

LIMINAL



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THE TEAM



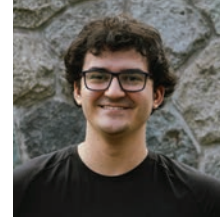
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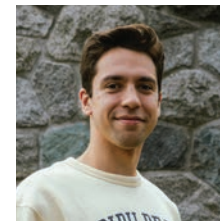
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Mars' Hill is a student publication of Trinity Western University located on the traditional ancestral territory of the Stó:lō people. Floated with funds raised by the Student Association, *Mars' Hill* seeks to be a professional and relevant student publication, reflecting and challenging the TWU community, while intentionally addressing local, national, and international issues.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Spaces, spaces, spaces. We fill spaces as quickly as we empty them. People fill spaces in our lives and people leave spaces in our lives. Sometimes we choose who we want to fill these spaces, but most times we do not. “Space” is a tricky concept. When you step into a room, what do you choose to fill that space with; do you like your space cluttered or roomy? Do you need space or do you feel spaced out? I think space in our lives is continuously shifting along with our concept of it and our relationship with it. A new year is like a liminal space—an empty place, somewhere between the past and the future. What comes with this place is an array of thoughts, feelings, and emotions. Ultimately, this space will be filled as we live our lives. It is up to us what we will choose to keep in this place and what we will choose to let go of.

In this newest issue of *Mars’ Hill* entitled LIMINAL, we explore the concepts behind this theme, and how we perceive these spaces in our lives. In our Opinions section, Erin Vanderstelt explores the term “liminal space” in her article “The Space Between.” Alexis Stephen tackles the question “How do I handle the transition into 2024?” in her newest segment of “Ask Alexis.” Bailey Froese tests readers’ resourcefulness in their humour article “Quiz: Can You Survive One Night In IKEA?” Our feature explores the emergence of a new year and the feelings of students entering into a new semester with the “Start of the Year Survey.”

In all the excitement, nervousness, and rush of a new year, thinking about what is occupying the spaces in our lives is important. Sometimes life can feel empty, and it is okay to want to fill up the space. Sometimes life can feel too cluttered as well, and it is okay to want to make some room. The liminality of life is what makes moving forward so important—the space between can be where we find ourselves.

Sincerely,



MISSION TO MARS

The mission of *Mars’ Hill*, as the official student newspaper of Trinity Western University, is to inform and entertain its readers, cultivate awareness of issues concerning the TWU community, and provide a forum for purposeful, constructive discussion among its members in accordance with the Community Covenant, Statement of Faith, and Core Values of the University.

MARS’ HILL

Mars’ Hill encourages submissions and Letters to the Editor. *Mars’ Hill* reserves the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and compatibility with the Mission, the Statement of Faith, the Student Handbook, and the Core Values of the University. Anonymous authorship of any material may be granted at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. Opinions expressed in *Mars’ Hill* belong to the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, Trinity Western University, its officials or its Student Association.

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Declassifieds

Too scared to ask out that hot girl from Rels class? Have a thought you're dying to share? Did a professor say something strange or funny? Do you have some information that you want to get out to the student body? Whatever it is, the declassifieds are here for you.

Submit yours at www.marshallnewspaper.com/declassifieds.

Fight Club but it's just Bret van den Brink fist-fighting other English majors in the Frazer parking lot as they attempt to claim his title as Biggest Milton Fan

"Umm actually, Frankenstein is the name of the man, not the monster." UMM ACTUALLY, from a thematic standpoint, Dr. Frankenstein IS the monster.

Twusa calling their own coffee "delicious" on Instagram is really stretching the definition of delicious.

Guys, I'm eating junk and watching rubbish!

Move faster Pokey

Why is there lava in midair?

This is what you call... a paradigm shift

Slay baby slay

Ooh, a little bit of the bubbly

Guys dont skate on the pond... the ice is melting

Go to the conservative club

I ask myself sometimes, what would Crocodile Dundee do

Cute girl at swing dancing might ask her out

My New Year resolution is to use the phrase "cowa bunga" more

I wonder if anyone has ever called me a munch before *sighs*

Sometimes I close my eyes and let chat GPT take the wheel

It is what it issssss

Homie rizz

Zack Galloway for president

You guys think these political clubs will just end up becoming how we decide who is running for Twusa president

I am currently irked "You like jazz"

I think there should be a huge grad prank

When's the next twusa event

egg

Mars' Hill reserves the right to edit or reject submissions based on content and/or length. A printed submission does not reflect an endorsement of any kind, nor does it reflect the opinions of *Mars' Hill* or its staff, the student association, or Trinity Western University.



Feature

Start of the Year Survey

Diego Bascur and Sadie McDonald

The start of another year. I cannot help but look ahead and wonder what this new year holds for me. As time moves on, I am utterly transfixed by the progression of my life as I analyze what has been and what will be. Ultimately, I look ahead and conjure up the possibilities of 2024. A new semester is also upon us and, for some, it is the continuation of their first year of university: for others, it is just another semester. Mixed emotions always seem to fill the air of a second semester and a new year. It can be hard to navigate these feelings as well as focus on the “right now” rather than on the “what will be.”

We wanted to capture these emotions—these ponderings of what the year will bring—and what our student body is feeling about Trinity Western University

coming into this year. With this “Start of the Year Survey,” which includes 37 opinions, we hope to have done just that.

Here are some interesting takeaways we noticed:

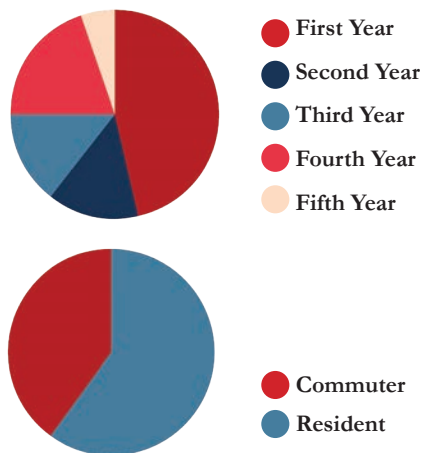
“Excited” and “nervous” were the most common answers to how students were feeling at the beginning of this year.

Many students are looking forward to building relationships this year, sunny weather, and working towards excelling in classes or graduating; however, many students are not looking forward to readings or final exams.

The majority of respondents want to see more events on campus.

With 12 different majors represented in this “Start of the Year Survey,” the feelings students have about the start of a new year are as varied as their disciplines. As the Spring 2024 semester is well underway, it can be easy to become overwhelmed by school and work obligations. Regardless of your feelings about New Year’s Resolutions, we hope that seeing opinions from the student body reminds you that it is okay to feel conflicted about the start of a new year. How we enter into 2024 does not have to be how we leave it. While scary, exciting, or even monotonous, entering a new year is a time of opportunity, and *Mars’ Hill* wishes you the very best.

Students Who Took the Survey:



What would you like to see more of from Mars’ Hill?

- Events, interactive days or workshops revolving around learning art, poetry etc
- Some real advice from students in different majors. Or even like a feature of students
- More marketing to your brand because I have never heard of it

What is something you are looking forward to or not looking forward to this semester?

- Looking forward to making more memories
- Looking forward to reading break
- Not looking forward to the final exams

Describe how you are feeling at the beginning of this year in one word?

- Excited
- Nervous
- Organized
- Motivated
- Apprehensive
- Peaceful
- Optimistic
- Stressed
- Calm

Is there anything you’d like to see changed or want to see more of here on campus this year?

- More all student involvement. Working on building stronger connections with spartan and commuter undergraduates.
- More events
- Inclusivity

Arts & Culture

Six Seasons and a Movie: The *Community* Movie Needs to be Good

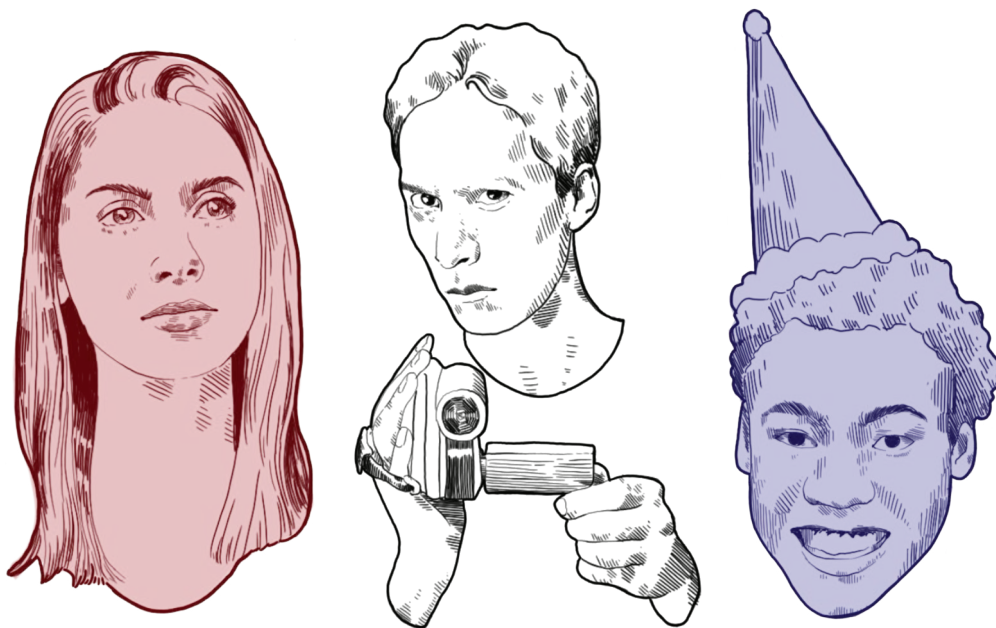
George-Philip Dumitrascu

Long awaited by fans and critics alike, the *Community* movie has been announced to be in production, with favourite characters reprising their roles nearly 10 years after the ending of the original show. The often repeated and joked “Six seasons and a movie!” phrase featured in the show can finally be fulfilled, but also reflects the fragile state of sitcoms and sitcom culture in modern day Hollywood, leading to one conclusion—the *Community* movie simply needs to be good, not just for its own franchise, but those which come after it.

Often ranked as one of the best sitcoms in television history, *Community* features the struggles, hijinks, and romances of Greendale Community College and the misadventures of six members of a Spanish study group. Praised for its meta humour, LGBTQ+ representation, and commentaries on television tropes and Hollywood, *Community* solidified itself as a rockstar of the sitcom world. Though

the show did indeed run for six seasons, it waned in quality, was filled with controversy, and destroyed friendships behind the scenes. The best example of the writing lacking in quality was season four, humorously dubbed as the ‘gas leak year’ by its characters as an in-universe nod towards the season’s weak story. It was by far the weakest season due to controversy behind the scenes with the show’s creator, Dan Harmon, who left the show after season three. He was known for being erratic, having sudden meltdowns, and for going head-to-head with Chevy Chase, who played Pierce, over his character’s racist comedy hurting his own image. This eventually led to Chevy Chase being fired and Dan Harmon being dropped by the network, leaving the writers to pick up the pieces of a show that had lost its creative lead. Though he returned for seasons five and six, the damage had been done, leaving many turning away entirely as the show’s familiar favourites on the cast dropped out one-by-one.

Despite the setbacks and weak viewership by the end of the show’s run, the creation of a *Community* movie was always an inside joke amongst fans, and one of the most meta jokes of all was the phrase “six seasons and a movie” within the show itself. The resilience of this movie’s creation is a triumph on its own, and the movie is still set to happen 10 years later. It needs to capture the magic of the original series, or it may risk the fate of other sitcoms of its kind. *Community* represents one of the most significant periods of television history. Though other sitcoms have taken up the meta style that *Community* had—most famously *Fleabag* and *Modern Family*—*Community* is a point in time that needs to be revisited to show that smart comedy still has a place for modern audiences, not just for nostalgic fans, but for new viewers who can experience the fascination of viewing a dysfunctional Spanish study group.



The Dark Knight (2008) Is Kind of A Silly Movie and I Love It

Bailey Froese

Warning: Spoilers for a movie that came out 16 years ago.

I have seen *The Dark Knight* (2008) over 30 times. It was my favourite movie for years and I practically know it line for line; therefore, I am confident in declaring myself to be an expert on the film. However, I am baffled by the many fellow fans who praise it for its grounding in realism. Yes, *The Dark Knight* is a comic-book adaptation, and compared to the mythos it is based on, it is practically a documentary. The world of Batman is far more ridiculous and fantastical than Christopher Nolan would have you believe. However, this movie has moments that remind its viewers how ludicrous the concept of a billionaire adopting a bat costume and punching criminals in the hopes of saving Gotham City and avenging his dead parents truly is.

Personally, I like my comic-book movies a little silly. Not silly as in “trying to be funny in a self-aware way” like the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but silly as in “a giant octopus is taking over the city, but let us take this as seriously as we would nuclear warfare.” I think accepting a goofy premise and taking it up to 11 allows room for genuine heart within that story. *The Dark Knight* is not quite this type of comic-book adaptation, but it has the sincere devotion to and awe of its source material that allows for moments like these selected favourites.

Harvey Dent’s fist of justice.

Harvey Dent is Gotham’s new District Attorney, which means he is a glorified lawyer. Comic book fans will recognize him as one of Batman’s most notorious foes: Two-Face. Harvey Dent’s first scene in the film is meant to show that he offers a real chance of renewal for Gotham, but that he also has potential to go down a darker path. And how does Christopher Nolan decide to show this? By having Dent punch out a witness who sneaks a gun into a courtroom. Forget the fact that this guy somehow got a gun into a courtroom post 9/11 (Gotham is basically run by the mafia); any lawyer who tried that in a U.S. court would be thrown out

(or worse). But no, the people in this courtroom just smile and applaud after Harvey caps off the moment with this line: “Ceramic 28 caliber. Made in China. If you want to kill a public servant, Mr. Maroni, I recommend you buy American.” Just goes to show you can get away with anything in America if you throw a little patriotism in.

The Joker’s networking skills.

The Joker, the main antagonist of this movie, is often surrounded by an entourage of goons in clown masks. Most villains keep a similar cast of henchmen throughout their films, but the Joker’s changes constantly because he keeps the life expectancy of his goons short. The opening scene shows the Joker’s henchmen killing each other during a bank heist because he told them to individually, and he later sews a phone rigged with explosives inside a goon’s stomach. Despite this, his crew retains similar numbers. Where does the Joker find these people? Does he post job openings on Indeed? This is 2008, so him having a social media presence like the Riddler in *The Batman* (2022) seems unlikely. How is he so successful at convincing people to work for him? Look at that yellow grin; he clearly is not offering his employees dental benefits.

The car chase.

The Joker tells Gotham that he will kill people until the day Batman reveals his identity, so Harvey Dent claims to be Batman during a press conference. The police cart him away in an armoured car while the Joker chases after them in an 18-wheeler. Batman pursues them both in one of the best cinematic car chases ever made, concluding with Batman flipping over said 18-wheeler (which was done practically with no CGI!). This presents a problem. Batman’s only rule as a vigilante is that he does not kill. He must have known that wrapping a grappling hook around an 18-wheeler and flipping it over meant possibly killing those inside. The Joker is the only person seen getting out of the car, so it is possible that Batman actually did kill several henchmen inside, especially because the side doors were open. Then he goes out of his way to avoid hitting the Joker with his motorcycle on the street. Does this make sense? No.

Is flipping an 18-wheeler with practical effects such an excellent conclusion to an already tense car chase that I will ignore this? Absolutely.

Harvey’s other face.

Harvey Dent gets his villain moniker from having the left side of his face burned. This version of the character is scarred after being locked in a room with gasoline and explosives in a convoluted plot by the Joker to drive Harvey over the edge. In this supposedly realistic version of the Batman mythos, Harvey Dent’s burns look more like the aftermath of a zombie bite. In one shot, he takes a drink and some of it spills out of the hole in his neck. Look up pictures of facial burns caused by anything and you will find nothing resembling what Harvey has in this movie. He can also speak clearly despite missing half of his lips. To test this, I pinched half my lips shut and tried to say his lines. Thankfully, I do not have a roommate.

The hospital scene.

After killing Harvey’s fiancé and scarring his face, the Joker decides to pay Harvey a visit at the hospital to, for lack of a better description, convince him to join the dark side. He sneaks in by dressing up as a nurse. Not just a regular male nurse, the kind that wears scrubs and definitely existed in 2008—he wears a retro nurse’s dress and a bobbed wig while still wearing clown makeup. Yes, the hospital is a little distracted because the Joker threatened to blow it up, but no one notices someone in full clown makeup and drag sneaking in? Also, how does the Joker know that Harvey will respond to this trauma by turning evil? This is his whole plan, and it works. I have a theory that Harvey and the Joker went to high school together and Harvey was a bully back then. Later, the Joker finds out that Harvey is the DA and thinks “Really? That guy? He used to take my lunch money. I am going to show the world what a jerk he is.”

The line everyone forgets.

The Dark Knight is filled with memorable lines. Some of them are incredible, some of them sound good but fall apart upon greater thought, and some are . . . a little silly. My favourite terrible line



comes during Batman and the Joker's final showdown. The Joker has Batman pinned to the ground on a ledge and asks him if he wants to hear the story of how he got his smile-shaped scars (the Joker loves telling people many different versions of this story). Batman replies, "No . . . but I know how you got these!" Then he shoots a weapon from his gauntlet at the Joker's face. This scene sounds like something I would make up for a humour article, but it really happens. Christopher Nolan wrote that exchange of dialogue, examined it, and decided it fit into this supposedly serious film.

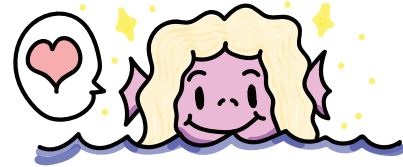
I believe that a Batman movie is not a Batman movie until something silly happens. No Batman movie is complete without an army of penguins with jetpacks stealing Gotham's firstborn sons, the Riddler singing "Ave Maria," or a can of Bat-Shark-Repellent. The inherent theatricality of Batman inspires directors and artists to let their freak flag fly, and not even Christopher Nolan can escape that legacy.

Ask Alexis: How do I handle the transition into 2024?

Alexis Stephen

As we transition into spring, we must go through the months of January and February, arguably the gloomiest months of the year. Second semester begins and everything feels so constricting, as due dates seem to come faster and the assignments appear harder. It feels as though there is limited time, making us forget what is truly important. The start of January is hopeful and exciting—we implement changes in our well-being with new resolutions. Are these resolutions realistic? Yes, and no. Yes, because over time you can change your routine, a habit, or even a negative pathway in your brain, which is inspiring. No, because this takes time, consistency, and effort. A focus on discipline over motivation is essential for resolutions, as motivation is not consistent without discipline. The problem with New Year's resolutions is that we expect them to be a quick fix, somehow increasing our well-being instantly, but when this does not happen, we get discouraged. These resolutions are usually individually-focused during some of the loneliest times of the year.

Loneliness is a silent but threatening feeling, one that everyone is affected by at some point. As winter makes us want to isolate and our social interactions decrease, our well-being may also suffer. With this heightened focus on our resolutions, sometimes we do not recognize how those around us are dealing with the same transitions we may be, or if they are struggling. Yes, it is important to pause and be aware of how we may be contributing to our own well-being and health, but I think



we need to take a long look at how those around us are doing. Positive psychology research shows us that acts of kindness, generosity, social connections, gratitude, and forgiveness all promote our well-being much more than the reputation or material things we strive to attain. There are people around us truly grieving or suffering; the holidays can dredge up pain of the past, and they may need someone to simply listen or just be around. Maybe this is how you feel, and it is frustrating that everyone else is too self-involved to notice, but sometimes people are simply oblivious. Asking for help is difficult, but others may need reminding of what you are experiencing. In the long run, it will help your well-being to have a good support system.

Transitioning into the new year can be an extremely hopeful, confusing, or even grief-filled time. After all, there is a lot we have left in the past year. Resolutions are supposed to be inspiring and ways to better ourselves, but they tend to be short-lived and have little impact on us because other areas of our life may need more attention at this specific time. Focusing on something we need to "fix" takes away from appreciating what we have and those around us. Do not get me wrong; bettering ourselves physically and emotionally is not a bad thing, but at times it can become obsessive and do more harm than good. In such an individualistic society, as we transition into this new year, it is time to focus on the loneliness that surrounds us, and spend quality time with others—to help them and then ourselves.

Artist Spotlight

Simon Shackelford

Katie Vermeulen

“Simon Shackelford is an artist who doesn’t take himself too seriously, but makes seriously good art. Inspired by cartoon legends like *Calvin and Hobbes* and *Schoolhouse Rock*, his illustrative pieces exude a fun, childlike wonder. While this sense of playfulness weaves throughout his work, his interests in art history and critical theory ensure that his creations are both grounded and insightful. He has exercised a more serious approach in his surrealist paintings, exploring subjects like identity, grief, and heritage. As an individual, Simon embodies this balance between lightheartedness and intentionality in his own personality. Beyond visual art, he is passionate about cooking (particularly pizza), music history, and hopes to road trip across the United States as soon as possible.” - Christa Lyford, TWU class of 2024

A conversation with fourth year Art & Design major, Simon Shackelford

MH: Hey Simon, where are you from?

SS: I’m originally from the greater Chicago area. People hear ‘out of Chicago’ and they think of suburbs, but it’s a pretty urban industrial area.

MH: What was it like growing up there?

SS: There were actually a lot of abandoned industrial buildings, which was fun. I didn’t grow up in the best area, but my parents made many financial sacrifices so I could go to a Christian school with a great art program in the suburbs. That’s where I met one of the most influential people of my life, my high school art teacher. I still play dungeons and dragons with him, actually.

MH: No way, that’s sick. What about his classes were so impactful for you?

SS: Shoutout Shawn McCallum. He really aligns with how I like to go about work: experimentation comes first, good ideas come second. He’s also a goofy guy through and through. It’s true to his process as well—to have an attitude of playfulness. He would walk around [in] a handstand during class, stuff like that.

MH: What! He would walk [in] a handstand during class? That’s so fun.

SS: [Laughs] You know, when the blood rushes to the head like that, you might get some good ideas. He would cook us pancakes and host ‘Saturday Morning Art Tunes’ in his classroom. My class would hang out with cartoons up on the projector and work on class projects. We were allowed to be a bunch of nerdy art students there. It was such a gift.

My duties as his TA during his free period were to brew him a cup of coffee and drink the rest of the pot. We’d talk about art, God, American art, manga, different comics, everything. The biggest impact was that he treated us like peers; he had this mindset that “young people have insights to share that I don’t have.”

MH: Inspiring. When did art start for you? Was it in his class or before that?

SS: In Kindergarten, I drew this big green pirate ship with 15 different masts and purple water. Mrs. Dickinson, my Kindergarten teacher, was like “Simon, this is one of the best drawings I’ve gotten from my students. So imaginative. It’s so fun. I can tell it’s part of your interests.” I still like pirates to this day. I remember hanging it up on the wall and realizing, ‘This is my thing.’

I was a pretty shy kid. I would connect by drawing out the silly ideas of my peers. My favourite moments would be showing someone’s ideas visualized. They would laugh or be like, “Oh, that’s weird, doesn’t look quite right.” Any feedback was exciting to me, because it was a way of having a conversation.

MH: Who do you look up to in the art world?

SS: When I found out that my great uncle was the lead animator for *Schoolhouse Rock*, he became my North Star. I was serious as a kid, I remember thinking ‘successful cartooning is in my blood.’

MH: Why did you choose TWU’s Art Program?

SS: During a Preview Weekend, I bumped into this art student named Calvin Bergen. I asked him about the art program, [and] he said: “Our studio? Not impressive. We don’t have the best facilities. We don’t have ceramics. We don’t have printmaking. We don’t have a darkroom. But if you want to paint, if you want to draw...you’ll

have some of the best professors. Small class sizes means professors have the time to actually invest in you as a person. As an artist I see my art professors as friends and mentors that have also encouraged me in my faith.” I applied and here I am. Much cheaper than state school.

MH: Cartoon sketches being your focus, what was it like exploring other mediums?

SS: I explored acrylic paint, charcoal studies, and leaned into digital design from the young age of 14. Throughout my degree, I shunned fine art, though I learned to like it and was being complimented on my work. I fell away from cartooning and burnt myself out trying to be something I’m not. I quickly realized approval is not enough to continue. Frankly, there’s marketable art, and there’s not so marketable art. I have no desire to live out that myth of the artist who died before he got his recognition. I want to be successful and make money off of the hard work I’m doing. My favourite type of art wasn’t showing up in the market. I was close to dropping out at one point.

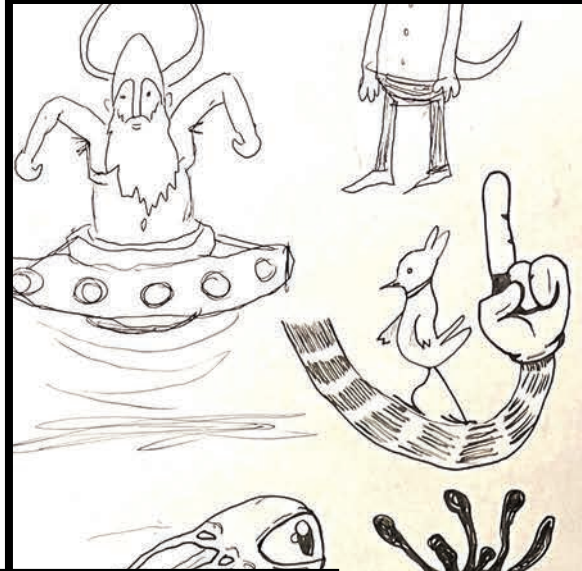
MH: What revived your love for art?

My project called *Scroll of Consciousness*. My art teacher, Russel, talked me through feeling stuck and I came up with this project to draw on a 50m piece of paper all the cartooning ideas that came to me. I put it into a paper towel dispenser to reflect how I thought my ideas were crap in comparison to what was marketable—my ideas dispensing to be torn, crumpled up, and thrown into the trash. That was a month ago and it brought me full circle and back into my love for cartooning.

The beautiful thing is returning to how it all started. It was drawing whatever pops into my head—whatever silly thing. That was the whole point. It wasn’t about trying to make something marketable. It wasn’t trying to be a painter, it wasn’t trying to be a designer, it was just being a kid who loved cartoons and wanted to make people laugh. And so I realigned with that creative place.

I was actually lagging behind on this project when I got into a terrible car accident. Blessing in disguise—I couldn’t look at screens with my concussion, so all my school work was put to the side except this drawing project I was behind on.

Check out more of Simon's work!



MH: What's a dream project of yours?

SS: To live vicariously through musicians. I'd love to be an in-house designer for a record label. I would love to preview new music and then be inspired to visualize other people's creative ideas.

MH: What are your favourite songs at the moment?

SS: "(Sitting On) the Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding. "Everything is Embarrassing" by Sky Ferreira and "Linoleum" by NOFX.

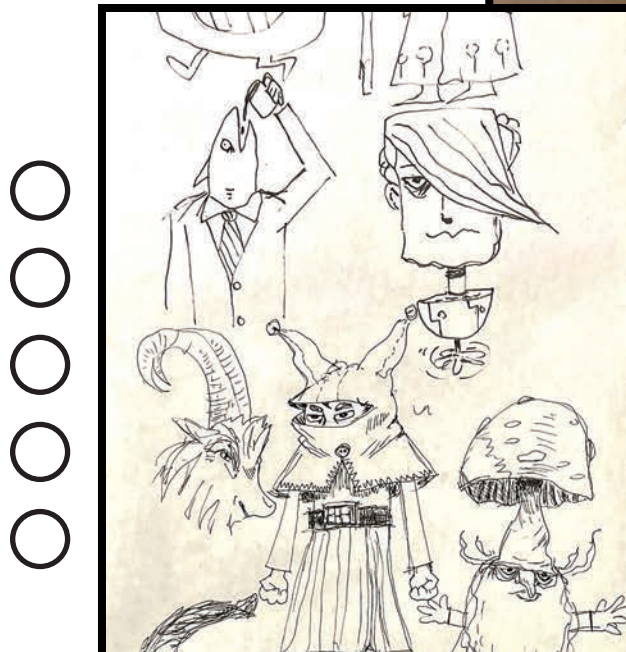
MH: What is your favourite food?

SS: [My] favourite food to cook is Carne Asada. I grew up in a dominantly Mexican community, so Mexican food is a big part of my love for cooking. [My] favourite to eat is probably a dipped Italian beef sandwich.

MH: What does the word 'Liminal' mean to you?

SS: I associate the word with a faint suggestion of a passage to a world beyond. This can also take a literal form in documenting passages that take us places [such as] doorways, stairways, and so on. Artists sometimes are referencing a subject that exists beyond our normal perception. This may be a spiritual being or a hidden narrative behind everyday things we encounter.

MH: Thank you so much for sharing with us Simon!



Community Living

Trinity Western University Represented At The Global Peace Summit: A Sit-Down Interview With Jeremy Joosten, Rea Klar, And Marko Zolotarov

Diego Bascur

This January, three Trinity Western University students had the opportunity to travel to Bangkok, Thailand to be delegates at the third annual Global Peace Summit presented by Humanitarian Affairs. I had the opportunity to sit down with Jeremy Joosten (President of TWUSA), Rea Klar (FNAS Representative), and Marko Zolotarov (VP of Student Relations) to learn more about their recent trip.

Kim Solomon because he was attending the UN at the World Trade Center on 9/11. He was inspired by the different people in the community who helped out and pulled people out of the rubble—people who *weren't* members of the UN, fire department, or police officers. These people were just genuine people who wanted to make a difference in the world. This inspired Kim Solomon to start Humanitarian Affairs, whose main purpose is to empower young leaders like ourselves, ages 18 to 30, to go to the UN to be equipped with skills to advocate for peace locally, nationally, and internationally. That's the purpose of the peace conference: to meet other passionate speakers, some who survived the Rwandan genocide, the Cambodian genocide (which is ongoing), and a Holocaust survivor as well. These inspiring voices showed that the only way you can make a difference—the only way you can make the world a better place—is to start with your voice and your own story. And I think that's one of the biggest takeaways from it.

RK: Every attendee is given the title of *delegate* and *peace ambassador*. Delegates play a vital role in mobilizing peace efforts and fostering inclusivity and harmony within societies. We get to join a “cohort of peace ambassadors” from around the world and we all unite in their mission to create a more peaceful future. During the summit, we

have the opportunity to lead initiatives in humanitarian affairs, inspire other young leaders, and actively engage in peacebuilding endeavors.

MZ: At the summit itself, there are 47 nations represented from all around the

world. It was a great opportunity to talk about global peace and then have conversations, ask questions, and hear different perspectives on what peace means. I think that's the beauty of the democratic world that we have: this opportunity to discuss, to hear each other out, and make an impact as we try to be united together.

MH: How did you three get this opportunity?

MZ: The Centre for Calling and Career Development (CCCD) was the initiator. They got an email asking for seven delegates from TWU that they could nominate for this trip. I was the first to get this email. I applied and started talking with Melanie Olfert, whom I'm very, very thankful for. I got accepted and emailed Dr. Husbands about funding me for the trip to which he agreed and suggested it would be better if more than just one person went to represent TWU. That's how Jeremy and Rea applied as well.

JJ: So I applied, not thinking that anything would come out of it. But then I got accepted. A few weeks later, a month and a half after Marko applied, I found out Rea was applying as well. I thought, “*Well, let's see if we can find a way to go together to represent TWU.*” Now we're hoping to launch this every year. We are putting together the pieces to make it a possibility for all students to apply through the CCCD. So, if anyone is reading this and wants to apply, talk to the CCCD now.

RK: Marko reached out to me because I attended the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt this past November. He wanted to know how I was funded. That's how I came into contact with Melanie. She had known about my COP 27 experience and urged me to apply. Within one day of



MH: So, what is this conference and what does it mean for the UN as well as the world?

JJ: Humanitarian Affairs, a subdivision of the United Nations (UN), was started by

[submitting my] application, I was also accepted by the UN Humanitarian Affairs.

MH: So, from that point on, you guys worked together to plan this trip. How did you prepare individually and as a group for this major conference?

JJ: [We sat and planned] what it would look like for the three of us to go and find ways to not represent ourselves, but TWU as a whole. We wanted to set the stage for TWU students to follow this path and have the opportunity to represent TWU on an international stage. Individually, we each reached out to Dr. Husbands and asked what would it look like to represent a private Christian university at the UN, which is highly secular. We talked to TWU marketing professionals. We had meetings with them once a week, prepping with different groups, such as Public Relations, marketing, and Andrew Baptist from the campus store, who was a huge support. We were sent a book from Dr. Husbands called *How to Reach the West Again* by Timothy Keller, which was about how to interact with your faith in the secular world. [There was] a lot of educational training and a whole bunch of emails.

“We had to navigate: how can we express our love for Christ in a secular environment? How can we bridge the gap between politics and faith? How can we develop a community where we can freely express our faith and also invite other faiths into the conversation?”

RK: As a collective and even individually, what was important was spiritually grounding ourselves; with this opportunity globally, we got to represent a Christian university. We had to navigate: how can

we express our love for Christ in a secular environment? How can we bridge the gap between politics and faith? How can we develop a community where we can freely express our faith and also invite other faiths into the conversation? I received a lot of prayer even after our *Global News* interview; we got together and we prayed. It was just [about] leaving all of these ideas, projects, and opportunities in the hands of the Lord—letting *Him* lead us. [When looking]... at the probability of the three of us even being [selected as] leaders out of 350 delegates, [we see that] the Lord delivered us over and over, leading to Jeremy’s fantastic opportunity to give a speech in front of the entire conference.

MZ: We knew that this would be a great networking opportunity. The three of us have already been representing TWU students in different communities outside of the university. We [talked] about being ready and preparing ...so that people remember[ed] that we were from TWU. We’re thankful to the campus store that we collaborated with [for giving] us 60 coasters that we gave out to the organizers of the event, as well as the guest speakers and delegates from the conference that we connected with.

MH: It sounds like an impactful environment to be in with young leaders who are dealing with real-world conflicts. What are some exciting initiatives that were pointed out to you three during the conference? What are you hoping to take back to TWU—both individually and for the school—and how can we be more impactful around the globe?

JJ: I think one of the biggest takeaways was during day two. I was looking around the conference and I told one of my fellow delegates: “If you told me that we were in British Columbia, more specifically at TWU right now, with no other context, I would believe you because 47 countries represent TWU’s demographic population almost perfectly.” This shined a light on the fact that we have the capability as an international Christian university to make a difference in the world. All it takes is a single voice...to foster a mindset of growth and involvement in the world because we’re starting to get more and more connected with these issues. I think our generation is more than capable of making a positive difference. As far as initiatives, the three of us are hoping to launch (with the help of TWU) an inter-

national chapter that brings together different universities from around the world to talk about peace and to [put together diverse perspectives to] provide creative solutions. So far, we have delegates from eight different countries who have agreed to go on Zoom calls once a month, not just to speak about peace, but to speak about the day *after* peace. What are we going to do when it’s been reached? How are we going to sustainably achieve that? With that ideology, we’re hoping to make this global peace council last until 2030.

RK: The world has truly never had a generation more culturally, socially, and globally connected than our generation. I truly believe that it is *our* generation that is chosen to make a positive impact in the world. I believe a peaceful world is our future. Being Canadian—[living in] a mosaic of nations, cultures, and belief systems—that we can accurately and effectively represent the world. Coming from such a global university, I urge you all to take advantage of these opportunities because [we are privileged to be] Canadian and it is our responsibility and duty to help the underprivileged.

MZ: [It is about] the power of conversation. We live in a privileged, developed country with democratic values that other countries might look up to. What happened to the power of conversation—hearing other voices and opinions that you disagree with, but can hear out and find a way [to] coexist together, or even live together? I think, from our experience, as an institution and as a country politically, [this] has been a big challenge in the past. We have this great opportunity to actually bring those conversations back instead of villainizing each other. We can ...try to find ways to live together. I think that’s fundamental and that’s the opportunity that our generation has. We realize it, and all of us understand it, but it is hard. However, it’s worth it. It’s worth doing it.

After this interview, I was encouraged to hear of fellow students with an opportunity to be a part of such global initiatives and the ability to push for a more peaceful world. Their experiences should be seen as an encouragement to us all, and a reminder of the enormous impact we can all have. With this being a stepping stone for TWU on the global stage, the responsibility of our Christian university is and should always be to represent the Christian faith in the world.

Art Club

Joelle Nelson

I know how you feel. Stressed. There are too many things going on. Academic obligations, extracurricular obligations, life obligations—it never ends. What if I told you there is a place on campus to go that is free of obligations? A place to simply exist and create things.

Trinity Western University recently opened a new Art Club. You can find them on Instagram @artclubtwu. The RNT art studio (Room 128) is open every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. for drawing and painting. All supplies are provided. Some Thursdays have an organized activity and other evenings are open for freestyle art. No one is required to say that they will show up. You can just come. Even if you only come once or you have zero art experience, you are welcome. The doors will be open with chill music playing. The purpose of Art Club is for people to make things without feeling obliged. You can start a project one week, put it away, and not think about it until the following week.

The Art Club was started by Maria Ocon. She was always passionate about art but started as a biology major in her first year. Maria loved biology, but there were too many labs, and she never had the time or

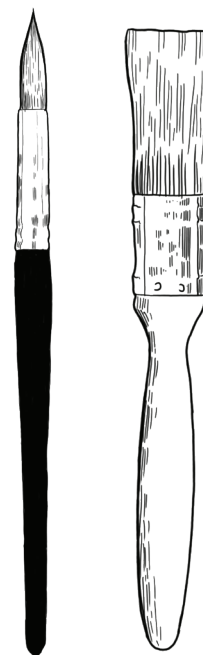
space to do art. Her desire to make things was so prevalent that she became increasingly depressed that year. She felt like she was not fulfilling her life's purpose. Maria eventually switched her major to art. She wishes she could still do biology or that it were possible to do both, but now she feels like she is pursuing her purpose as an artist.

People need an outlet and intentional breaks. We have little time as university students to get away from obligations, yet it is easy to fill our breaks with the consumption of media and TV shows which do not fulfill us. "I think part of that desire for a break," said Maria, "can be healed by contributing to making things. For me, rest is about taking a break from consuming. I think there is something holy about making things." People who come to the Thursday art evenings either want a brain break or they want to make something. This is an opportunity for students who cannot afford to take an art class to stop by the art studio and create something that makes them happy. In art, says Maria, "We are modeling what we are making based on God the Creator and participating in the role God gave us as beings made in God's image." That is what Maria means by an artistic space be-

ing something that is holy. Art has a way of bringing people together in a shared space where people can come as they are.

"I think part of that desire for a break can be healed by contributing to making things." - Maria Ocon

The Art Club is still a new presence on campus and they are looking for a social media manager. If you are interested in doing that or interested in being a core member, you can reach out to them on Instagram or talk to them in-person on a Thursday night. The core team meets once a week to discuss ideas and activities. There is no requirement to be on the team, you just have to be passionate about art. They also take ideas for the club from participants. This semester is going to focus on acrylic painting, so come and try it out!





Bible Reflection

Maria Peers



Liminal space. That is what January is. Christmas and New Year's Eve have passed. January is a cold month that is void of celebration, yet full of anticipation. It is the dividing line between what was and what is to come. We set resolutions and come up with ways to better ourselves—physically and academically. But let us be real. A lot of us have relationships on our minds.

Maybe this is the year I will get a boyfriend/girlfriend.

Maybe this is the year we will be engaged.

This is the year we will get married and start our happily ever after.

Then what? It is all overwhelming. The future crowds in and makes liminal spaces scary. Who gave the future permission to invade the present and tell us who we should be and how we should live? Our anticipation for the future creates a buzz of anxiety.

In the Bible, God calls us to be still: “Be still, and know that I am God” (*New International Version*, Psalm 46:10). What if it were possible to put all that buzzing to rest even when the future is unknown? It is possible to surrender the future into God's hands. We can order all that relational anticipation into a deeper desire for relationship with Him, who is the source of Love.

The relationship ideals we place on ourselves are just that: ideals. If you are worried about who you will be in the future and who you will be with, then put a pause on that. Who are you today?

Are you single? Praise the Lord. Your liminal space allows you more time to get to know who you are and to find your identity in God. Are you in a relationship? Praise the Lord. There is another person in your liminal space. You are likely plan-

ning your life with them. Bring God into those decisions and deepen the spiritual intimacy in your relationship. Are you in a situation or has your heart been broken? Praise the Lord and lean on Him. He will bring you through these trials and rebuild your heart anew.

**“Be still, and know that I am God”
(New International Version, Psalm 46.10).**

In all seasons of life, be still. Your liminal space is a sacred space where God, who knows your every desire, desires to be known.

Opinions

A Response to *Mars' Hill* vs. Meta

Ming Tang

In a previous issue of *Mars' Hill*, Diego, Sadie, and George wrote an important article about Bill C-11. To briefly recap, Bill C-11 is a bill about censoring Canadian media and expecting Canadian content makers to meet the requirements that the Canadian government imposes. Why is the government trying to censor Canadian media and manipulate digital content and content creators? What are they really expecting from this law?

Critically speaking, what the government wants is control of the media; control can be earned through the loophole of ambiguous language. This is not a law for the benefit of humanity. It is a law that is purposely made *for* and *by* the rich—for the corporate giant to abuse the blurred meaning of the words. The implication that is created is sufficient for the rich and the CEOs to accuse others by saying “That is against Bill C-11.” For example, the prohibition from the government can be noticed in our community, when *Mars' Hill's* Instagram page was inaccessible. The government can sue content creators or mould information for their financial gain.

Bill C-11 may be a law made to diminish

the power of Canadian content creators. Social media like YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook allow ordinary people with skills to easily become notable. The government is afraid of the authoritative and financial power these creators possess and is trying to take control of their power. The government is wrapping up this law as though it were designed to benefit Canadian content makers, when in reality, the powerful know what they are doing. They knowingly made the law ambiguous with unreasonable standards for manipulation over the content creators.

I am arguing that the Canadian government is situating people like rats in a cardboard box, taking away the freedom of and access to the press, which disables people's awareness of their surroundings in Canada. With no format to blame or critique social problems, citizens become vulnerable to attack due to a lack of available knowledge.

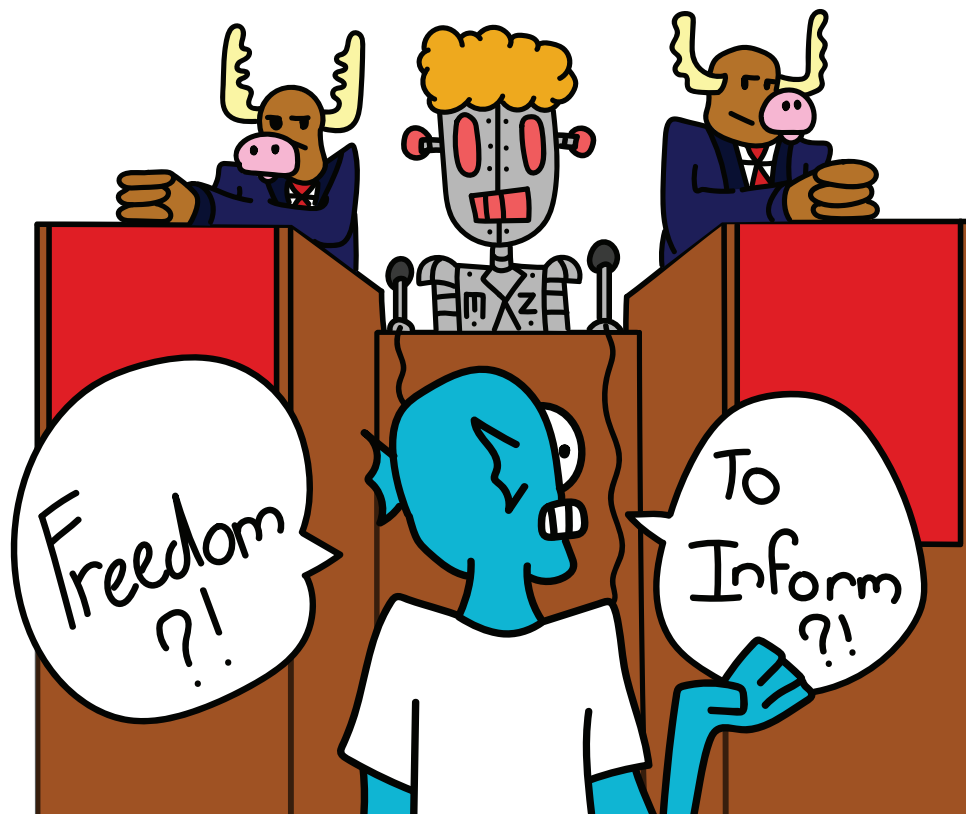
The government knows that it is difficult to measure up to the regulations they put on content creators. It *seems* like they are trying to promote Canadian content creators. The government's standards may appear to be logical, but in reality they are

a means to abuse their law and push the agenda for their gain.

If it is the news and media that Parliament is targeting, *Mars' Hill* could survive by changing its platform. *Mars' Hill* could run under a different format—and a different name—which would still be *Mars' Hill* in its essence, but would not appear to be a newspaper. It could involve the arts, music, and more unorthodox or informal forms of journalism such as unprofessional social media sites or meme pages to avoid being the target of censorship.

Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada stated that the bill was intended to cover “professional series, films, and music.”

If *Mars' Hill* became less professional on purpose, valuing ideas over professionally-written language, it could be a new way to manipulate the loophole of Bill C-11. Combating the loophole with a loophole can be a way to effectively overthrow the corruption of the government. As it has been said before, “When they go low, we go high,” but I am proposing that “When they go high, we go low.”





Wait for Iceland

Jackson Letsche

It is not a place on many bucket lists, has the northernmost capital city in the world, and is home to the midnight sun, glaciers, and hot springs alike. Is it a good place to vacation? For a college kid, maybe wait until a little later on. Let me explain.

I traveled to Iceland and Scotland over winter break this year as a university student, and as it turns out, an island on the Arctic Circle is a pretty expensive place to be. I do not know if that comes as a shock to you, but there is more to it than just being a cold island that has to import nearly all of its goods. Iceland had an economic collapse in the late 2000s, leading the Icelandic Króna to be worth only one Canadian cent today.

As such, the entire country has no McDonald's. It is too expensive to import the needed ingredients, although one of the museums *does* have the last McDonald's meal to be made on the island, which is remarkably preserved without much decay.

Aside from the economics, what is the actual country like? There are two sides to the island, and they vary pretty signifi-

cantly. The first is the city. There are more than one, but the only one that is of any notable size or that can be reached in a reasonable amount of time and money is the capital city of Reykjavik, a 45-minute bus ride from the international airport in the city of Keflavik. The city itself is rather small in comparison to our North American cities, and you can walk across the city in around an hour, which is great for a budget trip. The only problem is that there is not much to do. A big basalt church, the Hallgrímskirkja, dominates the skyline, but beyond that, the standard tourist-y stores and painfully unnotable architecture fill out the rest of the capital.

That is where the end of the college-friendly part of Iceland lies: a small and largely uninteresting city, and even that is expensive to shop or eat in. But then again, people would be far more interested in the natural beauty of the island than the city. That is why people go, to see the northern lights, waterfalls, and volcanoes. Unfortunately, those are all tough to get to on a budget. The lagoons, waterfall trips, and loops around the island are all expensive, particularly because the island has essentially rebranded itself as a tourist location in recent years.

This is also where time of year comes into play. I went at the end of December and the beginning of January, the darkest and coldest part of the year. Sunrise is at 11:30 a.m. and sunset is only five hours later. Keep in mind that this is not a midday where the sun is overhead. Rather, the sun barely scrapes over the mountains on the horizon to splash some light on the frozen, volcanic wasteland before retreating behind the mountains once again.

In the summer, the opposite is true. The sun bathes the land in golden light all day, and the wastelands come alive with grass that was suffocated by the harsh conditions of winter. I have been told it is a very different experience.

So then, it is time to make a final call. Would I recommend Iceland? If you are going there to immerse yourself in a deeply cultural and urban experience, no. There are so many better places to do that. Conversely, if you are going to look at the dramatic landscapes, I would suggest you do it in the summer, and make sure you are well-funded for the trip.

Wandering But Never Lost

Kate Roxburgh

“What are your plans after school?” This is the ear-squeaking question that haunts most graduating students. From family members and friends to sometimes professors, there is no escape. For some, this question is very easy to answer, but for others, there can be a haunting sensation to it, as not everyone knows exactly what it is they want to do once they walk across that stage.



“There seems to be this idea in today’s society, especially at [TWU], where people expect after you graduate, that you get a job and you work full time,” says alumna Aliya Coy. “For those who don’t have an answer for what it is they plan on doing, you might regularly get the follow up question of, ‘what did you get a degree for if you’re not sure what you’re going to do with it?’”

Some of you might remember Aliya for her quick feet and swift moves out on Chase Office Field. The now-graduated outside-back from our TWU women’s soccer team finds herself on the other side of the world in Belanglo, Australia. Graduating from TWU in the fall of 2022 with a degree in Business and Communications, Aliya, right out the gate, was offered “the best job opportunity [she] could have asked for. It was a really great company with amazing corporate culture. The work was good and the money was really good, but [she] ended up turning it down.”

Aliya explained that she was not 100 percent sure that job was something she really wanted to do with her life. “You have to look within yourself to see what God put in there; you don’t have to do what everyone else is doing. I felt guilty, because that opportunity is what a lot of people want and pray for... I have it, but I don’t want it.”

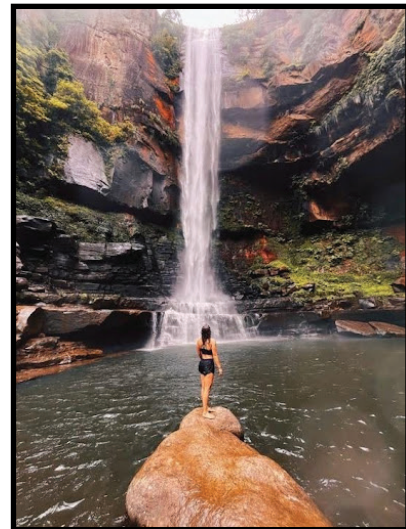
Love and passion for the game of soccer has taught Aliya many life lessons along with taking her all over the world. From a young age, it was Aliya’s dream to one day play professional soccer. In her fifth year as a Spartan, Aliya suffered from a brain bleed which took her off the field nearing the end of the 2021 season. Though her doctors delivered the news that she probably would not be able to play soccer again, Aliya worked harder than ever to return for a sixth and final season in the fall of 2022.

“After I left [TWU], I had let go of my dream a little bit. I had always wanted to play professional soccer but because of my head injury, I gave up on that dream, even though the passion is still there.” The past few months, Aliya has been exploring the idea that it is OK not to have a plan or to know exactly what it is you are going to do. Right now, she expresses how happy she is with her decision to move, leave everything, and see where God takes her. “When I was telling people about my plan of going to Australia, close people in my life, who I expected to be encouraging, were just so not for it, and that really shocked me.”

Standing firm in her faith, Aliya spent a lot of time asking, “God, where are you leading me? Point me in any direction.” He put on my heart Australia and I had no idea why. There were nerves and

uncertainties, but I knew God was not going to abandon me, so I bought a plane ticket.” After getting her visa approved, Aliya packed her bags, and off she went, full of both excitement and fear. Upon arriving in Australia, Aliya spent some time travelling around and exploring some of Australia’s top destinations. What better place to experience the warm water, soak in some sun, and be the social butterfly that Aliya is, than on the iconic Bondi Beach?

Full circle moments can be the ones that catch us off guard. Believing God will work out His plan for your life takes a lot of trust, patience and sometimes even risk. Aliya, still having that soccer



fire burning inside, saw a few young men juggling a soccer ball a ways down from where she had secured a spot on the very busy beach. Her excitement won the internal battle of resisting to go jump in.

With confidence and a smile on her face, Aliya walked over to the group of guys, introduced herself and asked to play. “There was a bit of hesitation, but they taught me the game they were playing, which I got right away. It was so much fun.” They quickly realized that Aliya wasn’t just some random person at the beach but an ‘actual baller.’ “The guys mentioned [that] they played for the semi-professional team in Sydney, [and] knowing the women’s side of the club needed more players, the guys said they could set me up with the manager.”

Stunned, Aliya didn't know what to say. "I was like...is this an opportunity happening right in front of my face?" A short three weeks later, Aliya was invited to try out and play a game with the semi-pro team. "The amount of freedom and liberation soccer gives me is crazy, and to think, I never would have gotten the opportunity to play with this team if I didn't go over and ask to juggle with those guys" says Aliya. "When you're living a life going after whatever God has put in your heart, it will open so many doors for you without you even noticing. If I hadn't come to Australia, there would be so many things I would have missed out on."

Somewhere from the scary decision to move across the world and leave everything behind sprouted the most random but amazing opportunity. Aliya is now living and working on a farm just outside Sydney. The semi-pro season starts in March, where Aliya is hoping to play and see if that lost dream of hers can be brought back to life. "Life is so much bigger than an office job and living a 9-5. I've done that. I've had the office job; I've had the 9-5 and it felt like I was selling my soul to something that was not worth it."

In closing, I hope that Aliya's story brings some peace and a little bit of hope to those graduating students who don't yet have an answer to what they are going to do in the next chapter of their life. There is a whole world out there, and for Aliya, she has discovered that it is OK to not know what is next. For students who find themselves struggling to uncover this reality in an environment where there is pressure to have your life planned out, this is Aliya's message: "There's absolutely nothing in this world that I wouldn't trust in God's hands, so why would I not trust His hands with my future. You have passions and gifts that are given to you from God, and nothing in this world could be more valuable than being able to use those to the best of your ability to further God's Kingdom. Don't settle for what society tells you life is."



The Space Between

Erin Vanderstelt

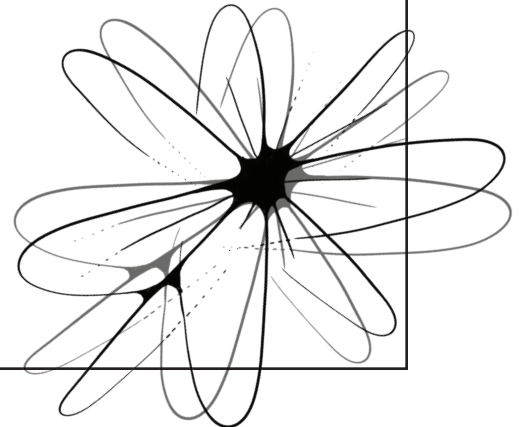
Now, this title does not mean anything about what comes after death, because that is an entirely different conversation. This is about waiting. "Liminal" has a few different meanings, and when searching through the *Oxford English Dictionary* for some definitions, I found these that worked for this conversation: "Of or relating to a transitional or intermediate state between culturally defined stages of a person's life, esp. as marked by a ritual or rite of passage; characterized by liminality" and "Characterized by being on a boundary or threshold, esp. by being transitional or intermediate between two states, situations, etc." These transitional waiting periods are what I want to focus on because, sometimes, waiting sucks.

Okay, so, liminal space—the space between—what is the point? No one really likes just sitting around, waiting for something to happen in life. I know people always say that *'patience is a virtue,'* but does that not just feel like something you would read in a fortune cookie? Instead of focusing on living *through* these transitional periods, why not focus on just living *in* them?

So, maybe take some of this time to rest, enjoy having fewer responsibilities, and take some time to discover new experiences. It can be like a mini-vacation for your brain. Learn more about yourself, reflect on the hard things you have been through, while also reflecting on the wonderful opportunities you have had in the past. See this time as a gift from God to shift your focus and reassess where your priorities lie. The space in-between can help give meaning to the spaces around it.

The ways in which you spend your free time—filling your liminal space—may be entirely different from the way others do so. There are a million little things trying to catch and cling onto our attention throughout the day, so pay attention to what exactly those little things are. If there are things that you discover or rediscover while enjoying the space between, that you feel bring meaning and hope to your life, embrace them and work at them. Maybe you have rediscovered your community and what they mean to you. You should work to make that a more present thing in your life. Identify these values, hold onto them, and let the rest fade into the background, embracing the beauty of possibility.

These liminal spaces can give you a chance for some self-discovery, growth, and resetting. Instead of idly waiting for the next chapter of your life, get into the present moment. You might find that these transitional times are not simply hallways you have to go through until you can get to the next cool room. Your destination may be unknown but embracing and celebrating liminality is like appreciating the scenic route. The uncertainty and thrill of not knowing exactly where you will end up might feel uncomfortable at times. You probably will not enjoy not having a clear plan and not knowing what God has in store for you around the corner. But that discomfort? It really is the birthplace of growth.



The Privilege of Emotional Indulgence

Emily Wiebe

Until around two years ago, I had spent my entire life without an ounce of fascination for any movie, art, poetry, or music that was not simple or easily emotionally accessible (and how I came to the other side of that is another story for another time). But now, I cannot get enough of finding some raw, emotional, controversial, stirring, or challenging film, having a quick little IMDb moment to situate myself, and then diving in to indulge in my emotions and escape

“To truly indulge in our feelings, we have to view their work as more than just an emotional hurdle; we have to understand the value of an artist’s ability to touch the stagnant areas of our soul.”

This is something that, in a recent revelation, I have discovered is a *privilege* that we all have as human beings: the ability to fully abandon our current state and get wrapped up within the subjectivity of someone *else’s* mind—whether poet, musician, playwright, actor, or director. In the throes of a personally challenging and transformational period of my life, I have found that immersing myself in a movie, journeying through its messages, and emotionally navigating its challenges has provided me with an unexpected amount of peace. I think this solace comes from the simple awareness of their existence; they exist not to torture us but, instead, to enlighten and accompany us. Even the most unpleasant emotions exist for the sole purpose of being felt and experienced by humanity.

When we stop putting up walls and resisting the discomfort of intense emotions, the mindset we require to approach

difficult movies begins to transform. This confidence shifts from relying on our own abilities to suppress uncomfortable emotions, to placing our full confidence in the filmmaker’s skill, judgement, and the necessity of their communication. To truly indulge in our feelings, we have to view their work as more than just an emotional hurdle; we have to understand the *value* of an artist’s ability to touch the stagnant areas of our soul. From engaging with a single movie, I have experienced profound levels of healing catharsis that are as agonisingly difficult as they are spiritually restorative. This change within me is because I finally found the courage to invest my soul into something with an equal magnitude of emotional intensity as my own firsthand experiences. Allow me to enlighten those of you who are interested in a little emotional indulgence of your own. Here are my top two recommended routes:

a) You can choose to watch something like *Schindler’s List* and gain a deep perspective of the insignificance of trivial issues compared to the vastness of both the horrors and realities of human history. (Note to self: I need to re-read *Man’s Search for Meaning* again ASAP. Foundations 102 did us a solid with that one.) Or similarly, you could choose something like *Marriage Story* or *The Pursuit of Happyness* and find yourself lost in the agony of the difficulties and complexities of the human experience. I always find that returning to the present and re-evaluating my own issues after a perspective shift like this is the most approachable way to work through the things I need to while still being kind to myself. As I painstakingly gain this new perspective, it feels like I am finally having my slate wiped clean of all the trivial emotional buildup that gets caked in the corners of my brain from my constant overthinking. These films are tough, but there is something to be said about reaping an emotional benefit by simply being vulnerable and open to what others feel compelled to communicate.

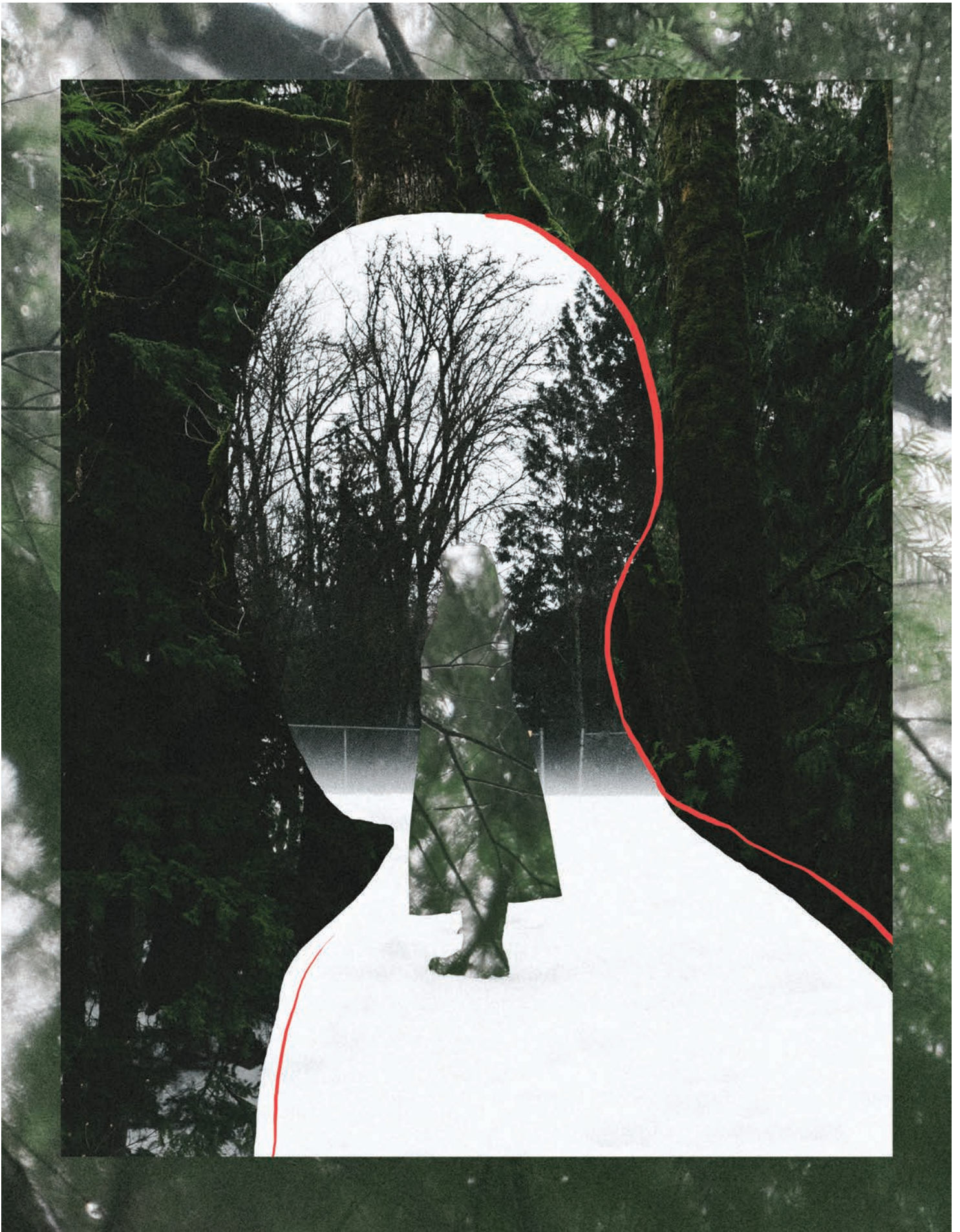
Or b) you could choose to watch something like *Frances Ha* or *Barbie* and be reminded of how much potential there is within life and within yourself. Movies like these always remind me of how wonderful the clunkiness of my 20s has been so

far, and how special it is to be a woman. And to be alive. And to be able to laugh with my friends. And to make mistakes and learn from them. Returning to my patterns and routine after a movie like one of these gives the much-needed validation (that the late twenties crowd all needs!) that we are all simply doing our best, and that I am actually doing pretty okay in this life.

Obviously, there are many other concepts you could journey through when it comes to the pieces of your soul that the finite, human mind cannot necessarily put into words. You could choose to journey through grief, hope, your own belief in true love, or the nature of the human experience; but it is all for naught if you do not take time to fan the flame of whatever has changed within you. It is like those photos on Facebook that your boomer aunt always shares: “once you see it you won’t be able to unsee it!” We all cringe for a moment, but then FOMO rears its ugly head and we start looking for the thing anyway. Lo and behold, it is *indeed* irreversibly spotted, forever ruining our mind’s original interpretation of that image.

Some films are like this, in that they are “unseeable.” Plot details may eventually fade from your memory like all the others, but their emotional impact remains present and poignant within your soul. I watched *The Boy in The Striped Pajamas* exactly one time over 10 years ago, and I can attest to the emotional mark left on me from the final scene of that movie. That is such an *honour*, though; one that we are given as finite bodies on this Earth. We have direct access to the sacred, the unchangeable, and the *infinite* within the realm of artistic expression. Do not just live your life and let your ability to *feel* go to waste. Instead, let it absolutely tear you apart and then show you the pieces that you are worthy of being rebuilt with.





Humour

Which Corporation to Fight for in the Corpo Wars Based on your Zodiac Sign

George-Philip Dumitrascu

The Corpo Wars of 2050 loom ever closer, and I know the biggest worry of the century will be figuring out which mega-conglomerate to serve in the wreckage of Old Earth in the name of record profits. Not to worry—though we will not be able to see the stars anymore thanks to a coal-choked atmosphere, I can still help you figure out how your star sign determines which corporation you should pledge your body and soul to!

Aries (March 21-April 19): As a passionate and confident leader, Aries can quickly rise through the ranks of the McDonald's Corporation's private military in their quest to quell insurrections from South American farmers. As a fire sign, Aries will feel that their sign is being appreciated the most when fighting in the Siege of San Salvador which end in hellfire raining from atmospheric hovercrafts blazing the proud logo of McDonald's—a sigil that will be corporately mandated to be worshipped by dipping chicken nuggets in Big Mac sauce at the altar. Good on you, Aries, for heading the Church of the Golden Arches with passion!

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The serene Taurus, with a love for all things beautiful, will have a special place amongst the L'Oréal makeup elite. Perhaps Taurus can lounge in the space station of New Earth, drinking billion-dollar champagne and attending bloodsport events while laughing at your lessers that fight in the ruins of the old world. Still, do not get too comfortable. The L'Oréal Space Station is a land of aristocratic intrigue and beauty barons who are quick to wrestle their fellows out of power. Blood-red is all the rage, after all, and Taurus is ready to spill it—and look so fashionable doing it. (Just make sure to not drink anything offered to you without a taster.)

Gemini (May 21-June 20): The celestial

twins of Gemini hang high in the sky in the future irradiated wastelands. Gemini is known for its playful, curious, and perhaps even two-faced nature. That is why Gemini will find its best fit amongst Amazon, same-day delivering weapons to insurgent groups around the world and then downplaying your involvement. As a lucky soldier of Amazon, you will have a front row seat to the dissolving of nation states in favour of carving up the remnants amongst the corpos. With one hand, promise raises, and with the other, cut bathroom breaks from ten seconds to five. March your armies to the frontlines against the pitiful eBay Rebellion and slay them in the name of God-King Bezos!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Known for their caring, nurturing, and emotional depth, those born under the Cancer sign can look forward to serving as medics in the Starbucks Brigade. It takes a special kind of soul to excel in the inhumane conditions that the many soldiers of Mocha-class space cruisers face as they bombard cities from upper orbit, and Cancer will tend to each soldier with hardly any triage, treating bleeding wounds with coffee. Attracting many friends and even lovers, Cancer might actually stand a chance at requesting days off for events such as a marriage ceremony or hospital visits (but were unfortunately made impossible since the breakdown of negotiations with the Pfizer Lords), but Cancer's loyalty will one day be acknowledged by a disembodied AI, and their pay might be raised by up to 10 cents. Congratulations, loyal worker!

Leo (July 23-August 22): Roll out the red carpet—Leo is here! Fiery, loyal, dazzling—Leo can find only one equal: draining every drop of oil on the planet under the strong hand of Exxon Mobil. Being the centre of attention is never easy, but as an Exxonite, as they come to be known, those born under the Leo sign will ambitiously hold the mantle as the

most important corpo on the planet by being the sole heirs of the Earth's oil and distributing it to the other global powers. Leos might be assigned to a nation-state to build spy networks to undermine local governments and seize power for themselves. Leo's greatest flaw is hubris, however, so it would pay for them to remember to not take too much power for themselves, at least not too obviously, or they may find themselves in the dreaded oil-chambers, where they will be progressively fossilized over eons and turned into oil that fuels the Exxonite war machine.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): As the sign most associated with grain, harvest, and growing things, the logical and practical Virgo has the ability to take up power within the Nestlé Corporation and govern where food and water may be withheld in the interest of profit. A perfectionist at heart, most other signs would be satisfied with providing the meager amount of food possible for its workers. Not so for Virgo! Withholding food is the greatest motivator for the pitiful worker, and fields of wheat will be raised without a loaf of bread to show for anyone but the highest bidder. Bake record profits instead! Deserts will be made from draining lakes and rivers, and Virgo will oversee it with the pride of a job well-done. Food is the language of power, after all, and it is a language that the Virgo is well-versed in speaking.

Libra (September 23-October 22): Balance, harmony, being the happy medium. In the grimdark future of corporation wars, where does the humble Libra belong? The great Apple-Samsung merger of 2047 will provide Libra's opportunity. Governing over the last semi-stable state on Old Earth, a Libra will find itself thriving in an executive position, finding the balance between the addictive need of profits and the durability of the human soul when subjected to 23-hour

work days. Putting entire cities to work in the phone factories, seeking harmony in everything—aesthetics, profit margins, and how much human blood can be spilled on circuit boards before they cease to function. Make sure everyone is happy and engaged in the office icebreaker! (Yes. Even in the apocalyptic future, work icebreakers still exist.)

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): Like the awaiting scorpion for which they are named, those born under the Scorpio sign are quick, intelligent, and have the killer instinct that will guarantee them a position amongst the assassins pledging their lives to Google. Information is power, after all, and Scorpio's calculating nature will make sure that they track down whoever is using the Internet to promote anti-corporate rhetoric and see that they, and anyone they had been associated with, would see their company-designated maker. Cool, calculating and hyper-intelligent, the forefront of Google's power lies in the power that is sought by those born under the Scorpio sign.

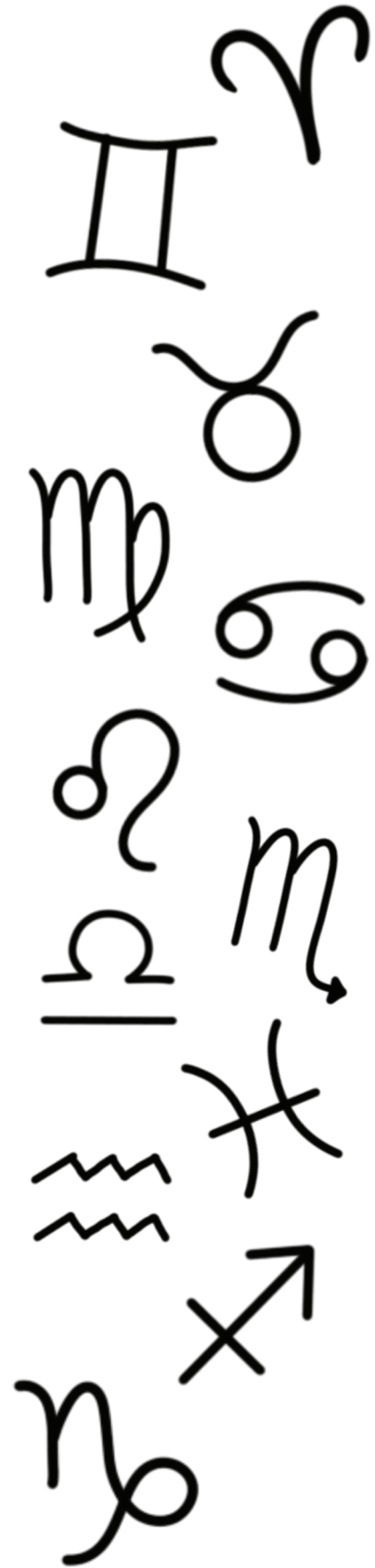
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Confident, adaptable, passionate, a thrill-seeker—Sagittarius is a multi-faceted star sign which is perfectly suited for the ranks of Meta Incorporated and their zealous Facebook-death priesthood. Bow to the Holy F, Sagittarius! Your tenacity will serve you well in the Temple of Zuckerberg, cleansing other heretic faiths away with holy fire and in carnal exaltation. Human sacrifice is needed, nay, craved, and the death priesthood will bring those who are unworthy to the Shrine of the Great F. Stain the trademarked blue with red, grow closer with the divine! Heretics quake in fear, as Facebook bots, taking a metal body, will destroy their homes and turn their bodies to ash with plascannons. Sagittarius can satisfy their need for adventure by travelling the world, spreading the holy message, and destroying that which stands in your way. You get dental coverage, too!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Stand aside! Present arms! The mighty General Capricorn has arrived! Armed with fearless ambition and limitless resilience, those under the Capricorn sign deserve to serve as the generals and commanders in one of the most powerful corps on Old Earth, and thus will be

honoured to serve in the Microsoft Military, Those born under the Capricorn sign will have the privilege of serving under the command of Bill Gates, whose brain, when uploaded to the World Wide Web, will make him technologically immortal and bring you great prestige. Indeed, considered to be strategic and a trouble-maker, Capricorns will enjoy watching and helping Microsoft grow to be the sole distributor of any computer stronger than a calculator. With many corporate-provided mechanical enhancements, watch your lifespan on the battlefield triple to five years, and conquer your enemies with optimistic fortitude and diligent strategy.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): In the future where water is scarce, those born under the Aquarius sign will find themselves right at home on the frontlines of the Dasani Wars, burning villages and bottling mass devastation around the North Pole in order to secure fresh water glaciers to satisfy Dasani's many shareholders. As an intelligent and deeply social individual, those born under the Aquarius sign will, if they do not freeze to death or are not melted in plascannon fire, look forward to the planet-cooling technology that Dasani will one day perfect, plunging the globe into a new ice age and choking out all life besides their designated work-domes, and thereby securing their rule over all water on Earth. Free pizza will be provided on Fridays, too! Score!

Pisces (February 19-March 20): For a sign governed by its creative energies in its dreams and fantasies, there is no better place to sell your soul to than the Disney Corporation. After gaining the legal right to every childhood, Disney will stand tall as the planet's only media maker for all eighty billion souls on Old Earth—a hegemony strictly enforced by Disney Troopers with trademark helmets shaped like Mickey's ears. Those born under the Pisces star sign are the most creative of the signs, and there is no greater honour than having that craving for originality crushed by Disney's endless remake churning. Enjoy writing the script for Star Wars: Episode CXVII, The Avengers: The Wrath of Spiderman's Great Grandson, and the 1200th season of Riverdale.



Quiz: Can You Survive One Night In IKEA?

Bailey Froese

It's 9 p.m. IKEA's closing time. You tarried a bit too long at the couch displays and the employees didn't see you when locking the doors. You're all alone for the next thirteen hours. *No big deal*, you think. *There's plenty of beds to choose from and it's only one night*. Wrong. It's never just one night in IKEA. IKEA is a wormhole that exists outside of time and space. No one can spend 13 hours in IKEA and come out sane. The only way to survive is to make your choices carefully.

What will your fate be?

1. It's 9:15. You've realized the gravity of your situation.

What's the first thing you do?

- A. I'll find some fuzzy blankets and a nice spot to make camp. I'll be here a while; might as well get comfy.
- B. I think I'll look around before I do anything else. The night is young and IKEA should be fun without all the crowds.
- C. This isn't the 80s, I have a cell phone! I'm going to call Mr. IKEA himself and ask him to let me out.
- D. No way I'm staying here any longer; I have to finish an overdue project. I can't fail Foundations 201 again. I'm breaking out!

2. You're starting to get hungry. Your fridge of midnight snacks is so far away. When's the last time you drank water? How will you satisfy your cravings?

- A. Ugh, I'm on the lower floor with the fuzzy blankets and have no idea where the nearest water source is. The restrooms are probably locked, but I'll check there anyway—if I don't get lost in this maze of rugs and chandeliers.
- B. I'll find something in a minute. These room displays are so wacky. Paper cutouts where food should be, Swedish magazines, the artificial clutter. This uncanny facsimile of a lived-in space combined with these artificial touches—wait, what was that?
- C. Mr. IKEA took forever to pick up the phone and only spoke Swedish, so now I'm REALLY mad. I'm going to raid the kitchen for some Swedish meatballs to compensate myself for this injury.
- D. My only escape plan was to throw rocks through the automatic doors, but IKEA doesn't have any rocks! I'm afraid my only solution is to eat my way out. At least I'll finally know what glass tastes like.

3. It's past midnight, but you're not asleep yet. Why not?

- A. I still can't find the restroom. I took a wrong turn and somehow wound up in the ball pit in the children's play area. Then I got distracted because the TVs are playing SpongeBob and I wasn't allowed to watch that as a kid. My mother read that watching it causes lactose intolerance. Great, now I really need the restroom. I suppose I'm not the first person to use this ball pit as a substitute.
- B. I smell onions. There's a woman in that fake kitchen

cooking one of the paper cutouts, except it's sizzling and it smells like onions. She's turning off the stove and carrying the pan to the other side of the counter, slowly and rhythmically, like a horse on a carousel. She serves some paper to her baby, who must be five feet tall. He kicks and giggles in a deep voice. "There's some for you too," she says. Her mouth doesn't move.

- C. Why do these meatballs come with assembly instructions? Why are the pieces of each meatball labeled? I hate puzzles and I'm sure this meatball is missing a piece.
- D. I have a mouthful of glass and I'm no closer to getting out of here. All I can do now is lay down and wait for fate to—hang on. The elevator just dinged. Someone's going down. Maybe if I follow them, they'll help me.

4. It's 5:30. Your lack of sleep is surely taking its toll on you. How are you coping?

- A. I'm just glad I finally have some water. Did you know that the restrooms are right next to the children's play area? I may be an idiot, but at least now I'm a hydrated idiot.
- B. I'm falling asleep right now, actually. Mother is tucking me in. The bed is a little small, but it's so warm and cozy. A little too cozy. It's cramped in here. Mother? May I have a glass of cold water please? It's getting hot. Mother? The wire rack is a little lumpy. Wait, what? Oh. This isn't a bed.
- C. I only managed to put one meatball together and it's still frozen inside. I'm suing. I'd better get a complimentary Blahaj or something out of this. Actually, I think I'll go find one right now.
- D. I'm in the recycled furniture room. There's a man sawing away at some plywood over there. I don't think he can hear me—but he sees me! Yes! He's coming over! He's telling me to take a seat! I'll take all the seats in this IKEA if I can get out of here in time to finish that project.

5. It's 9:15 a.m. IKEA will open in less than an hour. How close are you to where an employee can find you and let you out?

- A. Oh right! I guess I fell asleep. I'll wait by the doors. Oh crap, I'll definitely be late for class. I should call someone.

- B. I taste delicious. Mother says so. Father agrees, this is the best roast chicken she's ever made. She blushes with pride and so do I. I'm a good roast chicken. I'm such a good roast chicken. Cluck cluck cluck.
- C. Oh, now someone comes?! Right when I'm about to sneak out with a Blahaj?! I was only going to do that when I thought no one was coming for me! They must put alarms on these Blahajs. You betrayed me, you silly smiling shark.
- D. I can't get out of this chair. It's like I'm fused to it. The employee is measuring me and the chair. He nods and puts it on a conveyor belt. Is this how I get out of here? What on earth is that at the end?! Is that a wood chipper?! And what's that connected to it? I try to explain that I'm stuck, but he just nods and waves at me. The exit is right over there! I can see it! I'm so close! How did I come to—



Results:

Mostly A's: Congratulations. You made it out alive with your sanity intact, provided you don't lose your mind trying to find your car in the parking lot.

Mostly B's: The employees found you rocking back and forth in the fetal position on a table and making chicken noises. Don't worry, it happens to the best of us.

Mostly C's: You were arrested for meatball and Blahaj theft. Those are capital offenses in Sweden. Unfortunately, you will be tried as a Swede because thirteen hours in IKEA is the minimum requirement for Swedish citizenship.

Mostly D's: You made it out of IKEA, but were unfortunately hybridized with a lovely KARLPETTER chair. You are currently in a cardboard box in a delivery truck on the way to a New Westminster condo. Don't try to talk; you don't have a mouth. On the plus side, you finished Foundations 201 with a passing grade.



10 Things I Hate About You: *An Ode to Douglas Dorms*

Oli Nicholson

I hate the way you smell like fish and the way that your lights hum.

I hate the sneaky silverfish and the carpets full of crumbs.

I hate that there's no microwave and the way I can't have snacks.

I hate you for the iffy showers and the way I use so many tacks.

I hate the way you're always cold,

I hate it when you flood.

I hate the paper walls with mold,

Even worse the fridge's crud.

I hate it when you're not around,

like when it's Christmas break

and the fact that here's my home (for my wallet's sake).

But mostly I hate the way I don't hate you, (because I love my dorm)

Not even close,

Not even a little bit,

Not even at all.



Fake It Till You Make It: Tips and Tricks

Cameron Lebold



Welcome, dear Reader, to my article. University is an intimidating place full of people smarter than you, and material that expands beyond your brain capacity. There may be circles, friend groups, clubs, or environments that you wish to be a part of but do not belong to because you lack the ability. If that is you, and you need help tricking people into thinking you are smart or skilled, then read on.

Tip One: Know who the smartest person in the room is.

In whatever social construct you are trying to fake your way into, find out who the genius is. You never want to question or debate with this person. If you do, you will make a fool out of yourself, and if that happens, you have failed. When you discover who the genius is, become friends with them. Then, if luck is on your side, their intelligence will rub off on you, and you won't have to fake anything. This is the best outcome possible—no approach to faking intelligence is better than actually being intelligent.

Tip Two: 80 percent confidence.

Confidence is key. With confidence, you won't be second-guessed. People will believe you and listen when you speak. However, there is a fine line between confidence and arrogance, and that is why I recommend you have 80 percent confidence. If you are arrogant, that puts a target on your back. Few people would turn down the opportunity to put an arrogant person in their place, and you don't want that kind of attention. Instead, be kind and likeable. In the event that you are exposed as a poser, people might like you

enough to keep you around, anyway.

Tip Three: When an opportunity arises, take advantage.

For this tip, I believe it is best to share a real-life example. It was a rainy Monday afternoon, and my friend, Bailey Froese, asked a favour of me. They needed a submission for the *Mars' Hill* humour section for the next day, and wondered if I could oblige them. This was a perfect opportunity, my chance to trick all *Mars' Hill* readers into thinking I'm funny. The Humour Editor is desperate, and would probably take any kind of garbage that found itself into their inbox.

Am I, in any way, qualified to be giving advice on the subject? No. However, I am published in this newspaper, and you are not. So, these are the very credentials I need to prove that I do, in fact, know how to fake my way to *Mars' Hill* fame. Perhaps, using my methods, you too can fake your way into whatever environment you wish to be a part of.

Christian Horoscopes

Bailey Froese

If you're in...

Business

If you think the last issue was late, it wasn't, actually. It was perfectly on time. Your calendars are all wrong.

In fact, you're just wrong about everything in general. That's your horoscope: you're wrong and *Mars' Hill* is always right.

Nursing

I went to the Silly Goose Convention (11:07 improv workshop) last Tuesday and everyone knew you. At least you're a silly goose and not the kind that hisses and leaves turds all over the grass.

Education

Now that the Theatre Department is in its last year, the costume shop in Strombeck shall perhaps be given back to its original Education Faculty owners. Oh, you don't know where Strombeck is? Tsk tsk. You Education majors have forgotten your roots. Before the cushy wheeled chairs of DeVries we used to study in a tiny, dank mouse hole behind the Marlie Snider Collegium. I think the Game Development majors occupy it now, but if we work hard enough, we can kick them out, too.

HKIN

Were you disappointed when Spotify Wrapped came out in December and everyone's music taste was more sophisticated than yours? I know how you agonized over the fact that all five of your top five artists were Daft Punk. And that your top five songs were all "Around The World" by Daft Punk. How embarrassing. It's not fair that Spotify recommends great playlists to everyone else and all you get is Daft Punk's Greatest Hits. The algorithm just doesn't like you, I guess.

Natural & Applied Sciences

Did you know that in Renaissance Italy, university students used to get two servants each in their dorms? You look like you could use that kind of help. If you live on campus and would also like personal attendants, just snatch up a passing commuter (you can lure them with gas money). Store them by dangling them from clothing hangers in your closet until you need them. If they try to escape or if anyone gets suspicious, just say you got a really big new Squishmallow.

Social Sciences

Ah, Valentine's Day. It's coming up soon and you're going to fall desperately in love with an MCOM major right before it happens. Do not fall desperately in love with an MCOM major. Do you know what MCOM stands for? It stands for Musty Crusty Obnoxious Man. Don't get your heart broken by a Musty Crusty Obnoxious Man.

Humanities

You guys love Starbucks, right? Of course you do. I predict that a terrible fate will befall you if you buy the Valentine's Day cookie. It looks like they grated Barbie shoes over it. You probably have enough Polly Pocket shoes still dissolving in your stomach from when you were a child; this cookie will push the plastic content inside of you past the threshold of health.

SAMC

[Insert shameless plug for SAMC's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the LAST THEATRE PRODUCTION, here.]



Curated Playlist

HINOKI WOOD // Gia Margaret
STELLAR // .diedlonely, énoouement
BLACKBOXWARRIOR - OKULTRA
// Will Wood
FADE INTO YOU // Mazzy Star
BEACH DREAM // By The Coast
GROWING SIDWAYS // Noah Kahan
SOMETHING IN THE WAY // Nirvana
FIVE (MINUTE FRIEND) // TROY
EVERGREEN // Shakey Graves
LIFELONG SONG // Men I Trust
BRIGHTER // McCombs
WEIRD DIVIDE // The Shins
SING // Slowdive
ANTE MERIDIEM // Men I Trust
LAYLA // Unknown Mortral Orchestra
SOUTHERN POINT // Grizzly Bear
FIFTY-FIFTY CLOWN // Cocteau
Twins
ENTANGLED LIFE // Merlin Sheldrake,
Cosmo Sheldrake
TIME ESCAPING // Big Thief
FEAR // Low
SEA, SWALLOW ME // Cocteau Twins,
Harold Budd



Creative Writing



Do not look back

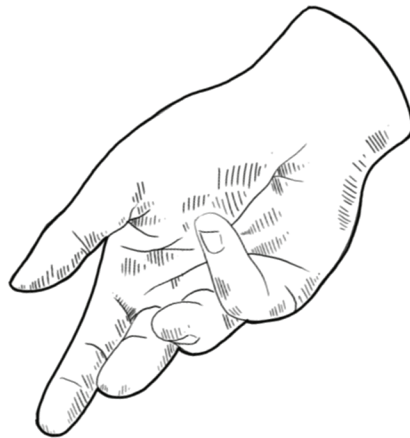
Alexis Stephen

Patently, waiting for spring,
for the dead to bloom,
and my beloved to bring
words to ease my gloom.

Come away, and see
Take my hand, do not look back:
then you may be free
now, your joy shall never lack.

The grief may still haunt
trying to turn your head, dear.
His words may still taunt,
my beloved, do not fear.

His grasp may be strong,
yet, you will not retreat,
for with me you belong,
and I do not know defeat.





Move on

Diego Bascur

Move on, keep moving,
feel the rush, and let it go.
Surrender what keeps you here:
here is nothing.
There is something beyond.
Move beyond:
higher and lower,
brighter and darker.
Real truth is painful –
to have what is deep is to go there yourself.
Go there, be afraid; there is no ease.
Tread lightly, and then run,
close your eyes, open your arms, and be free.
Follow mighty steps, they went before you.
Take heart, love strongly.
The sun rises,
live purely.
This moment, this is There –
pursue with everything, all parts of your being.
Allow it to cut, and form.
The soul is weak,
do not pretend to be strong.
Faith favors the weak, hope lies in defeat.
The mountain before you looms with grace:
this peak seems so far away, yet it lies within you.
Answer the call, be filled, shout the answer –
be overfilled, it is too much for one soul to feel.
Visions of the peak revealed:
the mediocrity of temporary desire will drag you down.
The veil of sin will cloud,
be weary, let go to hold on.
Trust these visions of the peak; be guided.
To surrender is to know the heart longs for the peak,
for the ascent, ice and snow, ravines and cliffs.
The way is chaotic, and the mind will drift,
keep your focus on the heart.
This is the bond that defines faith,
the inner being desires eternal joy.
Even in the shroud of unholy rain and thunder and wind.
Feel the sun, feel the peak, learn to love to learn to be.
To go there, you must be here, find peace here
And There will find you



On Reading “Binsey Poplars”

Bret van den Brink

My dear, my sweet, my tender-eyed, rural-eyed Hopkins,
If I but learnt to see through thy beauty-fasting eye,
Thy discalced eye, thy tear-washed eye, and like thee cry,
Would that brilliance break blind my eyes by sins,
Displaying Man’s ten-thousand unselved oblivions?
Binsey, I shall come to thy beauty gone and sigh,
Engrossed by hosts of ghosts (twelve-most, now lost)—but
why?

To guess thine especial sweetness gone? Earth’s orphans
Ought not welter unwept, unsung; Earth’s lungs and hearer
Both I’ll be! Gather ye round for her melody—
To receive her form on thy mind’s maculate mirror,
As they were the Word’s maculate mirror, and He
The Father’s immaculate mirror, still dearer;
There they still dwell, saved and selved, in the One and
Three.



Wounded Child

Netanya Castillo

I saw a child in the field
with starlit eyes
and dancing fireflies.
She was 2-feet tall
with short black hair
and a bandaid on her finger.

I saw a child in that grass
all dressed in pink
giving her teddy a drink
beside a pavilion
that was 10-feet tall
with golden, pearly columns.

I saw a child hidden there
she was well kept
with shampooed hair
her tummy full
and eyes that shined
with an everlasting love.

I saw bloodied bandages
to the left
and to the right
of the child
But she had no wounds
other than a bandaid on her finger.

“What happened here?”
She smiled a soft smile.

Then I saw the child point
to the Man in the distance
who had healed her.
He had holes in His Hands
and was holding bandaids
in His fingers.

