is to start affirming your values, and who you are beyond “achievements.” I’d like to share one of my favourite quotes that I heard a couple years ago, “what are you when all your hobbies, awards, and achievements are taken away? Who would you be without it?” From a Kantian lens, it is crucial for us humans to recognize that true intention comes from your will, or the inner intent, and regardless of what the outcome is, the intention remains significant.

One thing to accept is that humans are not robots. We are not tied to a specific schedule, so if you don’t complete your entire to-do list, it’s okay! If you miss working out for a day, week, or more, it’s okay! Understand that yes, routines can be important to stay organized, yet you can also embrace the natural adventurous characteristic of humans that want to explore other options.

Let’s remember that we have already accomplished the most impossible thing ever; to be born. Every moment alive is a blessing, therefore the most productive thing we can do is to embrace our time and healthily direct it towards our own definition of happiness, whatever that may be.

ALL THAT MATTERS IS YOU

by: Anwyn M.W.

The sunlight shimmered through the lake, through the air, through my mind. My thoughts were daisies that sprouted one after the other, reaching for the sunlight and gaily blooming all over my mindscape.

It was today— the day I had waited for all week, all month, all year.

The thousands of letters I had wanted to send but never did, of fear that none would return.

I hoped today I would receive at least a smile.

I knew I would give one.

A loon rose from the depths of the water, gently shaking off droplets that shattered

the surface and left little shining ripples. Its glossy sable feathers clung to its body like a wetsuit, and as it shook, the sun’s rays gleamed off its back.

Beautiful... I thought, wondering what it would be like to swim through those lovely, cool waters. The sun beat down on me, searing my skin and blinding my eyes. My feet dangled in the water, and I stirred it softly, taking in the cold and letting it seep through my veins. Even so, it was not enough to beat the sun. My body felt as if it was on fire, and I only prayed she would be here soon.

Unfortunately, soon never seemed to come, as I sat there for hours, splinters

attacking my legs from the dock with the sun threatening to burn me alive. Anxiety overtook my mind.

What if this was the wrong place? What if she decided not to come? I nearly left right then and there, but I had made a promise to her, and I was going to keep it. I wasn’t leaving. I could take a little heat. For her.

I remembered the first time I had met the love of my life. My footsteps echoed around the halls of the school, my hand shaking as I turned the cool knob of the classroom door. I was young, naive, not the most confident. Not the most of anything, really.

Always picked last in sports. The shy, self

conscious kid who sat at the back of the classroom, who wore mismatched clothes and had unruly hair.

I was arriving back from vacation that day, it had been quite lovely.

Lovely to escape from the stares of classmates, misinterpreted maybe, painful all the same. I entered the classroom, all eyes were on me, I pretended not to notice.

Until I saw one. One gaze. She was sitting there, baggy gray sweater and sweatpants, and her posture sang with confidence. She had hair black as the midnight sky that draped like feathers over her shoulders, stunning, but that's not what allured me.

It was her eyes. They were the deepest doe brown I had ever seen, and sat on her face like two shining pools, deep and radiating mystery. Yet alongside that, there was a sort of comfort, like a blanket of security and trust that enveloped me.

In addition, they were looking straight into mine. Neither of us broke contact. No tension. No unwelcome feelings.

Just me, her, for the first time. And it wouldn't be the last.

We had met, officially later that day. It was quick, simple.

But we continued to meet, time and time again, each meeting growing longer and more profound. The little spark that had lit inside of me on our first encounter had grown into a mighty flame. One night, I sat by my window, writing by starlight. A message appeared on my screen. Simple. I expected nothing less. Yet I opened it.

And as I read the words, something blossomed from the flames.

The sun continued to beat down on my already submitting skin. I gazed out onto the open waters, and they gazed back at me, cool, crisp and shining. I watched the loon dive under the surface, and my body gave a little shiver, imagining myself doing the same.

What if I just...do? There's nothing stopping me. I glanced behind me. *And she's not here yet. If she comes at all.* A stone dropped in my stomach, but I ignored it, simply looking out onto the lake again. The loon rose once more, shaking its black feathers before diving once again. I sighed. *There's really no stopping me, is there?*

Within seconds, I was running to the water as fast as my legs would carry me, feeling the cool, crisp water on my feet, my thighs, my torso, until finally I threw my whole body under the water. When I rose, the sun greeted me, merrily this time, reflecting off the water, not my skin. I watched the loon dart away at the sight of me, and I felt a little pinprick of guilt, but not enough to stop my heart from gaily bouncing out of my chest at the sensation of the fresh water.

For what seemed like only minutes, I swam, floated, and dived. I felt the slippery rocks that rest at the bottom of the lake between my fingers before rising back up to the sun, my legs pushing me upwards like a jetstream.

Until the jet stopped instantly. My heart froze. A sensation rushed into my leg as something solid and sharp pressed into it and pulled me back, nearly knocking me out right then and there. It felt like wood, I knew it was, in fact, for I had seen the tree just moments before, had wondered how it had gotten underwater. I struggled to get free, but each pull was about as efficient as an ant trying to crawl its way out from under an anvil. I could feel my life itself starting to flow out of me as I struggled to remain conscious, choking on water as scratches ran up my arms whilst I attempted to pull myself free. My motions got weaker. Then weaker again. And again. Until finally, they almost stopped entirely. My mind's will faded.

I let the water take me. And it would have, if the next second I hadn't felt a force lurch me upwards. My leg screeched with pain as it was wrenched free from its prison. I felt something wrap around my midsection and before I could think I was thrust above the water. I gasped, taking in the sun and the outside world, and the air, the air, the air. I breathed it in, thanked it for the first time ever. As if they had forgotten how to move, my legs gave way and I fell under the water again. And like the first time, I felt a force tug me upwards. *What in the world?*

"You massive idiot!" I heard a voice cry. I froze, my legs kept me above the water, but the rest of my body ceased motion instantly. I recognized that voice. It was a familiar song, a lullaby my mind had played itself each night to fall asleep. An anthem my heart yearned to hear each and every time it was sung. I spun around, slowly.

Two bright, doe brown eyes gazed back at me.

Her hair was pinned against her sides, gleaming like a piece of onyx in the light.

She was breathing heavily, her chest rising and falling in swift motions, her lips parted like a rose blossoming in the morning. She looked defiant, annoyed almost, but when I turned around, her eyes softened and we gazed at each other again, as we had the very first moment we met. "Don't do that to me," she whispered, her face unreadable.

All at once, I had lunged at her and wrapped my arms around her neck, sobbing into her drenched hair and nearly knocking us both back underwater. I heard her laugh ringing out like a church bell as she embraced me, aiding me gently back to land as I refused to let go, resting my face on her shoulder that welcomed me, and all the memories flowing around in my mind.

Minutes later, we sat together on the dock, breathing in unison, staring out at the clear water where my body had almost gone to rest.

Silence. Neither spoke for an eternity. I broke it.

"Thank you." I whispered, my voice like a petal floating on the wind. "I thought you didn't know how to swim." She laughed softly.

"I don't. I wasn't." she said, her voice feather-like. Her eyes suddenly glinted. "Something guided me. The same thing that took my hand all those years ago, and guided me to you. It has happened again." My heart fluttered like a dove's wings, and I pressed myself against her, feeling not just her body, but her heart, her soul, everything. Just... her. "Do you believe in fate?" she asked. I pondered for a minute.

"Maybe. But it doesn't really matter, does it?"

She tilted her head, smiling at me in that confused, curious way that I remembered.

"It doesn't matter," I continued, "Because I would follow it to the ends of the earth, or fight it until my last breath. All that matters..." I looked into her eyes and she looked into mine. Not just at me, but further, into me. Into us.

"All that matters is you."

PUZZLE AND COMICS

by: Max C.

PUZZLE AND COMICS

BY MAX C

120BPM

120 PEOPLE DIE PER MINUTE, "AROUND THE WORLD" BY DAFI PUNK HAS A TEMPO OF 120BPM

DAFI PUNK

SO, EVERYTIME YOU HEAR A BEAT, SOMEONE, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, DIES.

AND IT'S EERIE TO ME TO THINK THAT EVEN WHEN THE SONGS OFF IT'S STILL PLAYING

IT REMENDS ME OF A STORY I WROTE AWHILE BACK ABOUT THIS DETECTIVE WHO'S SUPERPOWER

AND I WROTE ONE SCENE WHERE HE WAS BLOODING ATOP A BUILDING LISTENING AND OVER THE CARS AND WIND HE HEARD THIS NOISE...

WAS THAT EVERYTIME SOME ONE DIED HE'D HEAR A BEEP COME FROM THEM.

Beep

SIMILARE TO A SMOKE ALARM (OUT OF BATTERIES)

ALL AROUND HIM, A RAPID METRONOME OR THE BEATING HEART OF SOME SCARED ANIMAL DISTURBED FROM THE CIRCLE HORIZON.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							
10							
			11				
			12				

ACROSS

1. THE REASON YOU WASH YOUR HANDS
9. SUNDAY SPEAKERS
10. PRINCIPAL FIGURE
11. HOT DOGS THERE ARE \$1.50
12. A SINGLE VOTE IN FAVOUR

DOWN

7. THIS GOES UP WITH INFLATION, USUALLY
8. CANADIAN TRUCKERS MIGHT PULL INTO A FEW OF THESE DURING A JOURNEY.
1. NAVIGATION AID
2. MESOZOIC, CENOZOIC, PALEOZOIC... TO GIVE A FEW EXAMPLES
3. STANDARD TYPE (abbr.)
4. POLO MIGHT BE A RESPONSE TO IT
5. OFFSHOOT OF A LINEAGE
6. MAKING A BIG DEAL OF A MINOR SOCIAL FAUX-PAS

FIND 7 TEACHERS FROM ABERHART IN THIS WORD FIND

HLMFREYTRMHRMCHUNG
 ZUTZRCTBAOAMNALHPGI
 OMDNGROASYLELSMOTL
 TORDTAQTFLKEILLUAL
 QRBNAWFMMROFNISTEI
 MASEFLKHLRSOLOBNS
 NNROMYFFEHIWUFQRT
 OTMOMHOFMFMSARPMY
 PEOWEMTTARTKZSSNT
 SFNREIDNRQYOKIRMAXS
 BROWNQSMOZZEAMANY

		3	1
4	3		

THE GREAT SILENCE

THE QUESTION OF WHY ALIENS HAVEN'T COMMUNICATED WITH EARTH HAS BEEN ASKED MANY TIMES

MEMO?

IS ROTATED TO

AS IS ROTATED TO

A. B. C. D. E.

IS ROTATED TO

AS IS ROTATED TO

A. B. C. D. E.

I THINK ITS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO EYES

TO LOOK UP AT THE STARS WITH

THAT THEY ARE ALL BLIND HYPER-INTELLIGENT LIMPID SALAMANDERS

WHO WRITE POETRY NOT ABOUT STARS BUT ABOUT SAND AND GRAVEL AND ITS SENSATION ON THEIR FEET. THE VIBRATIONS OF THE EARTH

AND MAYBE THEY BELIEVE THE WORLD IS SURROUNDED BY WALLS

THAT CURVE UP AND MEET

MAKING A DOME

FREE!

JUICE BOXES IN THE CAFETERIA.

OASIS

SUNTYPE Juice

FIVE ALIVE

TOM NEEDS HELP! DRAW HIM A WEAPON TO HELP HIM FEND OFF THIS MONSTER!

DRAW HERE