

WELDON

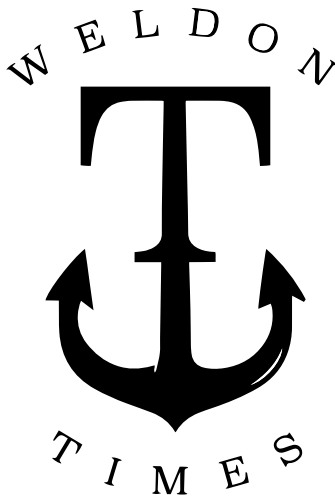
QUARTERLY

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The Weldon Quarterly is written and published by the law students of Dalhousie University.

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Message from the Editors

Hello Weldon!

Spring has sprung!!! Maybe....Finally?

It's certainly been a long winter for all of us as we've hit the 2 year mark in the pandemic and continue to deal with access to Weldon – maybe things will return to normal in September (dare I say that out loud? I don't want to jinx it).

We are happy to bring to you the third installment of the Weldon Times for 2021-22. As a result of the aforementioned craziness of Covid and the flooding at the end of the first semester, we were certainly delayed in getting Issue 2 in your hands last month, so we are thrilled that our spring issue has come together so quickly.

Please find this issue packed with great student writing – from our regulars as well as some new contributors. We are also pleased to be able to share the work of a new society at Weldon – the Dalhousie Food Law and Policy Association and a report on the National Black Law Students' Association of Canada annual conference

attended online and in-person by 16 of our student colleagues. We welcome Weldon societies to share pieces on the work and/or on issues of importance to their cause.

We are happy to announce our team for next year – Madeline Heinke and David Williams Watson will take over the role of Co-Editors in Chief, Syameena Pillai will expand her role as Lead Photographer, and Zainab Adejumobi and myself (Tiff Ward) will remain as Business Managers in an effort to ramp up our advertising campaign and launch a line of merch featuring our fantastic Weldon Times logo!

We would like to take this time to wish everyone best of luck as we head into the final weeks of the 2021-22 year and final exams 😊

Zainab & Tiff

Co-Editors-in-Chief





Diving In: Part two to the three-part series on trauma-informed learning at the Schulich School of Law.

Madeline Heinke

When reform is introduced, its effects will often not be felt immediately by those it is targeted to benefit. As students of law, we know this all too well. We've read dissenting reasoning of judges, originally on the outskirts of majority opinion, which later become law. Its introduction triggers exciting conversations and plants the seeds of a new perspective. However, for the change to be implemented, it tends to fall upon individual actors and groups who are passionate about the reform and willing to push for its success.

The collaborative workshop hosted by the Schulich Teaching and Teaching Evaluation Committee in the fall was an encouraging first step calling upon professors and administration to incorporate trauma-informed learning into their practice. Now the baton has been handed off, and it's upon professors to make this approach their own.

Professor Adelina Iftene teaches first-year criminal law, evidence, and imprisonment and prison policy. Her major research area pertains to prison law and prisoner's rights, especially regarding access to health care and the topic of aging while incarcerated. Fortunately, I was placed in Professor Iftene's first-year criminal law class. Through her teaching, it's obvious that Professor Iftene not only cares about communicating material, but also about how she teaches the content. Knowing that she has already taken steps to incorporate a trauma-informed practices into her teaching, I spoke with her about her own approach.

Professor Iftene uses several trauma-informed practices in hopes of creating a learning environment where students can be introduced to potentially triggering topics in a safe and productive way. Before our course started this past fall, she emailed out a survey which asked students if they had a personal experience with certain areas of law. This was a way to gauge the temperature of the class before diving into learning.

In the classroom, when Professor Iftene is teaching potentially triggering content, she watches the reaction and senses the mood of the room so she can respond to how students are handling the material in the moment. She additionally provides trigger warnings in advance of when students do the readings. Trigger warnings might be one of the more familiar practices, however, they can ensure a student is not caught off-guard by the material and it can let students choose the environment they are in when they read triggering content.

Professor Iftene also reflected on how the hybrid learning environment has been beneficial when teaching the topic of sexual assault. Students could choose to be in person for the classes covering this topic, or watch the recording of the lecture from home, in their own time when they felt comfortable to do so.

All of these practices shed light on Professor Iftene's approach to trauma-informed learning: safe-exposure over avoidance. She shared with me that there is a distinction between being triggered by an experience and taking an opportunity to safely learn about the content. If students have a personal experience with that area of law, this could mean they may choose not to pursue it in their later career. After all, as there are so many areas of law there is no obligation to be comfortable practicing in all these areas. However, Professor Iftene pointed out several important considerations.

First, students would not know if they are comfortable with triggering topics unless they have some exposure. Additionally, some triggering materials are still essential areas of law that should be well understood by all legal professionals. Failure to adequately teach students about topics like sexual assault could be a reason why lawyers, judges and others in the legal profession continue to misapply the law and perpetuate myths and stereotypes. Professor Iftene sees it rather as a duty to the profession to educate future lawyers on key areas of law such as this.

This doesn't mean law students need to walk into class protected by thick skin. Trauma-informed learning can instead be used to develop this armor by building on various coping mechanisms to support students finding their way through challenging material.

It's obvious that Professor Iftene is an outstanding teacher who takes the extra step to ensure her students are comfortable while also being pushed. It's a challenging balance to strike, which is why she commented that she is continuing to learn with each year she teaches criminal law. Through discussions with other professors, it's obvious that incorporating this approach is a process, sometimes of trial-and-error, and largely of critical reflection. But it is teachers like Professor Iftene who are picking up the baton and running with it so students can reap the incredible rewards of trauma-informed learning.



Food Law at Schulich: What's been Cooking?

Priya Kumar

The Food Law & Policy Association (FLAPA) is a budding student society at the Schulich School of Law, founded in 2021 with the objective of raising awareness about the legal and policy implications of the food system. In a world of frozen desserts, oat beverages, and plant-based meat, FLAPA seeks to unpack the food industry and to reveal the complex legal regime that supports it. Some of the challenges FLAPA faces include the absence of law school courses geared toward food law, the difficulty of balancing advocacy for Canada's agricultural industry with advancing the environmental demands of sustainability and finding cohesion in a disparate and diverse area of law.

This has been a busy semester for FLAPA. The winter semester began with an abrupt pivot back to online learning. FLAPA welcomed this challenge. In January, FLAPA hosted an online social. Food enthusiasts gathered on Zoom to swap recipes, discuss their favourite restaurants, and to hear an introduction to food law by FLAPA's current president, Julia Witmer.

In February, FLAPA invited two leading food regulatory lawyers from Gowling WLG in Ottawa to speak to students about the food regulatory regime in Canada. Lewis Retik and William Bjornsson gave a compelling talk. They discussed their role as advocates (and sometimes lobbyists) for their food and beverage industry clients and the general challenges and thrills of liaising between regulatory boards and their clients. The talk raised interesting questions about the complexity of consumer protection, the trappings of disjointed administrative agencies, and the role of industry in the absence of a robust regulatory regime.

Finally, in March, the FLAPA executive team supported the Canadian Association for Food Law and Policy in promoting and attending an online seminar about the effects of COVID-19 and the restaurant industry. The panel was a diverse group, who all experienced the tribulations of the COVID-19 global pandemic differently. Jessica Cytryn, a lawyer at McCarthy Tétrault, provided an overview of Québec's regulatory reforms in response to the pandemic and the exciting opportunities for industries within those changes.

Kaitlin Doucette, a restaurant worker and activist, discussed the dizzying experience of working in the industry amid a global pandemic as well as her hopes (and fears) about the future of restaurant labour. Finally, Mike MacLellan, an employment lawyer at CCPartners, presented on the practical and human rights issues that continue to face the industry as his clients begin to bounce back from the long-term effects of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

FLAPA is just getting started. The executive team hopes to host future events such as wine tastings and farm tours, and to continue to invite dedicated members practicing in the industry to speak to students interested in food law and beyond. So, stay tuned!

Find FLAPA on Instagram: "dalflapa"





The 2022 BLSA Canada National Conference Experience

Zainab Adejumobi, 2L Leandra Bouman, 2L & Onye Njoku 1L

This year, several students from the Schulich School of Law had the chance to attend the Black Law Students' Association of Canada's, or BLSA Canada's, National Conference in Vancouver from February 17th to February 20th. Sixteen members of the law school's local BLSA chapter, DBLSA, had the chance to attend in person. Others opted to take in online panels and activities as the conference was held in hybrid mode.

The In-Person Experience - Leandra Bouman

The conference was a great opportunity to network with Black law students from across the different regional BLSA chapters, as well as Black legal professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds. Beyond the informal opportunities to discuss and learn, there was a Career Fair and a large choice of thought-provoking panel discussions. For example, DBLSA's President, Shaniqwa Thomas, moderated a discussion on building a practice in litigation. Makda Yohannes, a DBLSA member and BLSA Canada's All-Chapters Representative, led a more personal "Sister-to-sister" conversation with different Black female lawyers. I also had a chance to moderate a virtual panel with a legal advisor from Microsoft Corporation and a representative of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association on the regulation of emerging technologies and took away much food for thought from the encounter.

On the final evening, we attended the 31st Annual Conference Gala. The presenters announced the 2021-2022 BLSA Canada executive committee, confirming the election of one of DBLSA's own members, George Clements, as national Vice-President of Finance. Afterwards, there were several live performances and festivities to end the conference in style!

The Online Experience - Zainab Adejumobi

Unending keyboard fingers with heightened anticipation and clapping for an audience that cannot hear you. Those were the feelings that followed me as I watched the BLSA conference. It felt as though I was there, it felt as though they could hear me, and indeed, they did. I remember how the panelist would stop to pay attention to the comments and questions in the chat, I remember how we would get many views on the posts that we made on the Hublio platform, and I remember how I got notifications saying "so and so" viewed your profile. Some online attendees were graced with a cocktail box from BLSA organizers, so they could participate from home in the cocktail mixer that happened at the event. Solace came for those who did not receive a cocktail box as well, as we the online attendees banded together and had a night worthy of memory at the Captain's Boil restaurant. Captain's sauces, seafood platters, and other mouth-watering delicacies that I would not want your imagination to hunger you with. We watched the ceremonies and the talks, we hopped from room to room to meet new people using the Hublio online platform, we cheered in the comments, and most of all, we made an impact. BLSA 2022 was a success, and those were the resounding words that registered in my mind at the end of the conference.

Perspectives From a First-Year Attendee - Onye Njoku

The conference was an incredible, transformative experience. Not only did it provide me with an open space to network amongst my peers, but it also gave me the opportunity to listen to some powerful Black voices in the legal field. The conference was packed full of stimulating and inspiring panels. Many of these panels encouraged me to expand my horizons, for example, the talk on Innovation, Law, and Technology. Others simply reaffirmed my experience as a Black woman in the legal profession, a key example being the "Sister-to-Sister" discussion, moderated by our very own

DBLSA member Makda Yohannes. The conference exceeded my expectations, and I am incredibly grateful for the experience!

A Thank-You Note From DBLSA

Every year, the National Conference is held in a different Canadian city to reflect BLSA Canada's national reach. Despite BLSA Canada's efforts to

keep registration costs to a reasonable amount, the fact that the conference was held in Vancouver this year naturally made the experience more costly for members of East Coast chapters, including DBLSA's members. As such, we at DBLSA would like to thank the Schulich School of Law, LexisNexis Canada, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, BOYNECLARKE LLP, Cox & Palmer and Stewart McKelvey for helping to bring this experience to so many of our members.



The Trucker Protests

David Williams Watson 1L

In January 2022, an underlying current of resistance to COVID 19 mandates bubbled over as a series of blockades and protest convoys sprung up across Canada. Originally 'The Freedom Convoy' assembled due to truckers being incensed at the vaccine passport border requirements. Their efforts quickly gained steam as people who were tired of the COVID mandates in general joined the effort (Seto, 2022).

Their goal was to get to Ottawa and stay there until their federal respective provincial governments put an end to all COVID mandates (Woods & Pringle, 2022). From British Columbia to the Maritimes truckers and non truckers alike formed convoys and undertook the long drive descending upon Ottawa. Pedestrians on bridges greeted them along the highways cheering them on. These convoys gained international recognition. They took front page news in the United States and inspired solidarity protests as far as Australia and London (Britton, 2022). They were also highly effective in getting the attention of politicians. Convoy members formed blockades on multiple border entries stifling hundreds of millions of dollars in trade (Silverman & Hermann, 2022).

The Canadian government was understandably worried. Police had no clue how to remove the blockades. The sheer size of the protest and logistics involved in removing thousands of trucks from city streets presented an insurmountable task for the Ottawa police (Pringle & Raymond, 2022).

The Globe and Mail reported that the protests

were peaceful and took on a celebratory and jovial nature where people were handing out food and partying. However, there was worry as reports emerged that white supremacists and other hateful opportunists had joined the ranks of the protestors. There were also reports of monument desecration and harassment of citizens (Globe Staff and Wire Services, 2022).

The protests received a massive amount of support from GoFundMe donations. However, their GoFundMe page was subsequently shut down due to pressure from the Canadian government and worries from GoFundMe about the receipt and allocation of donated funds (The Canadian Press, 2022).

Justin Trudeau then took the unprecedented step of invoking the Emergencies Act for the first time since its inception. This move was reminiscent of his dad Pierre Trudeau's invocation of the War Measures Act during the 'October Crisis' of 1970. The Emergencies Act is used to vastly expand governmental power in times of national emergencies. The government receives "temporary powers to quell protests by, among other things, banning travel to protest zones and prohibiting people from bringing minors to unlawful assemblies" (Boisvert 2022). Most exceptionally, this allowed the government to freeze protestor bank accounts. The government justified this step by saying the protests presented a threat to the economy and safety of citizens. (Boisvert, 2022)

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) has since sued the federal government over their use of the Act. The Executive Director of the CCLA released a statement saying “The emergency orders that the government has tabled are not targeted. They are not limited to specific protests, or specific geographic locations. They are expansive emergency orders that have already come into effect and apply equally across the entire country. And they place unprecedented restrictions on every single Canadian’s constitutional rights.” (CCLA, 2022).

These events shed light on an underlying resentment amongst some working-class Canadians regarding the COVID mandates. Canadians are typically relatively understanding of government involvement in their lives. There was very little resistance at the beginning of the pandemic to the mandates as they were viewed as necessary to stop the spread. Following the massive vaccination campaign, it is clear a growing number of Canadians are ready to move on from government mandates. These events also start an interesting debate about when it is appropriate for the government to use the Emergencies Act to implement broad sweeping powers to quell a protest.

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103rd Annual Dal Law Curling Bonspiel March 2022

Syameena Pillai 1L

The Sports Committee held the “The 103rd Annual Dal Law Curling Bonspiel” which is the longest running tradition at Dalhousie! Students gathered for a night away from school, drank delicious beer on the ice while showcasing their amateur curling skills. There was no talk of law school throughout the night which made the whole event a success!







Weldon LMS

Theatrical Review: The Trial of Hood

Eliza Richardson (3L), President, Weldon Literary Moot Society

If you thought last year's, *The Trial of Frankenstein*, held more twists and turns than the *Cabot Trail*, then hold onto your bootstraps, folks, for *The Trial of Hood*! The show lamentably had to go forward via zoom again this year. The director, Eliza Richardson, told the *Weldon Times*: "It was an extremely tough decision to make... almost as gut-wrenching as deciding whether or not to do the non-mandatory Admin Law midterm exam, but ultimately, we felt Zoom was safest. First, the pandemic, then the flood in the law school, and word on the street was there was a rat infestation in the Dunn library. All we needed was the locusts for a win in "end of days" bingo."

The show opened with an unprecedented musical number from Rob Currie, singing the beloved "Oo de Lally" from Disney's *Robin Hood*. The man in the hot seat this year was Mr. Robin Hood (played by Ben Stone, Zuppa Theatre Co). Known as a beloved neighborhood vigilante, in recent years he's turned to more formal charitable work. In 2004, he founded the Me Foundation which is the forerunner of good deeds in Sherwood Forest... or so he claims. When asked "who benefited?", Mr. Hood waffled. He claimed "babies?... probably" but was clear on one point: the Cross-fit gym he set up was a bit hit! The prosecution, led by Alex McVittie and Bob Mann, set out a compelling case for fraud. Their examinations of Prince John (Rob Currie) and the Whistleblower (Jane Soucy) revealed Mr. Hood had been skimming off the top of his charitable organization. The Whistleblower became suspicious of his dubious financial practices when he started bringing home statutes of Pete Davidson. She testified: "Normal people just don't do things like that."

The Prosecution further cemented their case against Mr. Hood on their cross examination of the Sherriff of Nottingham (Adelina Iftene). Despite claiming to hate Mr. Hood, the Sherriff had been accepting gifts from Mr. Hood. Gifts like expensive exotic cats and trips to Vegas...Suss.

Not to be outdone, Defence counsel held their own. Steve Deturbide demonstrated excellent rapport with Mr. Hood, showing the accused to be an upstanding

member of social media society. Naturally, that did much to support Mr. Hood's credibility! His co-counsel, Laura Graham, had a harder road to travel. Despite strong opposition from Ms. Graham, the judge allowed the Whistleblower (aka Miss "Snowdon") to testify under a bag of Robin Hood flour. In a nail-biting cross-examination, it came out that Miss Snowdon and Mr. Hood engaged in frequent roleplay (of the cinnamon bun variety) and investing in Butter Coin. Clearly, the Whistleblower had ulterior motives in bringing her allegations forward. Following the cross, it was appeared that the crumbs were on the table for the prosecution's case.

But then! The Whistleblower was revealed. "Maid Marian!" Mr. Hood was clearly devastated. He told the court he thought they would "Get married, move out to the countryside, and have a family. Three boys and two more boys. Enough for a basketball team. And I'll develop a CrossFit program and patent it. And I'll rule the CrossFit world, with you by my side. You can be my CrossFit queen." Maid Marian was not, as one could expect, particularly amenable to this idea, and Mr. Hood left the court in a fit of pique.

As you can imagine, the audience was on the edge of its seats to hear the verdict. Although there was a hung jury (66% voting "Guilty! Throw him in the stocks!"), Justice Gus Richardson did not call a re-trial. Looks like he too believed that the flour on Mr. Hood hands was as good as blood.

"The flour on Mr. Hood hands was as good as blood."



Outlook on Experience and Success in Law School So Far

Graham Headley 2L VP External, LSS

As a younger man I often found myself dreaming of a legal career. It was always a question of *when* and not *how* for me. I grew up surrounded by two professional parents who from an early age defined success for me. To have a career in a respected field where I could support myself and a family comfortably, but to also do so in a way that I was living a life I would be happy with. And for a long time, law looked like the way I would be able to live up to that expectation. Then as I graduated university and put off writing the LSAT due to a crippling fear of failure, I started to realize that I could find that fulfilment in doing really any job to the best of my ability. In learning all there was to know in the role I was assigned and performing those duties above and beyond what was expected. And these weren't in glamorous corporate jobs, but rather positions someone might want to hold while going through school or during their summers. And it was something I found immense satisfaction in doing. Not because I was doing what was expected of me, but because I legitimately enjoyed doing them. For those who know me I love to complain about these roles, but in truth they taught me so much and really shaped the person who was able to come to law school and succeed. I learned to accomplish tasks ahead of time, how to network, how to form more lasting relationships with people who I originally just treated as a customer but would later become friends. It was a meaningful experience, and I wouldn't trade it for the world (aside from dealing with curlers; I will continue to crusade against the sport).

Success for me as such has changed drastically in the last couple years. At the risk of being a little cliché, it means to do what you can with the tools you're given to the best of your ability. And in pushing my limits, I've found that my ability exceeds what I originally thought it to be. I ended up writing the LSAT and getting into law school on my first attempt. In doing so I've cultivated countless amazing friendships and been able to explore opportunities through the LSS and grow through engagement with other students. A legal education is not only useful in and of itself, but

the relationships and diverse experiences that I've been exposed to have only added to my own and help me to be better every day.

I think success in law school will look different for every single person who attends. The way this whole experience is structured seems to me to be as random or as regimented as you'd like. I have found success for myself by finding what I enjoyed doing and focusing on that. I enjoy talking to students, so getting to chat with them and then bring those concerns to the LSS has been a great joy of my time at Schulich. I like being in the know, so in the External role getting to be a part of executive meetings and sitting on DSU council I get to learn about what's going on at the school and bring that information back to the law school. I find that rewarding, and again at the risk of being cliché I think that having that rewarding experience is going to be what makes my time at Schulich special aside from the relationships I've formed.

So, to all those who take the time to read this I want to thank you, and I hope that you find your very own rewarding experiences and strive for what pushes you past what you perceive to be your limits and do your very best. It would be rude of anyone to ask for anymore than that.

“As a younger man I often found myself dreaming of a legal career. It was always a question of when and not how for me.”



Weldon Uncovered: The Flood of 2021

Mark Pulak, 1L

What caused the mysterious flood of Weldon in 2021? Mark Pulak investigates...

In December of 2021, there was catastrophic flooding and water damage to the Weldon Law Building. A tragedy? Some say yes. This flood, however, tops off a long list of strange occurrences that have plagued the law students of Dalhousie. First, there was Hurricane Dorian in the fall of 2019. Then there was COVID-19 in 2020. Both these events impacted the Law School far worse than any other institution in Halifax. It's almost as though they were targeted at us.

I have reason to believe that all these events share a similar, paranormal, origin.

Unfortunately, this most recent flood isn't the first time a disaster has occurred at Halifax's best-known law school. Indeed, there was a blaze that engulfed the fourth and fifth floors of the Weldon Law Building in 1985. Interestingly, if you multiple 1, 9, 8, and 5 together, you get 360. Divide that by 10 and you get 36. Now this is where things get really weird. 6 times 6 is 36. That's two 6s, back-to-back. It's not quite the devil's number ("666"), but it's frighteningly close. But I'm not done. Take those two 6s, and then look at how the Schulich School of Law placed in Maclean's 2013 Law School rankings... You guessed it: 6th place. Coincidence? No.

It is highly likely that the Weldon Law Building is haunted – that much I do know. But I am left with one question. Who? Or what? And, why, for that matter? Also, how? Perhaps Weldon was built over an old cemetery. Maybe the ghost of an old sailor, lost at sea, decided to shiver his timbers all over the insides of the building. Or maybe it's being roamed by the vengeful spirit of a former law student who never got called to the bar.

To get to the bottom of this conundrum, I decided to ask some law students what they think might be haunting the Law Building. Below is a transcript from my conversation with self-described horror movie

expert and current 3L, Grace Butler.

Grace: "I'm so glad you asked me! I swear I'm haunted. I get sleep paralysis every night and this demon sits at the edge of my bed. For the first twelve years or so, I was super freaked out by it. But lately, I have been trying to communicate with it, you know? I can tell you what it's been saying to me if you want."

Mark: "I don't want that."

I felt as though Grace was leading me down a dark, Freudian tunnel I really had no business exploring, so I also asked Jane Soucy, another 3L, if she had seen anything strange at Weldon. Below is the transcript from our conversation.

Jane: "I saw the ghostly figure of an old man on the fourth floor in first year. It was trying to get my attention, but I just backed away and then ran."

Mark: "Really! What else can you tell me about this encounter?"

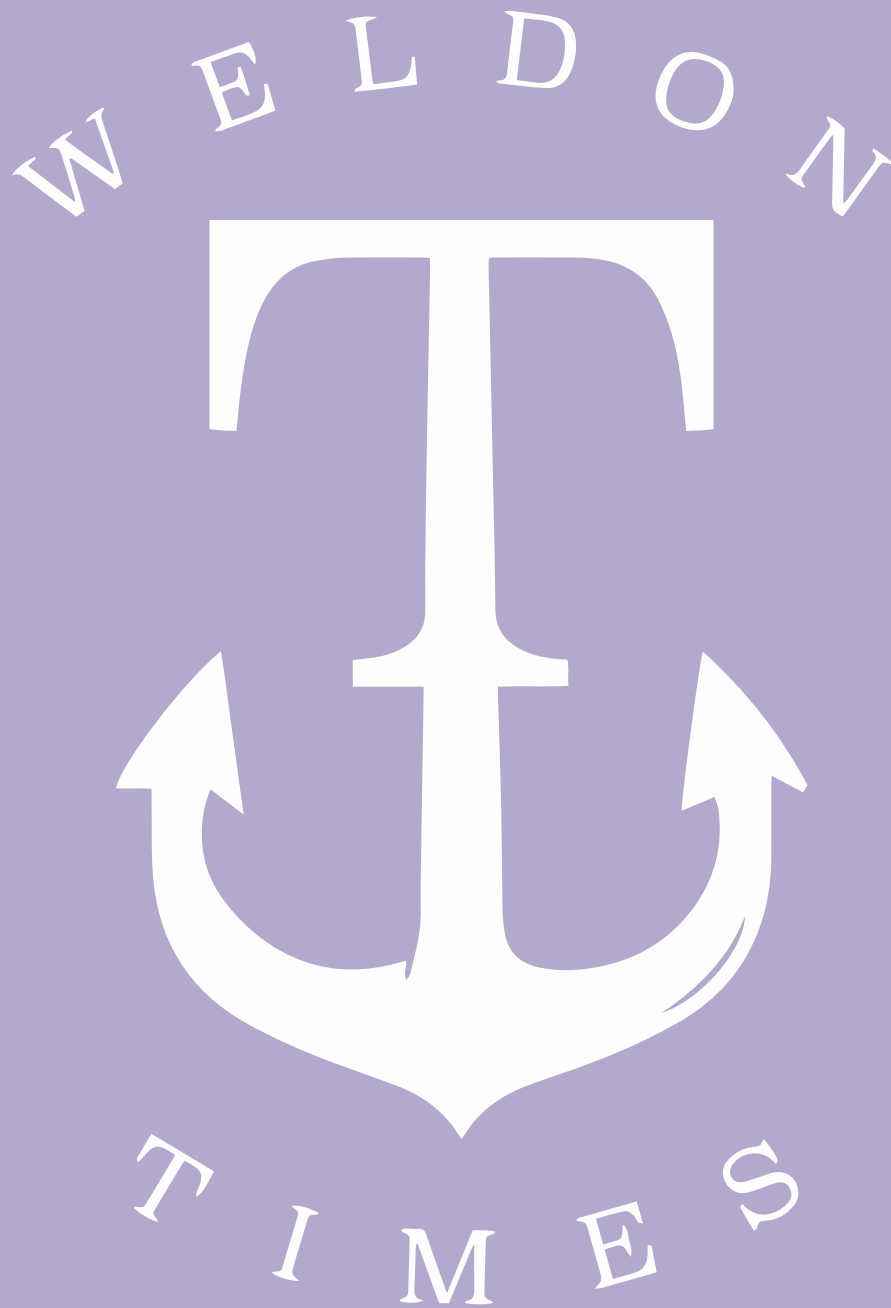
Jane: "Well it turned out to just be Professor [REDACTED]."

Jane's story provided just the insight I needed. All the strange happenings – the fire, the flood, Hurricane Dorian, Grace's weird dream thing... It wasn't a ghost, it was Professor [REDACTED]! This whole time I had been following the wrong clues – the clues Professor [REDACTED] likely laid out for me, hoping I'd never uncover the truth.

Well, there you have it, folks. Professor [REDACTED] is the real villain here. To be clear, I'm not saying Weldon isn't haunted, but any ghost that may be roaming these halls is likely friendly, like Casper.

CASE CLOSED.

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IN THIS ISSUE

ZAINAB ADEJUMOBI

TIFF WARD

MADELINE HEINK

PRIYA KUMAR

LEANDRA BOWMAN

ONYE NJOKU

DAVID WILLIAMS WATSON

ELIZA RICHARDSON

GRAHAM HEADLEY

MARK PULAK

SYAMEENA PILLAI