



# KINGSLEY VOICE



## IDENTITY CRISIS

Is R.H. King even an academy anymore?



Understanding trans grief and futures



Changes to King's specialized programs



The cost of inflation for King students

Inside this issue:

The increasing need for intersectionality





# Supporting the future of King arts

Will future King students be able to care, strive and serve?



Arts Management Class

Properly investing in schools includes keeping arts programs as they work to create amazing events like The Backyard Arts Festival.

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Tanisha Kumar

From the start of this school year, I feel like I have heard rumours every other week about art programs, classes, councils, clubs, and many other community programs being cut. "Did you hear that -- class is being removed?" or "Have you heard about the --- council being removed?" As a senior student at King, I worry I am seeing the last of these opportunities. So much has gone that made King unique. What might be lost next?

King is distinguished for its participation in the arts and provides specialized programs for those interested in furthering their education within the arts. For the next school year, to address the deficits the TDSB has faced through the pandemic, they have begun planning to remove vital programs within schools. Alt-

hough the intention is to even the playing field for all students, Scarborough holds the largest marginalized communities within Toronto. It contains students already facing more prominent educational barriers.

The arts at King provides a harbour for students to explore their skills and creativity. The Arts and Culture specialized program offers experiential learning which provides students with unique skills. In a few of the many specialized classes like Theatre Tech and Arts Management, students learn how to produce live shows, assist with building and managing sets, marketing and controlling the technical parts of any event. These unique experiences help students explore the diverse career routes within the arts. Through art education, students learn to think outside the box about their careers.

However, King's uniqueness does not mean that the

TDSB should be able to take these opportunities from other students. With specialized arts programs being interrupted, more cuts to the art programs at King are likely impending.

As a Leadership Arts and Culture student, I have been granted the opportunity to be in an environment with many other artists and creators. Without those classes and social opportunities, I would be without access to a community that supports me and lets me thrive. King's programs cultivate a community of students that align with the values of King. Without a community at school, the King spirit would not exist.

For all students, the arts are an essential part of our community, especially in representing marginalized voices, and we must support them. As future leaders, we are responsible for recognizing the importance of art and taking action to preserve and promote it. There are many ways we

can support the arts at King. We can attend art events (Backyard Arts Festival and Multi-Night). This website is one way to voice concerns as it contains resources such as a petition, contact information for TDSB board members, and current proposed policies: <https://www.change.org/p/fight-for-specialized-programs-in-the-tdsb>.

By supporting art, we are not only enriching our own lives but also contributing to the cultural vitality of the King community. We are ensuring that future students have the opportunity to experience the transformative power of art. So let us all commit to supporting art in our community, and recognize its role in our lives and the world around us.

There are many changes that are happening within the TDSB that bear a closer look now and in the future. With the changes to the arts, could this issue of the *Kingsley Voice* be the last?

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Maryam Rehman

# A quick thank you from the editor!

Hello, King readers!

Thank you for picking up this copy of the Spring 2023 issue of the *Kingsley Voice*.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the incredibly hard working team who helped make this happen; a committed group of people who were focused on creating. Whether it was writing, art or layout, I was happy to see spaces where individuals could collaborate. I would like to especially thank the cover artist, Rhiannon Carr, for so beautifully creating the vision we had in mind.

As an explanation for the theme, 'Identity Crisis,' the idea came to my team after exploring the conflicting issues with identities people were experiencing, both as part of King and on their own—the intersections of identity and where they cross over. After hearing about people's conflicting experi-

ences with their identities, we wanted to highlight the important stories that needed to be told. This is for students who are the first generation of a diaspora. This is for students struggling with their presentation of themselves. This is for students wondering if they are fighting hard enough against structures working to prove them wrong.

Identity is an essential aspect of our experiences and plays a significant role in shaping our thoughts, beliefs and values, and also supports our voices. It is how we define ourselves and our place in the world, and it can considerably impact our mental state and being. Talking about the ideas of identity is essential because it helps individuals better understand themselves.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Wilkinson, our advisor, who has supported me from being a writer in Grade 9, to a section editor in Grade 10 and then a managing



Claire Lalonde

Kingsley Voice editor, Tanisha Kumar says a thank you to readers!

editor in Grade 11, no one has shown his support for my growth like Mr. Wilkinson. Thank you for believing in me to run this paper. I would not have been able without your understanding, encouragement

and kindness.

After reading this issue of the *Kingsley Voice*, I suggest you head over to our website ([kingsleyvoice.com](https://www.kingsleyvoice.com)) for more content. Keep on slaying, King!



## Personal identity in ancient history



Claire Taylor

Just as statues and monuments have changed over time, so has our concept of personal identity.

print exclusive

By Isabella Cadotte

In comparison to the length of human beings' time on earth - approximately 300,000 years - the concept of personal identity is fairly young. This modern idea, comprising of questions such as "who am I," was first

introduced by John Locke with his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* in 1689. In the four book series, Locke states that personal identity is based on one's actions and can be influenced or decided on by the individual. In simpler terms, we aren't limited to being one thing. Today, the question "who am I" has taken this concept and evolved into a

far more complex query, with various aspects presenting themselves.

### Cultural Identity:

This form of identity is incredibly important to an individual, evident in the number of yearly celebrations and traditions that occur within communities. In fact, the largest street festival in North America is Toron-

to's Caribbean Carnival. Nevertheless, like many things, cultural identity has evolved. While today it focuses on customs and race, in the past it was entirely nationality and patriotism. In ancient Greece, the people saw themselves as culturally Greek, but preferred to identify with their city-state, like Sparta or Athens. This can be seen in the frequent conflicts between the states, such as the Peloponnesian Wars.

### Socioeconomic Identity:

Over time, the value of wealth has increased, and with it the class system has become more standardized. Today, status has become so embedded in everyday life that it's a core part of our identity. However, in ancient history some societies had close to no social stratification, such as hunter and gatherer groups. These people all participated for the good of their community, and no one had more power than another.

### Sexuality & Gender Identity

One of the most debated identities currently is sexuality and gender. The amount of anti-trans and anti-gay legislature in the United States has risen,

such as the 'Don't Say Gay' law in Florida. This law received both widespread criticism and praise. However, pre-Christianity, LGBTQ+ identities were more broadly accepted. There is evidence of non-heteronormative and non-cisgender personalities in Mesopotamia, ancient Greece, and ancient Egypt. Most prominently are the discoveries of cross gender Neanderthal burials. This branch of human ancestry is assumed to be the first to have specific burial rituals, and they differed depending on the individual's gender. Paleoanthropologists suggest that these cross gender burials represent a divergence in either the individual's sexual or gender identity, and stretch the existence of LGBTQ+ people far back in known history.

### So, who am I?

Overall, it's abundantly clear that while these identities have evolved over time, they still existed all the way back into the stone age. As these facets of identity are further explored, many can take comfort in the knowledge that they aren't alone and haven't been for a long time.

## Op-Ed: Lessons in liberty and dialogue

By Avery Farrell

On social media, people have access to a multitude of different perspectives and ideologies. However, this does not seem to be helping our divisiveness when it comes to having an opinion - in fact, it is doing the opposite. The likely reason is the workings of the "algorithm."

The algorithms of services like Instagram, Google, Tiktok and Facebook are designed to present users with information that aligns with their pre-existing political and social views. Google, for example, will filter and personalize search results based on past searches as well as the perceived interests and beliefs of an individual user. This creates an echo chamber of sorts. People are much more likely to see content that promotes and affirms their beliefs. Content that opposes an individual's beliefs is few and far between. If a different view does pop up, it's easy for many to dismiss it as "fake news" and ignore it.

With exposure to new ideas and thinking instead of empathy and understanding we come to a divided world where we stick to our guns without question. We are no longer pushed to find common ground or to create conversation with the people around us. People often choose only to associate with those who agree with them and their ideas. This practice is also made easier by the vastness of social media's opportunity for connections -

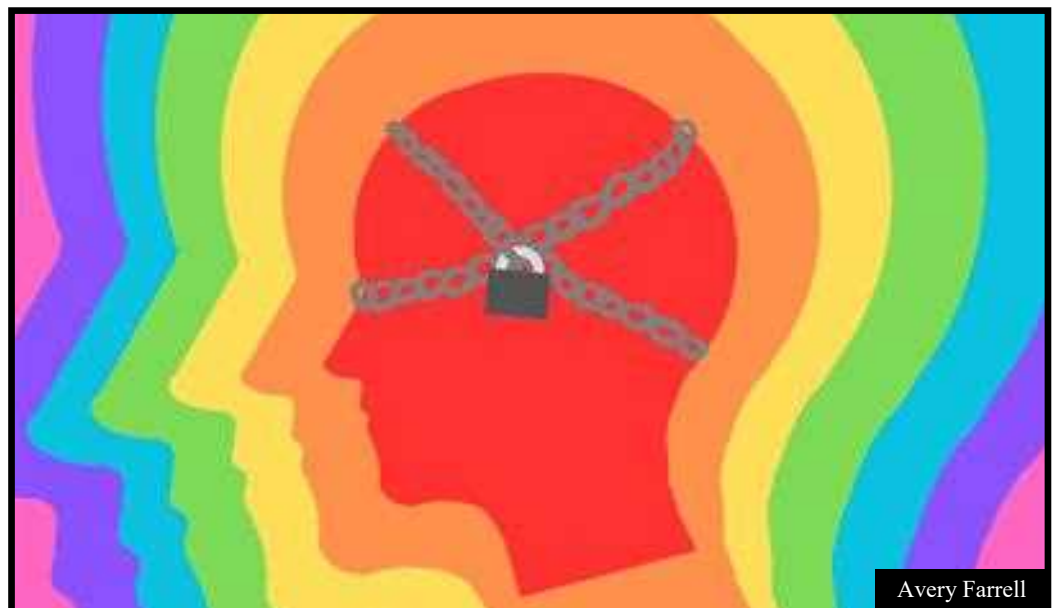
we are no longer constrained by whatever our hometown has to offer but we can form closed-off communities on a global scale. This entire idea can be hard to grasp.

I wanted to better understand how this issue applies to our community without the influence of the 'algorithm.' So, I decided to conduct my own survey of students at R.H. King. This survey included 46 King students of many different grades, backgrounds, and social groups.

73.8% of individuals surveyed answered "yes" when asked if they would be willing to have a conversation with someone who has views that oppose theirs. 75% of that group stated they would use the conversation as an opportunity to try to change the other person's views. 58.3% percent said that their own opinions may end up being changed by the conversation. And, from that group, 47.6% said the likelihood of that happening was either a 2 or 3 on a scale from 1 to 10.

So, while the vast majority of individuals said they would be open to such a conversation, it seems the most common motivation was to change somebody else's views while likely maintaining their own.

While these second two questions did have an intention (and I did learn a lot from them), I've come to realize that it is only the first question, the willingness for conversation, that is important. Because the only thing that is truly necessary when it comes to



Avery Farrell

More constraints are being placed on our free thinking and the media is possibly at the heart of the issue.

openness is simply a willingness for discussion - no strings attached. If we are only willing to speak with others with the aim of changing somebody's mind, we are not genuinely open to the opportunity to better understanding.

Not being willing to understand your opposition and hear them out hinders, or perhaps even ruins, your ability to understand both your side of an issue and the issue as a whole. The objective does not need to be proving who is right or shaming anybody - just listening. As John Stuart Mill, a United Kingdom Member of Parliament in the 19th century put it, "He who knows only his own side of the case, knows

little of that."

Our aversion to discussion will never lead to well-educated, thoughtful or insightful people, only misinformation and polarization. Confirmation bias is a given when you only expose yourself to information and people with the same ideology as you.

Simply put, we must be willing to have conversations even when difficult or frustrating. This does not mean people cannot have boundaries, but perhaps we can agree on being more willing to hear people out before we decide what we think of them or their stance.

Over the past few months, I have tried to put this into practice myself. Despite my

instincts, I don't overlook every post, article, book or opinion that seems to think differently than me. Sometimes, I walk away even more convinced of what I already believed. Sometimes I end up with a little more sympathy or understanding for the other side. But no matter the outcome, I am consistently less frustrated, angry and offended. It turns out, most ideas and perspectives are a lot less egregious than our media exposure has us believe.

So, give it a try - lower your guard a bit and free yourself from those mental constraints. You might end up with a little more knowledge and a little less frustration.



# King Life



## The return of the arts at King



King Musical Theatre: The Addams Family 2022

Creative revival: the arts make a triumphant return to King, inspiring a new generation of students.



By Pethmi Jayatunge

In the past few years art-related events hosted at King decreased due to the pandemic but the number of offerings is starting to climb once again.

The first major event in the art department this year was King's Got Talent. This annual event run by King's Music Council is a talent show where King students are able to showcase their musical talents, perform dances, read poetry, show off comedy skills and more! This highly anticipated event was a great way to start off the school year.

In December, King experienced Frozen Sounds! Organized by Ms. Shaw in collaboration with Ms. Hussey, Mr.

Miller-Tait, Mr. Chetwynd, and Mr. Gillies, Frozen Sounds! is an event showcasing the talent of King's performing arts classes. With artwork from visual arts classes hung up around the school and performances from King's music, dance and improv classes, guests were able to see the creativity and talent King students have to offer.

King students had not had the chance to experience the buzz surrounding school musicals since the *Matilda Musical* back in 2019. In December, the musical theater classes announced the comeback of the theatre experience with this year's production of *The Addams Family*. Thanks to the dedication and hard work from Ms. Hussey, Mr. Michaud, and other King staff-

ers and students behind the scenes, King students were able to enjoy the best the school had to offer.

"I was excited this year. It was the first big production in a while and it's awesome to be a part of bringing the arts back to King," says musical theater student Claire Lalonde who played the Grandma. "Being in the musical theater class is super fun, not only because you can learn and get a mark for doing something you enjoy, but you get to put on a show with the people who like performing as much as you do." This is all made possible by the leadership, dedication, and effort from the students, councils and teachers.

As for the rest of this school year, students can look forward to some fun at the

Spring concert taking place in May and Multi-Night in June.

Another exciting event returning to King is the Backyard Arts Festival this May which is once again organized by the Arts Management class. Students can expect performances from the performing arts classes, art displays from the visual arts classes, various activities set up around the field and more. The event is rumoured to be even larger this year, so look out, King! This event is a great way for everyone to come together and end the year. The festival will be on May 18th and have an extended lunch period.

The Editor-in-chief of the *Kingsley Voice*, Tanisha Kumar, also began a short docu-series this year called *Arts @ King*. In December, 'Part One: Dance,' was released followed by 'Part Two: Musical Theatre' in February. These videos demonstrate the importance of arts at King to its students while promoting the wide variety of art classes the school has to offer. Students can find this series on the *Kingsley Voice* website: [kingsleyvoice.com](http://kingsleyvoice.com).

Art is a vital part of King's life. The arts classes and events at King strive to do just that for the community. The events hosted at King are opportunities for everyone to come together and enjoy their high school experience. Within the community, the support of arts at King has strengthened over the last year.

### Effectiveness of Clinic period

By Swadana Devadas

After an unfortunate two year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, R.H. King reintroduced the Clinic and Mentor periods this year. These periods are both unique features of King.

When the Clinic period was first introduced in 1989, R.H. King's school ratings increased rapidly since students now had the opportunity to do their homework and assignments at school. Ms. Franco, a teacher at King, believes the Clinic period is an important part of the school and is greatly beneficial to the student body.

"It was a response to students' mental health before it became a hot topic. The goal was to promote mental health and instill academic autonomy in students," she explains. "Clinic has been an effective way to alleviate students' stress by providing them with an opportunity to connect with peers and teachers when they need academic and personal support. I also see students using the period to work all the time."

Students agree and are reacting positively to the return of the Clinic period.

Abirami Suthan, a student at King likes the period. "At the beginning of the year, when it was first introduced, I feel like some students weren't using Clinic wisely. After having completed a full semester, they've realized the benefits of Clinic and use it more productively."

Another student, Gelnar Hammoud, uses Clinic to ask teachers for help. "Compared to last year, I find myself having a lighter workload thanks to the clinic period," Hammoud says.

Student Shoptodipa Chowdhury sees the many benefits. "It is really helpful for my mental health and I focus more. It sharpens my attention span throughout the day."

Clinic is a crucial unique feature of the school and its students are taking full advantage of it.



Tanisha Chowdhury

From check-ins to self care, clinic helps students prioritize their health.

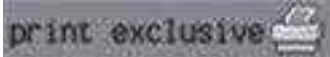
## King's student culture in councils

### Are King students able to balance both school and extracurriculars?



@rhkingkvac

King Visual Arts Council members prepare for a fun event, though students should be mindful to not over-commit their time.



By Avery Farrell

One of the many unique things about R.H. King is the variety of clubs and councils available for students to join. Following COVID-era shutdowns, these extracurricu-

lars are once again in full swing. Students are exposed to unique opportunities to learn as well as build skills and relationships outside of the classroom.

King's large number of clubs and councils allow all students to explore their interests with like-minded students and staff. Olivia Grysczyk, a

Grade 11 student at King, has benefited from the social opportunities councils provide. "Councils have exposed me to a greater number of people at King and have helped me find my place within the school," she says.

Students also learn real-world skills like communication, problem-solving and leadership through extracurriculars. These help to prepare students for their future work, whatever the field may be. However, in an effort to make the most out of all the opportunities that extracurriculars provide, students can often end up with too much on their plate.

Grade 11 student Maggie Donnelly has experienced that first hand. "In Grade 9, I was very excited to be accepted into several councils because each one provided me with a unique community and social circle. Now that I am in Grade 11, I find that the cumulative responsibilities have started to feel restrictive and overwhelming," she says.

King does have a limit to the number of councils students are allowed to join based on grade, however, this rule is not enforced as many students exceed the limit

starting in Grade 9. Because of clubs and councils, many students end up with a schedule full of commitments like meetings and volunteering for school events. On top of school work, this can become challenging. "Unfortunately, it can be really difficult to adequately serve all the councils that I'm a part of [...] and it's difficult to balance council work and my assignments," Grysczyk shares.

Executive members of councils are also impacted by members' difficulty managing all their responsibilities. Many councils are struggling with engagement from members on council initiatives. King Visual Arts Council's secretary, Sanisha Bhuiyan, says a lot of people are not showing up. "Especially this late in the year," she says. "We already have started removing people that stopped showing up."

While clubs and councils provide unique and amazing opportunities, overcommitting oneself can quickly create overwhelm. In general, it is important for students to create balance and set reasonable expectations for themselves and for other students and administration to support those decisions.





## The rising costs of inflation at King

Are students being priced out of school events?



Tanisha Chowdhury

Locked out of the fun: financial constraints can shut out students from events causing some to worry about rising King-flation costs.

By Vidhi Jagesha

This year, semi-formal was back after a three-year hiatus, with the theme ‘Hollywood Glamour’ where King students were able to enjoy a night of fun at the Markham Convention Centre. However, with the rising prices of events like semi-formal and prom comes the question of whether or not some students are being shut out of these kinds of events due to affordability concerns.

These events at King are not-for-profit and the ticket sales cover all the expenses that go into putting the events together. While efforts are made to keep costs down, the reality is that some events are more costly for some than others. The price to go to semi-formal this year was \$60, and could continue to rise in the future.

“In order to pay off all the

expenses required to put on the special occasions we need to charge students a ticket price to attend,” explains Ms. Olaizola, a teacher at King who has helped organize many school events. “The objective is never to make a profit, but rather to cover all the costs. Having been in charge of the event budgets, I always did my best to keep the costs as low as possible, however, the increasing costs of expenses drives the ticket prices up.”

The rising costs could cause some students to be excluded from participating in these events if they cannot afford it. Many students at King have expressed their concern about this issue.

“I know so many people who were not able to go to semi because of the prices,” says Naiyarah Amarasinghe-Domingue, a Grade 10 student.

“A public school’s first priority should be its students — all of its students. No one is going to semi-formal or prom just for the venue or the DJ, they are going for their friends. King prides itself on being a school that is full of creative thinkers and driven youth — we should use that to solve this issue so that more people can have fun at school events.”

The student council, which helped organize semi-formal, acknowledged that the prices were higher than previous years. It may be worth exploring if students would be willing to explore cheaper alternatives like a school dance or a smaller venue, or if they might prefer to stick with having a traditional semi-formal despite the rising ticket price.

Grade 10 student representative Thilaxy Jeyabhavan emphasizes the effect of

higher ticket prices on students. “We do recognize some students were not able to go or afford it unfortunately, and it’s a difficult situation because we always try to put our student body first, so if making some changes would allow these events to be more accessible for everyone, we are more than willing to try other options in the future.”

Looking ahead, the bottom line is that the cost of venues for these events sadly will not likely decrease. Nonetheless, there are still alternatives and solutions to consider that could make these events more accessible and inclusive.

Students should keep in mind that they are the ones who drive these events—they expressed that they wanted a semi-formal or prom — and one factor that should be considered is cost and how to try to get the most for the least.

## King’s leadership program changes

The admissions process will be different for newer students



Tanisha Chowdhury

King includes a new admissions process for future students.

By Vidhi Jagesha

Beginning this year, admission to specialized programs in the TDSB no longer requires assessments of ability such as auditions, exams or portfolios.

The TDSB’s new Student Interest Programs Policy is focused around “interest-based” applications and a random selection process for admission. Where interest exceeds available space, schools will have to resort to a

lottery system to determine who will get in. The idea is to either give priority to students from under-served communities or at least improve the odds of getting them into a variety of schools that may have had barriers to admission that were seen as inequitable. Some of these barriers potentially involved issues around socio-economic status, geographic availability, race (amongst other concerns

Prior to this policy, admission to King’s Leadership Program was based around an interview process that required

report cards, a list of extracurricular activities/involvement, and a portfolio. Students would demonstrate their commitment to King’s ideals and then be offered admission based on the strength of their interview and submission. With interest-based applications, none of that is required of students beyond a desire to go to the school because they want to try it.

The shift to interest-based applications and random selection has received a lot of criticism from parents and students, most of whom are concerned that it will reduce the quality of specialized programs.

“[The new policy] seems ludicrous to me, especially since R.H. King is well-known for their innovative leadership program,” says Grade 11 student Thirshan Varatharajah. “Many students have applied based on their academic and extracurricular achievements, which is why our school is packed with outstanding people. I don’t think the new sys-

tem is fair.”

In some cases, people got into their second or third choices that would have been number one for others.

Many King students, including Grade 11 student Maggie Donnelly worry that this change eliminates the purpose of specialized programs. She knows Grade 8 students who applied to programs and got into programs of their choice, but were frustrated to see that their peers applied to those same programs despite not necessarily being as interested.

“A better solution would be to make sure that those barriers are broken down earlier in the system, and give younger students opportunities to build the skills they need to apply to those programs,” Donnelly suggests.

Despite concerns, it’s hard to argue against the idea of ensuring better opportunities for all students in the TDSB. Time will tell if these changes are beneficial or if they need to be adjusted.

## How King embraces culture

By Miriam Donnelly

R.H. King Academy’s diversity and inclusivity are significant to the school’s identity. The school hosts a wide array of events to demonstrate the talent, culture, and originality within the student body.

King International Council (KIC) will be hosting Multi-Night and Culture Day during their spirit week in June. This year, Multi-Night will feature student performers representing countries from all around the world. This event is not only a way for students to showcase their talents, but also to connect with each other through shared cultural art forms. Multi-Night highlights and celebrates the diversity of different cultures, traditions, and perspectives.

KIC’s Culture Day is yet another opportunity for students to share their culture and learn more about other cultures from around the world. Students are encouraged to wear their traditional cultural clothing; a fashion show will be held on the stage for those who come in their traditional wear.

In addition to these cultural events, there are a number of clubs and councils that are dedicated to appreciating heritage, spreading awareness and sharing experiences with various identities such as the Black Student Alliance, Muslim Student Association, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Tamil Heritage Club and Women’s Empowerment Council. These groups work towards transforming the school into a more supportive and open-minded environment where all students feel safe and accepted. On top of the extensive associations embracing diversity, King Equity Council and King International Council continue to focus on representing multiple cultures and inclusivity as a whole.

The representation of different identities is essential to R.H. King Academy. As time goes on, the school continues to work towards expanding its resources to serve the diverse voices of students.



@rhkingksc

R.H. King Academy Culture Day 2022.

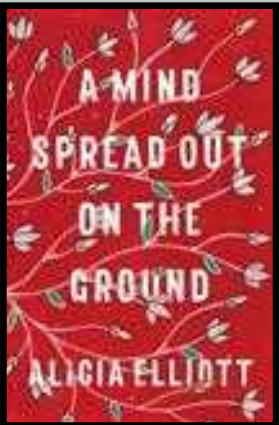


## The history of satanism in music

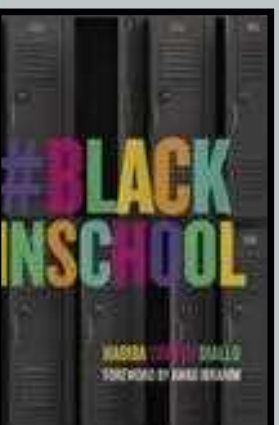
**Three memoirs by POC writers**  
Available in the King library!



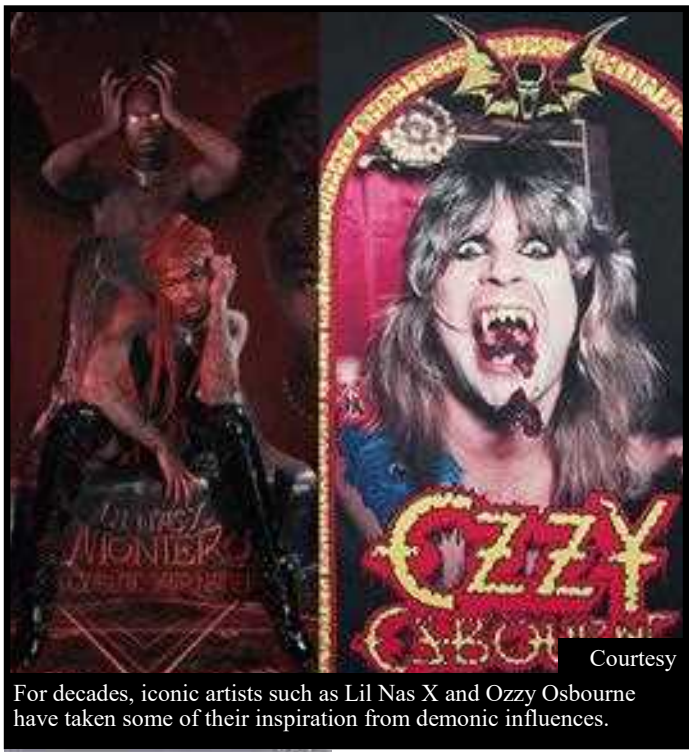
**We Have Always Been Here**  
Samira Habib  
In this book, Habib shares her personal journey of growing up in Pakistan, moving to Canada as a refugee, and navigating her identity as a queer Muslim woman. She explores the intersections of her identity, including her experiences with Islamophobia, homophobia, and misogyny.



**A Mind Spread Out on the Ground**  
Alicia Elliott  
This novel contains a collection of personal essays by Alicia Elliott, a writer from Six Nations of the Grand River. In the book, Elliott explores a wide range of topics including Indigenous identity, intergenerational trauma, mental health, and systemic racism in Canada.



**#BlackInSchool**  
By Habiba Cooper Diallo  
This book reveals contents from Habiba Cooper Diallo's high school journal where she documents and processes the racism, microaggressions, and stereotypes she experienced in Canada's education system.



Courtesy  
For decades, iconic artists such as Lil Nas X and Ozzy Osbourne have taken some of their inspiration from demonic influences.

print exclusive

By Kerasia Kosich

Regardless of their genre, music artists have sometimes been jokingly accused of selling their souls to the Devil in order to achieve the high level of stardom they possess. For some artists, there is a bit of an appeal to the dark side as a way of establishing their identity, whether they actually believe in it or not. Satanism is

the worship of, or ideological and philosophical beliefs based on Satan, also known as the devil.

The way Satanism is displayed within music has changed drastically over the years and it seems more blatantly presented today.

In the 1700s, an Italian musician was thought to not only sell his soul to the Devil, but even compose a song with him. Giuseppe Tartini heard the song, 'The Devil's Trill,' in a dream after his dream-self

sold his soul and the song ended up being too technically demanding for Tartini. Though this story could come off as far-fetched, the very notion of it caused a stir.

In the 1960s and 70s, Satanism and its influence on music appeared on the more subliminal side. Jimmy Page is the legendary guitarist for the rock band, Led Zeppelin. Page had been a student of occultism for some time, even purchasing a house previously owned by Aleister Crowley, a former English occultist. Due to Page's expertise at guitar playing, tied with subject matter within Led Zeppelin lyrics, he had been accused of selling his soul and having direct ties to Satanism. Page had once stated that mixing Satanic influences into his music was less of an immediate action and more of an "alchemical process," referring to the transformation of something.

As the 1970s progressed more examples appeared. One is shown in the famous band Black Sabbath, known for being the "godfathers" of the heavy metal genre. From having an inverted cross on their debut album cover to lead singer Ozzy Osbourne referring to his songs as "devil-worshipping," the heavy metal genre is associated with the Devil. Satanism influenced subgenres in the 1990s, such as black metal, and these subgenres remained more niche

and out of the general public.

This all started to change in the 2020s. As pop music continued to dominate the mainstream, the world was introduced to singer Lil Nas X. His career continued to thrive; however, he faced criticism for being openly gay. Lil Nas X fired back at his haters by releasing the music video for his song 'Montero,' where he slid down on a stripper pole to Hell before giving the Devil a lap dance. Lil Nas X stated the controversial music video was to fire back at Christian critics rather than an actual Satanic ritual.

Singers Sam Smith and Kim Petras, who are openly part of the LGBTQ+ community, performed their song 'Unholy' at the 2022 Grammy's. Prevalent in the music video itself, and during their performance, Smith and the dancers perform an upside-down cross and Smith is seen wearing a top hat with devil horns. The version faced heavy backlash for being a public display of Satanism.

Satanism in the mainstream continues to be a controversial topic; however, queer artists argue their use of Satanic symbolism is a way of self-expression and a way to empower themselves. Whether this is good or bad is up to the individual, however it doesn't seem like Satanism as a part of the music scene is going anywhere anytime soon.

## The rise of concert ticket prices

print exclusive

By Swadana Devadas

After years of putting concerts on hold, singers, bands, rappers and more including Drake, Taylor Swift and Beyonce have announced tour dates. While some fans had been eagerly awaiting these tours, many are outraged by something else that has tagged along with the stars: inflated concert prices. One 2022 report by Pollstar found that the average concert ticket price has increased by 17.8 percent since 2019.

What else are people getting with their tickets to justify the price? Is there going to be larger accountability to create better experiences for big concert venues or will there be nothing? The answer appears to be the latter

Drake, a Toronto-born hip hop artist, announced his tour, 'It's All A Blur' with 21 Savage. As the prices rolled out, fans saw how overpriced tickets have become. The pricing is between \$200 to \$1200 plus fees and taxes. Drake's tour prices have hit TikTok and Twitter, with several social media accounts calling out the artist claiming they would probably have to "sell their



Courtesy  
Rising ticket prices are causing outrage amongst fans who are eager to see their favourites in person.

cars or kidneys" to afford a ticket.

Drake isn't alone. The average price of a ticket to the 100 most popular tours in North America has almost quadrupled over the past two decades.

Taylor Swift's fans are fighting even harder for tickets. "There is no reason for raising prices since it does not add to production value," says Taylor Swift fan Brianna McDonald. "Artists are simply raising rickets simply because fans are willing to pay."

Fans were eager to attend as the singer plans to perform songs from all her albums, however the prices are exceedingly expensive, ranging from anywhere between \$500 to \$1300 before fees and taxes. Ticketmaster, the company in charge of Swift's tickets, was recently targeted by fans due to its extensive service charges and per person ticket limit. Within a week, resellers were selling tickets at any charge of hundreds or even thousands of dollars beyond the face value. The most expensive ticket

listed on StubHub cost a whopping \$76,000.

Tickets to Adele's concert are selling at an average of \$400. Beyonce's back row tickets are \$136, but the average cost for one ticket is well over \$1000.

Although the tickets to these artists' tours can be extremely expensive, the demand for these artists is bigger than ever. It seems unfortunate that, after such a long wait, fans feel they are being taken advantage of by stars and companies like Ticketmaster.





# Op-ed: J.K. Rowling's comments

## The author's continued relevance in discriminating the marginalized



J.K. Rowling's controversial tweets have put her at odds with many fans who find themselves struggling to continue to support her work.

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Aedan Stone

Joanne Rowling, more commonly known as J.K. Rowling is an incredibly influential figure in popular culture, whether it be through her beloved children's literary works, or her repeated issues surrounding marginalized groups.

The *Harry Potter* series was a pop-culture phenomenon that dominated the shelves of bookstores for decades. Even today, *Harry Potter* still manages to maintain its relevance through continued releases of media that take place in the Wizarding World. With the relevance of the series also comes the continued relevance of the author, J.K. Rowling, who has lately been continuously using her platform to further marginalize already underserved groups.

Rowling has repeatedly demonstrated an attitude that comes across as a one-sided war against the trans community through tweets, essays and

one of her most recent books, *The Ink Black Heart*, featured a character "persecuted" over transphobia which presented the author as a victim rather than an instigator. Her problematic essays have even been quoted by a GOP senator to block a bill that would benefit the LGBTQIA+ community by adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the list of protected classes in many civil rights bills.

Senator James Lankford quoted from what many called Rowling's "transphobic manifesto." He said that "to say in the words of J.K. Rowling this past week where she wrote, 'All I'm asking, all I want is for similar empathy, similar understanding to be extended to the many millions of women whose sole crime is wanting their concerns to be heard without receiving threats or abuse,'"

Lankford using this quote in this way is actually a perfect demonstration of the tactics typically employed by TERFS (trans-exclusionary radical

feminists) and general transphobes, as he posits this clear win for LGBTQIA+ communities as if it is somehow contributing to misogynistic oppression.

Moreover, through the critical lens being applied to her that was spurred on by her own bigotry, people began to find other problematic notions embedded in her children's novels that almost entirely went under the radar for most people. Problematic notions such as the goblins in *Harry Potter* showing striking resemblance to viscerally anti-semitic stereotypes; the appropriation of Indigenous stories, such as skinwalkers; and as it was pointed out in publications such as *Insider* and more, the racist naming schemes of BIPOC characters in the *Harry Potter* series, such as Cho Chang and Kingsley Shacklebolt to name two.

Despite frequent hateful behavior, Rowling still gets to enjoy continued relevance and intellectual property expansion including the newest *Harry*

*Potter* project, the video game, *Hogwarts Legacy*.

Yet despite the controversy, the game still received positive critical reception and was able to make over a billion dollars in sales. Many marginalized communities urged people not to support the game as it directly harmed them; though, this did little to nothing to prevent people from buying the game.

The relevance of this series continues to damage marginalized communities as it platforms a public figure who uses her stage to further contribute to marginalization, while also providing money that often goes directly into funding bigoted lobby groups like the LGB Alliance.

Bottom line: supporting J.K. Rowling should be avoided. When you decide to continue to support her despite your marginalized friends and family urging against you doing so, you are standing with someone who may not support you or someone you love.

# Revisiting classical literature

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Diana Balko

Classic literature is one of the most enjoyable and educational genres to read. It has a considerable amount of history and the stories they tell are timeless.

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*



Diana Balko

Journey through time and broaden your mind by reading the classics.

by Oscar Wilde, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen are just a few of the best-ranked classics that can be explored.

A book is considered classic literature once it has faced the test of time and its popularity endures thanks to the story, theme, or characters within. No matter when a classic is being

read, the book has contemporary relevance. With some classics, young or inexperienced readers may find the writing more challenging to read in terms of style, some of it written in a much more formal way than is customary these days. Despite the age of some of the material, the central message of the story being told is often just as relevant today as it was then.

Each time a reader rereads a classic, there is always another perspective and different way of thinking to explore regardless of your interests. A good classic should have universal appeal. Regardless of a reader's interests, there are also a magnitude of genres to grab one's attention... from complicated and detailed themes such as life and death to love and hate, there will undoubtedly be a theme and specific book that will make a reader fall in love with the classics.

*To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf is an all-time favourite of Grade 11 student

Avery Farrell. "Classics provide people such an amazing opportunity to explore different perspectives and ideas from different eras. I also think classics allow people an easy guide to great literature because they have stood the test of time," she says.

Classics can transport a reader into a different time to look at the kinds of opinions and worldviews they held and then the reader can compare them to modern theories.

For many readers, they find it easier to read classics in a book club. There they can share and talk through the complex plots and the main takeaways and messages.

Some good classics to ease one into this genre are *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. These are all good books to get into. It is well worth your while to read.

Classic literature is excellent and timeless; every dedicated reader should get to experience at least one.

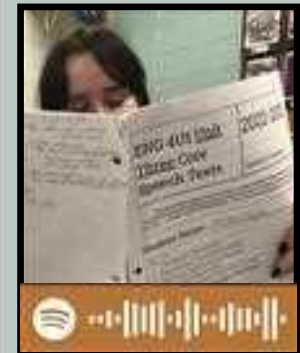


## Soundtrack your King studies



### Romanticizing STEM

Science can be pretty hard, but with a little romanticization, those few hours you spend studying will fly by!



### Kingish

Unable to finish that last PPE of your essay? This playlist can easily cure one's writers' block with its classical tunes.



### Dancing in Your Room

Whether you're feeling down and need a pick-me-up or just want to let loose and have some fun, these songs are sure to get your heart pumping and your feet moving.



### Pre-Game Hype

Got the big game tomorrow? These upbeat hits are sure to hype you up before any challenge!

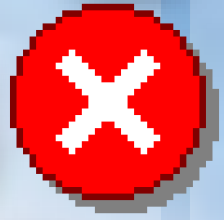


Identify as? who are we? who am i? what do i identify as? who are we? who am i? what do

# IDENTITY



# CRISIS



## Is R.H. King even an academy anymore?

From uniforms and programs closing: the fading glory of King's "academy" era



Tanisha Kumar

King has left its past behind but will it be able to accept its many changes?

By Tanisha Kumar

In 1989, R.H. King Collegiate Institute was renamed R.H. King Academy in an attempt to help the once-struggling school find its footing in the community again. The school introduced new programming like Clinic and Mentor. It brought in a leadership program. The students had uniforms. All of these changes resulted in a surge of interest, so much so that there were times when parents lined up outside at night for a chance to get their kids into the school. When COVID hit, many

things changed out of necessity. No one could have predicted just how much that change would have impacted the school. Recently, King has changed in terms of its specialized programs. The uniform is gone, the board is changing, and all of it seems to be impacting the general tone of the school including student behaviour.

For many years, the identity of King students relied on the appearance of the King uniforms. Students were required to wear the uniform every day with strict regulations. After COVID, many students were

not adhering to the dress code, primarily due to the accessibility of uniforms. With the uniform vote in Spring 2022, students are no longer required to wear uniforms. This change is still affecting students and how they perceive the school.

Grace Jeremy, a Grade 12 student at King, felt the uniform brought students together. "It made us feel like we were actually a part of something, and we had to represent it well whenever we were wearing it. When students go out into the community, they are easily recognized for their connection to their school, with the lion badge on their chests. There is less sense of unity within the school."

Abhinaya Kuganathukumar, another Grade 12 student, agrees. "King has lost its prestige tremendously and I feel like it all started when we lost uniforms. There was some sort of identity that came from our uniforms."

Another concern is how King's specialized programs have been changed into a lottery system, where students applying to King will no longer have to interview to get into the school. The TDSB program is called the "Student Interest Programs Policy". Many parents and students are concerned about interest-only applications. The program is about equalizing opportunity for all students, but some feel those barriers should be fought earlier in

the schooling system so as to not impact merit or achievement-based applications.

A major concern of late is that King's reputation for safety has been under scrutiny within the community of students.

"Students and parents seem to get incident reports every other day of these kids hurting each other in the halls," says Sheza Jamil, a Grade 12 student. "I hear about students using vapes in washrooms, creating an unsafe environment for all of us coming here to learn. The school needs to work together to address this shift in social behaviour. The issue of violence and instability amongst students is a factor in King's current reputation. It may not be getting recognized as the "Academy" it presumes it is until it fixes the issues students are facing. Otherwise, we risk having King's identity become synonymous with this kind of violence."

King has undergone significant transformations that have the potential to strengthen or weaken its identity, but both staff and students need to work at ensuring a positive experience that builds on the past. R.H. King Academy is a school with a rich history and a continually evolving identity. Ultimately, its success will depend on its ability to navigate these changes and continue to prioritize its values of serving, striving, and caring.

2023 senior student art - identity



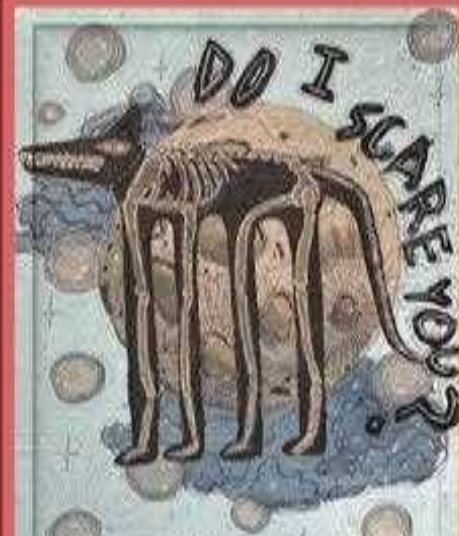
'portrait of an artist' by rhiannon carr



'you are not enough' by sandra raymond



'studio audience' by sheza jamil



'do i scare you?' by ava snucins





# WHO ARE WE: As students and educators

## Understanding trans grief and trans futures



Leo C.

Our safer spaces, our gender-affirming care, and our safety from those who wish us dead are de-prioritized. So what happens after the identity crisis? We grieve.

By Leo C.

This article has mentions of death; suicide and murder; transphobia

What happens after the identity crisis? You question yourself, you find yourself, and you grow comfortable in who you are; what then?

For trans people, there is no easy answer. Most people who know what being trans means know there is usually a period of identity crisis in our lives when we realize we are trans. I have even heard from cis people who

think that identity crisis is our main struggle and that perhaps it is not worth it to struggle so much just for our gender. They were wrong, of course, and that kind of rhetoric is exactly what can cause us the most struggle: that trans problems are trivial and that being trans does not have value. Some cis people—especially those in positions of power—cannot imagine transness being a joyful experience, something that is not only worth it but that we are better off for. When being trans is seen as undesirable, trans people become disposable

describing the feeling that comes with the loss of potential futures due to transphobia. The loss of people is the most common way we think about grief. If you are in any trans space, you are probably reminded of it frequently. I have experienced suicidal ideation and so have most of my trans friends, and their trans friends as well. I feel a pang in my chest every time I hear about another trans person killed; another trans person who died by suicide; even just another trans suicide statistic, especially for trans youth.

I think, *That's one more person in our community we'll never be able to meet and give hope to. I wonder about my own death: If I could see my future funeral, would my chosen names be on my grave marker? Would I hear my real chosen pronouns in my eulogy? It is a question of whether I will have my full humanity affirmed when I have no control over it anymore. However, what I do not have to wonder about is if I will even have a grave marker or a funeral at all, or if anyone will find my body. This is because I am lucky enough to have people who would look for me, and I am much less likely to be murdered or have my murder dismissed by police because I am not transfemme, or Black, Indigenous or dark-skinned. These are the nuances of transphobia where intersectionality really matters; I am affected by transphobia in general, but not trans misogyny.*

The loss of experiences is more abstract, but likely more common than directly losing people. I never had the opportunity to consider going on hormone blockers until I was too old for them. I can never talk to my parents about the transphobia I experience at school, because I am still closeted at

or with certain friends. While these lost experiences seem small on their own, the lifetime of loss builds up. Every moment we cannot express trans joy, fear, euphoria, dysphoria, anger, or hope is a moment we grieve because transphobia makes us suppress them.

### Trans Futures

Since the first draft of this article, countless trans people have been killed, including teenagers younger than me. And I do mean countless, because many of our dead were likely still closeted. With more visibility comes more overtly transphobic rhetoric, widening its audience and taking on an increasingly fascist tone. It can feel hopeless seeing everything we are up against and all of the people we have lost. I take strength from the fact that trans people have been here for millenia and will never be wiped out. Trans liberation means resistance against transphobia and all other forms of oppression, because we know they are tangled together at the roots. Trans futures are the potential futures we can create in the face of loss. What does a world that has defeated transphobia look like? To me, it looks like winning the fight our trans ancestors started: abolishing the policing and prison industrial complex; decriminalizing sex work and drugs; and, free and accessible healthcare for everyone, including trans healthcare.

If you or your loved one is trans and struggling with the effects of this grief, there are various supports you can access. You can try calling the Trans Lifeline at (877)-330-6366 or you can visit their website at [translifeline.org/](http://translifeline.org/). For more resources, you can also get connected King's own Gender and Sexuality Alliance on Instagram @king\_gsa\_.

## The increasing need for intersectionality

### How the intersection of different identities influences our experiences



Tanisha Chowdhury

Students all around King have intersectional identities that shape our community.

By Aedan Stone

In 1968, a black woman by the name of Emma Degraffenreid applied for a job at GM (General Motors) in St. Louis, and then again on June 5th, 1973. Based on her frustrating experience, Ms. Degraffenreid ended up filing a lawsuit against GM, claiming that their "last hired-first fired" policy directly perpetuated discriminatory hiring practices. GM ended up winning, claiming that they did not practice discriminatory hiring practices as they hired many black men and white women; however, what the court seemed to miss here, was the fact that Ms. Degraffenreid was both black and a woman.

Later, Kimberlé Crenshaw who is the co-founder and Executive Director of the African American Policy Forum, discovered this story while reading a legal opinion. Crenshaw saw Ms. Degraffenreid's story and became interested in the way the court system seemingly could not understand how Ms. Degraffenreid could be discriminated against for being black and a woman simultaneously. Crenshaw saw the problem that Ms. Degraffenreid was facing in the court system as a framing problem and subsequently coined the term "intersectionality."

Crenshaw defines intersectionality in the 1989 University of Chicago Legal Forum, where she explains that "intersectionality is a metaphor for

understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking."

So, if intersectionality has been a concept since the late 80's, then why is it still so lacking in general discussions of social issues? The importance of intersectionality in these complex sociological theories can not be understated as history very clearly outlines the dangers of omitting intersectionality: whether it be through the Suffragettes' use of racist rhetoric to make progress for white women, by undercutting women of colour; or the countless strikes that ultimately led to racist riots against workers of colour; TERFs, or trans-exclusionary radical feminists, who repeatedly show they care more about pushing transphobic rhetoric than advocating for women's rights; these things are all examples of what can happen when intersectionality is absent from political thought. All of these examples have another thing in common as well: a lack of intersectionality leading to an ultimate loss of focus on the primary issues at hand.

Patriarchy, white supremacy, transphobia, homophobia, ableism and countless other forms of callous bigotry and oppressive power structures, are all interlocking pieces of the same thing; without an understanding of all of them, it is impossible to accurately understand one of them.

Though even on the smaller scale,

intersectionality is wildly important for one's own understanding of their experiences in a society with many different intersecting systems of oppression.

"As a woman of colour at King, I am surrounded by people similar to me - but not exactly - which is why intersectionality is an important term to use," says Manisha Sharvanathan, a Grade 12 student. "King's environment of identities contains a mosaic of shared experiences, diverse voices and perspectives which ultimately shape King, which are important to highlight and embrace."

Many King students are women of colour, for example, whose experiences with oppression would be entirely omitted by purely focusing on either the misogynistic discrimination or the racist discrimination, rather than acknowledging that both aspects of one's identity shape their experiences greatly and influence one another.

The solution to many of these issues is clear: an increased emphasis on the importance of intersectionality. In all aspects of political understanding, this framework is ultimately important for making continued progress and an omission of it only benefits those who benefit from the existing power structures.

No one person is one thing, every single one of us is an intersecting tapestry of a myriad of identities and experiences that form who we are and intersectionality is a framework that acknowledges that fact.





## Six forgotten childhood games

### 2023: Releases

By Matthew Zaluski



**The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom**  
May 12, 2023

The sequel to *Breath of the Wild* is expected to be an even bigger open world now extending to the skies above the world of Hyrule.

The bottom map may be the same as the previous title, but new characters, dungeons, and game mechanics are expected to set it apart.



**Star Wars Jedi: Survivor**  
April 28, 2023

This game is the sequel to the highly successful *Fallen Order*. Taking place directly after the events of the previous game, *Survivor* follows Jedi Knight Cal Kestis as he attempts to outpace the Galactic Empire and its minions.



**Hollow Knight: Silksong**  
TBA May/June, 2023

Silksong follows Hornet on a quest through a "kingdom haunted by silk and song." The gameplay is expected to be very similar to the original game with an increased emphasis on speed, combat and platforming along with a new quest system.



Adobe Flash Player games were a frequent source of enjoyment for teens in their youth with some of them having become true classics.

By Andrea Penheiro

After Adobe Flash Player, a computer software program for playing games and viewing media content, was recently discontinued. Many will likely never forget the fun times playing games in the computer lab on sites like Cool Math Games or navigating the internet to find the MMOs of childhood in the 2000s. Though Flash is gone, a few sites at least are still hosting versions of the games for people to play while others have been adapted to mobile platforms.

#### Fireboy and Watergirl:

This two player game allowed users to complete maze-like challenges while working as a team. The many different levels and versions of the game cured boredom for many. The frustration felt when one of the players would die, forgetting not to mix fire with water or vis-versa, is a memorable part

of this game. Reaching the end doors was challenging for some along with the added challenge of collecting gems.

#### Papa's Franchise:

The entire *Papa's* game series is filled with different restaurants serving many varieties of food. The games range from the most classic, *Papa's Pizzeria* to *Papa's Freezeria* to *Papa's Taco Mia*. Patience is key in this game because serving raw food to customers means being punished with no tips. Efficiency is essential to avoid a long line of anxious customers waiting for their food. These games were filled with chaos but may have inspired children to consider the restaurant business.

#### Dumb Ways to Die:

As dumb as it might sound, this game defined many teenagers' childhoods. The iconic song is perhaps the best-known part of the franchise,

but the game was itself was pretty memorable. *Dumb Ways to Die* started as a public service announcement for the Metro Trains organization in Melbourne, Australia. The goal was to teach people "not to be dumb around trains" by showcasing the dumb ways to die. The concept later became a game due to how viral the video went.

#### Jetpack Joyride:

In this fun and easy game, kids jetpacked their way through an obstacle course avoiding lasers and rockets, completing challenges and collecting tokens. Compared to other games, *Jetpack Joyride* had a pretty straightforward concept, but some of the challenges were hard to pass. Certain tokens would give special suits giving the player the powers of a bird or a dragon... all with ranging difficulty. With all of the available game-enhancing purchases like skins and cos-

tumes, any in-game money could run out quickly.

#### Geometry Dash:

This game caused plenty of frustration and anger. The only way to move was to tap the screen, and as easy as it sounds, this game had kids in full concentration mode as one mistake and they would have to start at the beginning. Each level in *Geometry Dash* had a song that went with the number of jumps they had to take, which gave an advantage to those who could count a beat.

#### Bad Ice Cream:

A delicious choice between chocolate, vanilla or strawberry ice cream led to a maze where kids had to collect all the fruits before their enemy could catch them. This game was much like the game *Pac-Man* as they both used the same "obtaining fruits and running away from enemies" concept.

## The lucrative side of social media



Marketing is dominating the social media industry these days.

media seems to be growing into new areas.

By Riya Mahendrarajah

In order to engage with audiences, many companies have had no choice but expand their marketing into social media.

From a business perspective, this can have a considerable upside. For a time, one of the most popular social media jobs was being an "influencer" but the variety of jobs associated with social

media seems to be growing into new areas.

One such job is social media marketing. A social media strategist is a specific marketer whose primary focus is on the company's social media page. They create tailored content and focus on customer engagement strategies.

While it may seem easy to market products, it actually involves a lot of strategy. Professionals are required to carry out the process. For this reason, many post-secondary

institutions now offer social media marketing certifications to ensure that these people can specifically cater to the expectations of their jobs.

"I would seriously consider taking it as a degree in the future," says Alveena Khan, a marketing student at King. "[Social media] does have a huge impact on the economy and online platforms so it would definitely pay off and just be fun and exciting overall."

Social media and digital marketing help reach a sizeable online audience on these platforms. Grade 12 student and co-founder of JV Embroids, Vasuki Thayanantharajah, believes this form of marketing benefits her business.

"Through social media, we can advertise to a wide range of customers and it allows our business to be easily accessed by everyone," she says. "Social media helps us stay connected to our customers, and this benefits our business as we can get customer feedback to better our products!"

Marketing is an integral part of business as it shows the product to potential customers. It gives audiences the first impression, which means

it is essential in determining profits or losses for the company.

A Grade 10 student at King, Suha Ashraf, feels that marketing is a good career option. "I would actually consider a degree in marketing because of its many sectors and fields that can be played out right now," Ashraf says. "I feel like I could find a job where teaching and creativity are both important using a marketing degree."

Similar to the future demand for people in science and business, the need for social media marketers is also on the rise.

The University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University offer selections of social media courses for those who want to operate different marketing strategies.

Additionally, several colleges such as Humber, Seneca and George Brown, all now offer short-term certifications in social media marketing.

With the widespread influence of social media shaping the way people communicate, and consume information, highlighting its immense relevance in present and future careers is still very important.





# ChatGPT: AI's impact on integrity



AI-generated writing is replacing the work of students and creating some serious complications in verifying academic integrity.

By Himadri Sarker

ChatGPT is an AI chatbot that enables users to have human-like conversations. It can also answer questions, write long-form essays, poems, or song lyrics. It completes various tests and assessments without much additional assistance. This all sounds good, but the use of ChatGPT raises a lot of questions relating to honesty, academic integrity, and the long-lasting impact it can have on education.

The intention was noble, at least. Its creator, OpenAI, intended for the application to act as a tool to transform ideas into text form and to serve as a means to get valuable tasks done quickly.

What's quite surprising is how good it is at these tasks. GPT-4, a revised version of ChatGPT scored in the 90th percentile on the uniform bar

exam, which measures the information and abilities a lawyer must possess before entering practice. How long might it be before an AI serves as a lawyer in court? What might be lost or gained in such a case?

There are many different platforms where ChatGPT is used. Duolingo, a language learning service has developed an AI conversation partner and a tool called "Explain My Answer" that clarifies certain rules when a learner makes a mistake. Additionally, AI technology can be found on websites such as Khan Academy and investment banking companies such as Morgan Stanley.

As advances in this technology continue, a concern is rising that AI will replace human intelligence instead of supporting it. Some might be worried about losing the 'human touch' but as AI technology becomes more sophisticated, its outputs seem more

natural and human-like.

However, for every good intention, there is a downside. With ChatGPT being so accessible and so easy to use, it makes it much easier for students to plagiarize their work. Completing an assignment or a test question is only one chat prompt away. This technology could increase laziness among students as they can always rely on it to tend to their academic needs.

Like a competent virtual assistant, ChatGPT instantly provides answers to the various questions a student may ask. This eliminates many of the thought processes a student would go through when completing an assignment. The long term negative effects are clear. After all, who wants a doctor who used something like ChatGPT and hasn't learned any of the skills themselves?

Ms. Cousins, an English teacher at R.H. King says students have an overreliance on

technology. "They take a short-term gain by using ChatGPT that negatively impacts them long-term. They should be able to leave school and gain strong problem-solving skills and shouldn't heavily rely on AI as it cannot replace individual thought."

The increasing intelligence of ChatGPT and applications similar to it also make it challenging for teachers to distinguish between AI-generated work and work completed by a student. GPTZero is a program created to alleviate this very issue. It is an application created by a Princeton University student that detects whether or not a body of work is AI-generated or human-generated. The program was designed for educators with features like plagiarism ratings that grade a document depending on how much of it is AI-generated. King teachers have a similar tool embedded into TurnItIn that they have been able to use this year.

# Recent spike in video game delays



Warner Bros. Games

Suicide Squad: Kill the Justice League has been delayed until 2024.

By Kaycee Wigmore

The gaming industry is well-known for its fast-paced ever-changing environment. A game's release date can be changed for many reasons, including programming bugs or errors being the main ones.

However, all of these delays are made with the intention of providing the best experience possible even if it adds to frustration from gamers.

In game development, there are countless phases of programming, and one minor bug can require rewriting significant parts of the code which takes a lot of time. For smaller companies, having fewer staff will

slow development, as there are fewer people to program the code in the first place, let alone test, find, and fix the bugs.

That said, almost every video game made in the last few years has faced significant delays pushing back its release date. Sometimes games are even delayed for multiple years. This can create a lot of frustration for gamers. The most recent example is *Suicide Squad: Kill the Justice League*. The game was supposed to be out in a matter of weeks but was suddenly pushed back nearly a year to February 2024.

Many games follow a similar pattern of delays. For example, *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Five Nights at Freddy's: Security Breach* both saw delays over eight months. Even when these long awaited games were finally released, fans were not impressed with them.

A report from Comic Book Resources (CBR) from 2022 found the latest *Five Nights at Freddy's* game had bugs that made whole sections of the

game unplayable, and fans thought the game felt "empty and unfinished."

Typically, games getting delayed allows for more work to be put into it to make the game better, but with lack of resources and funding, delays did very little to improve the overall game. The developers felt pressured to release the game after keeping fans waiting for long periods of time, which led to rushing parts of development to release games as soon as possible, regardless of if the final product was as good as planned.

When a game is repeatedly delayed, it can create a sense of distrust and frustration among players, who may begin to wonder if the developers are capable of delivering a quality product. This issue is only exacerbated when the final product does not live up to fans expectations or is not playable due to bugs. This can lead to a tarnished reputation for the developers, which can be hard to recover from.

## 2023: Releases

By Matthew Zaluski



Pikmin 4  
July 21

In this real-time strategy and puzzle game, the player takes control of an ant-sized astronaut landing on an earth-like planet. The player collects Pikmin that can be thrown to defeat enemies or to help solve puzzles. This game is expected to carry on the pattern of high critical and commercial performance.



Hades II  
Late 2023

*Hades II* expands the world of the immensely popular dungeon crawler *Hades* by introducing a whole new line of ancient Greek deities. The gameplay revealed in the trailer is akin to *Hades*, only in a brand new world with new challenges, upgraded systems and unique abilities.



Fantasy Life:  
The Girl Who Steals Time  
Late 2023

*Fantasy Life* is an RPG life simulation game where players experience life on a ruined island by exploring custom houses, characters and more. The player is able to bounce back and forth from present to past and build their own city.



## Thoughts from the

**corner: with Michaud & Wilkinson**



Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Michaud strike a pose.

### Did Elon Musk ruin Twitter?

Mr. Michaud: Yes. No jokes this time. That man is bad.

Mr. Wilkinson: It would have to have been good in the first place.

### Was the Will Smith slap the greatest event in television history?

Mr. Michaud: That wasn't even the greatest slap in history.

### What's the best song from Taylor Swift's *Midnights*?

Mr. Wilkinson: I don't know any Swift songs. I know, it's me. I'm the problem. It's me.

### Are Machine Gun Kelly and Megan Fox meant to be?

Mr. Michaud: Sure. At least until they become irrelevant again and divorce during the inevitable rebranding.

### AI Art - good or trash?

Mr. Wilkinson: I have yet to see a depiction of an AI that didn't go rogue and kill us all. Because of this, I LOVE AI art and I worship our new robot overlords.

### Team Amber or Team Johnny?

Mr. Wilkinson: Team "my dog stepped on a bee."

### Are Prince Harry and Meghan Markle too dramatic?

Mr. Michaud: Royally.

### Would you wait 13 hours to see Queen Elizabeth II at her funeral (like David Beckham)?

Mr. Wilkinson: That's hard to say. It's really a long-standing commitment.

Have a question for Michaud and Wilkinson? Head to [kingsleyvoice.com](https://kingsleyvoice.com) or our Instagram

## Everybody should be able to see themselves on the big screen



Halle Bailey as Ariel in Disney's *The Little Mermaid* was a step in the right direction for inclusivity.

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Ruwaida Ahsan & Nikita Hardial

Historically, theatre screens have been dominated by white, male actors as it was expected that they were who audiences wanted to pay money to see. As times have progressed, attitudes and perspectives have changed in part because of movements advocating for equality. As a result, there is an increase in diversity in casting. However, this transition hasn't been entirely smooth. Many characters played by actors of different minority groups are portrayed as stereotypes or are rarely given the opportunity to be come memorable characters.

This lack of proper repre-

sentation often negatively impacts the viewers of the films, especially young people. Watching films where a white protagonist dominates the screen may create feelings of being lesser or unseen for viewers who are of a different ethnicity. When minority groups do not see much of themselves on screen, they feel excluded. This can impact everything from their mental health, their ability to feel attractive, or even cast doubt on what they may be able to achieve in the world.

These harmful stereotypes in the media may cause others to internalize these untrue images. Even smaller skits and portrayals spread to a vast majority of people worldwide, which could eventually result in the normalization of racism, sexism, homophobia, tran-

sphobia and other types of discrimination.

Hollywood has been perpetuating harmful racial stereotypes for comedic purposes for a very long time. For instance, blackface had been extremely popular and normalized in early western films. This is totally unacceptable now, but the long-term effects of these approaches are still felt. If it's seen by many and often, this is how stereotypes get a foothold in the world.

However, in recent years, progress has been made to make film and TV more diverse and the positive impact it makes on audiences is clear.

Following the release of the trailer for *The Little Mermaid* (2023), which stars Halle Bailey, a woman of colour, there were a surge of posts on social media platforms such as

TikTok regarding the casting choice. Many of these posts involved young black children who, after seeing the trailer, expressed immense excitement by seeing that Ariel, the main character, is a Black woman. These posts are significant in demonstrating the impact of proper representation. They show major film companies that representation is important in increasing revenue, which will likely increase the representation found in films for years to come.

Another huge win came with *Everything, Everywhere All At Once* that not only won Best Picture but the predominantly Asian cast also brought home acting awards for Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan.

Grade 11 student Opshori Banik says that when people do not see themselves represented in the media, a struggle, known or unknown, occurs.

"I say this because despite having confidence [in myself], there was always a lack of something. I didn't realize it until I saw TV shows representing people of colour in main character roles. For me, it means our power could be something characterized as worthy in the eyes of others," Banik says.

With some increasing representation for people of colour, Hollywood should continue this positive trend of inclusivity. *The Little Mermaid* will be out in theatres this year on May 26.

## Is the Marvel movie magic fading?

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Ruwaida Ahsan

From *Avenger's Endgame*, to *Black Widow* and *The Marvels*, the list of movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe has ballooned to more than 30 films and television shows since the first *Iron Man* film came out in 2008. What has become known as the MCU consists of some of the most renowned and loved superhero films of all time, all living within a carefully curated universe where the galaxy is a

stage set solely for villains and heroes to walk upon.

A connected cinematic experience like this has never been done before. It seemed impossibly ambitious when it began, but over the years the MCU saw a rise in popularity among all age groups. To capitalize off of this surge in appreciation for the MCU, Disney has, in recent years, been pumping out content focused on creating sequels to popular movies (like *Wakanda Forever*) and the just-released *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.3* to keep viewers intrigued and satisfied.



*Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* is the newest Marvel movie to hit box offices and is facing both high and low expectations.

However, with many of the movies released since the last *Avengers* movie (a notable exception being *Spider-Man: No Way Home*), there seems to be lower box office takes and slumping critical reviews. For instance, *Eternals* (2021) received a score of 47% on Rotten Tomatoes, making it the first rotten score ever attained by a Marvel movie. That score was repeated by *Ant Man & The Wasp: Quantumania*.

One issue within the post *Endgame* works (the films have just entered Phase 5 after a largely panned Phase 4) is the lack of an overarching storyline to tie all the films together. Marvel Phase 3 had some of the largest and popular movies in Marvel's history and a portion of the success of the movies can be attributed to the fact that there was an overarching storyline to keep viewers engaged from one movie to the next. Movies from Phase 3 such as *Avengers: Endgame* had been very successful as they were packed with some brilliant ideas made by the writers and directors of the film. However, Marvel now faces difficulty in portraying the aftermath of the events that

took place in Phase 4 while simultaneously trying to add new ideas and new storylines to the MCU.

According to Derek Saul from *Forbes*, recent polls have also shown a decline in the number of individuals who find that they enjoy superhero movies, and specifically, MCU films. Individuals in this survey noted that they think that the movies have a repetitive and formulaic storyline which makes them less entertaining, and the introduction of new characters takes away from the familiarity that they appreciated in other MCU movies. Some critics also point out that many of the special effects don't seem to be up to par.

It is worth noting that a large majority of people still enjoy Marvel movies, although recent movies are underperforming at box office.

Thousands of people still rush to theatres after new MCU movies are released, but now it seems like some of that early magic has been lost. Disney seems to be adjusting as it is slowing down releases to work on making sure that the quality lives up to the expectations of fans.





# Character analysis: Klaus Mikaelson

print exclusive

By Ariba Islam

Supernatural sensations *The Vampire Diaries* and *The Originals* specifically include a complex, short-tempered, yet misunderstood character. An antagonist in the former series and a main protagonist in the latter, vampire Klaus Mikaelson is a character worth watching closely.

Played by Joseph Morgan, Niklaus (Klaus) Mikaelson belonged to a family of the Original Vampires, meaning he is one of the TV show universe's first and oldest vampires to exist. The immortal character is said to have walked the earth for over 1,000 years, though he appears to look as if he was in his early 20s which can give the actor a lot of room to perform aspects of being both old and young at the same time.

Adding to the character's rich backstory, even though Klaus became a vampire, it was initially unknown to him that he was born a werewolf. This affected his morals and personality.

As a human, before his supernatural aspects took hold, Klaus was protective, brave, and reckless, but he loved with his whole heart. His siblings were his first priority and he was always protective of them. Not everything was great, though, as he was often abused by his father. When his family became vampires, Klaus was deeply affected. His sorrow, misery and loneliness were heightened. He lost sense of who he was.



Joseph Morgan plays the hybrid vampire/werewolf on CW's *The Vampire Diaries* and *The Originals*. The CW

It's these kinds of details that make a character like this worth watching more closely. Often in television, your show is only as good as its villain. Having someone be 'totally evil' or 'totally good' is often not compelling. There needs to be room for redemption or at the very least a strong explanation as to why the dark side has taken over. Other shows with examples of this include Angel and Spike from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* or the ultimate baddie himself, Darth Vader from *Star Wars*, who was brought back to the light by his son after fully falling to evil.

For Klaus, this conflict of who he is versus who he was really shines in his moments with his family. After becoming a vampire, Klaus' father was even more cruel and abusive. He tried to pit Klaus's siblings against him. As a result, Klaus became something

to fear because he thought that was the only way for people to not hurt or abandon him, for they would be too afraid to go against him. He believed he couldn't be naturally loved. All he had left was his family, but even then, the love that he so desperately needed wasn't given. Even as a villain, it was hard for the audience not to feel sympathy.

As part of his backstory, Klaus went into survival mode for years. He couldn't truly trust anyone, even his family. He learned that the only way to have an ally is through violence and establishing power over them. As the villain of *The Vampire Diaries* and through some parts of *The Originals* he's done some very harmful things in the name of survival and power. His identity and nature started off very negative and violent, but after all of his negative actions, there were moments where you

could see that they character truly feels guilt and remorse. He doesn't show it because he was taught that emotions were a weakness.

As his character develops, he learns to love again. This is from meeting the right people who loved him unconditionally. Klaus ends up having a daughter who becomes his world. He reconciles his relationships with his siblings and they form a bond stronger than ever.

Characters like Klaus are what helps to make shows like these the success that they are. It is also thanks to the actor, Joseph Morgan, who was able to deftly transition from one version of Klaus to another in a way that captured the attention of audiences.

*The Vampire Diaries* ran for 8 seasons while *The Originals* went for 5. All seasons are currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

## 2000's classics [Girlboss Edition]

Powerful female characters can dismantle gender-based stereotypes, and inspire many viewers. This spring, let's acknowledge some of the most classic and iconic female leads from the early 2000s.

### 10 Things I Hate About You



Julia Styles as Kat Stratford.

Kat Stratford is intelligent, independent, and not afraid to speak her mind. This iconic movie mixes high school, rom-com, witty humor, not-so-hateful poetry and feminism all together.

### Legally Blonde



Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods.

Elle Woods' character teaches "girlboss" through lessons of empowerment, independence, and integrity as she advances her law career.

### The Princess Diaries



Anne Hathaway as Mia Thermopolis.

Mia Thermopolis is a socially awkward teenager who discovers she is heir to the Kingdom of Genovia. This movie shares the importance of having good role models, how to be true to yourself and your family/friends no matter what the pressures are.

# Indie films are some of the best



Miramax *Pulp Fiction* deserves the label of a culturally significant film.

print exclusive

By Luckshika Ravinthran

A film is typically labelled as 'indie' (or independent) when it comes from a small studio, has little financial support, and doesn't have the typical money backing or support that some of the larger studios or blockbusters would typically com-

mand. As a result, for many movie lovers both inside and out of the industry, indie films represent an opportunity to see projects truly born of passion, creativity, and determined grit.

An example of an early, yet iconic indie film is *The Breakfast Club*. It's about five teenagers with opposing personalities who get sent to detention and are able to establish a connection with one another over the course of one Saturday, chang-

ing their lives for the better. The film was made on a relatively tiny budget of one million dollars and was produced by A&M films (though Universal was listed as one of the production companies).

Other indie films have made similar marks on the world. Perhaps movies like *Get Out* by Jordan Peele, *Memento* by Christopher Nolan, or *Reservoir Dogs* by Quentin Tarantino sound familiar.

These films have such a large following in part because of the creative freedom of indie filmmakers. Another Tarantino film, *Pulp Fiction*, is a great example. Peter Travers from *Rolling Stone* said there is a "special kick that comes from watching something this thrillingly alive." The key reason this film is so iconic is because of its unconventional structure and because of the non-linear storytelling utilized by the director.

Indie films as produced under very tight-knit conditions, often as a result of the pressure of making a film with little money, time, or support that other films may get with a bigger studio. What can happen as a result is a burst of

creativity on set and off set many often look for ways to support one another. Tarantino, for example, is good friends with Kevin Smith (*Clerks III*) and they often go to one another for feedback.

One ongoing concern for the indie film market is that these films don't often command the same kind of receipts that blockbuster films can generate. With less money on the table, there is far less incentive for a studio to back smaller film projects. While these many of these indie films do well critically and some are recognized at awards ceremonies like the Oscars, they do little in the way of benefitting the bottom line.

Can indies hope to survive in this kind of environment? A lot of it boils down to the determination of the team behind the film. You have to have a committed director, a clear vision, and it does not hurt to have a star attached who may be willing to take a pay cut because they stand a better chance of being rewarded critically. What matters the most, however, is having a project worth believing in and an audience willing to watch.



# Sports + Health



## From fields to classes: King coaches



Tanisha Chowdhury

**Ms. Clish**  
Phys. Ed

Ms. Clish coaches Girl's Field Hockey & Girl's Ice Hockey teams. She chose to teach sports because of her love of coaching and building a connection with students. A fun fact about her is that when she was in high school she went to OFSAA for wrestling.



Tanisha Chowdhury

**Ms. Takahashi**  
Phys. Ed

Ms. Takahashi coaches badminton and ultimate frisbee. She enjoys all sports, except for golf! A fun fact about her is she also like to play Japanese taiko drums which she started learning nearly 20 years ago.



Tanisha Chowdhury

**Mr. Warriner**  
Phys. Ed

Mr. Warriner coaches Girl's Basketball team and Girl's Flag Football. He is a passionate, hard working coach who love the thrill of a good competition! A fun fact about him is that the only fruit he eats are apples!

## Breaking barriers: women's soccer

Canada's national women soccer team demand equality in funding



@rhk\_flagfootball

Starting at the school backfield into stadiums: women's teams have to had to regularly fight for their way into the sports arena.

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Hirushi Madanayake

The Canadian Women's soccer team is not one to underestimate, as they had a recent gold medal win in the 2021 Summer Olympics.

Despite this success, the world champions are now going into one of their most important competitions with funding cuts. It does not make sense, and the team themselves agree.

Coming out with statements on social media, the women's team state why they believe these cuts impact them going into the World Cup more significantly.

"Despite our strong track record of success and history-making achievements for more than a decade, we con-

tinue to be told there is not enough money to adequately fund our program...to perform at a world-class level without the same level of support that was received by the men's national team in 2022, and with significant cuts to our program — to simply make do with less," the team said in their statement on social media.

The group went as far as to mention that the men's team was given appropriate funding leading up to their World Cup in Qatar. The women want Canada Soccer to provide them the same funds and resources to prepare for the World Cup this summer as the Canadian men.

When it was clear this wasn't going to happen, it was announced that the women's team would be going on strike

until further action is taken as they are unable to train as well as the men's team to prepare efficiently for the World Cup. They were forced back on to the pitch after being threatened with legal action from Canada Soccer.

As Janine Beckie, a player, was understandably frustrated. "There's not really words to describe how it feels to be here in camp with the national team and know we are not being given the same resources that our men's team was given last year to prepare for their World Cup."

Note that this does not mean the players are asking for the same pay as men, but rather want equality in the number of training opportunities and the number of players invited to camps. They want communication about the

topics of budgets and funding. These simple requests are not difficult to fulfill as the teams have never been more successful attracting a larger audience and have more than earned the respect of being part of the conversation.

Canada's women's soccer signifies a systemic issue of sexism within the sporting industry, as it reflects a lack of investment, support, and recognition for women's achievements and abilities. The identity of women in sports, a topic spoken about often, is surrounded by opinions and people who still believe women are not capable of making an impact. With funding cuts, they have put less effort into fortifying women so they can succeed.

The issues at hand still have yet to be resolved.

## The contribution of sports to society



Sandra Raymond

Sports provide an outlet for communities, schools and students.

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Hirushi Madanayake

Whether it is the excitement brimming from the 2019 Raptors parade after winning the championships, or the hype to watch the Sunday Superbowl, sports show a sense of belonging and unity amongst many people.

Whether young, old, athletes or non-athletes, sports have impacted society as a whole. Sports have provided safe havens, stress outlets, coping mechanisms, and massive opportunities.

Sports create jobs for those talented enough to make it. Growing up in sports, being competitive, training and committing to a sport, provides

children with life-changing experiences.

Sports shape them into becoming the person they are. Without sports, personal identities could be drastically different.

Sports mold and create a whole new group of people in society. "I think that kids learn a lot about themselves when they play sports. As someone who has grown up around sports, it has taught me to build skills both physically and mentally," says student, Srivaishnavi Batchu.

Children are molded by their experiences from their youthful ages. Being part of a team can give children a sense of belonging and connection to others which is an important component of identity development. It provides children a team, a collective of people similar to them as they share one common activity.

Additionally, sports teach children how to stay committed to a challenge and build competitiveness.

Grade 11 student Pritika Sharma reflects on sports affected their life. "I remember when I first started playing hockey. I found it to be the

most awful and challenging thing I had ever attempted. It came to a point where I was almost going to quit. But with my teammates and coaches, it just felt like I couldn't let them down. So I stuck around. Ended up playing ten whole seasons!"

Sports build confidence and character as they teach kids what it is like to effectively dedicate time to a challenge. It provides them with a sense of accomplishment outside of academics.

"I am the biggest fan of academic validation. Believe me: I compete for those grades. But sports gives me the same exact feeling when I win a race, too. It's just that wild adrenaline," Batchu says.

Sports play a vital role in communities, and their importance cannot be overstated. The participation in sports creates values and experiences where individuals can feel a sense of connection and affiliation with a group, which can enhance their self-esteem.

Building these relationships on and off the field are an integral part of the athlete experience.





## Current trends: old is new again



Tanisha Chowdhury

Vintage secondhand shops like Courage My Love in Kensington Market have been making a comeback in this sustainable fashion era.

PRINT EXCLUSIVE

By Claire Taylor

One looking at old King Yearbooks from the '70s, '80s and '90s can see old trends making a comeback in the halls today... whether it be the groovy flared jeans, bright flashy designs, or baggy clothes that were popular at one point in time, it seems as though what is old is new again.

There are many reasons for the sudden surge in the popularity of vintage clothing. One could choose to wear and buy vintage clothing because they like a particular style that was popular in years past. However, environmental factors have to be taken into consideration as well.

Thilaxy Jeyabaven, an avid fashion enthusiast explains that buying vintage makes for a complete package. "Instead of buying new clothes which

require the use of the extra resources to produce, vintage clothing is already made and simply being repurposed. In turn, you get to wear clothes in a style that is currently making a comeback."

Online resellers, primarily now through platforms such as Depop, a fashion marketplace, find vintage clothing or items, usually advertising the repurposing of clothing to give that item a new life. Although many private sellers sell through a variety of price ranges.

Claire Lalonde, a Grade 12 student whose entire closet is thrifted and who has bought from online resellers feels some are hiking up the prices of vintage clothes are inflating the prices, making clothing more inaccessible for people who cannot spend \$200 on a raggedy Blur (band) t-shirt. "They appear to care about the one-of-kind vintage pieces but have ulterior priorities,"

Lalonde says.

In a more recent practice, bigger stores have been imitating the vintage looks to profit from the trend. Fast fashion stores like H&M, Urban Planet and Aritzia have created nuanced, modern versions of vintage clothing to attract youth to their brands. They are adding pops of colour, playing with the fit of apparel making it looser or tighter and changing the textures of fabric.

Downtown Toronto houses a more extensive inventory of thrift and vintage stores, specifically in Kensington Market. Stores like Courage My Love and King of Kensington has authentic vintage clothing.

Himanshi Kumar, a Grade 10 student is a big fan. "I love vintage stores that sell lots of sweaters, as I am a fan of old knits and vintage hoodies. I like how worn they are; it adds to their comfort and style. One of my favourite places to find these is Exile in Kensington

Market!"

Downtown Toronto is not easy to access for some so they turn to stores like the Salvation Army or Value Village. While there are newer designs and prints, one can often find hidden gems.

The latest fashion trends raises the question of why people are interested in connecting with past designs. With vintage clothing, quality and fit are significant factors and have not been a priority in the fashion cycle. Commonly known, fast fashion companies often create clothing to only last a certain amount of wears; that way, one is forced to buy more clothes.

In comparison, traditional kinds of vintage clothing provide a dependable quality. Vintage clothes offer a portal to a simpler time when innovating looks was more effortless and more durable. Shopping vintage is pushing things back to help move forward.

### From classes to runways: King teachers

Ms. Booth

Q: What do you wear when you have nothing to wear?

A: "When I have nothing to wear, I usually default to black tights and a hoodie!"



Mr. Jermyn

Q: What is your closet staple item?

A: "The item that I have the most of in my closet is black pants, but my selection of seasonal Halloween shirts and Christmas shirts are definitely a must and is the area where most new items belong."



Natalie Caporusso

Ms. Olaizola

Q: What is your favourite fashion trend?

A: "Effortlessly chic! Timeless and comfortable plus you look good without trying too hard. So, if I was to get a makeover that is the look I would go for!"



Natalie Caporusso

## The loss of identity to aesthetics



Tanisha Chowdhury, Gwyneth Pettipas

Trading out an identity for aesthetics can be tough for teens today.

By Julia Nichol

The labelling of aesthetics and the continuous stream of microtrends is not a foreign concept to social media but has recently become popular with social media users in the past few years.

Microtrends within fashion are styles or items that rise to great popularity through influencers, celebrities and social media for a few weeks or

months and are then completely forgotten about after the popularity dies down. The existence of microtrends is such that social media has a means of categorization for differing those "accepted" and the outliers who don't participate in these trends every few weeks. The social pressure and desire to fit in have led people, especially developing adolescents, to give in to these trends and slip down the path of identity shuffling. When

observed in a continuous cycle, the ability to express oneself through style is lost in the sea of microtrends.

Aleena Khan, a Grade 10 student at King, finds labelled aesthetics detrimental to her experience growing as an adolescent.

"I feel like the labelling of aesthetics, like the 'clean girl aesthetic', makes me feel like I have to change my lifestyle to fit into an aesthetic. It can have a good impact, such as encouraging people to go to the gym or pursue healthier eating habits like higher water consumption."

However, an aesthetic now determines identity as its definition reaches far beyond just clothing. It has become a lifestyle that determines personality, interests, and an image presented to others. "This can turn into an unhealthy obsession quickly. It's hard to keep up; each company is trying to guess the next viral product or 'that girl' is which is wasteful, when these trends are disposable," Khan says.

Media, through time, has profited off the fantasy of the

characters it portrayed. Now, through social media, more recent examples with terms like "clean girl," "coquette girl," or "dark academia girl," have been thrown all around the internet. These aesthetics are a bridge to becoming these characters. The majority of impressionable youth romanticize these characters and set back the realities of identity.

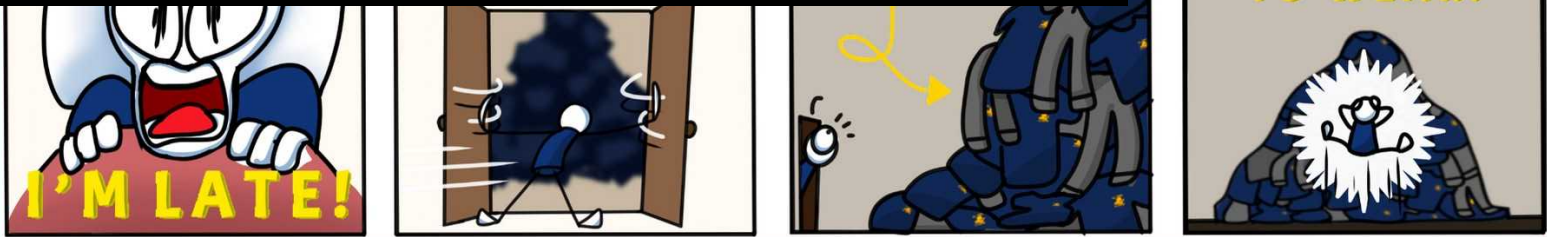
Emily Callaghan, a Grade 12 student and an avid TikTok user claims social media companies use aesthetics as a way to attract and retain audiences, create a perception of value and importance in their products, and get revenue through advertising, thus creating an endless cycle of expectations for consumers. "These companies use various methods to shape our perceptions of characters, such as stereotyping and 'character' design."

A problem is that it may be preventing people from expressing their persona through style, as stereotypes link to aesthetics that do not reflect oneself. A person's identity can get lost when trying to find the right aesthetics.

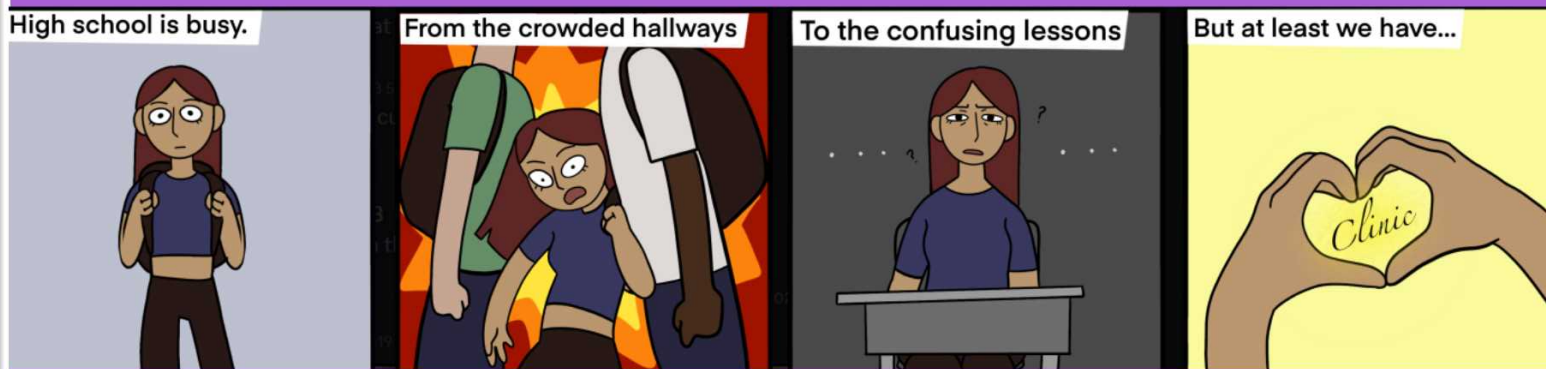


# b-side

“b-side?” more like be slay!



clinic rules! - comic by: Rhiannon Carr



### Word Scramble

1. TERSIECNLITOTYNA
2. PSHREEADL
3. HROURACBBSO
4. EDMCICAA
5. YNSIUCIVLTI
6. UELCURT
7. IYDSVIETR

### Wordle Search!

Legend

- Letter is in wrong location
- Correct letter
- Letter needs to be filled

			I			
D		T			Y	
D	N		T	I	E	Y
D	E		T	I	N	Y

kingsleyvoice.com