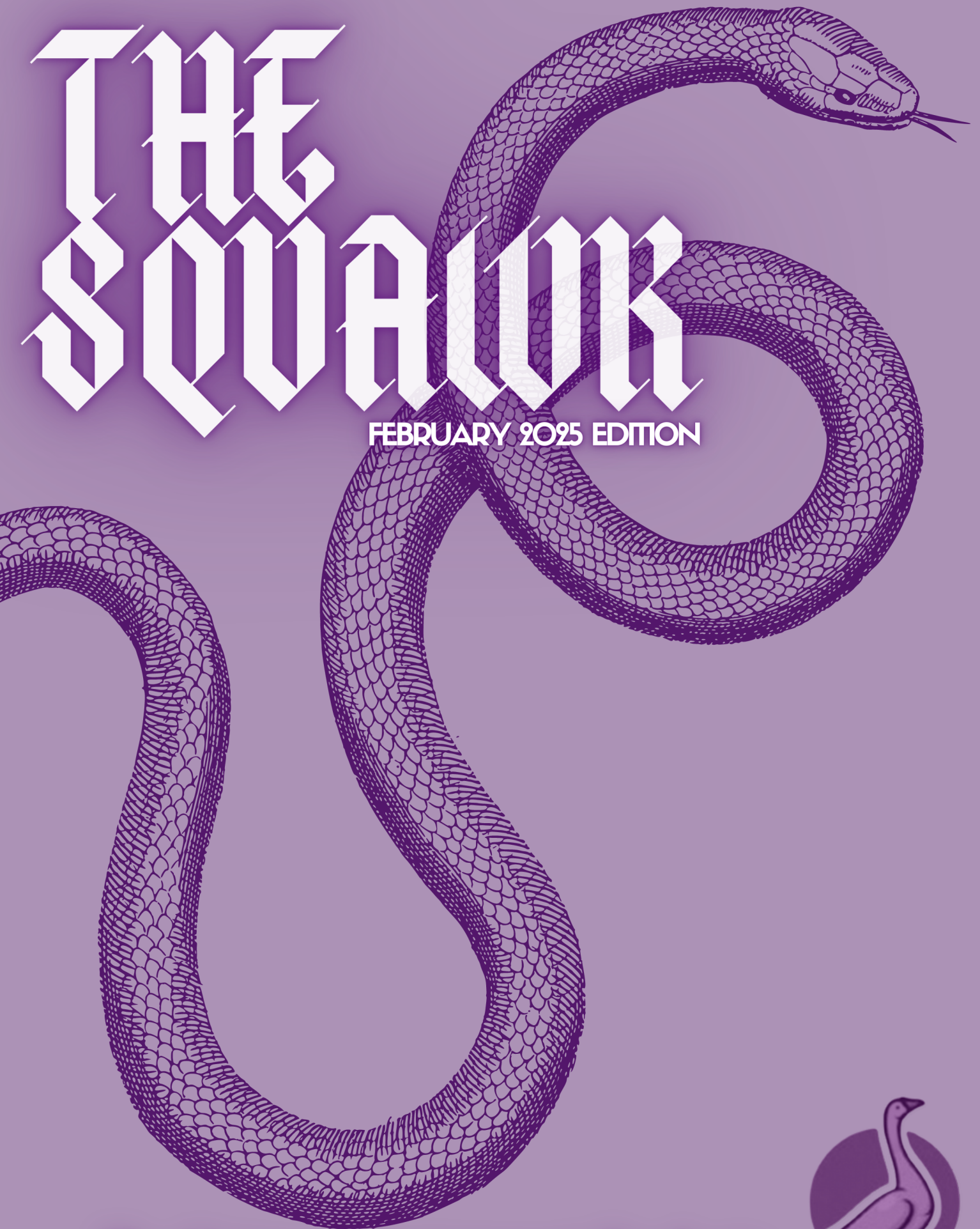


THE SOWAOK

FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION



The Voice of Craigmount Students



A long overdue love letter to libraries...

by Robyn Neilson

February is the month of Valentines, and on the 14th, we celebrate partners and loved ones, having a date night out or doing 'galentines'. But for the rest of the month, we should focus on something that is often under appreciated: spaces integral to our community.

To celebrate their 100th anniversary, the National Library of Scotland has decided to launch the Love Your Library campaign, with an exhibition called 'Dear Library' as a love letter to libraries across Scotland.



As part of the campaign, communities have been encouraged to show support for their local libraries, so we here at The Squawk have decided to showcase the importance of our local libraries. In the Craigmount area, we have two local libraries - Drum Brae and Corstorphine - alongside our very own school library.

Craigmount library is organised by the brilliant Mr Hume who has worked throughout a number of libraries in Edinburgh before coming to Craigmount in the spring of 2018. He keeps the library up to date with new and

diverse books and helps students find books that appeal to them.

Junior students are able to visit the library during periods of English, allowing them to enhance learning and take a break from the classroom environment.

But the library is also a place to hang out and chill during break, lunch and study periods. It's a place of community for people who may feel anxious with the noise and chaos of the concourse. Plus, it hosts numerous clubs and events such as junior debating and book club at lunchtimes.

Mr Hume tries to cater to everyone in the school to properly reflect the wider community, with an ethos of making sure that everyone is welcomed and respected. He does this by creating monthly displays to celebrate and raise awareness of certain topics

and by making sure that the library is a safe and comfortable place for everyone.

For sixth years especially, the library provides a grounding point for students. Whether it's a place to finish up last minute homework or a place to relax when school is getting a bit serious. The library is open at lunch for the sixth years, allowing students to have a break from the buzz of the concourse.

So, as the Valentines' events conclude for this year, think about libraries and other spaces that make your community what it is. Take out a new book, or simply have a chat with a librarian.



**'It's a love letter to
libraries across
Scotland.'**

GAME REVIEW

SONIC SHADOW GENERATIONS

by Sathvik Sriramadesikan



Shadow Generations was released in 2024 alongside a remaster of *Sonic Generations*. *Sonic Generations* is a well made game but *Shadow Generations* was by far the highlight of that package which is why I'll be focussing on it for this review. The game explores Shadow's past, replacing the vibrant and upbeat tone of *Sonic Generations* with **EDGE**.

The gameplay is essentially an evolution of the 2022 video game *Sonic Frontiers*.

It features a very agile Shadow who moves with ease at high

speeds. This is complimented by his Doom Powers which range from throwing projectiles, to stopping time, to turning into a goo squid thing, to surfing on water and, at the very end of the game, you unlock the ability to sprout wings and soar through the sky. This introduces a new level of coolness to Shadow's character and elevates levels by allowing you to take advantage of his powers in interesting and unique ways.

Speaking of which, levels in *Shadow Gens* are either entirely 2D or entirely 3D with no in between! They make good use

of the Doom Powers and Shadow's moves to allow for shortcuts, skips and finding collectibles; power ups and rinboxes hidden behind certain pathways. This makes the game incredibly rewarding and allows you to play it over and over again to get better at the levels and figure out how to speed-run them. The game's final stage makes a particularly fantastic use of the Doom Wings by giving you lots of alternate pathways that would be inaccessible on foot, and boasting some truly awesome visuals.

'Shadow Generations was by far, the highlight...'

The levels are incredibly fun, with lots of memorable storylines and fun segments, including some which give you a glimpse of Radical Highway, the game's final stage, where Black Doom, the game's antagonist, is introduced. In these sequences, Doom bends the world around you, letting you slide down



buildings and watch as roads warp and bend. It's awesome, (the first few times anyways) and has a lot of the same high quality design as the main segments.

The DLC stage, which is set in Tokyo like the third Sonic movie, has a similar focus on spectacle, with multiple cutscenes. This can get a little grating on repeats, but the action itself is incredibly well done.

Levels aren't the only gameplay available. White Space, an in-game location, is fully explorable in 3D, with goodies (songs you

can listen to during the levels, Concept Art, journal entries...) hidden at every turn, and lots of platforming challenges scattered throughout, including a few that make use of your Doom Powers!

'What's a good story without a little conflict?'

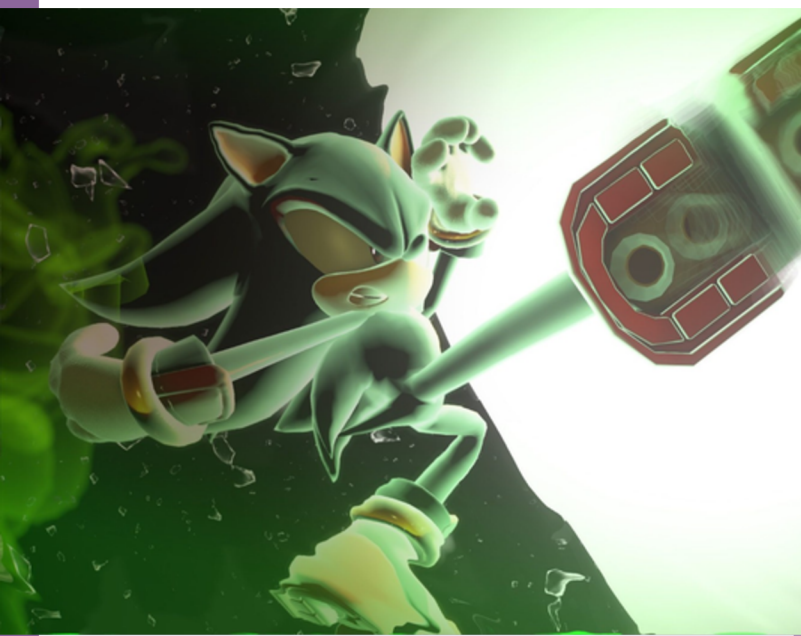
The game is more plot-focused compared to many of the other Sonic games released recently. There's a story refresher of Shadow's tragic backstory in the menu which I recommend going through. It's not peak cinema by any means, but it serves its purpose.

And what's a good story without a little conflict? After a few levels,

Shadow usually finds himself face to face with one of his foes from previous games and these battles are the absolute highlights of the game. These fights provide more of a challenge than your typical baddie while also being over the top ridiculous fun, impressive even on replay, and complimented by some kickass vocal tunes from Crush 40.

**Enjoyed this review?
Want to write a review of
your favourite game?**

**Get in touch with
The Squawk**





CRAIGMOUNT FOOTBALL

by Carolina Gomes

Craigmount High School's football teams are the pride and joy of Craigmount Football's instagram page, and they could be the pride and joy of the school itself - if more people were to come to their matches to show support!

They were all in agreement that the highlight of the season had been "getting to the round 16 of the Scottish Cup."

In terms of their favourite footballer, however, answers were varied, "I'd have to go with George Oakley," said one. "Neymar," replied Coby.

When I asked if they wanted more people to come watch and support their games, I was met with an enthusiastic and firm "yes". "We need a crowd with a drum and everything!" jokes Brodie.

It seems a lot of them are aspiring professionals. They all replied with "hopefully" when asked if they'd want to do anything football-related after leaving school.

"We have won two League Cups, we have got to the Scottish Plate final, and are soon to be Scottish Cup

Champions.” There you have it, if you’re interested in going to support the U15s or any other of the school teams, speak to Ms Hendrie in Business.

For updates on
Craigmount’s football
clubs, go follow their
instagram at
craigmounthsfootball



LUNAR NEW YEAR 2025

by Torin Gilmour and Jakey Yang

It’s finally the Year of the Snake! The Squawk would like to share some fun facts and history behind this great Asian festival.

- 1/5th of the world population celebrates Lunar New Year.
- Each year is represented by one of the 12 animals.
- This year is the Wood Snake.
- It is also known as 'Spring Festival' where people give gifts like red envelopes for good luck.

The Year of the Snake in 2025 is predicted to be a time of **self-growth, transformation, and career advancement**. However, it may also bring **challenges in relationships and finances**.



*Do you know anyone
born in the years
1953, 1965, 1977,
and 1989?*



ARTICLE 24:

by Shravya Sriramadesikan

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

Children's rights are special freedom and protections given to all children under 18. These rights ensure that every child has the equal opportunity to grow up healthy, happy and safe. They cover everything from education, to protection (both mentally and physically) and expressing opinions and be treated fairly.

Article 24 of the UNCRC states that every child has the right to good healthcare, safe environment, clean water and nutritious food. It also states that adults should be aware on how to honour that right and keep children healthy.

The right is in place because without good health, children

can't reach their full potential. It ensures that kids don't just survive but thrive in a world where they are protected from diseases.

Honouring this right isn't a one person job, it requires everyone from parents, teachers, doctors, and the government to get involved.

Parents and guardians are considered a child's first protector. Schools help keep children healthy by teaching about hygiene, nutrition and exercise. Teachers should also be encouraging pupils to wash hands, stay hydrated and bring up health concerns.





WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

THIS IS OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER AND WE ARE SEEKING VOICES FROM ACROSS THE SCHOOL TO BE A PART OF IT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE? INTERVIEW? PHOTOGRAPH? DESIGN?

GET IN TOUCH USING THE QR CODE OR POP ALONG TO ROOM 220 ON A THURSDAY DURING JUNIOR LUNCH OR IF YOU RECOGNISE ANY NAMES FROM THE SQUAWK, TALK TO THEM DIRECTLY!

WE WOULD REALLY LIKE FOR PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED SOON AS WE WOULD LIKE SOME MORE PUPIL FEATURES.

(PLEASE DO, THIS IS A PLEA FROM THE DESIGN EDITOR, CARLY. I WANT MORE STUDENT FEATURES BECAUSE I'M WORKING OVERTIME HERE ON THESE LONG FEATURES.)



TEAM SQUAWK
AOIFE DONALD
CAROLINA NUNES-GOMES
CARLY MCLEAR
ELILI KANDASAMY
JAKY YANG
ROBYN NEILSON
ROWAN KELLY
SATHVIK SRIRAMADESIKAN
TORIN GILMOUR