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**DAVE
CHAPPELLE
STRIKES
AGAIN AND
AUDIENCES
AREN'T ALL
LAUGHING**

Feature layout by
Christine Weenk

- DULF plans to bring a safe supply to the city
 - Continued government lockdowns and restrictions inspire anger
- ...and that's everything!

Compassion in Vancouver

› DULF plans to bring a safe supply to the city

Matthew Fraser
Editor-in-Chief

After extensive lobbying by Councillor Jean Swanson and the Drug User Liberation Front (DULF), Vancouver will soon be home to North America's first compassion club. According to reporting by the *Vancouver Sun*, the compassion club will be peer-led and run by DULF. Additionally, the plan has already garnered support from Vancouver Coastal Health.

One of the concerns voiced before the vote was that funding would be used to materially support organized crime. Community organizer and DULF cofounder, Eris Nyx assured concerned councilpersons that Vancouver's agreement would guarantee that legal substitutes were purchased as opposed to those supplied illegally. DULF cofounder Jeremy Kalicum also added that a safe government supply would alleviate the need for street purchases. However, to do this, DULF will need a Subsection 56 exemption.

The College of Pharmacists of British Columbia explains that Health Canada allows for limited exemptions to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* under Subsection 56. The exemption allows pharmacists to: "Provide certain controlled substances to a community health facility, subject to the terms

and conditions of the exemption." It also permits nurses providing health services at a community health facility to possess, administer, transport, and otherwise distribute controlled substances. Should DULF obtain such an exemption, they will be at the forefront of recent BC government plans.

A BC Government news bulletin from July outlined a new policy aimed at creating a safer prescription supply. This bulletin explained that \$22.6 million would be directed to health authorities over the next three years. This planned expansion was aimed at addressing the stigma attached to illicit drug usage while boosting support for those in need. Amongst the planned end goals is the inclusion of opioids and stimulants supplied by Pharmacare after program and prescriber recommendation.

These proposed plans bring Canada closer to the most progressive plans delivered in European countries. Amongst the most famous of these programs is Switzerland's Heroin-assisted treatment (HAT for short). In an article for *North Carolina Health News*, Taylor Knopf explains the significance of the Swiss plan. Experts quoted describe huge drops including a 64 percent decrease in opioid-related deaths, a 98 percent reduction in theft, and significant drops in Hepatitis C and HIV infections.



Illustration by Athena Little

Anti-lockdown protests worldwide

› Continued government lockdowns and restrictions inspire anger

Matthew Fraser
Editor-in-Chief

January in the Netherlands saw *Business Insider* reporting multiple confrontations and riots regarding then implemented curfew measures in the country. Beginning on January 22, the Dutch government implemented a nine pm to four am curfew. In response, groups of youth revolted across the nation; actions taken included torching a vaccine distribution centre in Urk, an Amsterdam protest where 190 people were arrested and an Eindhoven riot where a police car and bicycles were burned while officers were pelted with rocks and fireworks.

A CNN report outlined a single protest in Melbourne, Australia where 235 people were arrested and 2,000 police were deployed with 10 of them suffering injuries. The Commander of the Victoria Police Department Mark Galliot expressed to reporters that he believed protestors arrived not to fight for freedom but to fight with the police. Galliot explained that: "[W]hat we saw were angry, aggressive young males," and that: "Doing these [protests] does nothing to advance any course. It's never been successful here or overseas, protesting gets you nowhere."

However, these protests come on the heels of an announcement that construction workers must be vaccinated to go to worksites and tightening lockdown restrictions. The *BBC* reports

that the announcement indicated some job sites would stay closed for up to two weeks pending staff immunization. Meanwhile, *Reuters* reported that Melbourne police were deployed to check

citizens who were out on the street. In the same *Reuters* report, the officials stated that they will be easing lockdown measures once 70 percent of the adult population has been vaccinated.

Similarly, *CTV News* reported on increasing unrest as Israel announced changes to its COVID19 Green Pass system. The newest requirements will mean that only those who have received a booster shot will be allowed to enter indoor dining establishments. People with only two doses of the vaccine or those who have recently recovered from COVID will be eligible for six months after their second shot or their recovery.

These tighter measures resulted in open protests blocking roadways and local streets. One protest, covered by *The Jerusalem Post*, included speakers and protestors who rallied against "tyranny" and called for an increase in transparency. Protesters were incensed by a 30-year embargo preventing the release of a report on coronavirus restrictions as reviewed by the Constitution Committee.

Many of these protestors feared a two-tier system separating the vaccinated from the unvaccinated. This fear motivated some of the protestors to carry signs decrying apartheid presumably directed at the indoor dining guidelines. The backlash was so severe that some even compared the green pass to Auschwitz and the regulations to rape.

As COVID continues into the foreseeable future, protests ranging from civil disobedience to riots will likely continue as well. It remains to be seen which method will most successfully address these citizen actions.



Illustration by Athena Little

SPORTS

- Canucks open 2021-22 season in Edmonton
 - Dale Mitchell being inducted into BC Sports Hall of Fame
- ...and that's everything!



Photo by Billy Bui

Canucks open 2021-22 season in Edmonton

› Vancouver looking to improve after rocky pre-season

Brandon Yip
Senior Columnist

The Vancouver Canucks opened the 2021-22 season on October 13 with a three-two shootout road loss in Edmonton. The Canucks trailed early with a score of two to zero before goals from Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Quinn Hughes tied the game and sent it into overtime.

Canucks coach Travis Green said he liked the effort and resiliency of his team after being down two goals. “It was a good game, a fast game and hard-working game to battle back and get a point,” he said during his post-game media conference as reported by *The Province*. “Pretty happy with the effort. You’re never going to eliminate those two guys [Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl] and they control the game a lot. Our game was pretty strong. I didn’t like the last eight minutes of the first period but really liked our start. They have a lot of firepower over there and our guys stuck with it. You have to believe in the process, but our power play has to get sharper. We want the units to challenge each other and when Brock (Boeser) comes back, it’s going to help.”

Sportsnet writer, Iain MacIntyre, in his October 14 column, was also impressed

with the Canucks’ effort: “When it looked like the first game of this season was going to be like most of their games from last season, the Vancouver Canucks did something to offer hope that things might be different: they came back [...] The Canucks played positively and came away with something, rather than nothing.”

Three days before the season opener, Canucks GM Jim Benning traded Olli Juolevi, a first-round draft pick (fifth overall) from 2016 to the Florida Panthers. In return, the Canucks received forward Juho Lammikko and defenceman Noah Juulsen.

Juolevi played 23 games for Vancouver last season, recording three points. He played in 63 games in two seasons with the then AHL Canucks affiliate, the Utica Comets. Juolevi scored three goals with 35 assists. Jim Benning, in a statement reported by *Sportsnet*, thanked the 23-year-old defenceman: “We would also like to thank Olli for his years of service with the Canucks organization and we wish him well in his future endeavours.”

Rob Williams reported in the *Daily Hive* on October 10, the Canucks placed defenceman, Travis Hamonic, on waivers after he did not report to the team. Including Hamonic, Vancouver cut four

players from their roster: Madison Bowey, Phillip Di Giuseppe and Justin Bailey. All four players needed to clear waivers before being sent to the Abbotsford Canucks.

Also, Canucks forward, Brandon Sutter, will not be returning to the lineup. The *Canadian Press* reported via *Sportsnet* that Sutter was experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. He had initially tested positive for COVID-19 seven months ago during an outbreak that affected 25 players and staff. Jim Benning told *Sportsnet* there is no timeline when Sutter will be returning. “He’s experiencing some of the symptoms of the [sic] COVID. I guess they call it being a long hauler,” he said. “He still has some issues he’s working through with that. So once he’s feeling better, the first step for him is to get feeling better and then once he’s healthy enough and feeling better, he’ll start working out and get back out on the ice.”

As well, the Canucks lost forward Zack MacEwen on waivers, claimed by the Philadelphia Flyers on October 13 as reported by *Sportsnet*. During the 2021 season, MacEwen played 34 games with one goal, one assist and 44 penalty minutes. He also provided toughness; with MacEwen’s departure, the Canucks will need to address the grit factor in their

lineup, should other teams take liberties on Canucks’ star players like Quinn Hughes and Elias Pettersson.

In other NHL news, Canadian singer, Justin Bieber, was part of the NHL’s opening night on ESPN on October 12. NHL Commissioner, Gary Bettman, confirmed the news during an appearance on *Good Morning America* the day before. “He’s going to be introing our game. Tune in tomorrow night and you’ll see it. He is a huge fan and we’re excited to have him as part of the NHL family,” he said.

The “Biebs” narrated an introductory package before the doubleheader games. The first game had cup champions, Tampa Bay Lightning, losing to the Pittsburgh Penguins by a score of six to two. The second game had the Vegas Golden Knights winning at home against the Seattle Kraken by a score of four to three. Bieber is a big Toronto Maple Leafs fan and has attended numerous Maple Leafs home games at Scotiabank Arena with his wife, Hailey Bieber, by his side. The “Biebs” also has a bromance happening with Leaf’s star player, Auston Matthews. It seems to be a strong friendship that neither man is feeling “Sorry” about.

“

I didn’t like the last eight minutes of the first period but really liked our start. They have a lot of firepower over there and our guys stuck with it.

- Travis Green

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Dale Mitchell being inducted into BC Sports Hall of Fame

› Prolific goal scorer scored 19 goals in 55 appearances for Canada

Brandon Yip
Senior Columnist

One of Canada's top soccer strikers is being honoured in his home province. Dale Mitchell will be inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame as part of the 2021 list of inductees. The special induction ceremony will be held in June 2022.

Mitchell was a member of the Canadian men's national team from 1980 till 1993. He made 55 appearances for his country, scoring an impressive 19 goals. It was a record that stood for 20 years before Dwayne De Rosario broke it in 2012—finishing his international career for Canada with 22 goals. Mitchell also represented Canada at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles with the Canadians finishing fifth.

Mitchell says being inducted into the BCSHOF is very humbling. "There are so many great athletes and builders who contribute to sport in our province, so being recognized among them is a great feeling," he said in an email interview with the *Other Press*. "It's a humbling experience as well because you have to think about all the people who supported you along the way. Like parents, teammates, coaches and managers. The Hall of Fame is something I never thought about [...] but when it happens it feels good."

His love and passion for soccer began early as Mitchell started playing the game at age five. He started his soccer career with the Vancouver Whitecaps (NASL) from 1977 till 1978. He then played three seasons for the Portland Timbers (1979 till 1982), before playing one season for

the Montreal Manic in 1983—a year before the NASL folded. Mitchell later played for the Vancouver 86ers in the Canadian Soccer League (1987 to 1992). He scored 37 goals in his four seasons with the 86ers, which included one year with the Toronto Blizzard in 1991. From 1992 till 1994, he continued playing for the 86ers when the team moved to the American Professional Soccer League (APSL). Mitchell also played in the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) from 1983 till 1993. According to the Indoor Soccer Hall of Fame website, he scored 416 goals (regular season and playoffs).

Notably, Mitchell was a key player in Canada qualifying for the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico. During the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in 1985, he scored four goals in three international matches. Unfortunately, Mitchell missed the final round of qualifying due to a knee injury. In Mexico, he did not play in Canada's opening two matches against France and Hungary (Canada lost both games by scores of one to zero and two to zero). But Mitchell did play in Canada's third match against the Soviet Union with Canada losing by a score of two to zero. Canada was then eliminated from the World Cup after three losses and failing to score a goal.

After retiring as a player, Mitchell went into coaching. From 2007 till 2009, he was head coach of Canada's men's national team. He also coached Canada's U20 National Team (2001-2007), as well as the Vancouver Whitecaps (1999-2001). In 2002, Mitchell was inducted into the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame. In 2012, Mitchell was part of the Canadian Soccer Association's Centennial Celebration—selected

to the Canadian All-Time XI men's team. Two years later, he was inducted into the Indoor Soccer Hall of Fame. In 2019, he was inducted into the Soccer Hall of Fame of BC. Since 2010, Mitchell has been the Technical Director for the Coquitlam Metro Ford Soccer Club (BC Soccer Premier League).

Other BCSHOF inductions

Dale Mitchell is among five athletes being inducted into the BCSHOF: Jason Delesalle (Para-Athletics), Gerry Gilmore (Field Hockey/Basketball/Softball), Gino Odjick (Ice Hockey) and Eli Pasquale (Basketball). In the builders and coaches category are Judy Broom (Field Hockey), David Cox (Sport Psychology) and Kelly Mann (Multi-Sport). Other honours include the 1961-62 Vancouver Firefighters Men's Soccer (team category), Gene Kiniski (pioneer category) and Karin Larsen (media category). Ron Jones is the recipient of the WAC Bennett Award.

The BCSHOF also announced the six winners of the annual Eric Whitehead Inspired Service Awards. The award goes to long-standing contributors to the BC sports community. As well, the candidates have made achievements during periods of adversity; or were prominent in their innovation, service and leadership to the BC sport system. The winners are Steve Ewen (*The Province* writer), Brian Griffin (BC Place), Barry Macdonald (formerly of CBC-TV, *Sports Page*, *TEAM 1040* and *TSN 1040*), Lara Mussell-Savage (Director of Sport for ISPARC and BCSHOF Trustee), Terry Vandale (long-standing sports leader in softball and curling) and Robert H. Wright (former Chair of Sport BC and Tennis Canada).



ARTS

- Local movies, relevant work, and resurrected videotapes
- The Severity of Where We're Going review

...and that's everything!

VIFF 2021 Highlights

› Local movies, relevant work, and resurrected videotapes

Jerrison Oracion
Senior Columnist

Another edition of the Vancouver International Film Festival is now in the books, and this year was very special being the 40th anniversary of the festival. With in-person screenings coming back, the many venues were almost filled, and audiences were able to engage in Q&As with the cast and crew of some of the films. I watched a few films—mainly Canadian films and mainly in-person—during the festival this year. While there, I got to talk to movie lovers as I was volunteering during the festival; many told me about what they watched and liked. I also spent time talking with the organizers about their pandemic experiences.

When my family and I were cleaning up our house recently, I was able to look at the video cameras that we have including a vintage one from the 1990s. Both use old VHS tapes and the picture quality of these tapes is reminiscent of scenes from the local BC film *Portraits from a Fire*.

The film is kind of autobiographical of first-time director Trevor Mack making homemade movies in his reserve of Tl'etinqox where a boy named Tyler (William Magnus Lulua) finds a video recording tape containing footage of his mother whom he barely knew. He uses it

to make his most personal film departing from his other low-budget science-fiction efforts. It was mind-blowing and it can be used as laugh medicine to heal from devastating discoveries while also showing the hardships of living in a reserve.

One documentary that also uses video camera footage is *Daughter of a Lost Bird*, a film like *Boyhood* in that it was shot over seven years, and it involves a reunion. In it, an Indigenous actress named Kendra Mylnechuk Potter tries to answer hard questions about her identity while reuniting with her birth mother, April. The process was both filmed and helped by director and frequent collaborator Brooke Pepion Swaney. It showed the wrongs of kidnapping Indigenous children from their parents and putting them up for adoption and the way it impacted Kendra and April.

Then, I watched another Indigenous documentary related to the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation called *Returning Home* which explains the history of Orange Shirt Day as created by Phyllis Jack-Webstad. Orange Shirt Day later become a national holiday with its inaugural day occurring last month. The movie also spends time addressing the salmon shortages in the Fraser River and victims of residential schools.

The film that got Best Canadian Film in the festival this year was Kaveh

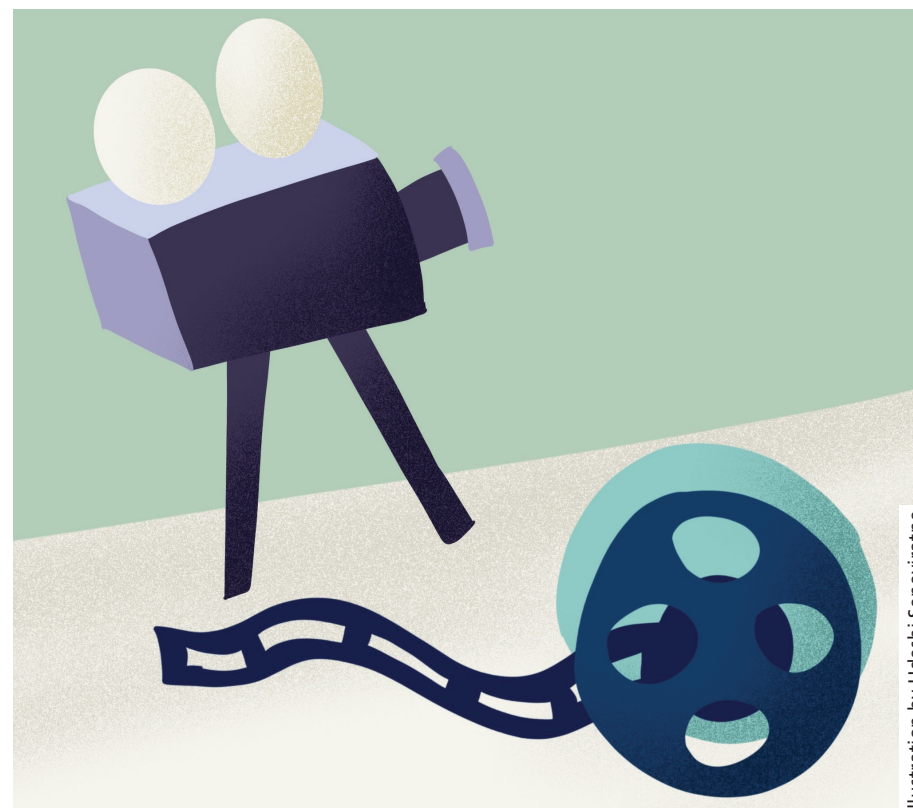


Illustration by Udesi Seneviratne

Nabatian's *Sin La Habana*. The movie involves a Cuban ballet dancer trying to make his dreams come true in Montreal. The film was shot beautifully and made good use of cultural exchanges but ended up being an international affair. Nabatian, who is also a music video director made the score for the film as well.

During the last day of the festival on Thanksgiving, I watched two films at the same time on VIFF Connect. The first one was *Spaghetti Code Love* which was essentially an ensemble comedy about

stories of everyday people in Tokyo and the *Vinyl* sequel *Records* which made me appreciate collecting music even if they are CDs. While most of the films in the festival will be released in movie theatres and available on digital and streaming services, you still have a chance to see some of them right now at the VIFF Centre as part of the VIFF Repeats series.

Despite the pandemic still happening, this year's VIFF was a success and maybe next year when international travel is open again, the real celebration happens.

The Severity of Where We're Going review

› Generous Thieves' new EP offers a laidback and wholesome ride for all those keen to listen

Jonathan Pabico
Senior Columnist

If someone asked you about reggae, Bob Marley would probably come to mind. However, Vancouver's Generous Thieves aims to challenge that longstanding image. The group proves with their new

EP, *The Severity of Where We're Going*, that Canada has incredible reggae artists too. The band's music benefits from easygoing energy, diverse themes, and reassuring compositions that we should tune into immediately.

As described in an artist profile provided to the *Other Press*, Generous

Thieves consists of musicians Devon Martin, Andrew Conroy, and Sugah Candiah. Their EP, released October 15, features five tracks enriched by the musical fusion of genres with a focus on reggae. Despite the fresh release, the band has no plans to slow down anytime soon. They're already gearing up for future endeavours, including recording sessions for their debut album.

Simple lyrics convey straightforward themes enriched by resonating reggae beats. Each song

is imbued with eclectic soulfulness and psychedelic undertones. The EP gives you a wondrously enjoyable time while discussing aspects of the world that affect us today.

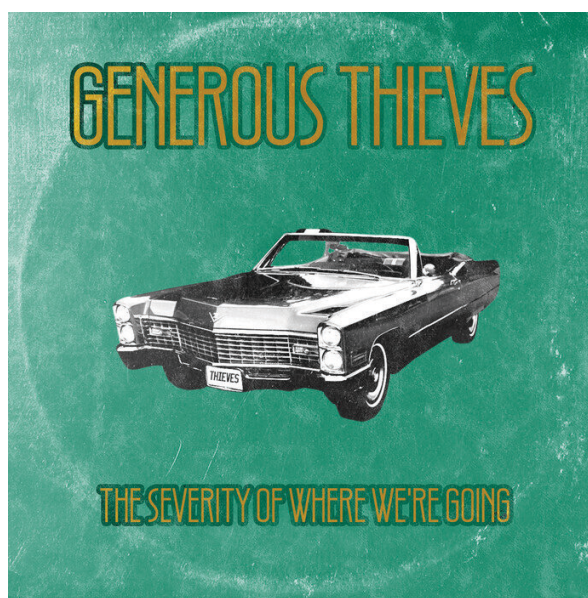
The EP's upbeat lyricism, lively vocals, and an ultra-positive atmosphere across most of the tracks help you feel excited about life. The track "Sleep", for instance, balances cymbal crashes with the most vibrant guitar chords you'll ever hear. The listener is greeted by heartwarming themes about having hope for the future and using our voice to enact change in the world. The goal of someday uniting cultures, peoples, and nations is rekindled through this optimistic track.

The Generous Thieves also use their music to explore how consumerism shapes our material lifestyles in concerning ways. The EP's second song "Flick a Match" tackles the economic inequalities associated with price hikes, our compulsive need to be wealthy someday, and the plights of marginalized communities. These topics are evoked by moody reggae vocals mixed with distorted segments and subdued drums across the track.

The fifth and final track, "Up in Smoke" builds on the theme of our socio-economic plight. The piece creates an irony that disarms us by employing jovial reggae vocals that clash with the song's more distressing social theme about money. We're shown how dominated and absurd our lives have become in struggling to meet the rising costs of living.

A bit more experimentation could've been imbued into the tracks to push the musical fusion even further. I think the band could expand into more genres from jazz to R&B to see what other synergies they can create with their reggae sounds. However, despite these personal preferences, the group's music immerses you in their simple yet riveting stories.

The Severity of Where We're Going is a relaxing art piece that's worth settling into during peaceful days or your solemn afternoons. Anytime you need something for emotional support, Generous Thieves is there for you. Their music is a fantastic addition to the playlists of devout reggae fans and Canadian music lovers looking to experience the genre for the first time. If I were you, get listening, and prepare to be swept away by the world of reggae.



Cover of 'The Severity of Where We're Going' by Generous Thieves

LIFE & STYLE

- Exercise is for more than getting buff!
- Remembering the Virgin Megastore:
Once open for nine years at the corner
of Robson and Burrard Street
...and that's everything!

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To paraphrase the great Cam'ron,
a little bit of sweat can get
those computers 'puting.



Illustration by Athena Little

Motivating yourself back to the gym

› Exercise is for more than getting buff!

Tariq Ghanzi
Contributor

Not everyone managed to stay healthy during the pandemic. For a lot of students, online classes meant that you went from one chair to couch to bed for like 10 months straight. Now that restrictions have been lessened, it may be time for some to hit the gym! But after such a long delay, motivation could be in short supply. Well, if that's the case, read on and get a little kick in the pants!

One piece of motivation that we should all happily embrace is that exercise is good for your mind. Working up a sweat will certainly help those cognitive juices to start flowing and can even help you focus better and over longer periods. To paraphrase the great Cam'ron, a little bit of sweat can get those computers 'puting.

Next up are mobility and flexibility. You see, if you spend too much time seated and largely immobile, your muscles begin to atrophy. Essentially that's a fancy way of saying they die. Also, if your body is not forced to move and flex in certain ways, you can become stiff and inflexible. Though being inflexible is a good thing when you are fighting for a raise, it is not a good thing for your long-term health or the various surprises in life. With that in mind, yoga classes are a great way to combine clearing your mind with much-needed exercise!

But if the benefits themselves aren't motivation enough, it might be time for us to look at ourselves in the mirror. Some studies have shown that giving yourself a pep talk in the mirror can boost your self-esteem and motivate you onwards towards your goals. If you are feeling a little too lethargic about going to the gym, a couple

of minutes in front of your mirror telling yourself how good you are and how useful the exercise will be can help.

Also, setting goals that you know you can achieve and that lead you towards a larger ultimate goal can vastly improve your motivation. Start small with the goal of signing up for your first class. After that, set a goal to go to three classes in a row. Keep building slowly but surely to an ultimate goal that seems a bit daunting now. As you knock down the other, smaller goals along the way, that larger goal will become much more attainable.

Unfortunately, motivation doesn't grow on trees. If it did, then all of our lives would be so much easier and a million things would already have been done. But, good ideas are plentiful and we can make sure to share them with others and heighten our total chances for success!

THE CLOSER OPENED US TO TROUBLE

› Dave Chappelle strikes again, and audiences aren't all laughing

Matthew Fraser
Editor-in-Chief

Few comedians have commanded the feelings and interests of audiences as thoroughly as Dave Chappelle. Over his 33 years long career, Chappelle has entertained and delighted audiences from the small home screen to the biggest theatres and arenas in the world. His eponymous sketch series, *The Chappelle Show* is often considered the greatest sketch comedy show ever made and has been immortalized by way of its satirizations and outstanding quotables. In many ways, Chappelle's comedic resume speaks for itself and I count myself as a fan.

However, over the past handful of years, Chappelle has drawn the ire of a certain demographic. Despite the arguments that he punches across lines, equally dispensing his wit and critique, the LGBTQ community has taken offence to many of his jokes. In particular, the transgendered community has felt the most unjustly targeted by the comedian's pen; so much so that their rage has trended multiple times on Twitter and been thoroughly expressed in print. According to the comedian himself, many members and their supporters have made their grievances known personally to Chappelle. But has Chappelle really been punching down or are his comments being misinterpreted by a group he claims to be too sensitive? Could it instead be that Chappelle has lost his once sharp wit and instead fallen on clumsily rehashing old, offensive and largely thoughtless jokes?

In Chappelle's most recent Netflix special, *The Closer*, the comedian sets himself the task of addressing his naysayers and ending the mischaracterizations he feels they make. However, along the path to straightening out these misunderstandings, Chappelle can't seem to help himself from baiting the very people that he aims to pacify and address. He goes so far as to ironically name himself both a feminist and a transphobe. These often successful efforts at drawing rage have yielded criticisms both legitimate and bad faith, thoughtful and knee jerk while obscuring whether or not Chappelle is arguing in integrity.

For most people who are vaguely aware of the controversy, they probably know that Dave Chappelle proudly stated "I'm team TERF"—an acronym that stands for Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist. One online political commentator named Vaush picked out this particular line for criticism and reflection. Given that Dave Chappelle begins his special by stating that he believes that transwomen are in fact women, Vaush points out that that beginning standpoint immediately makes him completely and totally incompatible with the TERF ideology. Vaush points out that TERFs believe that it is very much impossible for someone born with male genitalia and assigned male at birth to become a woman. Many TERFs believe that the very presence of transwomen in female spaces silences and invalidates the voices of "real women." In pointing out this fact, Vaush begins to lay the groundwork for the argument that Chappelle is woefully uneducated on the things that his opining on.

This line of thought is expanded on by one Conscious Lee, a TikTok'er gaining growing popularity on the intersectional

and black-led social media scene. In a video made for TikTok, reposted on Instagram, Lee argues against Chappelle comparing Blackface to transgenderism. Lee's point is that the inherently disrespectful and racist practice of blackface is wholly separate from the legitimate existence of individuals whose gender identities do not conform with what they were assigned at birth. Lee argues that to conflate the two is an act of both gaslighting and dog-whistling. He continues his criticism by pointing out that Chappelle has given five percent thought to the issue of transgenderism and that in turn, his musings seem profound to those who have not given the question any thought at all.

Yet the criticisms of Chappelle did not come solely from the internet spaces he doesn't think are real, newspapers and magazines including *The Guardian* and Vox Media's *Vulture* published critiques as well. Craig Jenkins in his review for the *Vulture* points out that Chappelle once walked away from \$50 million because he realized too many audience members were laughing because of racist stereotypes as opposed to laughing at the racist stereotypes. In Jenkins' eyes, that comic has seemingly left behind his previous principles and sensibilities to defend millionaires and rehash old, tired and antiquated transphobic jokes. As a result of these jokes—made in consecutive specials—Jenkins points out that Chappelle is at the centre of an outrage he cultivated; this creation of his has meant his audience is populated with people who cheer at anti-transgender bathroom bills. In essence, Chappelle has drawn the criticism onto himself and attracted people who may legitimately be transphobic.

The Guardian called upon a trans comedian named Dahlia Belle, for her response to *The Closer*. In that response, Belle criticizes the erasure of black trans people in Dave Chappelle's special while also arguing against his use of Daphne Dorman to protect himself. In both of these criticisms, Belle is well



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Could it be that Chappelle has lost his once sharp wit and instead fallen on clumsily rehashing old, offensive and largely thoughtless jokes?

supported, as it seems that no one who made valid criticisms of Chappelle overlooked the rank non-intersectional view he holds of the trans community. Belle's criticism of Chappelle using his late friend Daphne as a shield was also well considered as even I saw his use of Daphne Dorman as some sort of totem of his trans acceptance. Worse than the 'trans-friend-who-died card' is the fact that the use of Dorman as a totem did not stop him from misgendering her to cap off his joke and close his special.

Yet for all the validity of these criticisms, I can't bring myself to not enjoy Chappelle's special. My respect for the criticisms given coupled with my understanding—limited by my cis-gendered identity—of the trans movement cannot help me from appreciating the work that Chappelle has done. Even some of the other critiques he made ring true to me despite the fallacies employed. Part of this centres on the fact that much of what Chappelle does revolves around juxtaposition.

One of the portions that gained the most traction and discussion early on was his relating the rapper DaBaby's previous altercation, resulting in the shooting death of another. In the special, Chappelle states clearly "DaBaby shot and killed a n***a in Wal-Mart in North Carolina. Nothing bad happened to his career." Though he leaves out the crucial context that DaBaby was not the aggressor and that all charges were dropped, the underlying proposition is worth considering: are black lives valued differently than LGBTQ lives? I stress that the circumstance Chappelle uses is not in fact congruent, but it is something worth debating given that much of the black cultural image

sold for consumption revolves around glorifying the killing of black men.

One of the things Chappelle seemed particularly upset with was the accusation that he punches down on groups ill-equipped or disproportionately hindered in their ability to respond. Chappelle seems to take quite seriously the

accusation that he is a bully, and on this note, he finds a supporter in me. His jokes (if charted across his long career) are delivered with equal aplomb to all targets. For this reason, I am torn between laughing hysterically at his commentary and shaking my head shamefully at my enjoyment. I laugh because it is clear to me what the joke is and how it should be received; the shock value and the absurdity are easily grasped by me. But at the same time, I am aware of why different sections of the population view the jokes as meanspirited or even hateful.

Maybe I am impacted by the fact that I see equal derision as part and parcel of normalizing a class, meaning, when Chappelle begins to narrate the difference between cis-gendered vaginas and transgendered vaginas, the shock only adds to the hilarity I feel. Chappelle drawing the comparison between animal-sourced meat versus Beyond Meat or Impossible Meat, against lady parts is to me an apropos comparison. It is not lost on me that many transgender people and their allies will think the comparison is transphobic, but I still think the line about "Beet juice not blood" is both apt and funny.

If nothing else, the comparison is important in distinguishing the cisgendered experience and the transgendered experience. Though it certainly isn't the most profound juxtaposition, the fact of the matter is that a girl's first period is considered by some to be an important event. Without using that belief to denigrate, one important aspect of the trans woman's experience is being viewed and accepted as a woman without certain functions or even the presence of that piece of anatomy. The joke is meant only to highlight that there is a difference and that there can be a humorous view of that difference. Speaking about that difference should be no different than speaking about the differences between the black and white experiences. Maybe I'm blinded by my own biases, but I see the "Impossible pussy" line as part of the efforts to normalize these human experiences.

However, the criticism that I most considered was the argument that even if Dave Chappelle is not himself transphobic, the jokes he makes inadvertently normalize transphobia and lend cover to more nefarious characters. I consider this argument the most given that bad-faith actors have already begun to use Chappelle's mainstream acceptance to forward their anti-trans agenda. When people like Steven Crowder prop up Chappelle's work as a useful shield for their own transphobic beliefs, the fact that he and Chappelle are far more at odds than aligned is buried. What is seen, however, is that the legitimacy that could be seen in Chappelle's work is somehow paralleled in Crowder's rants. People who hold these transphobic views crave the subterfuge of legitimacy they get from defending and connecting to Chappelle's jokes and that subterfuge is truly dangerous to the goal of widespread trans acceptance.

I am under no illusion that this or any other work will convince Chappelle's detractors of the goodwill and inoffensiveness of the man. Just as the many criticisms I read and watched could not convince me of his malice, so too will this be unconvincing. But it is worth acknowledging the legitimate issues that people have with Chappelle. Still, I do hope that Chappelle's humour can one day return to uniting most people as opposed to hurting an important minority.



Remembering the Virgin Megastore

› Once open for nine years at the corner of Robson and Burrard Street

Brandon Yip
Senior Columnist

In the 1990s, Vancouver saw an increase in prominent businesses opening shops in the downtown core. Planet Hollywood opened on Robson Street in March 1997 but only lasted two years. In 1995, The Hard Rock Café opened on West Hastings Street but closed in 2000.

But one store that operated during the same period, outlasted both Planet Hollywood and The Hard Rock Café: the Virgin Megastore. It opened in December 1996 at the corner of Robson and Burrard Street. Prior to the Virgin Megastore moving in, the location at 750 Burrard Street was the former site of the original Vancouver Public Library from 1957 till 1995.

Virgin owner, Richard Branson, appeared in Vancouver on opening day to help kick start the festivities. The *Richmond News* reported in November 2011 that Branson was “rappelling down the front of the building before thousands of cheering onlookers.” A plethora of television cameras and reporters were also in attendance. The *Vancouver Sun* reported in November 1996 that singers, Chris Isaak and Sarah McLachlan performed at the store to the delight of fans.

Writer David Look, in an October 2015 article he wrote for *Vancouver Is Awesome* about Vancouver in the 1990s, remembers the Virgin Megastore very well: “Then I hear the word, ‘mega’ and my memory of the [1990s] is rekindled with familiarity. Nothing says [the 1990s] more than ‘mega,’ and nothing represents the height and power of tangible media in mid-90s Vancouver more than the Virgin Megastore!”

But the *Richmond News* stated Branson’s opening day appearance at the Vancouver store would not have any lasting effect: “The stunt generated valuable publicity but didn’t kick-start the kind of sales the company expected, and Virgin never opened another store in Canada.” In addition, Catherine McLean, in a 2006 article she wrote in *The Globe and Mail* stated that Branson was not willing to risk expanding his store in an uncertain and ever-changing market: “While the Vancouver outlet, open for nearly nine years, was profitable, Mr. Branson wasn’t ready to take the next step and build a country-wide chain. Music retailing was just getting too tough as cellphones and Apple’s iPod competed for young consumers’ dollars.”

Nevertheless, the Virgin Megastore lasted for close to a decade. The store made effective use of its massive space that encompassed 40,000 square feet (3,700 m²) with three levels. The large bright red “Virgin” sign located above the entrance was an “eye-catcher” for passersby shopping on Robson Street. Inside the store, the ground level contained the main cashier desk—along with the latest CDs. Some CD display stations had headphones so customers could listen to tracks before deciding to buy the album. The bottom level contained more music, LPs, videos, LaserDiscs and DVDs. Finally, the upper level contained books, magazines, graphic novels, games, toys—along with a small coffee shop—and washrooms.

The Virgin Megastore closed in September 2005 after deciding to exit the Canadian market. The company issued the



Photo by Billy Bull

following statement: “It is not feasible to continue to run a single store in Canada any longer.” The Vancouver store was sold to HMV who operated the location until it closed in January 2012. Today, the site is a Victoria’s Secret store, which opened in August 2013.

In November 2005, Jeffery Simpson, a blogger who lived in Kelowna, posted his memories after the closing of the Virgin Megastore. His insight offers a unique perspective and perhaps his sentiments about the store are shared by many regular

shoppers: “[One] of the must hit stores on any trip to Vancouver was the Virgin Megastore on Robson. Back in Kelowna we just had a crappy little HMV in the mall and an A&B Sound, so I loved the selection Virgin offered. Even now during what we might call the iTunes years where all my music shopping happens through Apple’s music store, I still took a weekly trip into the Megastore to pick up import singles, DVDs, graphic novels and all sorts of other pop culture goodies.”

“Then Richard Branson’s empire rode away on his balloon and closed down shop. HMV took over the space, opening a [sic] HMV [‘Megastore.’] I use quotations because it’s really just a big version of their mall stores. More selection? Nope, just more of the same. Virgin obviously was never a [Vancouver-based,] Mom and Pop record shop, but it was still part of the Vancouver experience [sic]. My heart breaks a little [every time] I walk by it, which maybe means I’m a wuss.”

- The rant corner : Golf is a waste, and we all know it
 - Tiny houses should be legal in Vancouver
- ...and that's everything!

The rant corner

› Golf is a waste, and we all know it

Matthew Fraser
Editor-in-Chief

Everyone has a thing or two that they can't stand; something that causes a nearly or even completely irrational rage to pass over you. At least one thing that grinds my gears is golf.

You see, the first problem with golf is that it is not a sport. Not at all. Golf is what old fat men do as a hobby and what real athletes do when they retire. Think about this for a second: if you come up off your couch and challenge a championship boxer to a 10-round bout, you will get beaten horribly. If you throw on a helmet and some shoulder pads and step onto the field with a mid-level college football team you will leave in a stretcher. But I bet if your dad who golfs periodically were to get a chance to hit the green with a PGA player, he'd do alright.

Therefore, golf is not a real sport but rather the thing that athletes and old farts do to unwind. It requires slight skill and zero conditioning. You can do the damn thing while piss drunk; I literally see people do that almost every weekend. Two hands here and here, turn your hips and take a big swing; sure, you'll miss at the start but once you start to connect the 'sport' becomes second nature.

See, the other thing with golf is that it is not drastically different at the upper level than at the lower level. You might have your driver's licence, your mother might drive daily, but that certainly doesn't make either of you Lewis Hamilton. I mean you can't even drive the same courses many of those races are run on, but you can book a hotel in palm springs and tee-off on the same green that once hosted Tiger Woods.

In addition to its monumental non-sport, really a hobbiness, golf is excruciatingly wasteful. The amount of water and chemicals used to keep the green' green is horrific. You could probably use half that amount in an actual farm to much better effect. On top of that, the number of trees that have to be cut down to build a course is nauseating.

It's clear then to me that golf is a horrible, terrible, no-good waste of everything that should be abolished immediately. We should normalize shaming people for playing golf and tax the hell out of recreational golfers to account for the immense resources lost in their hobby.

“

Golf is what old fat men do as a hobby and what real athletes do when they retire.



Tiny houses should be legal in Vancouver

› There are tons of benefits, so let's get on it!



Joseph Astana
Contributor

Are you tired of dingy basement suite rentals? How about being stuck with a dirty roommate who never cleans up? Maybe you live at home but you're ready to move out and you want to live somewhere more stable and in a place that is your own. If you are part of any of those categories, you have probably been forced to realize that Vancouver is absurdly expensive if you want to own a place. In fact, Vancouver is the most expensive housing market in Canada and amongst the most expensive in the world.

One thing that I always notice when I am walking around the various neighbourhoods of Vancouver is the numerous empty lots. Many of these lots sit undeveloped for years while people struggle to find housing; I think it would be best if Vancouver allowed tiny houses on these lots. That

way, people would have an affordable, sustainable, and space-efficient place to live within city borders; plus, tiny homes built on wheels are transportable and therefore easy to move.

The tiny house movement has sprung to popularity over the past few years as a by-product of housing unaffordability and the growing need for densification. Unfortunately, here in Vancouver, you cannot live in a house under 400 sq/ft. I'm sure that few people want to live in the really tiny houses that are like the size of a closet, but many of the nicer tiny homes made by companies like BC-based Mint Tiny House Company are quite luxurious and comfy.

Speaking of BC-based companies, an added benefit of allowing tiny homes in Vancouver is that it will provide entrepreneurial and job opportunities in the community. Carpenters and other builders will be able to get good work building homes for people and this will do good things for our local economy. On top of that, it will help our local population have places to live that are both flexible and affordable. So,

with the benefits being more jobs for locals and more housing because of those jobs, why haven't we done this already?

As I mentioned empty lots and space efficiency earlier, I think it's worth pointing out that because tiny houses are roughly the size of an RV, there are more places for them to be parked. For instance, someone could rent out a portion of their backyard as a parking space and help that way. On top of densification, these tiny houses can be built quicker than full-size houses that would take months to erect but would be limited to one or two families. One normal-sized lot that someone might build a house on could easily fit 4 or more tiny houses, which in turn would help to combat the urban sprawl.

Hopefully, the Vancouver city council will get around to changing the rules on tiny houses so that people can get better places to live. I'm sure I'm not the only person who would love to see more varied housing options in the city.

HUMOUR

- The cheeky art critic column: Liberty or death
 - Comic: As cute as a petal!
- ...and that's everything!

Liberty or death

› The cheeky art critic column

Owen Hebbert
Contributor

This highly symbolic painting portrays the noble spirit of France between Liberty and Death. For context, it was painted right at the end of the Reign of Terror; a time when just about every idealist had had a go at executing people who disagreed with them, before inevitably being executed in turn. As such, while we might be inclined to believe that the painter is simply describing the state of affairs as he sees them, it is not unreasonable to think that he is actually offering a threatening ultimatum very common at the time. We are invited to side with Liberty as embodied by the French Republic, or else. Precisely the kind of viewpoint that leads one to start admiring the extraordinary potential of a good guillotine.

The artist, Jean-Baptiste Regnault, has portrayed Liberty as being positively cluttered with iconography. Her cloud strains under the weight of the various *objets d'art* that are intended to leave us no doubt that “Liberty” and “The First Republic” are synonymous. Even France's spirit has the revolutionary colours showing among the feathers of his wings.

In contrast, Death is far less encumbered. He has a hero's wreath and his traditional instrument of harvest, and nothing more. Some people have suggested that he also has revolutionary colours in his wings, which would only serve to reinforce my earlier hypothesis. His attitude is much more that of someone who, when invited to discuss his trade, simply shrugs and says, “You know, people die. Whatever.”

Probably my favourite aspects of this painting are the expressions on everyone's faces. Liberty looks brutally unimpressed. The sarcastic thoughts going through her head as she holds her square and Phrygian cap aloft make it hard to take her all that seriously. She's like “France! Get the hell back here! You forgot your scarlet cap of liberty again!” Because that's what he needs right now. Not the scarlet loincloth of liberty. No. The cap.

The French spirit, meanwhile, has the expression of someone who *thinks* he's a genius because he just realized that if doors had never been invented, knock-knock jokes wouldn't be popular at all... because he's stoned out of his skull.

Death's expression: “Hey.”



“

Death's attitude is much more that of someone who, when invited to discuss his trade, simply shrugs and says, “You know, people die. Whatever.”

COMICS

As cute as a petal!



CREATIVE WORKS

The Rich Man: Part Two

› The Rich Man meets The Poison Seductress

Craig Allan
Business Manager

After his mission, The Rich Man leaves the warehouse to meet the man who employed him to take out John. At least that's what The Rich Man thinks. He has been suspicious for a while that the man he has talked to is not the one orchestrating the hits, but merely a vessel for a more shadowed figure. This does not occupy his mind though, as he has never been much concerned about the life of his employer and he rather likes the company of the surrogate. He goes by the name of Ramsey, surely a name he must have picked due to a conversation about a possible sports bet.

They are meeting for breakfast at a small hole in the wall. This place is so hidden that it is merely a take-out window. As The Rich Man walks to the location, the sun begins to rise next to the San Antonio Mountain; though it will not matter to him as this corner leads into a shady area, both literally and figuratively. A block ahead he can see Ramsey, leaning against the wall of what looks like an abandoned auto body shop. Alas, it is the breakfast speakeasy.

After they grab two breakfast sandwiches—or what can at best be called a breakfast sandwich—they walk down the street. Ramsey seems a little nervous, but The Rich Man is almost stoic in his gaze. Nothing can faze him because no one can beat him. Ramsey asks the typical questions about the hit and The Rich Man delivers. Unfortunately, Ramsey is annoyed with the fact that The Rich Man did not get him a tooth from the victim as evidence of the kill. Doing him one better, The Rich Man pulls out a finger with a ring on it. “That should help you identify the body,” The Rich Man says. And if not, his corpse is waiting in the warehouse he rented.

Ramsey's is good company, but he can also be a bit of a nuisance. He is always pestering The Rich Man about what he wants out of life or if he has any brothers or sisters. The Rich Man could tell him, what harm would it do? but The Rich Man has been at this for too long. He knows the power of information and won't give it up easily. Whenever Ramsey lays on the pressure, The Rich Man does have a go-to saying. “I am a nomad. I have no

use for a wife or a family. My duty is to my work, and my life's satisfaction comes from a successful execution. The continued pride that I am the best at what I do helps.”

As they walk down the street, Ramsey begins to stumble. The Rich Man knew that he would not have to deal with Ramsey's invasive questions for long. He made sure to grab the more wrapped together sandwich of the two because he knew there was a special ingredient in one of those sandwiches. As Ramsey begins to slump to the ground, The Rich Man catches him and leans him up against the wall of a building and begins to walk down a nearby dark alley.

As he makes it halfway down this alley, a figure appears four metres away from him. It's a tall, thin, blond woman. Covered neck to toe in tight black leather. The classic stereotype never goes out of style. He knows that she has been tracking him. He recognized her during his job in Bangkok and in a poorly disguised outfit when he was in Moldova. He always wondered why she never made a move or tried to make contact.

“Well, I guess you want a fight?” The Rich Man says. “No,” says the woman. “I just want to talk.” He doesn't understand why she would want to talk considering she just tried to poison him with a sandwich, and thinks it not very nice of her to poison Ramsey's. The woman points out that the sandwich was for him, a statement that does not sway The Rich Man's mind. The Rich Man knows though that she can't take him. He has already seen the 23 traps she has set for him. Unfortunately, he did not account for the other 140. The woman knew he was going to be hard to catch, so she filled the alley with dart guns. As poison darts riddle The Rich Man's body he falls to the ground and begins to lose consciousness.

“Wherever you are taking me please make it nice. I don't get many opportunities to be surprised.” The Rich Man does not know it yet, but he is about to meet one of the most challenging adversaries he has ever met. A woman with a penchant for poison and a need for order and revenge. He is about to uncover the closest thing he has found in a long time to an equal. He is about to spend time with The Poison Seductress.



CREATIVE WORKS

Thanksgiving poem

› A little gobble gobble goes a long way

Joseph Astana
Contributor

There once was a living turkey,
It went "gobble gobble"
One day it died.
It found itself stripped of feathers and organs,
Tossed in some shrink wrap and sealed-up tight
It got cold for that turkey.
Then, it got hot.
No the turkeys on the table and the people gobble gobble
There was some stuffing stuffing the turkey
They eat that up too.
Some cranberries got poured on top,
Potatoes on the side
The bones sit on the table,
Most of the gobbling done
Maybe some pie, probably some wine
Ice cream is nice
There's a little more to gobble gobble
But soon we'll be full full
Then I'll need to sleep sleep
'Cause I've had too much to gobble gobble

THE OTHER PLAYLIST



Change is Here: A playlist for autumn

Alexis Zygan
Staff Writer

Get a whiff of cinnamon and a spoonful of pumpkin spice latte—sans caffeine of course. Then, unlatch the door and step outside to smell the petrichor, otherwise known as the scent of the earth after days of heavy rain.

The crisp morning breeze wakes you from a summertime slumber. I had forgotten what it felt like to dread the bitter frost and long for another five minutes under the duvet. Darkness following my workday reminds me of the broad-sweeping force underpinned by a familiar melancholy—craving change yet trembling at the unexplored territory hidden in the shadows.

I dread the winter but ache for a sign of seasonal transition. Can I blame the absence of highs and

presence of lows on seasonal depression?

Damp feet in spite of wool socks hiked up to protect tender knees. A beanie folded twice to fit into a scene I never genuinely belonged.

Fasten the lock and listen for a gentle stillness only available in autumn—press play.

1. Love You Later - Growing Season
2. The Greeting Committee - Call in the Morning
3. Briston Maroney - Fool's Gold
4. Fiona Apple - I Know
5. Lana Del Rey - Cinnamon Girl
6. Mitski - I Will
7. Cat Clyde - So Cold
8. Ane Brun - All My Tears
9. Phoebe Bridgers - Motion Sickness
10. Alice Phoebe Low - Witches



PLAYLAND

HALLOWEEN EVES

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