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the **Omega**

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Honouring Black History Month at TRU

The Black student body reflects on the 30th anniversary of the distinction in Canada

ADESIRE AJAYI-SMITH NEWS EDITOR

With February now underway, TRU Students are hard at work facilitating events for Black History Month.

The commemorative month is observed annually to honour the legacy and contributions of Black communities and individuals in Canada.

This Black History Month is a landmark for several reasons. This year, 2026, will mark 30 years since Black History Month was introduced in Canada, 50 years since the month was nationally recognized in the United States and exactly 100 years since its precursor, "Negro History Week," was first formed in Chicago, Ill.

"Canada does not teach about Black history a lot," said Stacy Ogbuehi, education and advocacy officer at the Afro-Caribbean Association (ACSA). "And if they do, they teach about it from a detached perspective."

Ogbuehi is a Canadian-Nigerian who, in Edmonton, led her local high school's Black Students Association. This experience, she said, opened her up to advocating for and educating about the Black community.

Still in her first year, Ogbuehi has already taken an executive position at the ACSA.

"I'm just really passionate about this," she said. "When I saw they had a vacancy, I was like, 'I have to join.'"

Groups like the ACSA,

the largest Black student association on campus, have been organizing non-stop in anticipation of the coming month, collaborating with on- and off-campus groups to create programming that supports education and community building.

"We are very excited, but also anxious," Ogbuehi said. "We have a lot of events planned for February. They're about education, but also a place for students to enjoy connections with one another."

The ACSA's line-up for Black History Month included a movie night on Feb. 6 featuring the biographical American drama

Sarah's Oil, which follows a young Black girl in the American South who discovers oil on her land.

The following day, on Feb. 7, the association held a reception for the Black History Month exhibition at the TRU Art Gallery. The exhibition, titled *The Black Canvas*, showcases local artists in celebration of the Government of Canada's theme, "Black Brilliance Across Generations."

The ACSA will also be hosting a financial literacy seminar on Feb. 13.

"We're having a two-sided month, where we're educating people and also just making sure people can have fun and build community," Ogbuehi said.

Finally, on Feb. 28, to cap off the month, the ACSA will host a Black History Month Gala with the theme "Rhythms of the Diaspora."

The hope, according to Ogbuehi, is to create a space that celebrates Black students and community members across all places, cultures, lifestyles and identities.

Despite all of this and the several other events within and outside of the campus, many TRU students feel frustrated with how

the month has been commemorated in the past.

"Last year, there was this big event in the Campus Activity Centre," Abdullahi Mutiaru, a second-year data science student, told *The Omega*. "They invited all these companies, as well. It felt a lot more like a networking thing."

Mutiaru, unsatisfied with that sort of program, insisted that Black History Month should be about celebration and education, not career advancement and networking.

Some students reported being either unaware or only vaguely aware that such events occur when February arrives.

"I don't think I see them," said Yin Ajuwape, fourth-year PR student. "Maybe I just haven't been in school for those events, but I don't see them."

Though second-year computer science student Tomi Fatunase had experienced a few events here and there, he insisted it wasn't "anything big."

Some students hope this year's efforts to recognize and celebrate Black History Month will be better and handled with greater care than in years past. Others aren't so optimistic.

"I'm sure it's going the same way it went last year," Mutiaru said.

According to the ACSA, open communication exists between club executives and the broader community. This ensures that they meet as many needs as possible.

The club's plans for February seemed to reignite some level of excitement amongst the TRU's Black student body. For them, the celebration of Black History Month is an opportunity to connect cross-culturally across the diaspora.

"I think, in these events, you meet so many friends that, regardless of culture, you guys just know each other," Fatunase said.

Ajuwape agreed. "I feel like it exposes you to different cultures, but it's also not so different. You're all still sisters."

"We're having a two-sided month, where we're educating people and also just making sure people can have fun and build community,"

Stacy Ogbuehi, education and advocacy officer at the Afro-Caribbean Association (ACSA)

Iranian students express fears amid unrest

For many Iranian students, the cost of instability is felt far beyond borders

ELLEN KAZEMBE STAFF WRITER

Widespread protests in Iran began on Dec. 28, 2025, due to a deepening economic crisis highlighted by currency devaluation, an increase in inflation and ongoing political repression by the Iranian government.

Since then, the protests have evolved, expanding to include a broader call for government reform. In Iran, these demonstrations have been met with resistance by Iranian authorities through arrests, internet shutdowns and widespread severe violence resulting in rising death tolls. At TRU, Iranian students say the situation back home continues to shape their sense of security, finances and academic focus.

"After 47 years, we are here," said Ali Alizadeh, an Iranian student at TRU. "We do not want any justification for the regime. Nothing. We just want this change once and for all."

For Alizadeh, the unrest unfolding in Iran is not a distant political issue discussed only in international headlines; it is something he carries with him into classrooms, during conversations with peers and while navigating daily life in Kamloops.

"I had classmates ask me, 'Is there a war in Iran?'" Alizadeh said.

That sense of disconnect is echoed by other Iranian students at TRU, many of whom describe feeling isolated as communication blackouts continue in their home country.

"When there is no connection to my family

back home, I absolutely lose my sanity," said Jane Doe, an Iranian student at TRU who spoke on condition of anonymity due to fears of retaliation back in Iran. "I lose focus. I can't work, study or eat."

Doe stated that prolonged internet shutdowns leave her and her peers abroad in constant uncertainty.

"We don't know who is being killed," they said. "It might be my neighbour today. Tomorrow, it might be my own relatives."

Professor Saira Bano, a political science scholar whose expertise includes but is not limited to Middle Eastern and Asian politics, human rights and authoritarian regimes, said the protests are rooted in long-standing economic and political pressures.

"The protest started because of soaring inflation, because of the bad economic situation that people are facing in Iran," Bano said. "It's hard for them to afford the basic needs of life."

According to Bano, Iran's currency devaluation, unemployment and the effects of prolonged sanctions have intensified public frustration, pushing economic grievances into the political realm.

"No matter if you are a student, a retiree, in business, or in a job, it's affecting every field of life," she said.

For TRU Iranian students studying abroad, that economic crisis has immediate and tangible consequences.

They said financial instability at home directly

affects their ability to remain enrolled at TRU.

"It is impossible for my family to send me tuition or living expenses," Doe said. "They have to choose between supporting themselves or supporting me."

Bano said Iran's response to protests follows a familiar pattern seen in authoritarian regimes, particularly when public dissent becomes sustained.

"Dictators and authoritarian regimes try to cut communication between people so that they cannot coordinate with each other and cannot send videos to the outside world," Bano said.

For students abroad, those shutdowns deepen fear and helplessness.

"When there is no internet, you are completely cut off," Doe said. "You don't know what is happening to your family."

Bano added that the Iranian state media plays a critical role in shaping domestic and international narratives.

"They discredit these protests by saying these are agents of America and Israel," she said.

Students say this framing has consequences beyond Iran's borders.

"People relate us to the regime, but that's what Iranians are very against. We are different and separated from the regime," Doe said.

Despite the scale and persistence of demonstrations, Bano cautioned against assuming that mass protests alone will bring about regime change.

"The most important factor that leads to the

fall of a regime is when security forces abandon the regime," she said. "We haven't seen that yet."

According to Bano, Iran's security forces remain largely unified, allowing the government to suppress protests even when public opposition is widespread.

For students watching from abroad, that uncertainty adds another layer of anxiety.

"There is no freedom there, there is no security there, there is no future there," Alizadeh said.

Beyond fear for loved ones, Iranian students said the crisis has affected their academic performance and mental health, particularly as the semester begins.

"It is very difficult to sit in class and focus when we haven't heard from our families for days," Doe said.

On Jan. 18, Iranian TRU student organizers held a two-part event, a protest outside the Kamloops Courthouse on Columbia Street, followed by a gathering on campus at the TRUSU Lecture Hall, where students connected, shared food and continued discussions.

The voices of Iranian students at TRU, along with the analysis from Professor Bano, illustrate how global political crises manifest in the university community not only as distant international issues, but as ongoing realities shaping students' mental health, finances and their ability to learn.

"We want people to see this as humans, not as politics," Doe said. "Our basic human rights are being neglected."

Is CUSMA on thin ice?

Statements by President Trump have rekindled concerns about trade relations

ADESIRE AJAYI-SMITH NEWS EDITOR

Surrounded by the mechanized interior of a Ford Motor plant in Michigan on Jan.

13, United States President Donald Trump referred to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) as “irrelevant.”

“No real advantage to us,” he said of the North American trade agreement. “Canada would love it. Canada wants it—they need it. We don’t need their products.”

Just three days after Trump’s statement on Jan. 16, Prime Minister Mark Carney made a major announcement: he had brokered a preliminary trade agreement with China. The deal was going to, as Carney put it, “remove trade barriers and reduce tariffs.”

Since the start of Trump’s second term, the United States has taken a somewhat adversarial stance toward Canada, particularly in areas of trade. Within the past year, Trump has hit the country with sweeping tariffs, shut down trade talks and repeatedly expressed his interest in annexing Canada.

CUSMA, which was put in place by Trump during his first term, is due for reassessment in July. The agreement allows for improved integration of the three North American economies, enabling each nation to benefit from cheaper and more reliable trade.

Just like with Canada and Mexico, CUSMA has resulted in significant improvements in trade, investment and job creation in the United States. Combined, the three

nations account for nearly one-third of the global GDP, and the trade agreement supports 9.5 million jobs across the continent.

The United States president’s recent comments, though, have cast doubt on whether the agreement will be renewed later this year or left to expire. TRU business and economics professor, Paul Clark, believes that Trump’s claims about CUSMA’s irrelevance to the States are a misrepresentation.

“I think it’s a negotiation tactic,” Clark said. “To diminish the importance of the agreement.”

According to Clark, Trump’s statements do not necessarily spell doom for the trade agreement. He believes that CUSMA will eventually be renewed, but perhaps after putting Canada through some difficult negotiations.

Clark’s main worry, he explains, is the unpredictability. Trump’s actions over the past year have created uncertainty around the Canadian market, which may very likely drive businesses away.

“Unpredictability contributes to instability, and that instability leads to less economic activity,” Clark said. “That, I think, is the real issue at play here.”

The ramifications of this instability can have significant impacts on Canadian employment and job security, among other things. Businesses seeking to avoid risk will refrain from expanding in Canada for the time being and may adopt more conservative

hiring practices. That is, if they even choose to stay. Regardless of CUSMA’s status, this is already a possibility to contend with.

Clark is also concerned about the United States’ apparent interest in Canada’s supply management system, the regulatory oversight controlling production quotas in the dairy industry. These oversights protect local farmers from overproduction losses. The CUSMA negotiations could require Canada to let go of its supply-management system, a situation Clark describes as “detrimental” to Canadian dairy farmers.

It goes without saying that Canada’s dependency on trade with the United States has put the country in a tight corner.

But Canada hasn’t exclusively focused on trade with their neighbours down south, Clark said. They have entered into solid trade agreements and engaged in trade with other countries in Asia and Europe. Yet issues like transportation, culture and language barriers have often reared their head.

Soon after Carney ascended to the Prime Ministership in March 2024, he made clear that the issue of Canadian independence would be prioritized.

“It’s my solemn promise that when Donald Trump threatens us again, we will fight back,” he said. “We will fight back with everything we have to get the best deal for Canada. We will build an independent future for our country, stronger than ever.”

Carney’s recent trip to

China has seemingly been the latest effort to fulfill this promise. Resetting trade relations with China is a significant step towards independence.

“I think Mark Carney is doing a really good job,” Clark said. “I think Canada is in a good position just by virtue of the fact that we have a good prime minister who is respected internationally and has experience in these kinds of difficult environments.”

Despite Carney’s efforts, things won’t be smooth sailing moving forward. The Canadian dependency on the States stems from several factors, including similarities in language and culture, as well as the obvious physical proximity and logistical feasibility. It also exists because of the United State’s massive rate of consumption, especially relative to other nations worldwide.

Clark also warns about leaving the third nation in CUSMA, Mexico, out of the equation, as they are also a major player.

“Trump likes to negotiate one-on-one, but we have to remember that it’s a three-way agreement,” Clark said. “If Canada and Mexico influence the United States, it’s much more effective than just Canada or just Mexico. I think that trilateralism is really important to remember, in terms of negotiations.”

Only time will tell what the volatile Canada-US relationship will develop into, but Canada’s recent actions prove that it is uninterested in remaining on Trump’s rollercoaster.



Bee-ware of the pollinators

CHARLES RANKIN/THE OMEGA

ADESIRE AJAYI-SMITH NEWS EDITOR

New signs promoting bee ecology have been erected across campus featuring information about the various bee species living in the community.

TRU is buzzing with excitement over the new signs that popped up across campus this semester.

Installed last December, the interpretive signs highlight the university's efforts in protecting native pollinators through research and education. There are six of these signs scattered across the campus, depicting important information about pollinators.

Pollinators are vital to local and global ecology. According to some estimations, a vast majority of the earth's flowering plants—over 87 per cent—rely on animal pollinators to reproduce. Approximately 75 per cent of major crops consumed by humans depend on animal pollinators, accounting for around 35 per cent of food production by volume. Without animal pollination, we can say goodbye to our blueberries, watermelons, apples, almonds, avocados, coffee and so many other well-loved, healthy and staple foods.

In service of their sustainability goals, TRU's latest venture brought local community members, Indigenous students and

multiple faculties and schools together to complete this project. The stated goal, according to Canada Research Chair Courtney Mason, is to support "native pollinator education."

TRU was also recognized as a Bee Campus in April 2024, getting a Bee City Campus designation and endorsement from Bee City Canada. The designation acknowledged the university's commitment to helping local pollinators.

The university has been involved in significant habitat creation on campus, with native plant gardens, a pollinator garden and an orchard with dozens of fruit trees. It also has a small colony of honeybee hives on campus, a project started by former Culinary Arts instructor Ron Rosentreter in 2011 to teach students about sustainable food and ecosystems.

The institution's Bee Campus status was renewed in February 2025. TRU has continued to invest more in native bee pollinator habitats.

Bee City Canada is a non-profit that supports communities in protecting local pollinators. They achieve this through

community, campus and school recognition programs such as the Bee Campus status. The program requires its participants to dedicate themselves to creating, maintaining and improving pollinator habitats, educating community members and celebrating pollinators to raise awareness. Since its founding in 2016, Bee City Canada has garnered nearly 200 members across Canada, including 92 Bee Cities, 84 Bee Schools and 23 Bee Campuses.

The signage across the university grounds informs the community in plain language about the pollinator habitats on campus, why pollinators matter, how native plants support them and how Indigenous stewardship practices contribute to healthier habitats. They include illustrations of native plants, bees, butterflies and birds, as well as information about how these species interact.

To make this a community effort, trade students from the university's carpentry program were brought on to support the construction of the signs. Coordinated by carpentry instructor

Greg Alm, the students designed and put together timber frames made from campus trees removed during the construction of TRU's new Indigenous Centre. The project was integrated into their education as part of their Level 4 Carpentry course.

The World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Risks Report ranked biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse as the second-most severe global risk over 10 years, coming just behind extreme weather events. At the same time, the United Nations has stated that biodiversity is our best hedge against climate change. Over the years, British Columbia has seen a significant loss of habitat and biodiversity due to climate change, resource extraction and pollution.

According to Mason, native pollinators are critical to maintaining threatened ecosystems and support biodiversity.

The signs are just one step towards TRU's ultimate goal. It hopes to integrate pollinator conservation into broader infrastructure upgrades across campus and plans to tie this initiative into its carbon neutrality goals.

Reflecting on my studies in China

What one student learned about herself during a year abroad

LIFEI LIU-CALVER STAFF WRITER



The Forbidden City, located in Beijing, China, was built between 1406 and 1420.

One of the top countries many people choose to visit in Asia is Japan. While Japan is a popular choice for tourism, and I highly encourage the trip, I also encourage individuals to consider China. Although China was once overlooked as a potential tourist destination, it has grown increasingly popular in recent years. I argue that while China is a hidden gem not only as a tourist destination, but also as a country that many people don't realize is a phenomenal place to study.

In an increasingly globalized world, more students are choosing to pursue or advance their education abroad to prepare for a future with more opportunities. China is noted as a country that has seen rapid economic growth in recent times. With its rich culture and heritage, China presents numerous opportunities for students abroad to study, ranging from a week-long field trip to graduate and post-graduate programs, often through scholarships or agreements with countries at a governmental level.

I was fortunate enough to take advantage of a full-ride scholarship to study in China for one academic year, which was provided to me by the Canadian and Chinese governments. Having studied and lived in Spain

and Switzerland previously, this was a country that would be completely different from what I was used to living in a Westernized society. The contrast between Western societies and China made my time living abroad challenging, and forced me to keep an open mind and gain perspectives that I would not have developed elsewhere. I was already accustomed to Chinese traditions, celebrations and food. Yet there were things I was not prepared for.

Studying in China does not come without some significant challenges, such as the language barrier. Despite English being the lingua franca (a "bridge" or "common" language), not many speak English on a conversational level in China. I am fortunate enough that I already spoke Chinese before visiting China, but that was it. I knew how to speak it, but reading and writing were simply not skills I was capable of at the time.

I often encountered situations where communication was frustrating and misunderstandings were unavoidable, especially when trying to convey emotions. Sometimes I just didn't know how to explain my feelings, even though I knew how to communicate them in my native language. However, living in China allowed me

to practice my Mandarin daily, and the constant exposure accelerated my learning and gave me the confidence to communicate.

Another obstacle I faced abroad was homesickness. Like many international students, being far away from home, friends, family and familiar surroundings can make moments difficult, especially during the holidays. Adjusting to a new climate and lifestyle required time and flexibility. Sure, I had lived in Switzerland and Spain prior, but I always knew someone would be there with me, whether that was arranged or someone else studying at TRU. However, this was the first time I had really gone by myself to a place I had never been before, with nobody I was familiar with. Having to deal with personal issues without the support of family and friends became increasingly difficult at times.

The time difference of 15 or 16 hours also made communication hard. There were times I would be up late at night communicating with family and friends back in Kamloops, or talking to them as they went to sleep. Yet I did manage to make my own group of friends.

Despite my rigorous and homework-heavy classes, I could not survive without making friends. I came across a music club during a club day on campus, and

it caught my eye. I ended up joining an orchestra and a small jazz band (involuntarily, but I am glad I did so!) and played tenor saxophone for the academic year. I was able to connect with local Chinese students, who in turn connected with an international student through similar interests. Music became a language we could all understand, and bonds were formed despite our cultural and linguistic differences. Through each rehearsal, it helped ease the homesickness and made China feel like a second home to me, which it is.

Living and studying in China had pushed me to grow in ways I had not fully anticipated. While expectations were high and demanding, the mix of rigorous academics and cultural immersion made my time in China enriching. Language barriers and cultural differences tested me as a person, but taught me to be independent and adaptable while developing a global mindset and appreciation for perspectives different from my own.

China deserves far greater recognition as both a tourist destination and a place to study. The long-term impacts one has living and studying in China will surely be an experience for students seeking something far beyond what they are familiar with.



Runnin' with the 'Pack

A conversation with Thomas Olsen, captain of the men's basketball team

ARCHIE GOLDING/LEFT RIGHT MEDIA

ALEXA LIPTAK SPORTS EDITOR

WolfPack men's basketball team members Thomas Olsen (right), with Gavin Reis (left). Olsen is set to graduate this year, after having joined TRU in 2021.

Recently, The Omega sat down with graduating men's basketball team captain Thomas Olsen to talk about his journey to TRU through the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of all his coaches on his career and his impressive all-Canadian academic achievements. Olsen even expanded on what's for him next and why one of his favourite memories at TRU involves a local elementary school student.

AL: You've been here since 2021 and you're wrapping up your university career at TRU. What has this journey meant to you to play with TRU for all that time?

TO: It's been really special. To learn from my first coach, Scott Clark, who was a really hard-nosed old school coach, I think I learned a lot of lessons from him, [on] how to be a leader and how to develop as a young man, on the court and off the court.

That laid a really strong foundation for these last three years, where I got to play with [coach] Chad and my role [has] slowly grown from just a player to a leader on the team, [to] now a team captain.

It's been really special to see our program grow from not very successful in Canada West to last year upsetting U of A, beating them for the first time in program history and making it to the Canada West quarterfinal. Now this year, setting program history again, with the best start of season record, again,

in program history. Getting a top 10 national ranking for the first time in 10 years and now with hopes of hosting a playoff game and making some noise. I think it's just been a really cool journey about individual personal growth into a leader, as well as watching our team become more successful and establishing a really strong culture and sense of identity in [the] Canada West [conference].

AL: What brought you to TRU? What made this program feel like it was the right fit for you?

TO: Coming out of high school, it was the COVID season, so I actually didn't have a Grade 12 season. It was really hard for me to find a university to go to play basketball. I ended up sending out 25-plus emails, heard back from maybe four and two of those weren't even real emails back, just invites to camp. I thought my university career or my basketball career was going to be over. But then Coach Clark called me and immediately we clicked. I loved his intensity, [and] I loved his philosophy for the game.

He told me that everything is going to be earned here; nothing's promised. That really excited me. The prospect of hard work being rewarded and a hard-nosed mentality was exactly who I was as an individual. So immediately after that phone call, I knew TRU was the spot for me. As soon as restrictions were lifted for a week, I drove up here, got a workout in with the coach and

I told my parents, 'If he offers, I'm signing that day up.' He gave me the offer and I literally signed it on the drive home. I haven't looked back since and I've loved TRU ever since. If I could go back, I'd pick TRU every time.

AL: You've been a really integral part of the team through your career. Across 91 games, you've played over 2,000 minutes. What does that kind of consistency in your gameplay and the trust in your leadership mean to you?

TO: The trust, it means a lot. It's been years in the making. It's been me learning about what the team needs from me and adapting to that, [then] accepting my own role as a hard worker, a defender and trying to excel in my role. Scott, my first coach, had a saying that was 'be a star in your role,' that's something I've really adapted, especially with this new coaching staff.

For me, it means being a leader and being an example on the floor with my effort, communication, showing up early [and] staying late. As well as being an example in the classroom and trying to set that culture of hard-nosed, gritty teams that will defend hard, outwork you and make everything you do difficult, no matter if they're a top 10 team in the country or a bottom 10 team. We approach it the same way. We have our standards set. We just try to work hard and make it difficult for everybody.

AL: Throughout your career, was there a moment when you really felt yourself kind of step into that leadership role?

TO: For sure. I think a big moment for me was the tragedy that happened three years ago with the men's volleyball team. I think that I took it upon myself, along with other leaders on the team, took it upon ourselves to make sure we stayed together through that. I think that was a moment for me when I really stepped into my own about how I can be a support system for my teammates and 'how can I keep our group together?'

I learned a lot from that. I learned the importance of communication and being a support system for everyone around you, especially as an older guy on the team. I've tried to maintain being a support for my teammates, of course, on the court, but especially off the court.

AL: During the UBC series this year, you posted career-high stats in game rebounds and assists. What goes into prepping yourself for games against top schools like that and how has your pre-game mindset shifted throughout your career?

TO: It's just the confidence that we have in our group that's changed, [and] you can feel it in the locker room. We have this sense of belief that no matter who's across from us, we have a chance to beat anybody. As long as we stick to our principles, play hard and play as a team.

In the past, we've played some of these higher-ranked teams and been hesitant in that, not as confident, but this year we really have that sense of belief that nobody can stop us and if we just stay together, play for each other, we can beat anybody.

AL: Looking back on your past career here, is there a moment that you're just never going to forget?

TO: I got two. The first one was three years ago when we played at the elementary school game here at TRU. I started that game and every time we play, we run out of the tunnel and the gym's full of kids, like there's not an empty seat. I remember running out and there was a poster right beside the tunnel and there was a kid who had a TRU jersey drawn with the number 15 and 'Thomas Olsen'. I remember thinking

this kid took the time to draw out the TRU jersey and out of all the players, he chose to put my number and not just my number, but my name. That was really cool 'cause he could've picked anybody, but to, to see that and to know that I had that impact on that kid in the community. It was just a really, really cool moment.

I still have the photo on my phone and I think about that sometimes. I think about the responsibility of us WolfPack athletes with kids in the community, as you know, we're the athletes that they look up to and just to see that personified in that kid was really special and I'm never going to forget that moment.

Then my number two was last year, my brother played on UBC and I got to play him for the first time. Being on his team growing up and playing with him in the driveway was always special for my brother and me. Then, to see his development as a player firsthand, matching up with him was an unforgettable experience. Talking trash with him and competing with him was one of the most special moments in my basketball career. I'm never gonna forget that one.

AL: You've talked a lot about your first coach and then the coaching staff now and what they mean to you. Is there anyone who stands out who has had a really big impact on your journey here at TRU?

TO: I mean, Scott, of course, has been instrumental in my development as not just a leader but really as a young man; he's been a really big role model for me. Just in the way he approaches not just basketball, but life. The principle of setting high standards for yourself and holding yourself accountable to those is something that I've applied to my academics and [to] every other aspect of my life. I remember we had a conversation when he retired and I won't forget this. He said, 'You know, I never won the big game. I never won a national championship, but I stuck to my principles and, looking back, that's something I can be proud. I stuck to my principles. I set high standards for myself and I can retire happy again.' And that's kind of how I'm approaching my life: if I do my best, set high standards, I can be happy with any result. So I learned that from Scott.

Then Chad's just an ultimate

competitor. He says all the time, 'Everybody loves to win, but only the best players hate to lose,' and like that's who Chad is. He's an ultimate competitor and that inspires me to compete and get up and get ready to play every game.

One more [person] that I just want to shout out would be Ted Murray. He was an assistant coach for my first two years with Scott and one of the smartest basketball minds I've met in my basketball career. I learned a lot about the game through him, but also he was there for me for some of my lowest moments at TRU when I was questioning my own confidence and whether or not I was meant to be here. He was just a steady presence and he always inspired confidence with me and I don't think I would've been able to finish out my career here if it wasn't for Ted.

AL: Among a lot of your accomplishments, you've been just one of 22 students who've been named a five-time academic all-Canadian throughout your entire career. How have you managed to do that with being a chemical biology major and how does that make you feel?

TO: A lot of 5 a.m.'s in hotels. A lot of studying on team buses, airplanes or at airports, which is really tough. But when you love it, it's easy. I love science, I love school and I love the classroom. It's been hard having to balance that, but I wouldn't change it. I think a big part of what made it easy is the support systems we have at TRU. We have it good with PACE [Pack Academic Edge] and with veterans that have helped me learn how to study and then time manage. I've had really good support systems here. I don't think it would be possible if it wasn't for those veterans and supporters.

AL: As you kind of close off your chapter at TRU, what's next for you off the court?

TO: Hopefully, I'm going to med school next year and I hope to study medicine, hopefully do some research projects while I'm there and hopefully either get into family medicine or orthopedic surgery, so that I can work with more athletes trying to get them back onto the court, or be a family physician in some type of clinic.



NOAH ANDREW

In January, the WolfPack women's basketball team hosted its annual Shoot for the Cure game to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Association.

Taking to the court to Shoot for the Cure

BILLIE GLADUE STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 17, the TRU women's basketball team hosted its annual Shoot for the Cure game—an annual charity initiative aiming to unite communities and raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. Every year, 36 university sports teams across Canada take part, each hosting its own fundraising events. This year, the WolfPack hosted their Shoot for the Cure during their final home game of the season against the UBC Thunderbirds and raised over \$1,000.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a charity that funds cancer research and supports people undergoing treatment. Shoot for the Cure was created in partnership with the U Sports Women's Basketball Coaches Association to unite fans and student athletes around a common cause. Although it centres on women's basketball, other teams such as volleyball and soccer have also begun participating. Since its launch in 2007, Shoot for the Cure

has raised over \$2 million.

For this year's Shoot for the Cure game, the WolfPack women's basketball team sought to use its platform to raise more awareness for the cause. Planning the event was a cooperative endeavour between the 'Pack staff and players to build partnerships, promote the event and ensure game day ran smoothly. Third-year guard Sydney Vollrath was among the players who helped organize the game. She assisted with communication between staff and players to ensure the event's vision remained intact and that everyone involved was aligned with the game's purpose, uniting the community for a cause bigger than themselves.

"You could definitely feel the energy and the support in the gym. This year's Shoot for the Cure game felt like it brought together the athletes, the staff and the supporters in a really intentional way, unlike a usual home game," Vollrath said.

For the 2026 Shoot for the

Cure campaign, the WolfPack implemented online donation acceptance in addition to cash donations at the door, making giving more accessible to all attendees. Additionally, they offered a 50/50 raffle to spark more engagement and donations.

According to Vollrath, the 'Pack raised a much larger sum than in years past, and the team is confident the event will continue to grow each year.

The organizers focused on publicity, working alongside the WolfPack's media teams to promote the game on social media. The additional publicity paid off, resulting in a stronger turnout than at a typical home game.

Vollrath recognizes that the event's impact can extend beyond the amount of money raised.

"The main goal is always impact, raising awareness and bringing people together. If people left the game feeling connected to the cause and proud to be a part of it, we viewed that as a success," Vollrath said.

She also notes its impact on the team.

"It's a powerful reminder of the responsibility we take on as student athletes, to use our platform in a meaningful way. This event allows the WolfPack itself to strengthen our bond within the community and with each other," she said.

Vollrath hopes people see and understand how sports can serve as a platform for positive change. Small contributions, such as attending fundraisers or simply learning about the cause, can still drive significant change.

Although the WolfPack lost the game 72-66, they still feel the last home game of the season was a positive note to end on.

"It's definitely bittersweet, but we're really proud of the growth we've had this season and being able to finish our home schedule on Shoot for the Cure night really made it meaningful," Vollrath said.

To support Shoot for the Cure and learn about its impact, visit cancer.ca.

New curling rink to be built downtown

During a recent press conference, the Kamloops Curling Club and the City announced new facilities will be built to replace aging buildings

ALEXA LIPTAK SPORTS EDITOR

After more than 75 years, it was revealed that the Kamloops Curling Club (KCC) will be entering a new era.

Recently, the City of Kamloops announced plans to replace the KCC and Memorial Arena with a new multi-sport facility that will include a modern curling centre.

The project is a part of the city's Build Kamloops initiative, a multi-year program aimed at modernizing recreation infrastructure while reinforcing the city's identity as Canada's Tournament Capital.

For club members, this project marks the end of a meaningful chapter and the beginning of a more sustainable future for the sport in Kamloops. Their current facility opened in December 1949 and was expanded in the '60s and '70s, growing from a four-lane facility to its current eight-lane configuration.

"We just celebrated our 75th anniversary last year," said Melanie Kopytko, president of the KCC. "We're about 900 members strong and there really isn't much for openings; every night of the week is full."

The club serves curlers of all ages and abilities, offering leagues for seniors, juniors, high school students, TRU students, women's and men's leagues, mixed teams and Special Olympics athletes.

"Our youngest curlers start around six years old and we've had

members well into their 90s," Kopytko said.

Despite the club's consistent growth over the recent years, the facility itself has become increasingly difficult to maintain. As the building was built in 1949, insulation wasn't as prominent then, meaning the building was mainly built with cinder blocks.

The weather outside affects the ice conditions. When the outside temperatures plummet, the building needs to be heated to remain within the ideal ice temperatures and the opposite when it warms outside. Given the building's age, this maintenance can be costly.

The aging infrastructure also shortens the curling season, which typically runs from mid-to-late September through March. Club leaders believe a new facility could lead to a longer season and could position Kamloops as a destination for high-performance curling, even at the international level.

"With a new facility, we'd be able to put ice in earlier and keep it longer," Kopytko said. "That opens the door to hosting elite training camps, competitive teams and even international curlers in the late summer and early fall."

When members first learned the club could be replaced, emotions were mixed.

"Our initial reaction was shock and some nostalgic sadness," Kopytko said. "A lot has happened in this building. Weddings, celebrations of life,

community meetings. It's been more than just curling."

However, as the long-term benefits of a new facility became clear to members, sentiment began to shift.

"Once we got rolling, the excitement about a new building and the ability for curling to continue for another 75 years became very real," Kevin Ihlen, KCC vice president and Chair of the Future of Curling Committee, said. "Members understand it's time. This building is beyond its useful life."

The committee came together in October of 2021, when Randy Nelson, Director of the KCC, said, "I had heard some things on the radio about what [and] where curling might go and I didn't like what I heard." Which was when he called Ihlen and said they needed to make changes.

The committee partnered with the Kamloops Sports Council and the City of Kamloops to develop a proposal that would keep curling downtown while expanding recreation opportunities. The proposed complex would include curling alongside racquet sports like pickleball and squash, as well as potential commercial, residential and community spaces.

After presenting the proposal to the city council two years ago, the committee said support was unanimous.

"It was obvious it was no longer ours, the city had bought in," Ihlen said.

To the club leaders, keeping the location of the facility downtown was non-negotiable.

"Downtown accessibility was huge for us," Kopytko said. "We're close to transit, restaurants, hotels and housing, especially for seniors. People can walk here. It keeps curling connected to the community instead of pushing it to the outskirts."

Nelson added that the downtown is not only beneficial for their members now, who take transit or live nearby, but will also strengthen the club's ability to host tournaments and international teams.

In the new facility, the leaders hope to include a more accessible entrance to the arena; currently, the club has only stairs. With an elevator, the club would be able to expand into wheelchair curling as well.

Beyond the curling, the project also includes the demolition of Memorial Arena, a building deeply tied to Kamloops' sports history.

The loss of the Memorial Arena has raised concerns in the community, but club leaders say preserving its legacy has been a priority in discussions with the city and the Royal Canadian Legion.

"The building itself isn't what matters most; it's the memory," Ihlen said. "There will be recognition of [the] Memorial Arena in the new facility, whether through naming, plaques or displays. The history will move forward, even if the structure doesn't."

Controversy at centre ice

Sure, *Heated Rivalry* is great, but questions over queer representation remain

OLIVIA DEAN ARTS EDITOR

Sa-Hali Secondary School alum Hudson Williams made history at this year's Golden Globes for his performance in the Crave-produced queer hockey drama, *Heated Rivalry*. Yet, Williams has faced criticism in the wake of concerns about the show's possible involvement in queer-baiting, which captures an ongoing, serious issue among the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Specifically, some have asked: Is he an authentic queer actor or simply another straight "ally" trying to make a name for himself? Never has *The Omega* been more invested in some steamy, queer hockey content.

The series, which has been praised for its intimate portrayal of masculinity and identity within professional hockey culture, has quickly become a hit, with Williams' performance singled out for its emotional depth and quiet intensity. The show's premise centres on the tumultuous, often sultry relationship between Shane Hollander (Williams) and Ilya Rozanov (Connor Storrie, *Joker: Folie À Deux*), two professional hockey players on opposing teams. Honestly, who doesn't love a classic enemies-to-lovers trope, especially in a queer setting?

For the Kamloops-born actor, the win marks a major milestone, not just personally, but for Canadian and queer storytelling. Yet, in the heat of such accolades, Williams has been faced with recent allegations by both popular news outlets and by verbose

Reddit threads, calling into question whether his acting performance was an authentic portrayal of queerness or if it constitutes another rising star utilizing the gay community for monetization.

Popular magazine *USA Today* reported in an article prior to the new year that Williams has been especially quiet when probed about his relationship status with an alleged girlfriend. Yet, when prompted to provide closure on the speculation by *DeuxMoi* via Instagram, he said this in a now-deleted comment: "I've grown quite unfond of you, *DeuxMoi*." The silence is deafening.

"I want queer people telling queer stories ... there's the element of Connor and I ... we're best friends and we love expressing that physically," shared Williams, in an interview discussing both his role and how he thinks about portraying queer characters and interactions on *Heated Rivalry*.

Both Williams and Storrie have been careful to keep their personal lives private, a choice that some say is valid, while others believe it elicits complicity, irrespective of their rise to stardom. Still, their rise as allies begs the question: Are they gay for pay? Critics argue that while privacy should never be demanded or violated, the continued prioritization of non-queer actors in queer lead roles reflects systemic barriers that limit opportunities for openly queer performers.

"When the series debuted,



I was skeptical, like any 2SLGBTQ+ series that hits the mainstream. With the current anti-DEI state of film and TV, I entered with extra skepticism because Hollywood loves to pat itself on the back as they execute half-baked and performative 'content' that they think won't make the white straight cisgender men in this world uncomfortable," shared Dino-Ray Ramos, a journalist with the queer magazine *Diaspora*.

Delivering yet another perspective on what's become something of a contentious subject, Eli Cugili from *DAZED* took to the keyboard to criticize queer-actor Jordan Firstman in defence of the rising stars of *Heated Rivalry*. According to Cugili, Williams and Storrie have been accused of inauthenticity by Firstman for stating their desire to keep their private lives private, prompting Firstman to tell them to "just come out already!"

While Cugili said that Firstman's comments "[reflect] an understandable frustration about widespread closetedness in Hollywood," he also highlighted other aspects some critics might not have considered.

"Showrunner [Jacob] Tierney has reiterated that it's illegal to ask employees about their sexuality," Cugili said. "Plus, gay representation is a lot more about writing anyway than about matching the actor's sexuality to the character's."

Just as the critics have been divided over the subject

of straight actors portraying queer characters, so have users on social media.

"As a gay man that is very much an introvert (like Shane), I don't think avoiding the topic is always the right thing to do. Sometimes approaching the topic directly, with love and respect, is the right thing to do and can make a world of difference," shared Reddit user Lukaeber.

Another Reddit user, Citrinedreamers, said, "Personally, I'm glad the showrunner shut this down and is standing up for them. These are two young actors that, until last week, were completely unknown and their personal lives are theirs to share in their own time."

Anyone who has seen the show can clearly tell the actors have great chemistry and aren't afraid to 'go there' with the intimate scenes."

Ultimately, Williams' success is still worth celebrating. As a Kamloops-born actor and Sa-Hali Secondary School alumnus, his Golden Globe win represents a rare and meaningful moment of visibility for local talent on a global stage. Williams has consistently approached his role with care and respect and his work has helped bring queer storytelling to audiences who might not otherwise engage with it. Regardless of opinion on queer representation, Williams' allyship and commitment to the story are evident and his hometown has every reason to be proud.

Professor Spotlight: Laura Lamb

Get to know the TRU professor and chair of the department of economics

OLIVIA SIMMS STAFF WRITER

Since The Omega relaunched in 2023, we've had the privilege of presenting to readers our Professor Spotlight series. In this series, we interview some of the student body's favourite professors and sessionals, offering readers a chance to get to know our learned instructors on a deeper, personal level.

Laura Lamb didn't set out to be a professor, much less a professor of economics. In a conversation with The Omega, Lamb shared how experiences in psychology and real estate lead her to economics and teaching.

OS: You took an unorthodox path, starting in psychology and then eventually ending up as a professor of economics. What inspired that switch?

LL: I really enjoyed my honours psychology degree at the University of Winnipeg. When I graduated, I applied for a couple of master's [in psychology] and got accepted, but I wasn't certain enough about the career path. I ended up in new home construction, working for a custom builder in sales, marketing and product development. It was really fun. I learned a lot of different skills.

While I was in the real estate industry, I realized how important the macroeconomy was to new homes. Interest rates affect the real estate market in general, but new home construction is even more sensitive. So, I really started paying attention

and trying to understand macroeconomics in terms of inflation and interest rates.

I remember at that time the Bank of Canada was increasing interest rates to deal with inflation, but it was mainly inflation in Eastern Canada, in Ontario. And I'm thinking, "Well, that doesn't seem fair, because we're not experiencing that in Manitoba." So, I really [wanted] to understand more.

[During some evening courses] an economics course fascinated me. It was partly the material and partly the instructor. That professor was absolutely awesome and really inspired me.

OS: Was your goal to become an influential teacher, like that instructor was for you?

LL: When I got into the PhD program, it wasn't specifically to be a professor. I didn't necessarily think that I wanted to teach. At that time, the federal government was hiring a lot of economists. The cohorts ahead of me were getting jobs with Statistics Canada, the Bank of Canada and Industry Canada. But then, as a PhD student, we had the opportunity to teach. Once I started, [I realized] I love teaching right away. But it wasn't really till I had the experience.

OS: You hold a lot of roles on campus – you're a chairperson, researcher and professor. What challenges do you face in these roles and what have

you learned along the way?

LL: As chair, I'm fortunate [to have] a very functional department, so in a lot of ways it's relatively easy. Of course, you don't expect everybody to agree all the time. But something I've learned throughout life is to be calm and cool. Try not to let things rattle you when you're leading people. Give everyone an opportunity to contribute. Because I think a lot of times, people want to be heard. At the end of the day, you follow democratic processes and people are typically okay with that.

OS: How about as an instructor?

LL: The big thing we're dealing with now is AI. The initial reaction was, "How is this going to affect academic integrity?" But after learning more and seeing what a powerful tool it is, it's [becoming more] about teaching students to use it responsibly. I'd say in everything I've taught the last few years, I'm now incorporating AI.

OS: What has the student response been to those projects, where you're using AI in the classroom?

LL: It's been very positive. It's informing students and showing them that it's not necessarily a substitute for your own work, but [you can] use it to be more efficient and more productive. [AI is] great for brainstorming, but you have to require that a student go and verify any information that they find.

OS: Since we discussed

challenges, what do you find most fulfilling about your roles?

LL: The most rewarding aspect of my job is student success. I like to supervise student research – I've always got at least three to five students I'm supervising, typically from the [master's] programs. You're working one-on-one with a student, taking them through the research process, providing feedback and teaching them at the same time. It's extremely rewarding when you see how far students come.

OS: Your research is interdisciplinary, blending economics with psychology, sociology and geography. How do you balance that quantitative analysis with the qualitative human side?

LL: You can never tell the story with numbers. The history, the story, the context [all] matter. So that's important to try to capture to the degree you can.

OS: Any advice for students who are considering graduate studies?

LL: Especially at the undergraduate level, seek out research opportunities. The skills you'll learn through research, I believe, are very transferable. Out in the real world, [it's an asset] if you're able to pick up a research paper, to evaluate it and to see how [it] may affect a decision and discussion that you're having in your workplace. Whether it's about HR, finance, or public policy. I think the best decisions are evidence-based.

Valentine's Day tips for dummies

At one point or another, many of us may struggle to show our partners that we care at Valentine's Day, but showing your affection doesn't have to cost a dime

LIFEI LIU-CALVER STAFF WRITER

Every year on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day is the one day that many people go all out to impress their partners and show that they care.

Love doesn't have to be proven by dramatic candlelit dinners, big teddy bears or even an expensive box of chocolates.

A lot of these tasks are easy to do, but what really matters is the action performed to show your partner you truly do value them.

Small compliments

Compliments are important to keeping someone's esteem up. Compliments, not the ones we say out of habit, but the ones that are smaller and more specific, can show we are paying attention.

A compliment that acknowledges your partner's effort, strengths and achievements can help them feel seen and recognized, reinforcing why they should feel good about themselves. These kinds of compliments can feel genuine and show your partner that you appreciate them. Paying attention is sexy.

Defend

Standing up for your partner is important, especially when they cannot speak for themselves. Actions like this include shutting down jokes others make that go too far, setting boundaries on what is and isn't okay to say, and making it clear that you respect your partner as a person.

When you protect your partner, it demonstrates that you truly do care about their feelings even

when they aren't present.

Celebrate small wins

It is always important to celebrate victories with your partner. Of course, big achievements such as a job promotion and graduation are worth celebrating, but the small achievements people overlook are just as important.

Whether it is finishing a major assignment that has been stressing them out for weeks, tackling a large pile of dishes, or finally getting the courage to speak up during difficult situations. While some moments seem small, it is important to recognize them.

Recognizing these small wins means recognizing the work that went into them and helps your partner feel seen.

Show up when it matters

Being there for your partner is always important, even in moments that aren't convenient or unplanned. Staying there when someone is nervous, overwhelmed or stressed can make a big difference.

It doesn't mean fixing a problem or trying to find a solution. Sometimes people just need their partner to lend an ear to their troubles. Other times it means that you are being reliable, consistent and willing to stand beside someone when it really matters.

Take note of things they enjoy

Paying attention when your significant other discusses their interests, however brief, and



ROBERT MCALASTER/THE OMEGA

Sometimes a nice bouquet of roses is just the thing to make your partner swoon, just make sure they're not allergic

remembering for it later is very important to show that you're attentive to what your partner likes.

If they have a favourite flower or snack, that item may make a good gift for a random Tuesday after work. Taking interest in what interests them can make all the difference.

It's a passive kind of care where it involves listening to little details and remembering them without being asked.

Spend quality time together

Choosing to be with someone, even in the most common parts of each other's day, is important for relationships.

This doesn't include just being around them, but also giving them your attention, engaging in activities together, sharing a space, watching a movie or going out together. It can also include quieter, simpler activities like couples study sessions, going for walks or even just sitting in silence.

Quality time does not have to be planned,

and should make both partners feel like attention isn't something they have to compete for.

Encourage

Encouraging someone is incredibly important.

Encouragement isn't for show and shouldn't be treated as something performative. Reminding your partner that they're capable of doing something even when they have doubts and don't feel confident shows them you notice their efforts and believe in them.

Love never has to be loud or dramatic, but smaller actions can make so much more difference in showing your partner that they are valued, seen, appreciated and loved.

Fancy dates are nice and gifts can be thoughtful, but true love exists in everyday moments.

Whether it's in the kitchen, on a walk, or sitting in silence together, these are all ways that you can express little bits of appreciation for your partner this Valentine's Day.

Artist chat with Bree Apperley

OLIVIA DEAN ARTS EDITOR

For those exhausted by the Orwellian world in which we live, characterized by artificially generated media and the rapid consumption of novelty, The Cube will be hosting an art exhibition featuring Slug Eggs by Bree Apperley.

What might Slug Eggs have to do with art, you ask? Well, Slug Eggs is a novel body of work which signifies an awareness of a rapidly changing social climate fueled by consumption, utilitarianism and corporate greed. Apperley's exhibition features strategies inspired by the 1960s Italian art movement, Arte Povera, which seeks to disrupt the exploitative nature of consumption and industrialization. For Apperley, it is essential to revisit nostalgia, reminding patrons to be critical of the type of media consumed in the age of AI and cyberspace.

The Omega had the privilege of interviewing Apperley, who shared how the expression of feminism in an increasingly capitalistic world shapes not only the thematic elements of her work, but also how reimagined natural elements can be repurposed to evoke nostalgia and an appreciation for the human experience.

OD: How does capitalism affect feminine expression in your work, visually or materially?

BA: The main pressure I feel from the heavy hand of our capitalist society is the urge to find a voice to express my experience. As a woman, as a mother, as someone who hasn't really played the game of Monopoly the way it is meant to be

played. I am also not good at this game, so there is that. In my artwork, I really want to bring up thoughts, feelings and associations that are in opposition to the looming hulk I see forming on the horizon. Things are not looking good and it is easy to spiral or give up. I want my expression in my artwork to be a beam of encouraging light. I want someone to look at a knitted blanket, or some clay and glitter, or a dusting of pollen from a sunflower and be reminded of warm things, childhood, making stuff, drawing. The show is my attempt to plant a flag of my personal experience of relationships between people, wonder in the mundane and the everyday joy of creation.

OD: Many of the materials in Slug Eggs come from domestic or consumer spaces. Why are these objects important to your feminist practice?

BA: I like to see the real world around us represented in contemporary artwork. [It's] basically a continuation of Andy Warhol's soup cans, using things around you from today, from the real world – I think it gives artwork a sense of immediacy and freshness. You can relate to a part of it right away.

We live in a material world and in our Western world, we define ourselves by our consumption. The biggest Christian holiday is a massive consumer event! [I'm] drawn to domestic objects because [they're] tied to my experience of womanhood. Life as a mother is so centred around the home, to "keeping house".

Home is both an abstract notion that [you're] constantly giving attention

to and maintaining and a physical space that you are also giving so much attention to and are always maintaining! I was really drawn to the white plastic fencing, the yoga ball and the artificial grass as elements in my sculptures because they represent elements of "home."

OD: Technology appears as both critique and nostalgia in Slug Eggs. How do you personally navigate that tension?

BA: I feel both critical and nostalgic for technology! I am not sure how I navigate that tension. [I'm] both scared of how fast things are happening and can remember such warm times with what was considered new technology in the past. I loved blogs and early social media and being able to watch any movie online. I was into Myspace and Tumblr and Flickr and so many more platforms I can't even remember them all.

I loved the sharing aspect of Web 2.0, collecting clips from YouTube or images from Google Images. The internet changed so much in my adulthood; I have tried to stay on top of it and reflect on how it has changed and how it has changed us.

OD: Humour plays a visible role in the work. Why is humour important to you when addressing feminist or political themes?

BA: By nature, I am not a dark or serious person. So I bring that light-heartedness into my work. I think humour is such an important and overlooked tool that we humans have [in order] to make sense of things and to help process emotions.

I think the deepest

thinkers are funny, because if you really take in the whole human project, that is, us on Earth, walking around with our big brains in our monkey bodies, the whole thing seems so unbelievable to me, so nonsensical and funny. I like to take a step back and see things and make things through this lens. I think it opens up dialogue between people more than banging them over the head with dogma and heavy ideologies.

OD: Are there feminist artists or thinkers who influenced Slug Eggs, directly or indirectly?

BA: Yes! In terms of visual artists, Sarah Lucas, Tracey Emin, Louise Bourgeois [and] Niki de Saint Phalle are a few off the top of my head. I did not take a gender studies class when I went to post-secondary, but I am grateful to all of the people who came before me and tried to make life better for women.

OD: What do you hope viewers, especially women and gender-diverse audiences, take away from experiencing this exhibition?

BA: I hope people take away a sense of energy, a feminine energy, but also a positive energy. I think things seem so dark, flat and regressive right now and I would love it if they [come to see] the show and feel a bit of the creative light shine on them. Art can be so generative and expansive, I hope it touches them and brings them some encouragement and optimism.

For those seeking an escape from the proliferation of AI-generated media, Slug Eggs will be on display at the Cube at the Kamloops Art Gallery at 465 Victoria St. in Kamloops until May 2.

We're missing your voice.
Come write for us.



the
omega



Email editor@theomeganews or visit theomeganews/work