

The Griffins' Nest

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Indigenous-Focused Coursework New Requirement for BC Secondary Students

NEWS REPORT by *Arabella Mew* (9)

On March 4, BC's Ministry of Education announced that all secondary school students in the province will be required to complete Indigenous-focused coursework in order to graduate.

This new requirement is part of the provincial government's work in the Indigenous-specific anti-racism and discrimination strategy. Scheduled to take effect in the 2023-2024 school year, students currently in Grade 10 will be the first year affected by this change, applying to all students in BC public, independent, and offshore schools.

The Ministry of Education worked with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to propose an approach where students will meet the requirement by earning four credits through new and existing Indigenous-focused courses. A course that would fulfill the requirement for the proposed change to the graduation program would be one of the existing Indigenous-focused provincial courses, a Grade 10-12 First Nations language course, or a locally-developed Indigenous-focused course.

Eric Hamber Social Studies and BC First Peoples 12 teacher **Ms. S. McEachern** explained that "there are many options for what a school can choose to offer. For example, it could be part of the English department, it could be part Social Studies, or it could be part of Languages."

It is not that courses have not already been made available, but that they have been electives. According to the Ministry of Education, over 90 per cent of secondary school students graduate with more than the 80 required credits for a BC Dogwood Diploma, but only about five percent have completed any of the Indigenous-focused courses

currently available for grades 10-12. Eric Hamber offers just one Indigenous-focused course, BC First Peoples 12, which fluctuates between one and two blocks a year.

The change was also done in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action #62, recommending making an age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Indigenous peoples' historical and current contributions to Canada mandatory for kindergarten to Grade 12. It also reflects the statement in Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that "Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations, which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information."

When McEachern was asked about her thoughts why students should take an Indigenous-focused course, she explained it is to "have those people that are continuing to learn how to be citizens in the world be more aware than previous generations of their realities and how we live in a colonized state, how we can be active participants in decolonization, and what that means for the role that everyone has to play. For too long the silencing of Indigenous voices and the history of this land has not been taught, so I feel like the classes allow for those who choose to take it an opportunity to learn truths and why we are in a moment of reconciliation and the reparations that we are in."

The recent proposal has been met with positivity from the province's Indigenous population. Regional Chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations Terry Teegee explained, "it is an important step towards improving BC's education system in the spirit of recognition and respect". Union of BC Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Philip said "our only hope to purge this country of bad,



ugly, racist notions is through the public education system."

Many have also expressed their hopes and concerns for the requirement. Tsleil-Waututh Nation School vice-principal Sarah Martz said that she hopes that the courses themselves will be created by Indigenous people to verify that content is an accurate representation of their culture.

Similarly, McEachern is concerned about the authentic teaching of the courses and to have it done with love and passion instead of it being treated like a task that someone has to do. She also commented that she wants to see the maintenance of interdisciplinary infusion of First People's principles of learning and worldview still being cross-curricular by teachers and not just in the mandatory Indigenous-focused courses.

The province had released a seven-question online feedback form to finalize the implementation of the plan which was available until April 22. A report on the engagement will be finalized in May, and their approach for the new graduation requirement by August 22.

According to the Ministry, BC is the first province or jurisdiction in Canada to implement this type of graduation requirement.

The VSB told the Nest in an email that "the District values these courses as they bring deeper understanding and teach students the significance of Indigenous philosophies and traditional ways of learning — bridging diverse cultures and honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action."

Additionally, Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside affirmed that they are committed to reconciliation and quoted Justice Murray Sinclair, the former chair of the TRC, that "education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it."

Students Offer Ideas to Improve Club Support



NEWS REPORT by *Teagan Nichol* (9)

Clubs allow students to expand their interests and expertises along with meeting like minded students with similar interests. But bringing those opportunities to students can be challenging for student executives, and some Hamber clubs say they could use additional support doing so.

Clubs are a key part of the school community and a way for incoming students to immerse themselves in their new school. Eric Hamber Student Council's clubs official list catalogs 56 registered clubs for the 2021-2022 school year.

Many clubs, like Hamber's Coding Club and Math Club, take academic topics beyond the curriculum and allow students to better learn and understand the skill being taught. "We provide kids

with fun programming related activities," said **Tyler Chen** (11), co-head of the Coding Club, "We teach stuff that's outside a normal school curriculum as well." Although clubs have found creative ways to connect during the pandemic, like STEM Sorority's online games night and COVID-safe starfish dissections, clubs have faced many struggles in keeping up morale and engagement in face of the pandemic.

Limits on the number of members permitted at meetings and scheduling problems have made the jobs of some club heads more difficult during the pandemic. Many clubs disbanded or were put on hiatus during the first semester, such as Craft Club run by **Noah Yu** (11) and **Jenna Huynh** (11) but now as COVID-19 restrictions ease, clubs have started to go back to how they operated pre-COVID 19. "This year, it's been really busy, since a lot more people want to join clubs again," Yu, head of Craft Club, noted optimistically.

Most other clubs have now resumed club events and consistent meetings with reliable numbers COVID restrictions ease.

However, there are still some restrictions and setbacks due to the pandemic for clubs. After Winter Break clubs were not allowed to hold club meetings for approximately three weeks, causing some disconnect between clubs and their members. In Math Club, some of the members who were supposed to attend Math Challengers, a team competition the club participates in annually, dropped out of the competition because they couldn't attend meetings due to COVID concerns. According to **Jenny Li** (12), Co-President of Math Club, the club also had to cancel lunch meetings due to the members' concern over eating with masks off. Craft Club is still operating with a limit to how many people can be in a room at a time due to the art rooms' limited capacity, and use sign up sheets for members to fill out.

Many club heads expressed a common issue: scheduling. During the pandemic, many clubs either weren't able to hold meetings or had very few meetings, such as Craft Club and Coding Club, or had to hold double the meeting for each cohort, like Debate Club and STEM sorority. "Last [school] year, when I was a club exec, it was really, really hard to schedule times that worked," said **Dean Rohman** (12), President of Debate Club, "The biggest issue we faced with COVID is scheduling conflicts and time constraints."

Some club heads have also found a lack of communication and a disconnect between school administration and clubs.

When asked what support his club was given during the pandemic, Rohman said that last school year, they received "very little support", adding that he "didn't really have anyone [he] could go to and talk to". "The school didn't make it clear if we were supposed to go talk to a specific person about changing club times or things like that," he added.

This has caused some problems across clubs. Li stated that she didn't even know if clubs could run last school year, seeing as "it wasn't publicly posted anywhere [that] clubs [were] still going on". Yu from Craft Club pointed out that Craft Club is still missing information about their budget.

This lack of communication has worsened the problem of scheduling for some. Coding club heads Chen and Gaertner pointed out the need for more warning from teachers if there are events during meeting times. "We've had a couple meetings been canceled last minute because we just hadn't been told there was a fire drill," said Gaertner. "Our meetings are during FIT time and the idea behind FIT time is that it's a free block essentially for the students to do what they want; it sounds like a perfect time to host clubs. But the school keeps hosting fire drills and other events like that really cuts the space we have available" added Chen.

Overall, clubs have noted a lack of direction from staff. "The administrator never really said anything about how clubs should run, so that was all up to us," said Li. "I think school should have more of a support system," said Rohman. "They should let you know where you should go if you have any is-

ues with your club, it doesn't seem that clear right now who we're supposed to go to." He stressed the need for "some teacher or admin that can be there for [all] clubs."

Clubs are required to have a sponsor teacher, who serves to support student executives. However, students said more support from staff, that doesn't infringe on operational independence, would be appreciated.

When asked to comment on the issues mentioned by the interviewed club heads, one of Hamber's Vice Principals, **Mr. D. Ambrose**, who is the administrator generally responsible for clubs, emphasized that Hamber's club heads should seek more help from their club sponsors.

"[Club heads] need to involve their sponsors more, their sponsors are their connection to [administration]."

But, Ambrose says he's happy to aid club heads that need help that can't be addressed through their sponsor. "They can always come in and speak to me... my door is always open," he assured.

As for FIT, Ambrose explained that FIT blocks are designated as instructional time. And while clubs may choose to hold meetings and events during those blocks, assemblies and fire drills can be expected just like in regular classroom instructional time. Clubs are extracurricular, and meetings should be held before or after school, or during lunch hour, he advised.

Speaking to the importance of clubs, Ambrose said they are "integral" to building school climate.

"When you're more invested in your school, you're just more successful."

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

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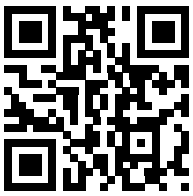
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Editorials

These articles are written by the Editorial Board, explaining their stance on a topic.

Students' Songs of the Spring: What have Hamberites been listening to?

NEWS REPORT by *Adelaide Guan (9)*

For many Hamber students, music is essential. Whether it's walking the halls with a single airpod in, blasting pre-game hype through a speaker, or curating dozens of playlists for very specific scenarios, music can be a part of our daily lives. What do Hamberites have on repeat this spring?

Norah Basha (9) has been enjoying "Face to Face" by Rex Orange County and "Thinking Bout U" by Frank Ocean. "There is a lot of variety and range in the vocals and the lyrics are really engaging," she explained. Rex Orange County and Frank Ocean are among her choices of artists, as well as Mac Miller and Kanye West. "I really like their style of music and lyrics," Basha shared.

James Ballack (12) began listening to Elliott Smith's album, *XO*, when he was feeling down and wanted some new music that fit his mood. "I was really shocked by how good it was," he stated. "I haven't stopped listening since." Ballack also enjoys "She found Now", a song by My Bloody Valentine. "The guitars and vocals feel like they're giving you a big hug," he explained. Ballack's favourite artists include Duster, Frank Ocean, Jockstrap, and Cocteau Twins.

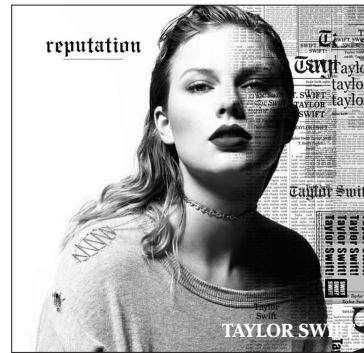
"Arctic Monkeys has that romance and teenage vibe," says **Shahreen Chowdhury (10)**. "I like how their tracks are chill but also sharp." Chowdhury is also a fan of Glass Animals for their soothing vocals and calm. "Songs like Mama's Gun have the prettiest track, especially at the beginning," she commented. These bands are among her many favourites, some of which include Chase Atlantic,



KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES



REX ORANGE COUNTY



TAYLOR SWIFT

Harry Styles, Rex Orange County, and Taylor Swift

The Neighbourhood, and BTS.

Chloe Moure (8) is currently listening to "Sweet/I Thought You Wanted to Dance" by Tyler, the Creator as well as "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now" by The Smiths, though their favourite songs change constantly. Moure's favourite artists include Mitski and The Cure. "I really like Mitski's lyrics," she explained. "She's

bringing a sort of whole new genre to the music industry."

"I've been on a Taylor Swift binge the past two months," revealed **Teresa Deruchie (9)**, who's been listening to Swift's album, *Reputation*. She enjoys the lyricism and variation in her music and thinks that the nostalgia got her back into it. "I used to listen to the songs on the ra-

dio when I was younger," she explained. Taylor Swift joins Conan Gray on her current list of favourite artists.

As a songwriter herself, **Isabelle Jang (10)** finds the technical components in Keshi's album, *Gabriel*, amazing. "He is able to craft such beautiful sounding songs from chords many other artists wouldn't be able to work with," Jang says. In addition to *Gabriel*, she has enjoyed *Constellations* by Jade LeMac. "Jade LeMac is actually from Vancouver," Jang explained. "Being able to see such a young artist from our city have such a popular song inspires me so much." Keshi and Ariana Grande are Jang's artists of choice.

"My favourite song of all time is probably *Runaway* by Kanye West," says **Sonith Salice (9)**, who appreciates the song for its artistic complexity and deep vocals. "He gets really creative, yet makes a great song in his area." Salice enjoys hip hop culture and music as a whole: his top artists include Kanye West, Mac Miller, Steve Lacy and many more. Salice is looking forward to Kendrick Lamar's new album, *Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers*, which is to be released in May. "It's been four or five years, so it's pretty big," he explained. "It's definitely going to be good."

"As It Was" has definitely been a standout this spring," remarked Basha. This widely popular song, released by Harry Styles this April, remains near the top of global charts. "It got super popular in a short period of time," Basha pointed out. Chowdhury commented that the song is really nostalgic to her.

Whether you're listening to hip hop or indie pop, music has been a big part of Hamber's spring season. Here's to our favourite artists, past, present, and future.

Hamber Teachers Share Their Top Reads

NEWS REPORT by *Mathew Fu (11) and Julia Ling (11)*

Whether it be through social media forums or fiction fandoms, book recommendations have always been a quintessential point of discussion amongst reading fanatics. It is much more interesting to hear about book recommendations from people everyone knows, so who better to ask than Hamber's very own English teachers?

As the ELL Department Head at Hamber, **Ms. D. Gomes** is a reader who enjoys historical fiction, mystery novels and cookbooks, but she is up to trying something different. She has found that between working full time and raising a family of three kids, finding time to read has gotten quite sporadic. She takes full advantage of any time that she is able to read and receives recommendations from her book club and others. Gomes finds that she enjoys novels the most when she can "connect with a character very quickly" or when the novels are set in places she would like to visit someday. Her recent favourite novels are: *Pachinko*, *Fifty Words for Rain*, and *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*. Gomes's favourite authors are Mary Higgins Clark and Sue Grafton.

Ms. S. Lemmon, Hamber's very own teacher-librarian, enjoys reading books from all genres. However, her favourites include historical fiction, mystery, and coming of age. With two children under five, Lemmon has also found it slightly challenging to find the time to sit down and read, so she has pivoted to reading both physical books and audiobooks. To Lemmon, appealing books are those with "an engaging plot and a compelling story that leaves you thinking about the book long after you've finished reading". She enjoys mystery/thrillers that are "twisty" and "give you an 'a-ha!' moment that you didn't see coming."

As for book recommendations,

Lemmon is a big fan of Goodreads and she also "follows #booktok, watches for award winners, and reads book reviews on various websites". She has also noticed an uptick in students discovering books through social media platforms like TikTok and she is happy to purchase any books for Hamber's LLC based on any suggestions or requests!

When asked about book recommendations, Lemmon suggested the *Scythe* trilogy by Neal Shusterman. She stated it was "the best dystopian trilogy I have read in a long time, with a unique and captivating storyline" and characters she sincerely cared about.

Ms. M. Poon, an English teacher, yearbook advisor, and Head of Hamber's Challenge-Studio Program, is part of a book club. Everyone in the book club takes turns giving recommendations, and when it's her turn, she enjoys themes of magical realism. Poon prefers plot-driven books over character-driven books...even without action, there has to be "some purpose to the story". Books that Poon found meaningful and would recommend include *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki and *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee.

Ms. B. Panesar is not only an English teacher, but the Head of the English Department at Hamber. She gets her recommendations from "all over", often paying attention to what students are reading. Panesar has a passion for 20th century literature and the classics. She really enjoys reading and teaching historical fiction, and the character struggles within the eras. She spoke about the "human condition", and how "we need to be able to get into the souls of the characters... how they bear themselves, and we can work with that."

Since the classics are generally very long books, Panesar likes to save all her reading for an uninterrupted stretch of time. Waiting until the holidays ensures that she doesn't have to stop and leave it, and the flow of the story isn't broken.



It's Prom Season!

NEWS REPORT by *Hannah Azad (12)*

After two years of the event's absence, it was confirmed by Eric Hamber's Grad Committee and administration that the Class of 2022 will be having a prom. On April 19, a letter was sent to grads revealing that the Dinner Dance will take place on Thursday, May 19 in the Crystal Ballroom of the Pan Pacific Hotel. Entrance tickets to function are priced at \$165. Those who cannot afford to pay the fee are encouraged to contact the Grad Committee sponsor to request financial aid.

Hazara Sandhu (12), a member of Hamber's Grad Committee, gave insight into the planning of the highly-anticipated dance. "The Pan Pacific was our first choice venue. Due to COVID, [our admin] wanted to wait to book it, but as we got closer to the date, they gave us the go-ahead. We were also looking at the Fairmont, but prices were better for the Pan Pacific," she revealed.

Since finalizing the date and location of Prom, the Committee focussed on bringing their vision for the venue to life. This involves hiring a DJ, purchasing decorations, and planning a photo booth for attendees to use. Each of these details will reflect the event's

theme: "When The Clock Strikes 12." Grad Comm hopes to transform the Pan Pacific into a "midnight ballroom", filling it with deep shades of blue and purple, and hints of shimmering silver.

Although the Class of 2022's prom was only confirmed to happen in mid-April, the Class of 2022 had begun their preparations months prior. "I went prom dress shopping in November," Sandhu shared, "It's something I've been really looking forward to throughout the years because I have a lot of first cousins. I went dress shopping with all of them. It's become a tradition for them to come with me and for me to go with them." An Instagram account sharing all of the Prom dresses purchased by Hamber seniors has been updated consistently since January of this year, and now has over 40 posts.

In addition to searching for the perfect Prom outfit, grads have started to consider who they would like to attend the Dinner Dance with. While some prefer to pop the question to their date-of-choice in private, others enjoy promposing publicly. Hamber students witnessed the Class of 2022's first grand promposal at Hamber's largest sports event of the year, Midtown Showdown. During the tournament's half-time show, **Liam Pike (12)** took the floor and promposed to fellow grad, **Alicia Clare (12)**, who enthusiastically agreed to attend Prom with him. Creative promposals continue to make appearances at school events, sports games, and even during class time.

The Class of 2022 has had mixed reactions to the confirmation of the Dinner Dance. Many have expressed that they are looking forward to attending the traditional Grad event. "I'm most excited to bust out some sick dance moves on the dance floor and see my friends dripped out!" **David Guo (12)** exclaimed. Others, however, do not understand the excitement surrounding the dance. "I'm kind of indifferent about it," **Matthew Chong (12)** voiced. Regardless, Chong admitted that he will still be participating in the event's formalities. "It's part of the Grade 12 experience," he stated, "I'm going to ask my date out, then get a suit that matches her stuff. I'll ask her in a special way, but probably not at school."

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

The Game That Has Taken Over Hamber: A Guide to the Five Ultimate Teams



Senior A Ultimate v. John Oliver

NEWS REPORT by *Olivia Gowans Hoar (8)*

Eric Hamber Secondary houses the biggest ultimate program of any high school in British Columbia, with five teams ranging in opportunities for ultimate players of all grades and skill levels. With ultimate being a fairly new sanctioned school sport, Hamber has a thriving program.

The ultimate teams at Hamber operate within Senior and Junior sections, each divided into subteams. There are three junior teams and two senior teams. They are divided into A, B, and C teams, based on age, skill level and competitiveness, with A being the highest rated. This year, the Junior C team is made up of all Grade 8's. The Junior A and B teams are made up of Grade 9's and 10's. The Senior A and B are made up of Grade 11's and 12's. Those teams

then go on to compete in different tiers, depending on their skill level.

Most schools have only a couple ultimate teams, usually one for junior and one for senior. Hamber has an accessible program for ultimate, because it lets students of all skill levels have a chance to play.

"At the moment, we are the most accessible school in the province for ultimate," stated the head of Hamber's Ultimate program, **Mr. G. Dunne** (Physical Education), "We've won at every level. So pretty much everyone gets a chance to compete at the provincial championships, and a chance to play the game."

Hamber's teams all vary in experience and skill. Senior A and Junior C will both play in a competitive environment, but with different experiences from both teams. "It's a very competitive environment. But at the same

time, it's really fun because a lot of the teammates are our friends. And we've been playing with them for the past five years. It's really nice to see how much all of us have grown as players and as a team." **Shaelyn Woo (12)**, a player on the Senior A ultimate team revealed.

While Junior C is the youngest team at Hamber, consisting of solely grade 8 athletes, they play in the same division as the Junior A and B teams. "The Junior C team currently plays in Tier 1 of the Junior Division. It is the most competitive for the Junior division but there usually is a second tier. Because of COVID there aren't enough teams to participate" shared Junior C coach, **Colin Carino**.

"The game is a beautiful game, people love playing it," Dunne said. "They love the fact that it's co-ed. And because that creates not only excellence, but it creates a social thing that kids really enjoy."

Interest was very high this year for the Junior C Ultimate team, with over 40 kids trying out. "It's a much bigger turnout, in the previous years we've barely had enough players and we've had to mix some Grade 9's and 10's into these Junior C and Junior B teams. It is really nice to see a large number of kids coming out to play" Carino expressed.

The ultimate season has only just started, but teams have been able to compete in games and tournaments. "We won a tournament in South Surrey," **Jacob Wong (12)**, a Senior A ultimate player revealed.

"We played six games in one day," Woo shared, "which was really tiring for our bodies. We were able to push through all six of the games."

"We played six games in one day"

Coach Carino's team is unique in the way that it hosts only the youngest members of Hamber. "Our team is built entirely out of Grade 8's, so they can't expect to win every game they play against Grade 9's and 10's. But we definitely have the skill to win some games this season."

Hamber's Ultimate Program will continue to run throughout the remainder of the school year. Teams are currently working to qualify for Cities, which is scheduled to take place in early to mid May.

Midtown Showdown Returns For the First Time Since the Pandemic

NEWS REPORT by *Sara Maya Budhiraja (9)*

From February 28 to March 1, Eric Hamber Secondary welcomed eight teams from across the Vancouver School District to play in the iconic Midtown Showdown basketball tournament. The tournament lasted two days, and took place in the main gym, where the bleachers were open to spectators for the first time in two years.

Hamber's Senior Girls and Boys teams battled three other teams in their respective pools, in what was a solely round-robin tournament for the first time in the tournament's 11-year history.

Not only was the competition between teams intense, so was the deliberation to decide whether or not the event would take place this year.

The Nest spoke to **Mr. I. Sehmbi**, the head of Hamber's athletics department, about what it was like coordinating the tournament amidst a pandemic.

"This year we had fewer teams, four on the boys side and four on the girls, instead of the sixteen [total] we usually have," he shared. Elaborating, he mentioned that "usually Midtown goes for three days, from Thursday to Saturday night, but this year we had to cut it down to two school days."

Even though the tournament was reduced in size because of the pandemic, Sehmbi and Hamber's Athletics Department loved the process of making sure this year's Midtown Showdown went ahead.

"It really warmed our hearts, we had planned on doing this earlier in the year and when restrictions ramped up again we had to put it on hold, there was a time in January we thought we

might even have to cancel it," he said, on the challenges of the 2022 tournament.

As for the years ahead, Sehmbi was excited by the opportunity to expand the tournament with a possible two schools at his disposal.

"I would love to use the new school gym, and the current one to run the biggest tournament in BC for senior basketball, and it's a great opportunity for the kids when teams from far away come to play, so we can have that happen again with two gyms."

Sehmbi shared he was also looking forward to next year, where he hopes to can bring back concession stands and full capacity weekend games in the tournament.

Aside from the coaches and staff behind the Athletics Department, Hamber's Senior basketball players were also thrilled to have Midtown Showdown go ahead this year.

Benjamin Gutman (12) spoke to The Nest about the Midtown player experience. "Well it was just amazing, right, I saw it every year since I started playing [for the team] in Grade 9, and it's something I've always wanted to do."

Nicole Sabet (12), on the senior girls team, gave her perspective on what playing in the tournament meant to her, as a basketball player and as a Hamber student.

"It was really fun and exciting, and I was really stoked that we got to have Midtown like this, because at the beginning of the season we were unsure about whether we would play or not."

Like Gutman, Sabet was also happy to have the opportunity to play in the thrilling tournament, who's return after the pandemic makes it all the more exciting for Hamber's students, this year and beyond.



Challenge and Studio became one, Challenge Studio ("Chudio"), in fall 2018

Farewell to Hamber's Old Mini Schools

NEWS REPORT by *Alanna Rudolph (11)*

When this year's Grade 12s graduate in June, two Hamber programs will be graduating with them. Four years ago, the Challenge and Studio mini schools merged to form Challenge Studio. Come June 2022, the last students

from the old programs will be gone.

In Challenge, accelerated classes were offered for Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. Students could be accepted to any combination of the four subjects. In Studio, a cohort of one class per grade took English, Social Studies, an ADST, and a critical thinking course together. Studio also placed greater importance on unconventional and less structured learning styles.

Ms. M. Poon (English) has been the program head of Challenge Studio for the past four years. Before that, she taught Challenge English. In 2018, when the previous Studio program head left the school, Ms. Poon took over. That year, the Vancouver School Board decided that only one program would run at Hamber, so Ms. Poon worked to design something new.

"I decided to take elements of Stu-

dio and elements of Challenge, and just bring it together," said Ms. Poon. Challenge Studio is structured similarly to Studio, with a cohort taking English, Social Studies, and critical thinking project-based courses together. According to her, the classes and teaching style are sometimes closer to Challenge, and students accepted into the program often have a learning style more similar to Challenge students.

Current members of Challenge Studio don't know all that much about their predecessors. When **Austin Witter (10)** was asked what he knew about the old programs, he replied, "not tons."

"I've heard that Challenge was more academic focused and Studio is more project-based learning," he said. For the most part, students who were part of the programs agreed.

Gloria Rahgozar (12), in Studio, answered, "It was really emphasized for us to think critically and work outside of what was required in the curriculum." **Judy Li (12)**, who took Challenge English, science, and social studies, said, "The impression I have is that Challenge is a little more academic."

The Nest reached out to **Eli Gaert-**

ner, a Hamber grad of 2021 who was in Studio. For them, being around like-minded people was the most valu-

able part of the program. "I think the community aspect is honestly the most important. It's nice to be in classes where the other people are also kind of weird, or don't work well in the regular school system, or want to be challenged," said Gaertner.

One major event for past Challenge and Studio students was a trip to Ashland, Oregon, to see the Shakespeare Festival. As well as being educational and enriching, it was one of the few events Challenge and Studio did together and a bonding experience for all students. **Judy Li** recalls it fondly.

"I remember everyone got along really well. There wasn't really a distinction between who was in Studio and who was in Challenge," said Judy. The combined Challenge Studio has yet to go on this particular trip due to the pandemic, but there's still been plenty of program special events. Distinct from Studio, Ms. Poon has encouraged interactions between the cohorts in each grade.

"I would really like to have more cross grade things," says Ms. Poon, in regards to the current Challenge Studio. "I don't really think [Studio was] all that cohesive."

One such event is Challenge Studio games nights, something **Austin Witter** finds enjoyable. "We play games and socialize, and sometimes there's events like trivia."

The old programs may be leaving Hamber, but good memories and an enriched education will stay with students. **Judy Li** reflects, "I was able to meet all my friends there and it was just always really fun."

"I think the community aspect is...most important."

ner, a Hamber grad of 2021 who was in Studio. For them, being around like-minded people was the most valu-

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE



The Griff, 2020

What Happened to the Griff?

NEWS REPORT by *Natalie Kosar (8) and Cara Rudolph (8)*

The Griff, Eric Hamber's student-run store that once operated in the cafeteria, sold snacks, refreshments, school supplies, and Hamber merchandise. The Griff had been running for over three decades, and has been a staple of the school community. However, for the past two years, it hasn't operated.

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, the store was run and staffed by students of the Marketing and Promotion 11 class, taught by **Mrs. T. Hayes** (Business Education).

Mrs. Hayes contributed a lot of extra time and dedication to the program. Her years of experience teaching business education allowed The Griff to run smoothly.

Students in this class would get

the chance to manage, design marketing campaigns, and sell, practicing the different aspects of running a store. They would work shifts, interact with customers, and would even go through an interview process for management positions in The Griff.

Integrated into classroom material, The Griff ran year after year, until the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. COVID prevented students from returning to school until the next school year, when the store stayed closed. This is partially due to the staggered timetables implemented to limit contact, with some students coming in the morning, and others in the afternoon. It was also closed due to COVID protocols not allowing it to open, and the Vancouver School Board's restrictions.

Unfortunately, in the spring of 2020, Mrs. Hayes passed away. Mrs. Hayes was a mentor to her students, and losing her was very hard for many in the Hamber community, staff includ-

ed. Along with that, after losing Mrs. Hayes, there were no business teachers who had the experience to run The Griff to its full capacity.

Due to the challenges The Griff faced last year, it was rebranded into Trilogy Hamber Business Group, which was based on the triple bottom line that Mrs. Hayes always impressed on her students; people, profit, and planet.

"The Griff was rebranded as Trilogy to pay tribute to the teaching and inspirations Mrs. Hayes gave to Trilogy's now grade 12 members," said **Veronica Miranda** (11), Trilogy Chief Communications Officer. "Trilogy is Hamber's business group, in commemoration of Mrs. Hayes. The reason for its name and reinvention is because of the emphasis on Mrs. Hayes' teaching of the triple bottom line."

During the 2020/2021 school year, Trilogy hosted a variety of initiatives, selling school merchandise, decorating

classroom doors for the holidays, running a case competition, and overseeing donation campaigns.

The case competition they held involved students from across the district, competing over a 24-hour period.

In September when students came back to Hamber to attend classes regularly for this school year, there were plans in the making that scheduled The Griff to reopen in October. Then, the plans for operation were halted once again by COVID protocols. Trilogy, now in charge of The Griff, was told they would not be able to run at all this year.

Maddie Baker (11), the Chief Human Resources Officer for Trilogy, assured that The Griff will be open again in the 2022-2023 school year. "We haven't been able to operate The Griff in past two years due to the COVID restrictions set by the District, however we plan to be fully up and running for next school year!"

The World of Video Games



NEWS REPORT by *Ellis Jackson (11)*

As in every year, the ever-popular industry of video games has experienced remarkable expansion in 2021 and 2022. As of 2021, the video game industry is worth a whopping \$115 billion USD, with revenues exceeding \$138 billion USD. During 2021 and 2022 alone, several major titles were released that became international sensations, while others have flopped and received mixed receptions at best.

Elden Ring was one of the biggest winners this year so far. Released by FromSoftware creators of the Dark Souls franchise, the dark-fantasy action-adventure was announced in 2018 and anticipation only built since that announcement. With writing done by A Song of Ice and Fire author George R.R. Martin and developed by renowned video game developer Hidetaka Miyazaki, the game was granted the award for Most Anticipated Game two years in a row, in 2020 and 2021. Upon release on February 25, the game received critical acclaim. Possessing perfect scores from IGN and the Guardian, among

others, Elden Ring was an enormous success for FromSoftware, selling 12 million copies within three weeks of its release, making it FromSoftware's single best selling game.

While in 2022, not many notable failures have yet been witnessed, in 2021, the highly-anticipated Battlefield 2042 flopped. A member of the popular Battlefield franchise, the game received overwhelming backlash at launch from critics and players alike, being criticized for its many technical problems. As of April 26, the game currently stands at 27 per cent on the popular gaming platform Steam, with over 100,000 reviews.

The impact of the pandemic on the video game sector has been quite significant. As people stayed at home, demand for video games surged. The pandemic's impact has resulted in 23 per cent growth in 2020 from 2019, growth that has only continued, with research firm Newzoo estimating that the industry could grow to \$219 billion USD by 2024. Some problems have also emerged due to supply-chain issues, with shortages of next-generation consoles presenting troubles to developers and publishers wishing to take advantage of the new technology.

Grades 8/9 Students Don't Get Percentage Grades

NEWS REPORT by *Jaya Wood (9)*

In the 2018-2019 school year, the Vancouver School District participated in the Ministry of Education's DRAFT K-9 Student Reporting Policy. This policy is meant to show the student's learning in a way that helps with the student's progression, phasing out the letter grade and percentage system.

The four points used are Extending, Applying, Developing and Beginning. There is no exact relation between this scale and percentage grades, though the two can be roughly compared. An Extending would be equivalent to an A or high B which would indicate a sophisticated understanding of the material. An Applying could equal a B or a high C which would indicate a complete understanding of the material. A Developing is comparable to a C, which would indicate a partial understanding of the material, and a Beginning a D, or an initial understanding of the material.

The system is used to help students and parents watch the progression of their learning.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Grade 8 and 9 students have been assessed using this proficiency scale, and will be for the years to come.

The Griffins' Nest spoke to Grade 8 and 9 students, inquiring as to whether they feel they have a better understanding of their academic levels when

grades are represented through the current scale. The majority of these students stated that they would prefer to have their grades shown through percentages.

"The proficiency scale is quite subjective whereas the percentage method is more objective," shared **Lauren Kolmel** (9).

Teresa Deruchie (9) finds the proficiency scale to be confusing and thinks that it does not clearly show a student's academic level. "An Applying could be interpreted in letter grades as a B, a high B or a low A" she explained.

"Percentages are much more specific to your grade and help you understand what level you are at," said **Isabella Prior** (9).

Sophie Jung (8) shared that in her first year of high school the proficiency scale was hard to understand and caused confusion around what grade she received. "The scale has caused many arguments between my parents and I because we all think I got a different grade."

Julien Laba (9), feels that he would rather have his grades shown through percentages.

"The proficiency scale, if anything, is a guessing game," says **Sienna Lawrence** (9). "I got a developing - but how close could it have been to an applying?"

However, the VSB claims that the proficiency scale helps students accurately determine what level they are at academically and how they can be best supported moving forward.

Richard Zerbe, a VSB Director of Instruction-Education Services, says that the letter grade system was detrimental to students as it suggested that once a student received a high grade, they completed the subject. He stated that learning should be continuous.

The VSB explained that this new system intends to divert students' focus from receiving a higher grade to finding ways to improve their learning. They hope that it will encourage more communication between students, teachers, and parents.

Spring Dessert Feature!



Liliana Chow (12)

Spring has sprung! With all the flowering blossoms, new shoots, and unfurling leaves, why not make these chocolate mousse pots with carrots? Freshen up your dining table with this springy dessert.

Chocolate Mousse Pots with Strawberry Carrots

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces quality chocolate (preferably Callebaut)
- 15 mL butter
- 6 large pasturized eggs, separated
- 10 chocolate sandwich cookies
- 8 ounces quality white couverture chocolate
- 4 large strawberries
- 15 mL vegetable oil
- Orange food coloring
- Clean terracotta plant pots

Directions:

Put the chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl and heat over simmering water.

Gently stir until melted chocolate and butter is melted. Remove from the heat and cool.

Whisk the egg whites in a large clean bowl until stiff peaks form.

Whisk the egg yolks into the cooled chocolate mixture until well combined, then gently fold in the egg whites in. Start by folding in 1/4 of the egg whites to loosen the chocolate mixture, then fold in the rest.

Spoon the mousse into four parchment-lined terracotta pots. Fill the pots up to the top for the best presentation.

Remove the icing from the sandwich cookies. Pulse the chocolate cookies in a food processor or crush with a rolling pin until fine crumbs are formed. Set aside in a small bowl.

Gently melt your white chocolate in a double boiler over boiling water.

Mix the vegetable oil into the chocolate. It should be runny; if it's too thick add in oil until the desired consistency is reached. Add in food coloring until the orange shade matches that of a carrot.

Holding back the calyx on the strawberry, dip the whole berry into the melted chocolate to coat. Try to keep the calyx clean. Shake off any excess chocolate and lay strawberry on a parchment-lined pan to dry. Repeat with the remaining strawberries. Drizzle the strawberries with leftover orange chocolate to create authentic-looking lines across the "carrots".

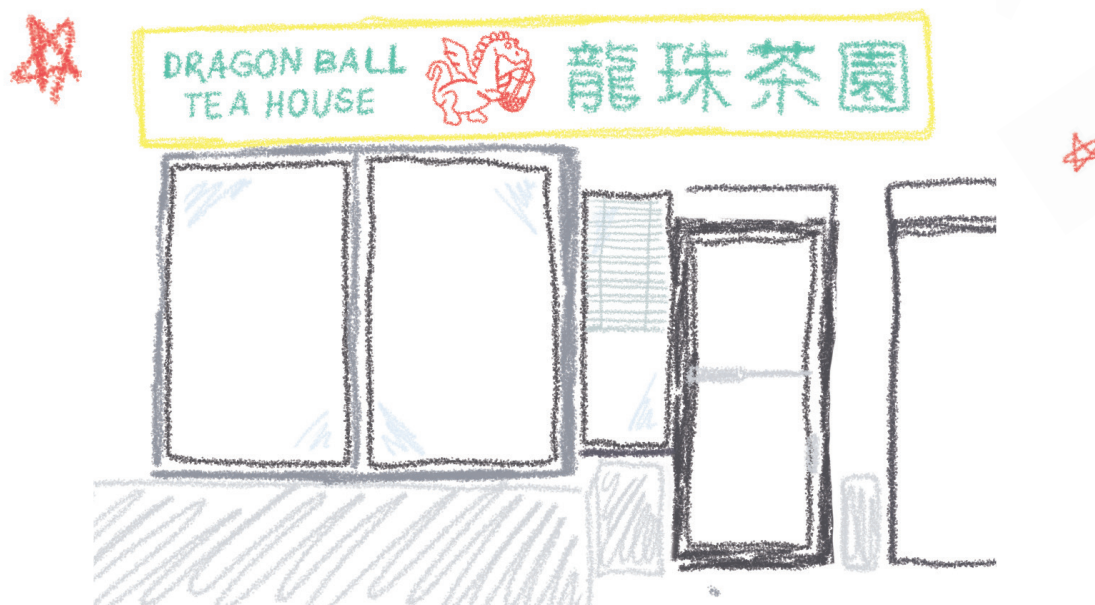
To assemble, generously scatter the cookie 'dirt' over the chocolate mousse. Stick a strawberry "carrot" in each pot so it looks like it's growing out of the pot. Enjoy!

Recipe adapted from Bigger Bolder Baking.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

NARRATIVE by Cameron Leong (12)

The Quest for the Perfect Pearls



Tapioca pearls are a staple of many Eastern Asian diets. And milk tea? That's universal. When combined, they form a sweet, refreshing treat that has become essential to Vancouver's culture and a core memory of many of our lives.

I was introduced to bubble tea at around five years old when my parents took my brother and I to Dragon Ball Tea House. After relentless begging and insistence that I wouldn't choke on the boba, my parents finally gave in and ordered us a strawberry slush with pearls. In typical Asian parent fashion, a full cup was declared too much for children like us to finish on our own. My brother and I begrudgingly shared.

As years passed, that half-portion of strawberry slush had and still remains rent-free in my mind. I spent my childhood living in Seattle, Washington, and the horrible bubble tea options there only amplified my desire to visit Vancouver just for a drink from Dragon Ball. The standard drinks in Seattle often feature powdered milk, syrups, and fruit poppers. The drinks were like celebrity beauty: fake and filled with plastic-like ingredients.

When I finally moved back to Vancouver in Grade 5, I was delighted. As a self-declared bubble tea expert, I was presented with a myriad of different stores I had to try, each one advertising its own special quirk – oat-milk-based drinks, Red Bull-infused tea, you name it. Had it not been for the established brands selling these exotic drinks I would have thought I was back in the United States. Regardless of how wacky they sounded, I embarked on a journey to give them all a try.

In late 2018, I came across a Taiwanese chain opening its first North American location right here in Vancouver. The shop was one of the most visually pleasing I had ever seen. Glistening tapioca pearls coated in brown sugar roasted in a pot behind a glass case, and the traditional fortune-telling drawer decor added an ambiance unlike anything I had experienced in a bubble tea shop before. However, as much as the interior of the store amplified my expectations, my disappointment was equally raised by their suspicious drinks. The largely-hyped cheese foam topping seemed a bit too exotic for my taste. However, regardless of differing opinions on taste, I was appalled at the portion size. The cups were smaller than a normal bubble tea cup, and the hidden concave bottom just added salt to my

wound. While the world raved about this chain's brown sugar pearls, I couldn't help but be dissuaded by their blatant attempts to hide their cost cuts.

A couple of years later on a hot summer day, I discovered another critically acclaimed bubble tea franchise from Taiwan. I was in an exploring mood and decided to give their milk tea a try. After receiving my drink, I gave the cup my usual inspection, scanning for any anomalies or incorrectness in my order. To my initial dismay, there seemed to be no tapioca pearls in the drink. However, upon closer inspection, I noticed translucent orbs floating around the bottom of the cup. With raised eyebrows of suspicion, I gave the honey pearls a try. To my surprise, they were delicious. The boba had a nice bounce and the honey flavor wasn't too sweet. Unfortunately, the public did not share the same positive feelings as I did, and the store closed its downtown location after only a few years of business. My new favorite was gone.

To many of the businesses' credits, I enjoyed a lot of new toppings and teas I never could have envisioned trying. I developed a sweet tooth for brown-sugar flavored pearls and drank enough caffeine to keep me up for multiple nights. While I did end up settling on a few favorites, I remained drawn to that original strawberry slush with boba that captivated my cravings for years. There's something about the simplicity of this classic drink that stands out amongst the frills and fanciness of new bubble tea franchises.

Dragon Ball Tea House owner Raymond Chan shares similar feelings as me in regard to the drinks he serves. "To me, it's like eating white rice," he described. "I always eat regular white rice. Sometimes I eat brown rice or other varieties, but the main staple is regular white rice. I use the same principle with bubble tea. We choose the best pearls which are classic and will never fade out. There are other options like mini boba or rainbow pearls which look nice and are interesting. It's good to try, but still, to me, the typical pearl is the best pearl."

Perhaps it's this classic approach to bubble tea that has cemented Dragon Ball Tea House in the upper echelon of the Vancouver bubble tea scene. In an age where delivery service usage is on the rise, Chan has stuck to a traditional business model, electing to maintain the status quo of selling only takeout orders.

His biggest concern about partnering with a food delivery service?

"Limited capacity and quality control," commented Chan. "I do realize nowadays that a lot of stores have been profitable from using these services, but I'd need to prepare a lot and do extra to make it work. Let's say I signed up for UberEats and had people wait 15 minutes for the drink to be made plus half an hour for delivery time. That's crazy. I'd be up all night making orders."

Regardless of new trends, what's most impressive is how famous Dragon Ball Tea House has become amongst Vancouverites and those beyond. As a small, family-run business, many would consider Chan's business and career a huge success. He's the epitome of following your passion and an inspiration to aspiring business owners. After working at a bank fresh out of college, Chan found his passion for making bubble tea and followed it.

"After a few days on the job, I found working in a bank boring and tedious," he revealed. "I discovered my interest in making drinks after working part-time at a bubble tea store in my mid-twenties. It's more interesting than just sitting in a room doing paperwork, which is why I chose to open my own store."

For a business that's been so successful for so long in the community, questions may arise about the longevity of the shop and possible retirement. But when asked about the future of Dragon Ball Tea House, Chan showed no signs of slowing down.

"My physical condition allows me to work hard," Chan assured. "I'll still keep working and I'm not thinking about retirement right now. The main thing is that customers like my drinks. It makes me really happy when people enjoy what I make."

As a longtime customer, those words couldn't have delighted me more. In turbulent times full of change and new normals, my favorite bubble tea shop will remain a constant in my life for the foreseeable future. I'll continue to try the latest bubble tea innovations in my journey to find new favorites in the ever-expanding Vancouver bubble tea scene. I may be blown away by a previously unimaginable flavor or pearl. I may also be left appalled, raising my eyebrows at a new bubble tea shop that didn't live up to the hype. But regardless of what I try in the future, one thing is for certain: I'll always be back at Dragon Ball Tea House for a strawberry slush with pearls.

Gassy Jack Statue Toppled in Gastown

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh* (8)

During the annual Downtown East-side Women's March on February 14, the Gassy Jack Statue in Vancouver's Gastown was torn down by protesters.

The Gassy Jack Statue was first put up on February 13, 1970 by four businessmen whose main goals were to improve the economy of Gastown. It was called a Valentine's Day gift to the city.

John Jack Deighton, the man who the statue is made after, was a Canadian bar owner originally from England who opened the first saloon in Gastown. As he was the first to colonize the area, he is known as the "founding father" of Gastown – hence why the neighbourhood is named after him. However, the name for the statue, Gassy Jack, stems from a nickname Deighton was given due to his talkative nature. Despite all of this, Deighton was a very controversial person, whose life many say isn't to be celebrated.

As revealed publicly in a 2019 short film titled 'Red Women Rising', John Deighton was forty years old when he married a twelve year-old Squamish First Nations child, Quahail-ya, after his previous wife, Quahail-ya's aunt, died. He then impregnated his child-while she was still very young. Quahail-ya found the courage to run away from John Deighton and escape their relationship three years after they had gotten married. The short film that showcased these events sparked heavy criticism against Deighton. He is now seen as a symbol of oppression against Indigenous women.

The destruction of his statue during the Women's March in February is not the first time that it has been defaced. Back in June 2020, the statue was, again, completely covered in red paint, with a sign that read MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) laying next to it. An online petition to remove the Gassy Jack Statue from Gastown was created after this incident. As of now, it has over



“This is not about erasing history, but about reconciliation. It is about taking steps towards no longer upholding and enforcing violence and oppression towards the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island.”

23,000 signatures.

“This is not the kind of person we should be upholding and honouring. A pedophile's likeness should

not be prominently displayed in the centre of Gastown for fun tourist photos,” read a comment written by signatory Josh Mckenna in the description

of the petition, “This is not about erasing history, but about reconciliation. It is about taking steps towards no longer upholding and enforcing violence and

oppression towards the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island.”

Patricia Massy, a local businessperson of Cree and English descent and participant in the demonstrations, described the statue as “insulting... considering the legacy he has with the women of the Squamish Nation,” in an interview with CBC.

After the current toppling of the Gassy Jack Statue in February, Squamish Nation councillor and spokesperson Wilson William released a state-



“Our kids are paying for one human right with another” – COVID-19 and High-Risk Individuals

NEWS REPORT by *Reya Khanna* (10)

The ending of the BC Ministry of Education's school mask mandate on March 11 and the vaccine passport on April 8 has caused significant concern among many, especially immunocom-

promised individuals and those at high risk of serious COVID-19 infections and the effects of long COVID. COVID safety advocates nationally argue although it may seem like the pandemic is over for some, it is far from over for others. The urge for many to head back to 'normal' is inflicting difficulties for those most at risk.

Parents, teachers, and students

that have relations with those that are immunocompromised, or immunocompromised themselves are collectively outraged at the removal of masks as it is the main form of protection from the vascular disease.

The BA.2.2 sub-variant of Omicron picking up where the vaccine passport left off, an untimely coincidence that has led many to feel uncomfortable. A

grade 10 student at Vancouver Technical Secondary, told *The Griffins' Nest* “I have [family members] and friends who are high-risk, so it makes me feel safer around those people to keep wearing a mask,” in a late March report, and many continue to feel the same.

There have been many calls to reinstate the mask mandate. On March 16, Kasari Govender, BC's Human Rights Commissioner, sent an open letter to Bonnie Henry, the Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia, adding to those calls.

“[T]he benefits of the mask mandate for thousands of marginalized people and the minimal impact on those being asked to wear one, the balance at this time favours continuing the mask mandate,” the letter read.

“As an effective and minimally invasive intervention, the mask mandate is justified long after other more intrusive public health measures have been lifted. That people dislike wearing masks is not a compelling argument when weighed against the rights of others to life, security of the person, and equal participation in social and economic life”

The Coalition Safe Schools BC, an alliance of parents and teachers that strive for improved COVID-19 protocols, urged in a March 20 media release, “all education stakeholders and leaders to apply the precautionary principle to BC's K-12 public schools and continue the mask mandate for this school year, so that all children can be safer from the BA.2 variant as well as future variants.”

“Education leaders must recognize that public schools are unique in this pandemic. Public schools are NOT a place where families and children can “manage their own risk.” It is not the same as choosing to dine indoors at a restaurant or go to a movie theatre with unmasked people. Children must attend school.”

Students are stuck in what some

say is an unfair situation between gaining the access to an in-person education with social interaction, and their safety, and health or the health and well-being of family members.

“Our kids are paying for one human right with another: they are paying for their health with their education,” said Vancouver parent Jaclyn Ferreira who, as well as her children, has a rare disease-causing premature deterioration of the lungs.

“We keep hearing that education is the most important thing, but with no acknowledgement that education doesn't have to be a one size fits all scenario, and caring for and protecting those most at-risk has the knock-on effect of protecting everyone in the system, instead of downloading all responsibility for safety onto the shoulders of the youngest, most vulnerable members of society,” Ferreira explained.

“I think the mask mandate was such a small gesture in terms of its impact on the wearer and it had so much potential to protect other people that are now left completely exposed to the virus,” said June Francis, a Simon Fraser University Professor, in an interview with the Georgia Straight.

Experts say the use of masks had created a safer and more comfortable environment for immunocompromised persons and enhanced filtration and ventilation of schools would add assurance.

When asked about ways to make schools safer, Safe Schools BC's spokesperson and parent Kyenta Martins, who has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) said, “If Dr. Henry and the Ministry of Health would launch a campaign to educate the public in the need for protections for [the] airborne virus [then] the Ministry of Education, along with other government entities would act accordingly. Then I think we could actually not continue making the same mistakes and seeing the cases rise in wave after wave.”

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

High Gas Prices,
Explained

Monthly Average Price in Cents of Regular Unleaded Gasoline at Self-Service Filling Stations in Vancouver, BC

Data for April and May was not available as of publication.

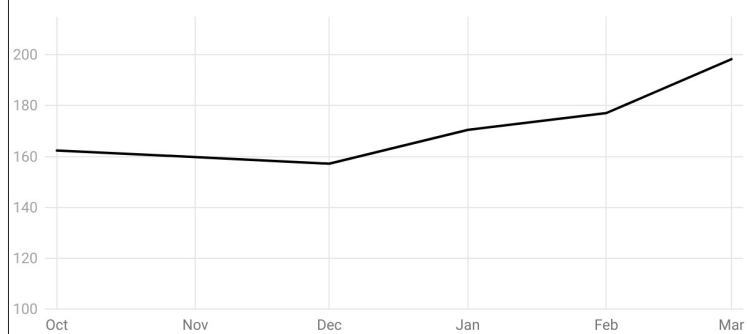


Chart: The Griffins' Nest • Source: Statistics Canada • Created with Datawrapper



DARRYL DYCK/CANADIAN PRESS

ment, revealing, "The Squamish Nation had come to an agreement with the City of Vancouver to remove the Gassy Jack Deighton statue. The discussions were ongoing, focused on a culturally safe and respectful process that would bring dignity and healing to all involved."

As of now, the statue has not been, and will not be put up again. The pedestal on which Gassy Jack once stood was officially removed on April 4 of this year. It is unknown what will replace the infamous statue.



REUTERS VIA NBC NEWS



BEN NELMS/CBC

NEWS REPORT by Alexandra
Chow (10)

Since March of this year, gas prices across Canada have been skyrocketing. In response, several provinces have made an effort to lessen the financial strain on Canadians.

The price of gas was raised by 7 per cent in March, making it the highest it has been since 2014. Compared to March 2021, the price had increased nearly 50 per cent. Alberta's gas, being the cheapest in Canada, costs \$1.569 per litre. However, for Albertans, this was still double the price that gas had been during the most inexpensive time of the pandemic. Meanwhile, British Columbia's gas reached an all-time high of \$2.149 per litre in early March. At the time, this was the highest price for gas in all of North America.

There are many factors that contribute to the high demand and low supply of gas. As events and workplaces return to being in-person, the demand for gas by commuters continues to increase. This has led to record gas prices of over \$1.609 per litre in some parts of Ontario.

Additionally, the supply of gas still falls below pre-pandemic levels. Due to the low demand for gas during COVID-19, many companies are still producing lesser amounts of it than they were prior to the pandemic. The United States' shale oil production is focusing on returning money to their shareholders rather than growing their companies, which has contributed to the short supply of gas. Starting new oil extraction plants is expensive and takes time, which is why supply cannot be increased by simply extracting more oil.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has also contributed to the imbalance in supply and demand for gas. In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, several sanctions have been placed on them, including one on crude oil. Despite Canada banning importing Russian crude oil, most of Western Europe did not participate in this sanction because of their reliance on Russia's oil. As a result of the sanctions, Russia's oil sales have suffered. Even after dramatically lowering the price, over 70 per cent of the oil Russia produces goes unsold. The sanction on Russian crude oil has caused an increase in demand for oil produced elsewhere, contributing to an increase in gas prices.

Compared to the rest of Canada, British Columbia is experiencing dras-

tic spikes in the price of gas. This is a result of their lack of pipelines, which easily transport the resource, and therefore lower its prices.

Provinces have taken different approaches to help Canadians through this financially-difficult time. In early March, Alberta announced a plan to reduce taxes on gas by 13 cents per litre. However, not long after this was implemented, the price of gas naturally rose 14 cents.

New Brunswick has used different methods to support their citizens. They have left the price of gas untouched and instead are increasing the carbon tax. The money from the carbon tax will be rebated to all taxpayers by raising the threshold for income that is provincially tax-free.

In British Columbia, a rebate has been issued by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC). Announced by Premier John Horgan on March 25, drivers with a basic automobile insurance policy will receive a one-time rebate of \$110. Commercial transportation drivers will receive \$165. This also applies to owners of electric vehicles, however those who do not need the money are encouraged to donate it.

The decision to introduce a rebate rather than another form of financial relief was settled on after much thought and deliberation. After what happened in Alberta, Premier Horgan stated, "we were reluctant and would not amend the taxation because it would just be filled by an increase in prices at the pump". Although the rebate is expected to cost over \$395 million, Horgan explained "we've gone back to ICBC (for the rebate) because of the strong financial position they find themselves in".

The BC Liberals party (opposition) find the rebate "underwhelming". They have criticized the fact that electric vehicle owners also receive a payment, despite not having to pay for gas. Peter Milobar, the official opposition critic for finance, argued that the "insurance rebate [is] being painted as if it's a gas tax rebate, which it certainly is not."

The rebate will be given to drivers between May and July of 2022. Those who have signed up for direct deposit will receive the payment as early as May. Drivers who pay for their insurance using a credit card will receive the rebate as credit between May and June. All others will be given cheques starting in June. Each driver will receive a letter of confirmation from ICBC once their rebate is issued.



GOVERNMENT OF BC/FICKR

BC's UPDATED COVID-19
PROTOCOLSNEWS REPORT by Shaan
Sandhu (10)

On March 11, the provincial-wide mask mandate was lifted for the first time. This was due to the hospitalization rates trending downwards as the summer season approached; according to the BC Centre of Disease Control. Alongside the end of the mask mandate, vaccine passports are also no longer required for access to indoor events. The end to these restrictions does not mark the end of the pandemic, but rather a step forward towards a normal life. Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer, has stated that "the risk is much lower, but not zero."

These changes have brought new

rules for British Columbians to adjust to. Masks are now optional for all indoor public gatherings; with wearing one being a personal preference. Businesses and organizations can choose whether masks are required on their grounds. Religious gatherings no longer require proof of vaccination by attendees. Employees no longer need to wear masks when working, as the Work Safety Order is not required anymore. The decision is now up to the employer. The Work Safety Order is a set of rules employers must follow when employing workers. It has constantly been updated ever since COVID started, due to the constant restrictions being implied on work settings. Public transit encourages masks but does not require them.

Vaccine passports are no longer needed for services, business, and

non-essential events. It is important to note that individual businesses can still choose whether it's mandated or not. The vaccine rate in B.C. for people who are 12 and older is 93.3 per cent according to the British Columbia Government. This number has yet to increase by a noticeable amount since 2022 started; roughly only 2 per cent.

Currently, staff and students in kindergarten to Grade 12 are not required to wear masks during school hours. The choice is now up to students and their comfort level around their peers. Some believe the mandate is needed for everyone's safety, while others think all restrictions need to be lifted to progress past this pandemic. At Eric Hamber Secondary many students have mixed emotions on this topic.

While interviewing students at Eric Hamber Secondary, The Nest found many felt unsure about the mask mandate being lifted. Jasmine Chen (10) expressed that "the masks provided a layer of safety for me, and with them no longer being mandatory that safety insurance has been stripped from me."

Others felt that the change was long-awaited. Kieran Rooke (9) told The Nest that "with indoor events such as concerts and sporting events opening; with masks being optional, I believe it is time for schools to follow suit. The people who have consistently followed the COVID restrictions for the past 2 years deserve to have this option."

When asked about possible solutions Chen felt that "people should factor in other people's health situations when choosing not to wear masks. Many immunocompromised people have a higher risk of being impacted by this sickness. An option would be to recommend students wear their masks when in close contact with others."

Rooke suggests that "students should be cautious when around peers who may not be comfortable without face coverings. Since you never know someone's situation."

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

First Impressions: Elle's Review of Restaurants Around Vancouver

REVIEW by Elle Glen (8)



Ça Marche Crêperie

French

Rating: 5/5
Price: \$\$
Vibe: French vintage meets Modern Art-Deco cooked on high heat and garnished with French seasoning.
The Concept: This shoebox of a restaurant is hidden away just under the Granville Street Bridge and is unlike any other in Vancouver. Inspired by the famous Buckwheat crêpes of Brittany, a region in northwestern France, this bistro blends French vintage with modern Art-Deco to create the perfect atmosphere for consuming delicacies. When presented with the menu, it is impossible to decide on what crepe to order. It feels almost like a life or death situation... except with a pinch more sugar. With a wide variety of crêpes to choose from, this place must be number one on your visit list.
Food to try: When deciding on a matter such as crêpes, one must think long and hard about their decision. If you are craving savory then the Champignon might interest you. Topped with sautéed mushrooms, cider onion jam, kale, goat cheese and a fried egg, this crêpe is delectable with a capital D. If sweet is more your style, then the Fraise is your go-to. Served with macerated strawberries, whipped cream and croissant ice cream, this crêpe brings heaven to the next level. Even if you're weary about what crêpe you will order, you simply must order the frites. The frites are thin cut, covered in french herbs and make eating potatoes almost feel healthy.

Located at 1471 Continental Street



Fable Diner and Bar

Breakfast Food and Bar

Rating: 4/5
Price: \$\$
Vibe: Rustic and Unsophisticated. An eclectic playlist of eighties pop songs adds aggravating color to the scene. Imagine an old bar but "trendier."
The Concept: This bar and diner has taken up residence in the archaic and heritage Kingston Hotel and occupies an impressive two and a half floors of the building, complete with two bars, an army of upholstered cushions, a lounge and a pool table downstairs. Don't let the amenities fool you, the menu items fall into the casual section for sure. Open all day, the diner sports a menu of edible brunch foods doused in oil and a dazzling array of drinks and appetizers to suffice. Fable Diner and Bar also is open all the way into the evening, with the day being broken up with a 2:30 PM to 5 PM happy hour (Tuesday to Saturday only)!
Food to try: If you have come here for brunch and intend to leave absolutely stuffed, then the Trucker's Breakfast is your best bet, complete with two eggs of any style, a choice of meat, breakfast potatoes, sourdough toast and a pancake. For something lighter (and certainly healthier), The Huevous Rancheros is probably the best option. With two poached eggs, beans, guacamole, pasilla, cilantro, pico de gallo, cheddar and sour cream, this meal is a delicious way to do brunch in style.

Located at 755 Richards Street



Café Kitsuné

French Cafe

Rating: 3.5/5
Price: \$\$\$-\$\$\$
Vibe: Parisian chic meets Japandi (Japanese/Scandi) crammed together in this shoebox of a cafe.
The Concept: Café Kitsuné — and its retail counterpart Maison Kitsuné — is a luxury brand that sells clothing, furniture, music and now, food. With 15 stores worldwide, this Paris-based brand has opened its first Canadian flagship in Vancouver. Other locations include Japan, France, New York, South Korea, Indonesia, and China, among others. With two separate spaces, the retail and cafe sides both use Japanese interiors styles and accents of the classic Parisian style in the food and clothing. This cafe is on the fancier side, so please remember to bring your manners. A head's-up before going: Café Kitsuné is a laptop-free zone, so leave your computer at home. It is located in the heart of Gastown, so the atmosphere outside the café is as great as the atmosphere inside! Grab a window seat if you love people-watching.
Food to try: If you're going for a light snack then there is an array of baked goods to choose from. Their classic fox cookie is a staple to try (Kitsuné is Japanese for fox, hence the fox motif). They also offer French sandwiches including a cucumber sandwich with cashew cheese and a ham and cheese sandwich with dijon mustard. Bon Appetit!

Located at 157 Water Street



Bamboo World Kitchen

Bowls and Wraps

Rating: 3/5
Price: \$\$\$
Vibe: Chill, clean and the epitome of causal-fresh.
The Concept: Bamboo World Kitchen is a restaurant that makes healthy fast food inspired by cuisines from around the world including the Pacific Northwest, Mexico, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Japan, and the Mediterranean. There is definitely something for everyone. Their menu offers an array of bowls, wraps, salads, steamed dumplings and smoothies each with their own unique flavors. Their main focus is to supply fresh, local, sustainable ingredients and plant-based packaging. The pricing of the food is reasonable and affordable; you can expect to spend anywhere between six and eleven dollars for one entrée.
Food to try: The Hanoi, inspired by Vietnamese cuisine, is definitely one to try. Available in either a bowl or a wrap, it comes with marinated rice noodles, fresh mint and basil, pickled carrots, cucumber, bean sprouts, romaine lettuce, spiced cashews, peanut sauce and their sweet chili sauce. You can order any of their bowls or wraps with a protein such as tofu, shrimp and chicken. Another excellent choice is their steamed dumplings. With an array of fillings including prawn, bean curd, and bamboo/veggies, these appetizers are definitely worth the six bucks. Plus, there is a new opening Summer 2022 at 794 West Broadway!

Located at 2690 Granville Street



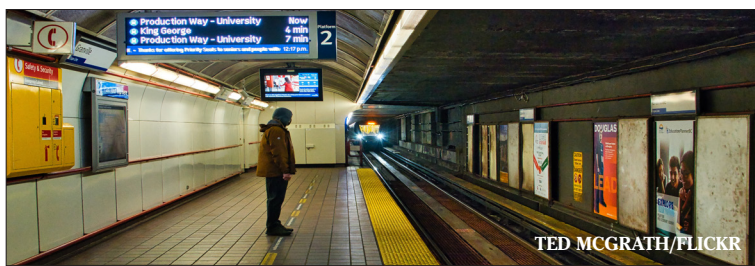
District Eleven

Asian Fusion

Rating: 3/5
Price: \$\$\$
Vibe: Batcave meets heritage design in a strip mall.
The Concept: Inspired by high Vietnamese cuisine and East Asian street food, District Eleven is a restaurant heavily focused on bold flavors. They offer two menus: Adventurous and Authentic. One for brave souls who value flavor and are not hesitant to try new things, and one for those who just want a warm bowl of soup that will remind them of home. Their main goal is to experiment with foods to create new things while still paying tribute to the traditional foods of East Asia. As they put it, "Flavourful and Unforgettable." Despite being crammed in the middle of a strip mall, this restaurant is funky, yet somewhat traditional. Another plus is the free dehydrated noodles snacks that you're given upon arrival!
Food to try: If you're dying to try something fresh from the Adventurous menu, then order the Aburi Crispy Rice dish. Deep fried sushi rice is topped with spicy crab salad, chili mayo, crispy shallots, pickled jalapenos, ponzu glaze and seaweed to create this flavorful tantrum. If authentic is more your speed then you should try the Pho Chay bowl (Vegan noodle soup), it comes with veggie broth, rice noodles, mushrooms, bok choy, carrots, radishes and tofu. Here is a word of advice if you're going for the Adventurous menu; try to avoid the Umami Bombs...

Located at 4063 Main Street

Public Transit Throughout the Pandemic



NEWS REPORT by Derek Chau (9)

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, TransLink, the Metro Vancouver transit authority, has implemented various on-board mandates and sanitation measures.

But as ridership rates return to pre-COVID levels and higher, TransLink has rolled back measures that were implemented previously while reshifting focus back on expanding the current network through new projects and improvements to existing infrastructure.

At the start of the Pandemic, every other seat and seats near the operator were closed, boarding only happened

\$75 million per month and on our current trajectory, we will face cashflow issues within weeks," in a March 2020 press release seeking emergency funding.

In response, TransLink suspended five routes with low ridership and reduced service to prioritize transportation routes used most by frontline workers.

As June 1, 2020 approached, the safety precautions on public transit began to ease back. When elementary and secondary schools reopened for in-person classes, TransLink resumed fare collection, reopened boarding at the front doors, and raised the maximum capacity to two-thirds full. This remained the state of public transit until vaccines were distributed to the public.

Additionally, TransLink took some steps to promote vaccination once it became available. At Tsawwassen's ferry terminal, air-conditioned buses gave ferry passengers their immunizations in a comfortable space before they continued their trip. A shuttle service was added on the North Shore at the same time, which drove passengers from Capilano mall to the ICBC vaccination site. The existing HandyDART door-to-door medical service also served a new purpose of transporting vulnerable persons to immunization centres.

Innovative steps were taken in the midst of 2021 to prevent the spread of COVID. One instance was their utilization of photocatalytic oxidation (PCO). In public transit, PCO would take UV light from the sun and produce low levels of hydrogen peroxide that is distributed throughout the air inside the vehicle, killing viruses on surfaces and in the air. PCO is currently being tested in two double-decker buses and a 60 feet articulated bus.

Another 2021 test conducted was with copper's use as a surface material. Copper has the ability to kill 99.9 per cent of bacteria and viruses and is a health product according to Health Canada, and TransLink has been testing its antimicrobial properties in public transit since November 2020. The use of copper is still being examined today in a second round of tests conducted by Vancouver Coastal Health and Mount Sinai Hospital/University Health Network and funded by Teck Resources Limited under the Copper & Health Program. These trails make TransLink the first North American transportation agency to use copper on transit vehicle surfaces.

Now that COVID is becoming endemic, most mandates implemented during the peaks of the pandemic have dissolved. Masks are now optional in all TransLink services except for HandyDART, boarding rules are back to normal, buses are back to full capacity, and all seats are open. However, features like the operator barrier have stayed

to retain the safety in public transportation environments, and technology aimed against COVID are likely going to find their ways out of testing and into transit regardless of if COVID is continues or not.

TransLink is set on expanding its network fourfold, from 100 kilometers to 400 kilometers, in 2050. TransLink also plans for a 850 kilometer network separated from traffic that is dedicated to bikes. These visions that TransLink has and more are described in their Transport 2050 plan.

There are a handful of potential project ideas alongside ones in Transport 2050 such as a UBC SkyTrain extension and a Burnaby mountain gondola that are in the midst of getting public engagement and support. Despite COVID's impact, TransLink seems to be committed to the development of their 2050 vision of Vancouver's transit network.

On its website, Translink proactively summarizes how COVID has impacted its network and outlook: "While public transit use declined in 2020 and early 2021 due to COVID-19, it remained an essential service. Work and travel habits may change for some in the coming months and years, but we expect transit ridership to return to — and surpass — pre-pandemic levels as the region prepares to welcome more than one million more people and approximately 500,000 new jobs by 2050. That is why we are looking ahead and planning for the future."

CANADA

BC is a step closer to making Daylight Savings Time permanent

NEWS REPORT by *Salena Sharma* (8)

For years, Canadian provinces have been eyeing a switch to Daylight Savings Time ("DST") coordinated with their American counterparts. Earlier in March, that switch took a step further after the United States Senate unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act, a bill that would permanently implement DST across Canada's southern neighbour.

Daylight Saving Time was introduced by the Canadian government in 1918 as a method to improve production during World War I, saving coal for the war efforts. After the first World War ended, DST ended but began again during the Second World War and remained that way since then, according to The Canadian Encyclopedia. It may have been logical at the time, but now, many Canadians do not like the change in their routine DST causes.

In 2019, Premier John Horgan decided to bring forth a conversation about making DST permanent in BC after a government survey showed that 93 per cent of people living in the province were not in favour of changing the clocks twice a year. This survey passed legislation three years ago, but Horgan was waiting for Washington, Oregon, and California to also change their time zone. "...we heard from people and

businesses in B.C. that we need to stay aligned with our time zone neighbours in Washington, Oregon, California, and Yukon," Attorney General David Eby told CBC News in a report in November 2021.

Beyond economic incentives, sleep scientists suggest that people should have consistent sleep schedules year-round for individual health reasons.

Daylight Savings Time throws things off when the hour changes because it is difficult to adjust to new schedules and a lot of things seem to be out of sync. People take some time to adjust to its new schedule, therefore, resulting in some unproductive days.

Every human is equipped with their own biological clock which instructs and prepares them for their daily activities. Their clock includes their sleep/wake rotations, body functions, and activity, The Canadian Society for Chronobiology ("CSC") said in a media statement.

The CSC also says that the light that shines in a human's eyes alerts the brain's central clock which then sends messages all over the body preparing it for its daily activities.

The Atlantic reported in March of 2022 that a natural delay in a teenager's biological clock is normal for no apparent reason. Changing the clocks two times a year messes up their biological clock even more, especially since



GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA/FICKR

...sleep scientists suggest that people should have consistent sleep schedules year-round for individual health reasons.

...if daylight savings were to become permanent, high schoolers could be going to school in pitch black...

most teenagers do not get the required amount of sleep. This can lead to depression and other mental health-related factors. Although, if daylight savings were to become permanent, high schoolers could be going to school in pitch black and their body would be confused as to what time it is.

Some disasters were linked with DST such as the Challenger Explosion and the Exxon Valdez, according to David Wagner, a professor of management at the University of Oregon. Wagner wrote in an article for The Conversation in 2018 that these accidents were caused by sleep deprivation because

of daylight savings. Many other accidents were caused by this time change because the body is not used to the change in its biological schedule.

Several reports show that the springtime change has the most effects on accidents because of sleep deprivation. A study in Michigan showed that there was a 24 per cent increase in heart attacks the day after the spring Daylight Savings Time. For businesses, DST affects the work habits of most employees and sales could be lower than usual.

The discussion remains about the negative aspects daylight savings

caused but there are some pessimistic factors if DST became permanent. While some may enjoy the pleasure of having the sun be out until late in the evening, mornings will be quite dark. In Vancouver, the sun will not rise as late as 9:00 AM, which researchers say would not be suitable for people going to work or school especially since there is a higher risk of accidents occurring.

Other provinces in Canada are looking to end the practice of Daylight Savings. Some cities such as Toronto and Ottawa would want to have their time-oriented with those in Washington and New York, CBC reported on April 3. For provinces like Ontario, they must check-in to see if neighbouring provinces such as Quebec, are willing to make daylight savings permanent, or else it will feel like a "logistical nightmare," according to Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament Jeremy Roberts.



THE RISE OF THE CANADIAN MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

ANALYSIS by *Greta Gibbon* (9)

In 1986, the Canadian men's soccer team competed at the FIFA World Cup for the first time in history. In 2022, 36 years later, the team qualified for a second time. How, after so many years dormant, did the team achieve such significant success?

In early 2018, John Herdman was hired as the head coach for the Canadian men's soccer team after coaching for the female's team.

Herdman set the path for the Canadian team's road to success. "Ever since John took over, he's been focused on changing the identity of Canadian soccer," stated defender Kamal Miller in an interview with the Canadian Press in October of 2019.

"This guy knows what he's doing... because he has a tactic for every game," said forward Jonathan David in the same interview. Herdman's undeniable passion for the game is a large contributor to the newly positive outcomes of the Canadian team. He decided to see the glass half-full at all times and never let his team be dismayed.

In February of 2019, Herdman told a news conference "We're going to qualify for 2022 Qatar, and lay the foundation for 2026." Though Herdman knew that his team would end up having to qualify the hard way, his determination did not fluctuate while travelling through the second tier teams of North and Central America and the Caribbean.

The first round qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup took place in March

and June of 2021. The Canadian team finished with a 4-0-0 record and progressed to the second round, with forward Cyle Larin and Junior Hoilett both scoring against Haiti. Herdman, being impressed with his team, stated in a postgame interview, "After that goal, you could sense it. It was almost like the bottle top had been released for the guys and they could just drop their shoulders and let the talent start to flow," in reference to a goal made by Larin in the second half of the game.

Their success allowed them to move on to the third round of qualifiers in September of 2021. The Canadian team remained unbeaten in the first 11 matches and Herdman's determination continued to grow. "Every time [John] talks to the team, he motivates us to a different level," defender Alphonso Davies told the Toronto Star in March of 2022.

On March 24, 2022, the Canadian team entered the fourth and final round, but ended up losing their first match in Costa Rica by a score of 1-0. However, they were presented another chance to qualify for the international tournament at a game against Jamaica a few days later. At this game, the Canadian men's team left no room for doubt on the field, and secured their spot at the World Cup with a score of 4-0.

In a postgame interview with Herdman after Canada's win over Panama in October, Herdman stressed, "we cannot back down at any moment now, this group of boys are one, they'll rise as one and [they'll] fall as one." The Canadian men's soccer team did exactly that, rising as one and earning Canada the chance to compete at FIFA's 2022 World Cup for the first time in 36 years.

Indigenous Reps. Meet the Pope

News Report by *Bianca Takenaka* (10)

From 1831 to 1996, upwards of 150,000 Indigenous children were forced out of their homes into federally-funded and church-run residential boarding schools. At these schools, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and sexual abuse became a part of their day-to-day lives. With the goal to eliminate all "threats" assumed of Indigenous peoples, residential schools were a tool integrated into a broader plan of "aggressive assimilation" and colonization of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

32 First Nations delegates, and survivors of Canada's residential schools travelled to St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. They demanded that they receive a formal apology from Pope Francis and the Catholic Church for the abuses they endured under the control of Catholic school staff. This meeting was originally scheduled for December 2021 but was postponed due to Omicron concerns until late March 2022.

Gerald Antoine, the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations delegation, stated during a press briefing after the first meeting between the Indigenous peoples and the Pope that there will be a continued connection between Indigenous groups and the church to "learn from the past and share a vision for a hopeful future." He called the meeting with the Pope a "historical milestone" in an interview for CTV News that week.

The Métis Nation of Ontario were the first to sit down with the Pope on March 21, 2022. A member of the provisional council of the Nation, Mitch Case, presented the Pope a pair of red elk-hide moccasins featuring colourful Métis-style embroidery.

"These crimes against humanity were committed against our people. [The moccasins are] sort of our way of reaching back past the pain and before that," Case stated during a news conference. "The church has a long way to walk before we can possibly forgive them for what they did, but if [Pope Francis] is willing to walk with us then we will be willing to walk with him."

Additionally, the red hide on the moccasins represents that "even though Pope Francis does not wear the traditional red papal shoes, he walks with the legacy of those who came before him, the good, the great, and the terrible."

On March 25, 2022, 26 years after the closure of the last Canadian Residential School, the Pope issued a formal papal apology for the harm the Catholic Church inflicted on the Indigenous population. With 190 Indigenous leaders, residential school survivors, youth, elders and livestream viewers in attendance, the Pope announced that he was "deeply grieved" by the history of exploitation and discrimination members of the audience had shared during their week-long delegation.

"I also feel shame... sorrow and shame for the role that a number of Catholics, particularly those with educational responsibilities, have had in all these things that wounded you, and the abuses you suffered, and the lack of respect shown for your identity, your culture, and even your spiritual values," stated the Pope. "For the deplorable conduct of these members of the Catholic Church, I ask for God's forgiveness, and I want to say to you with all my heart, I am very sorry. And I join my brothers, the Canadian bishops, in asking your pardon."

These words from the Pope were enough to bring the elders and survivors of Residential Schools to tears, including Angie Crerar, who was a prevalent voice in their delegations. Crerar expressed that after the Pope's apology, her heart was "so full [she could] barely speak."

"Just take our kids home. Take those kids home." Crerar stated, referring to the Indigenous children who never returned home from Residential Schools. In the personal meetings the Pope had with Crerar throughout the week, he pledged to help her get justice for those children.

For the Grand Chief, Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), hearing the Pope apologize came as a surprise. "This was more than abuse by a few individuals," Chief Phillip stated "It was, in its entirety, a massive human rights violation and part of a systemic and institutionalized attempt to destroy our communities that left deep inter-generational emotional damage and harm that continues to date."

"I didn't expect an apology," he continued "I thought the Vatican would continue to just stonewall the apology... it represents a fundamental and first step along the path of genuine reconciliation."

Minutes prior to St. Peter's Square's celebrations, Rosalie LaBilloy, a New

Brunswick delegate, Eel River Bar First Nation, and Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council, stated that she did not take the Pope's papal apology as an apology at all.

"In that moment, it was nice to feel seen and acknowledged, but I think there has to be more actionable items behind words." She told Global News "I don't know if it means more, [the Pope] coming back to our homelands... being here is just not enough. This is not reflective of all of our communities, especially all of our young people."

Agreeing with LaBilloy, Frank Badger, a Residential School survivor, explained that he did not erupt into cheers when he heard about the Pope's speech on the news. He stated that it was wrong of the Pope to dismiss the trauma and pain of Indigenous peoples as the "fault of a few bad apples."

"That's not right. It was the [Roman Catholic] Church. It was the whole church," said Badger, who suffered discrimination and abuse at St. Michael's Residential School in Saskatoon.

In addition, the authors of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report and former Little Pine First Nation Chief, Wayne Semaganis agreed with Badger's argument, and stated that the problem was not what the Pope said, but instead what he omitted.

The Pope did not address any other issues Residential School Survivors had voiced. This includes paying Survivors full compensation, as experts reveal that the Catholic Church still owes the Indigenous community over \$60 million after signing the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement in 2006. Additionally, they discussed repatriating abusive priests and repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, which many are concerned is an excuse to validate colonialism.

The Indigenous delegates who were present at the Vatican say that they still await a more fulsome apology from the Pope when he is on Canadian territory. The Pope's trip to Canada is planned for the feast of St. Anne on July 26, 2022. A papal apology on Canadian land was one of the Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed that he is anticipating the Pope's visit to Canada and plans to present another apology. "Today's apology is a step forward in acknowledging the truth of our past in order to right historical wrongs, but there's still work to be done," he stated.

EDITORIAL

Time to Take Media Literacy Education Seriously

EDITORIAL

"WHEREAS it is the goal of a democratic society to ensure that all its members receive an education that enables them to become literate, personally fulfilled and publicly useful, thereby increasing the strength and contributions to the health and stability of that society;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable all learners to become literate, develop their individual potential, and acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy;"

Those two paragraphs from the preamble to the School Act, the massive provincial statute that outlines the framework for public education in British Columbia.

With the rise of digital news platforms – social media, websites, email newsletters – it is no surprise that Canadians are increasingly relying on the internet for daily news. In fact, a study by the Pew Research

Center found that 42 per cent of Canadians get their news through social media, with 27 per cent checking several times a day. In that study (which surveyed 38 nations), Canada ranked 2nd among "advanced countries" in social media use for news acquisition.

Within students, this trend is no doubt even more pronounced. Our generation is glued to our phones, earning the moniker "screenagers" from older folk. A scroll through Instagram stories brings a barrage of reposts – breaking news headlines, social justice-related infographics – all up for just 24 hours! Reload a day later and be bombarded with a new crop of coloured graphics and catchy photographs.

The constant output of information from social media calls into question its credibility. Users are often quick to repost or share content that they see without properly assessing the legitimacy of the information. A study conducted by the Canadian Journalism Foundation suggested that misinformation circulates six times as fast as the truth and that 90 per cent of Canadians admit to falling for fake news.

BC's new curriculum emphasizes,

among other things, critical thinking skills. In a post-truth era, (post-truth is a term thrown around a lot; it's defined in the Cambridge English Dictionary as "relating to a situation in which people are more likely to accept an argument based on their emotions and beliefs, rather than one based on facts"), educators must address the threat to democracy posed by media illiteracy.

Education officials local and provincial must heavily promote the integration of media literacy in schools. MediaSmarts and dozens of other journalism or educational organizations have classroom resources available for all Social Studies teachers, who can implement coursework that aligns perfectly with the core competencies sought by BC's robust curriculum.

Every student should leave high school with a strong understanding of how to read, interpret, and understand the news in a way that leaves them well-positioned to obtain the truth. It's time we take media literacy seriously, as neglecting it threatens the foundation of Canadian democracy and fails the guidance offered in the School Act.

Thames Valley District School Board: A Case Study for the VSB

EDITORIAL

If trustees were expecting a status quo meeting at the Thames Valley District School Board meeting on April 26, they were in for a surprise. The mayor of Zorra township, Marcus Ryan, delivered a stunning rebuke of the leadership, or the lack thereof, delivered by the trustees.

"I'm not entirely sure if I should ask the trustees or the director. Who is, in fact, in charge here? Who makes the decisions of how one billion dollars of our tax dollars is spent on our children's education? The board passes resolutions, but then the senior administration appears to do whatever they want," he said.

He was then called out on a point of order by the chair for being disrespectful.

"Mayor Ryan, we have to be respectful to the assembly," Board Chair Lori-Ann Pizzolato told the mayor. "Everything has to be positive. We're trying to teach children positivity, so let's be positive," Pizzolato stated.

Multiple times he asked for clarification on what was disrespectful about his statements, but no trustee answered his question. A point of order was then called on the previous point of order, where trustee Corrine Rahman defended the Board's work over the past few years, supposedly because COVID makes their jobs harder. "We're all trying our best," she said.

Ryan was visibly distressed by the unwillingness by the Board to listen to feedback. "If pointing out deficiencies in governance is disrespectful and unacceptable, then I don't understand how I could

possibly give you a delegation on governance; and frankly, I don't understand how any governing institution can ever hope to get better if they're unwilling to accept even the slightest criticism of how they function." He went on: "are the egos in this room that fragile that a little bit of sarcasm is not acceptable?"

At one point, the board parliamentarian explicitly laid out that "argumentativeness and criticism are not allowed in any form in the boardroom."

The mayor continued with his speech, decrying the mixed messages that members of the community received from the district. In one example that he brought up, the district's Senior Management sent out communication to parents that "undermined" the decisions and messages sent out by the Board.

"This is nothing but a charade and a sham," he stated before storming out.

This board meeting could very well be a case study for what the Vancouver School Board might become.

It is the fundamental aim of our elected officials to keep in check the decisions of the District management, yet time and time again, our trustees don't question their staffs' information.

Not often enough do trustees take a critical look at what management shows them. The district staff essentially has free reign and little oversight to implement whatever they see fit.

The Mayor of the Zorra Township put

it well when he questioned who was in charge. Is it the people we elect to represent us, or is it the bureaucracy of the district management?

Beyond the lack of proper oversight by the trustees, the Vancouver School Board struggles to take feedback and criticism from parents, teachers, and students. This has been especially true during the MACC revisioning campaign and the Queen Elizabeth Annex closure consideration.

Even in the instance of Special Delegations, when members of the community present to the Board, there is minimal engagement from the trustees, if any at all.

They all follow a similar formula – it is quite simple, really. The delegation begins. The presenter speaks, usually accompanied by media such as a slide deck or photographs. Their five minute period of time expires. They are met with silence. They are thanked for speaking.

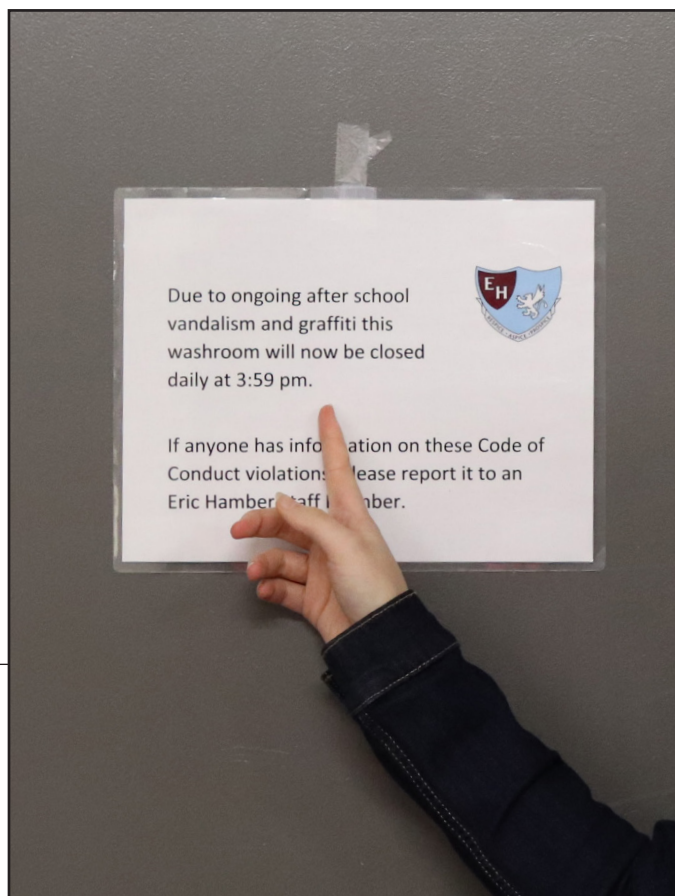
The consistent lack of questions posed by trustees, both to management and community members championing a cause, is troubling and demonstrates either a lack of critical thinking or a lack of care.

We will give you a hint: neither are good of elected officials in a democracy.

WATCH HERE:



EDITORIAL



Washrooms are a Necessity, Not to Mention a Human Right

EDITORIAL

In response to the recurring acts of vandalism at Eric Hamber Secondary School, two of three boys' washrooms have been deemed 'out of order,' and the remaining bathrooms now close at 3:59 PM.

Keeping washrooms in a perpetual inoperative state is a reactive, impractical long-term solution to callous vandalism that fails the proportionality test in the administration of fairness for all students. Protecting facilities at the expense those facilities use doesn't promote a rights-based approach to access to washrooms.

Washroom vandalism isn't an issue specific to Eric Hamber. In fact, over the course of the 2021-2022 school year, it's been a challenge in secondary schools across both the United States and Canada.

A TikTok trend called "devious licks" encouraged high school students to vandalize and steal items from washrooms in their schools.

Many school districts in British Columbia, such as the Chilliwack School District and the North Vancouver School District, have seen a large rise in vandalism and theft from their washrooms over the past six months.

Vandalism is no doubt a costly irritation that stretches already stretched public education resources. In theory, provincial law address the issue of vandalism in schools, with section 10 of

the School Act stating: "If property of a board...is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act of a student..., that student and that student's parents are jointly and severally liable to the board...in respect of the act of that student." In actuality, identifying the individuals behind washroom vandalism isn't easy, nor is the costly legal enforcement of section 10.

The Vancouver School Board's policy on vandalism urges "every citizen, staff member, student, and law enforcement officer to co-operate in reporting any incident of vandalism and the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible. The resources of our entire community are needed to combat the problem of vandalism against public property."

But regardless of the extent of damage caused to washrooms, access to sanitation and hygiene facilities is a basic human right. It should not be quelled due to an overzealous want to maintain order.

Keeping only one accessible and functioning washroom does not sufficiently meet that fundamental right for approximately 700 of Eric Hamber's students.

In a February 2022 article in Phi Delta Kappan, an American professional magazine on K-12 education, Campbell F. Scribner, an assistant professor of education at the University of Maryland, took on the issue of washroom vandalism from a scholarly perspective.

"The fact is that children have been

wreaking havoc in school bathrooms for well over 150 years," Campbell writes, "and educators have always struggled to respond effectively."

But despite the damages left by acts of vandalism, Campbell says that any response needs to consider the general student body's interest in freedom and access.

"School buildings must permit young people some measure of freedom, even at the cost of some wrongdoing. Rather than succumbing to panic, valuing property over people, or subjecting students to unsparing scrutiny, schools must provide spaces for their autonomy. Strange as it may sound, bathroom maintenance is both a test and a testament of our faith in the future."

As for the issue of identifying actual solutions, Campbell's analysis is helpful insofar as instructing educators what not to pursue. But in the interest of offering student input, here are some suggestions on how to combat vandalism:

(1) Specifically, communicate to every student the harm caused by vandalism to schools;

(2) Engage Student Council;

(3) Encourage the implementation of the Vancouver School Board's policy on vandalism, which states that the preservation of school property is a community responsibility that requires the cooperation of staff and students in the administration of justice; and

(4) Introduce clear, stern consequences for vandalism.

INTERNATIONAL

Russian Invasion of Ukraine, Two Months On

NEWS REPORT by Simone Hamilton (11)

Russian forces invaded Ukraine February 24, 2022. Two months later approximately 13 million people have been displaced from their homes. There have been 46,000 casualties, 12,000 non-fatal injuries, and over half a trillion US dollars in damage, according to Reuters.

Russia's initial goal of invading the capital, Kyiv, was thought to be an easy target for one of the largest armies in the world. However, with some resource and troop underestimation from the Russian side and with some strategic air defense and road cutoffs by the Ukrainian army, Ukraine managed to start to push them out of the region by March 25. Russia now says it will be focussing on separatist territory in eastern Ukraine, the Donbas region.

Kyiv, the capital city of Ukraine has been a high level Russian target for the entirety of the war. It continues to experience bombing and air missiles.

The city of three million and its surrounding areas suffered Russian attacks for more than a month.

Ukraine forces fully gained control of the region by April 2. However, the retreating Russians left a trail of destruction and casualties.

Bucha, a suburb of Kyiv was occupied by Russian forces until March 31. They had control over the region for almost a month, and are accused of committing war crimes during the occupation. These accusations arose from many testimonies coming out of the city. The accusations included a local Ukrainian morgue having to dig a mass grave with a tractor, because burying the shelling victims individually was getting logistically impossible, as told to *CNN* reporters.

Journalists from *CNN* were shown five men dead in a basement with their hands and kneecaps bound, by Ukrainian officials. The officials say that these men had been shot multiple times and claim it was an execution. Russian made trenches and foxholes were reported found nearby. Russian



SERHII NUZHNEKO/AP

authorities have disputed these claims as false and orchestrated.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of committing war crimes in the country. Other world leaders, especially western powers, have been quick to denounce Russia's actions in the country, even going as far to call it genocide.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters at a press conference in Laval, Quebec on April 13, that he thinks it's "absolutely right" to start to use the word genocide to describe Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Trudeau's comment came with a question about a statement US President Joe Biden made at a news conference in Iowa on April 12, when asked about gas prices.

"Your family budget, your ability to fill up your tank, none of it should hinge on whether a dictator declares war and commits genocide a half a world away," said Biden, later clarifying that his use of the word was not a legal declaration.

Genocide is a legally-charged word,

and refers to the action of purposely exterminating a group because of their shared identity factors. The word genocide was first coined by lawyer Raphael Lemkin in 1944, where he used it to describe the then unexplainable crimes of the Holocaust. With the lobbying of Lemkin and others' the United Nations approved the introduction of the crime into international law through the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

Other leaders including President Zelenskyy and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnston have also used the word genocide to describe the actions of Russia in Ukraine.

In response to news surrounding alleged atrocities in Ukraine, Canada has sent ten special Royal Canadian Mounted Police ("RCMP") investigating officers to assist the International Criminal Court prosecutor on the investigation of Russia's war crimes in Ukraine.

The RCMP will also be apparently launching their own investigation

against Russia under the Canadian Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act. They say they will be looking to prevent perpetrators of war crimes from entering Canada, as well as prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes residing in Canada.

The port city of Mariupol has been the location of a fierce battle, as it is a strategic location for both sides because of its proximity to the Sea of Azov. Gaining Mariupol would mean Russia would have access to the Donbas region from the illegally annexed peninsula of Crimea. Ukrainian troops have said they still have control over the Azovstal iron and steel works industrial complex, where about 1000 civilians are taking shelter inside the previous steelworks plant, Myhailo Vershynin, chief of the Mariupol patrol police, told *CNN*.

The city has been surrounded by Russian forces since March 1, but Ukrainian troops left in the city are still defending it, Vershynin claims. Ukrainian troops have rejected the

surrender deadline demands, Vershynin told *CNN* through text and audio messaging.

Lyiv, a western city in Ukraine, had only felt sporadic attacks and was seen as a safer place within the country for refugees fleeing Russian-controlled areas, as well as a point of access for foreign soldiers and NATO weaponry. The closest major city to Poland, a NATO country, suffered its largest air-missile strike on Easter weekend. At least four air missile strikes occurred with the death toll rising by seven as a result.

This has come with increased Russian military pressure across the country. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the battle for Donbas has begun, in a video address on April 18.

Several southeastern Ukrainian cities and regions are under Russian military control as Ukraine regains control over northern territory. Melitopol, Donetsk, and Luhansk are among them.

Chinese-Taiwan Relations Post Russian Invasion of Ukraine

ANALYSIS by Max Von Dehn (10)

On the 24th of February, Russia instigated its invasion of Ukraine. The Russia-Ukraine dynamic is often compared to the China-Taiwan relationship, and not without reason. On the surface, both look quite similar, with a larger country seeking to take back control of a part of a former unified country. For Russia, their motivation to invade came from their fear of a western leaning Ukraine. However China and Taiwan's situation is more complex.

While Ukraine is widely recognized as a sovereign state, only about 15 countries that officially recognize Taiwan, also known as the Republic of China (ROC); with none of the major western powers formally acknowledging its existence. China, or the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC), under their One China Principle, want Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong, and the mainland to be part of one, united China with the PRC in control. With the Russian ideology of uniting the former Soviet Union mirroring the dynamic between China and Taiwan, the world has begun to watch how the conflict may affect the relationship between The People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

Taiwan might see itself as a sovereign country, with its own central government, passports, constitution, and its residents identifying as Taiwanese, but the PRC, and the 'rest of the world' doesn't officially see it this way, at least not openly. Many countries have trade relationships with Taiwan, including the United States, who have even established an "American Institute in Taiwan", which is similar to an embassy. Despite this countries cannot fully admit Taiwan's existence due to China's

strong economic ties.

Originally, Taiwan was a part of China, but in 1895 it was lost to Japan in the first Sino-Japanese war. It wasn't until the aftermath of World War Two that China would regain control of Taiwan, when the territory was ceded back to China by Japan. However, things remained conflicted. Following the Chinese Civil War, the ruling party at the time, the Kuomintang (KMT) was ousted from the mainland, taking residence on Taiwan. This led to a democratic Taiwan developing independently from the PRC's Communist China, leaving China fractured. After that, a period of stasis was achieved when both areas developed along their own lines until the early 1990s.

However, in the 1990s, China and Taiwan made efforts to improve cross-strait relations. In 1992, Taiwan and China created a consensus, later called the 1992 Consensus, which would form the basis for modern relations between China and Taiwan. However, neither side can agree on the interpretation of the agreement. China viewed it as an agreement to reunify both sides; part of the "one country, two systems" philosophy. Taiwan viewed it as a commitment to one China, with Taiwan as the true seat of power in China.

However, the Consensus has started to represent the change with



in Taiwan's politics. The KMT, the original ruling party of Taiwan, who support the Consensus, and are seen as more "pro-China" were defeated in both recent elections. The party that beat them, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) strongly favours Taiwanese independence and identity. They also have firmly stated that they never agreed to the Consensus, which has pushed Taiwan further away from China. China has only helped the separation, with policies targeted to harm Taiwan.

With the crackdown on rights in Hong Kong as well, Taiwan has continued to separate itself from China. Still, despite Taiwan's growing independence, China has strong-armed much of the world from acknowledging Taiwan as anything more than a break-away province.

Currently, Taiwan is in a far more precarious situation than ever. Despite their US supplied army, China's threat is ever present. While the scenes of citizens defending their cities in Ukraine have bolstered efforts to prepare for a Chinese invasion in Taiwan, both Taiwan and China have learned important lessons from Russia's invasion. The most important amongst these being that a country's allies might supply them, but they won't fight for them. While western powers supplied Ukraine, and imposed sanctions on Russia, they weren't willing to engage Russia in outright combat.

This idea has only continued to worry Taiwan, and their 169,000 active military personnel, who are vastly outnumbered by China's strength of over 2 million military personnel. Without military support, Taiwan would need to mobilize its civilian population to even have a chance if China did invade.



Currently, Taiwan is in a far more precarious situation than ever.

Taiwan is not blind to this, releasing its first ever civil defense handbook, in the advent of a Chinese invasion. The book prepares the Taiwanese public on how to react to a possible military crisis, the government making the possibility ever more clear.

Although China may be waiting for the outcome of the Russia's invasion, Taiwan is far from the same position as Ukraine. Not only is the world far more dependent on China than Russia, meaning sanctions may hurt the world just as it would hurt China, but Taiwan lacks the support on the global stage that Ukraine has. Even the United States, one of Taiwan's closest allies, may not outright support Taiwan in the event of an invasion.

While China's strategy on Taiwan may not have changed as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, they now have a far better understanding on how the world reacts to such an event. The invasion may prove to be the tipping point for China-Taiwan relations, however the effects might not be seen for a while.

At the very least, Russia's invasion is a learning experience for Taiwan and China, both on how to invade a country and the political ramifications.

The most important factor in the invasion of Ukraine is how it will end. This ultimately might have the largest effect on China's future with Taiwan, as it will show truly the commitment the rest of the world has to peace. If there is one thing that the rest of the world should have learned from Russia's invasion, it is that these events can happen.

However, an invasion of Taiwan would mean just as much for the world as it would mean for Taiwan. Not only is Taiwan a critical supplier of semiconductors, an item that is in short supply, but an invasion of another prominent sovereign country would set a dangerous precedent for the world. Russia's invasion has only shown the world how little control it has over bad actors on the global stage. Should China decide to move on Taiwan, it could mean a dark era for global peace.

INTERNATIONAL

Around the World: Two Years Post the Onset of the Pandemic



GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWS REPORT by Jeffrey Chan (9)

COVID-19 has repeatedly surged back into prevalence worldwide, despite countries working tirelessly to contain it.

Since the end of March, Shanghai has been under immense pressure due to the massive COVID outbreak within the metropolitan area. The Chinese government put the entire city in lockdown, providing a 'zero-tolerance' approach to combating the virus. For two weeks, starting on March 28, the citizens of Shanghai were confined to their homes, fully reliant on the government to provide them with food and necessities. Gu Honghui, the director of the city's working group on epidemic control, called the situation "extremely grim," with the Chinese government sending more than 10,000 health workers to aid the situation in Shanghai.

More recent updates from the city show that Shanghai has eased some of its restrictions, with a portion of residents now permitted to leave their homes. According to the online news outlet The Paper, citing city officials, there are approximately 6.6 million citizens allowed to go outdoors. The Chinese government has also stated at a news conference that some pharmacies and supermarkets would be reopened. Health officials, however, are warning the city that they do not have the virus under control yet.

Despite the authoritarian structure China has implanted to keep COVID at bay, the virus has still managed to infect the citizens. Chinese authorities and the government imposed an increasing number of lockdowns in 2021, with the emergence of the Delta variant. The model held strong in the face of the Delta variant, but now, the Omicron variant has swept across the country, infecting previously untouched places such as Hong Kong. The city

has had almost 30,000 COVID cases and 200 deaths a day, with healthcare systems being wholly overwhelmed by the surge of cases.

On the flip side, South Korea has taken a very different approach to dealing with the virus. In spite of the fact that in March, there was a peak of 621,328 COVID infections in a single day, the country kept a lackadaisical attitude towards the virus. Majority of the adult population in South Korea are vaccinated, with almost all elderly having received a booster shot; the country moved forward with easing social distancing measures and restrictions. The citizens of South Korea have divided opinions regarding these decisions. "Everyone used to be hush-hush about getting infected, like you were causing a nuisance / The perception is it's like getting a cold," said Lee Soo-won, a bartender who owns two cocktail bars in central Seoul, in an interview conducted by the New York Times. Kim Jin-ah, 28, a Seoul resident who works at a department store, expressed her concern over the measures being dropped. "I worry that things might devolve into a situation that feels like a disaster movie."

In Europe, the state of COVID is not much better. The Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s travel warning list has recently been overhauled, with many European nations being placed on Level 3—high risk. Some of the most popular tourist destinations, such as France, Germany and Greece, have had strong advisories against visitations. However, the EU on April 27 declared an end to the state-of-emergency. Many European countries have shifted their view of COVID-19, labelling it as an "endemic" rather than a "pandemic"; the Spanish Prime Minister declaring in an interview back in January that COVID-19 should be addressed as a flu. Italy had ceased the state-of-emergency on March 31, and Sweden had ended their mass testing program, along with the lifting of restrictions back in February. Stella Kyriakides expressed her concerns in a speech at a press conference conducted on April 27, saying "The risk that the situation can change quickly with a new variant is real," about the Omicron variant in regards to

its potential effects on Europe. During that speech, Kyriakides gave the public a glimpse into a novel plan for next-generation vaccines that intend to protect against all variants and for them to be long-lasting.

Along with many other British citizens, Queen Elizabeth II herself battled with a recent bout of COVID-19. Her positive result was announced on April 11 through a virtual interview, and has now since recovered. The restrictions in place, however, have been mild, with masks only being mandated in healthcare settings.

Similar to most of Europe, Canada has also been deemed unsafe as a travel destination by the CDC. The most recent weekly report of April 10 to 16 issued by the Manitoba public health details the situation in Manitoba. Hospitalizations due to COVID have been trending upwards. The whole of Canada has been facing a resurgence in infections, but according to Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam, was not unexpected given the easing of restrictions. Despite this, the federal health agency claims that COVID in Canada is "expected to be manageable for health systems without the needs for restrictive public health measures."

The United States has gone with a unique approach to handling the virus within its borders. There have been plans from the Center of Disease Control to administer fourth vaccine shots for the broader population. However, in a 5-hour meeting held on April 20, the CDC's panel of vaccine experts stated that repeatedly deploying booster shots to prevent infections was not realistically attainable with the current generation of vaccines, and refused to endorse a fourth round of COVID shots. All the while restrictions and mask mandates are being retracted. Many American airlines, including Delta Airlines, United Airlines, Alaska Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and more have eliminated the mask mandates within the planes. School districts as well; the Los Angeles school district dropping the mandate, while saying that masks are still "strongly recommended." The rest of the country soon followed suit, and masks are no longer mandatory in almost every state.

Closest South Korean Election in History; Yoon Suk-Yeol Victorious

NEWS REPORT by Suhani Dosanjh (8)



KIM HONG-JI/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES (FROM NPR)

On March 9, 2022, in the closest election in South Korean history, Yoon Suk-Yeol, the presidential candidate of the People Power Party, was elected as the President for the next five years.

The People Power Party is the main conservative party in South Korea, with its primary rival being the Democratic Party of Korea.

With the current issues that are present in South Korea, including government corruption, gender inequality, unaffordable housing, and COVID-19, this election was especially important. Yoon Suk-Yeol will certainly have his hands full addressing all of these problems and more when he officially enters office on May 10, 2022.

Yoon Suk-Yeol had been in a neck-to-neck race with Lee Jae-Myung of the Democratic Party. The election turned out to be highly contentious, with Yoon only winning by 247,077 votes, a margin of less than one per cent.

The election had been riddled with scandals and misconduct, as both opponents had desperately tried to gain the upperhand. As a result, Yoon Suk-Yeol and Lee Jae-Myung were both seen as unlikable throughout the campaign. Even still, 77 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots.

Their beliefs clashed in several areas, with one example being their opinions on who should be given cash handouts due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Lee Jae-Myung wanted to offer cash handouts to all citizens of South Korea, while Yoon only wanted to provide them for people who were specifically badly affected due to the pandemic.

However, a few of the candidates' campaign promises were quite similar, such as their real estate policy plans, and their shared desire to develop a strong relationship between the United States and South Korea.

Yoon Suk-Yeol notably used his anti-feminism opinions to win the votes of young men who support the preservation of a patriarchal society. Currently, a significant portion of men in South Korea are opposed to feminism and believe that women have been given too many rights. According to a 2018 report from the Korean Women's Development Institute, 55 per cent of young men oppose the #MeToo movement.

To appeal to this voting bloc, Yoon pledged to abolish the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, which he claimed was being unfair to men. He also promised to raise the penalty for falsely reporting sex crimes. Although his opponent, Lee Jae-Myung, had also agreed that discrimination against men was bad, the Democratic Party leader had tried to appeal more to the young feminists of South Korea. Lee did this by promising to close the gender wage gap.

As a part of Yoon Suk Yeol's campaign, he also claimed that if elected, he would readjust South Korea's Relations with China and North Korea, and strengthen the country's ties to the United States.

Yoon Suk-Yeol stated in his victory speech that, "Our competition is over for now... We have to join hands and unite into one for the people and the country."

Cryptocurrency, NFTs, and the Environment

NEWS REPORT by Mackenzie Chung (10)

If you've been online in the past few years, you've probably noticed an increase in the phrases 'NFT' or 'cryptocurrency.' Among the general public, it's not very clear what these terms actually mean without diving down the deep rabbit-hole of forums and large thesaurus-requiring articles on the topic. So, here's a simplified outline of what those terms mean and how they're used.

At its core, **cryptocurrency** is a form of currency that is decentralised and built on encrypted code. The value of a cryptocurrency is determined by the demand and participation from online users into their investments in the specific currency. Since they aren't widely accepted as valid forms of transactions for regular goods, most uses for the assets are through stock market investments.

There are two ways in which someone can earn more cryptocurrency after an initial investment, both requiring the usage of something called a blockchain. A blockchain is a record that contains transactions of that specific cryptocurrency. These must be verified with proof before they are added to a blockchain, and verifying transactions is also how users increase their cryptocurrency amount. This can be done using proof of work or proof of stake.

Proof of work is a process in which users will get their computer to participate in a mathematical competition. Computers will get added to a blockchain where an algorithm will come up

with a maths problem that the computers race to solve. Whichever computer solves the problem first is then given a small amount of cryptocurrency in return.

This process requires an astronomical amount of electricity to run computers, meaning that winning competitions may not even gain anything compared to the amount of money one is spending on running the system.

Proof of stake is the other option which uses significantly less power. With this method, one determines how many transactions they can verify by the amount of cryptocurrency they're willing to put forth at "stake".

This guarantees that everyone who stakes cryptocurrency is going to be able to verify transactions, but putting forth larger amounts often means you will be chosen to do so more. If a stake owner is given a group of transactions to verify and they deem it valid, they will be given more cryptocurrency in return. However, in order to prevent fraudulent verifications, if a transaction turns out to be invalid, they must give back in return a part of what they originally put forth.

In any case of verifying transactions, each will be checked by multiple users in order to find a general consensus. If a transaction is verified by a majority, it will be officially considered a non-fraudulent one.

As of now, crypto can be considered an unstable form of currency because of its drastic fluctuations in value. According to CNBC, during April of 2021, the price of Bitcoin had more than doubled from where it started in the beginning

of the year, however all of that gain had been lost by July only 3 months later. Then Bitcoin almost doubled in value again in November, and then dropped by a third of its value at the end of 2021.

Investing in a cryptocurrency can be extremely lucrative if you time your transactions right, but it can also become detrimental to your bank account just as quickly.

NFTs are similar to cryptocurrency in the regard that they are digital and hold value, however, this is where the main similarities between the two end. Standing for "Non-Fungible-Token", NFTs explain in their name how they differ from a crypto, like Bitcoin.

Fungible, by definition, describes something that can be exchanged with another item retaining the same value. Dogecoin, Bitcoin, and even the Canadian Dollar are considered types of fungible currency because while the value of a single unit may increase or decrease, it will always be equal to another of the same currency (\$1CAD will always be exchangeable with another \$1CAD). Therefore, the 'non-fungible' portion of NFT stands for the fact that every individual NFT has a different value and cannot necessarily be exchanged with another just because they both are NFTs, mainly due to the fact that each one is usually an individual piece of art.

NFTs operate similarly to real-life collectible items like Pokemon cards or limited edition coins, with the exception that their existence is purely digital. This is the focal point for a lot of confusion surrounding NFTs, since it seems impossible to claim that one person "owns" an image. But using algorithms that require equally as impossible levels of password protection, only the people/person who buys the NFT will show to be the owner of the asset. So while anyone can have a screenshot of it, data will show that only a select amount of

people truly own it. It's just like how anyone can have a painting of "The Starry Night" on their wall, but that doesn't mean they own the real painting.

Environmental Impact:

Besides their fluctuating values that the long-term-life of both cryptocurrency and NFTs are uncertain wwwwww due to their environmental impact. As mentioned before, both of these assets require tons of electricity to run. Transactions that are run using blockchains, which works as a brute force strategy, require a lot of power. And in a society where the majority of energy production stems from use of fossil fuels, which are depleting at an alarming rate, the usage of these resources on cryptocurrencies is questionable. According to an article by Forbes, the daily carbon footprint of Bitcoin alone is the same amount of electricity that the average North American household uses over the course of 3 and a half weeks.

This is why researchers are looking into finding ways to make cryptocurrency and NFTs more sustainable, and the most impactful way seems to be by reinventing the blockchain system that is currently used. Suzanne Köhler, a technology researcher at Aalborg University in Denmark, offered one plausible short term solution for increasing sustainability. She suggests that not every transaction needs to simultaneously be on the blockchain. Auctions could be implemented into a held-off chain then be resubmitted to the blockchain in batches, meaning that the amount of transactions per blockchain would decrease exponentially. However, this solution is not foolproof, and leads to the competition that blockchains rely on decreasing. In order to ensure that carbon emissions from cryptocurrency and NFTs are decreased, further research needs to be conducted at a fast rate.

INTERNATIONAL

“If we allow trans women to compete, we have to allow them to win, too” The Fight for Trans Athletes in Sport



RICH VON BIBERSTEIN/AP

ANALYSIS by Ruby Ellermann (9)

“[Transgender youth] don’t have to choose between who they are and the sport they love,” expressed trans swimmer Lia Thomas in an interview in early March with *Sports Illustrated*. However, analysts reveal that not everyone agrees with this statement when it comes to professional sports.

In 2019, Thomas began medically transitioning, taking testosterone blockers and estrogen required to legally participate on women’s teams, reported the *New York Times*. However, despite her treatment effectively suppressing her ability to swim, she has still risen to the top in competitions. In March she claimed the title of the first openly transgender woman to have won a National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”) competition.

In the world of competitive swimming, each second is a rare advantage, so having reached the end goal nearly two seconds before the runner-up was a significant success for Thomas.

News organizations worldwide reveal that due to her growing success, Thomas has been tossed in the line of fire between broadly right-wing opposers and democratic supporters of transgender rights. While the former argues that trans athletes have an unfair advantage in sports, the latter counters that it would be discriminatory to exclude them from the opportunity to find success, and that anti-trans bills centre around transphobia rather than medical reasoning.

In addition, opposers believe these bills have been enacted to score political points. Specifically, through claiming these actions protect youth, reported the *NBC*. Don Haider-Markel, political science professor at the University of Kansas commented, “Who doesn’t want to protect children?”

As noted by news outlets, another claim coming from right-wing supporters of anti-trans laws is that banning transgender athletes protects women’s rights. The World Athletics president recently expressed that “gender cannot trump biology,” while UK member of parliament Sebastien Coe has emphasised how trans athletes can not be allowed to compete if we want to maintain the “integrity and future of women’s sport.”

As well, Coe informed the *Daily Telegraph* how if he “wasn’t satisfied with the science that we have and the experts that have been working on this for a long time, this would be a very different landscape.”

However, when it comes to science, there is not enough “consistent research” revealed the National Library of Medicine. Amy Wilson, the NCAA’s managing director of inclusion communicated how there is no clear answer when it comes to how big of an upper hand transgender athletes have at Thomas’ level. This is primarily due to how few transgender men and women find themselves among the 500,000 NCAA athletes.

On March 25 the Utah State Legislature voted a bill into law that will, as of July 1, prevent transgender youth from participating in girls’ sports. The

bill, titled H.B. II, has received relentless opposition, as reported by the *New York Times*. Along with this disapproval came a letter from Republican Governor Spencer Cox whose words rang true of Wilson’s statement. Cox ended his letter with a strong message: “Four [transgender high school] kids [within the state] and only one of them playing girls sports. That’s what all of this is about.”

As well, Cox emphasised the negative impact the bill would have on mental health, with 56 per cent of Utah’s transgender youth having attempted suicide in response to trans oppression.

In addition to the few number of transgender people participating in sports, experts have pointed out that the advantages transgender women such as Lia Thomas may have depend on which sport they play. Dr. James Barrett, the director of the Adult Gender Identity Clinic in Londo referred to the fact that “heavier musculature” may prove to let them down, while in sports such as swimming, height, as well as larger hands and feet may serve as leverage.

Yet, there are some opposers who believe bodies should play no role in who is authorised to compete. “At what point is a woman too tall or her hands too big? At what point is a woman not woman enough?” expressed Lee Cowan, the *CBS National Correspondent*.

While many sources have confirmed the lack of consistent research, there is one piece of scientific evidence that shows how futile transgender athlete bans are in younger grades. The *New York Times* emphasised in an article that girls and boys hold fairly the same athletic ability till they reach puberty, confirming that having transgender athletes compete in elementary sports is no different than cis athletes.

“Sports is my life,” expressed 14 year-old Kris Wilka in an interview with the Human Rights Campaign. Being a transgender boy, Kris was banned from playing football at his school in South Dakota. “It wasn’t really until sports that I could be myself, because I could just be one of the dudes” he shared.

However, when it comes to young students, some state governors feel

that decisions involving gender “should be made when an individual reaches adulthood,” as expressed by Arizona Gov. Douglas A. Ducey. More specifically, when it comes to medical alterations.

In response to such arguments, Nikita Shepard, a PhD candidate in the History Department at Columbia University expressed on the *ACLU’s At Liberty* podcast that “...children need less protection and more empowerment,” and, “...if we’re giving parents more rights and more power to wield, it doesn’t keep their children safer.” She then went to discuss how not giving children control of their bodies directly results in STIs, unplanned pregnancies, sexual violence, poor self-esteem, and isolation.

When it comes to elite level sports, a 2014 study funded by the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) and the World Anti-Doping Agency show that there is little point in classifying athletes as male or female based on testosterone due to how varying these levels can be for women.

However, analysts suggest that many republican governors and senators from US states appear to find this little reassurance that bans should not be implemented. Utah was not the first state to have enacted trans athlete bills. News outlets have reported that Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana and West Virginia have also enacted similar policies.

On April 7, Louisiana legislation unanimously approved a law that, similar to Utah’s would prevent transgender college and K-12 students from participating in sports teams. Toronto City News reported that opponents have used this as evidence to prove that these bills are illogical and discriminatory, as there are no openly transgender athletes currently competing in Louisiana.

Another piece of proof harnessed by opposers is that states such as Texas and Alabama have additionally been banning transgender boys from sports teams. However, if supporters of the bans argue they serve to protect wom-

en’s rights, one wonders what banning transgender boys has to do with it, remarked *Sports Illustrated*.

The NCAA has recently announced a new arrangement that requires trans athletes to provide documentation of testosterone levels four weeks before competing. Before March, a year of testosterone suppressions was required, reported *CBC*.

On the other hand, according to *CNN*, USA Swimming has recently enacted a policy that requires elite transgender athletes to suppress testosterone levels for the longest period yet — 36 months before competition. For World Athletics this period is only 12 months, reported the *Guardian*.

Joanna Harper, a medical physicist with a master’s degree in physics working in a medical centre in Portland, Oregon, feels from her own experience as a trans athlete that rules and measures do need to be put in place to allow fair play. However, as expressed in an interview with the *New York Times*, she feels that USA Swimming’s rules have been exaggerated to target Lia Thomas due to her growing success. “If we allow trans women to compete, we have to allow them to win, too.”

Transgender athlete bans have mostly been centered in the US, and, from what they have been observing, experts do not expect them to make their way into Canada. Softball Canada does not require transgender players to reveal their transgender identity in order to participate. As well, the IOC has made its policy more inclusive of trans athletes, while the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport has encouraged similar behaviour.

...the IOC has made its policy more inclusive...

While Canada has not been hit by the bans, experts agree that we can expect to see more surfacing this year in the US, due to the record number of 191 anti-LGBTQ bills proposed in 2021.

NEWS REPORT by Mia Boguslavsky (10)

Who is Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy?

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has turned Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy into a wartime leader on the world stage. But just a few years ago, he was a comedian and actor who was playing the President on TV.

Volodymyr Oleksandrovich Zelenskyy was born on January 25, 1978, to Jewish parents in the former Soviet Union. He lived in the town he was born in, Kryvyi Rih.

He studied Law at the Kryvyi Rih Economic Institute and acquired his degree in 2000. Although his studies focused centrally on law and politics, acting was his passion for many years. After winning a major comedy show competition, called the KVN, Zelenskyy co-founded Kvar-95, an entertainment group.

For the next five years, Kvar-95 performed in the Major League and Ukrainian open KVN shows. After their touring success, the group began producing shows for a Ukrainian television channel. Following that, Zelenskyy began taking many solo roles separate from his teams, such as *Love in the Big City* and its sequels, *Love in the*

Big City 2 & 3. He starred in 8 *First Dates* and voiced the bear Paddington in the Ukrainian dubbed version in 2014, reprising the role in 2017.

Around the same time, the Ukrainian political climate was getting agitated. In the middle of the 2010s, reaching a peak when President Viktor Yanukovich’s government was dissolved in 2014, and billionaire Petro Poroshenko took his place, reported by *Britannica*.

Concurrently, Zelenskyy starred in a television show about politics, *Servant of the People*, which featured a history teacher who rose to internet fame after giving a speech about political corruption, and has a 7.3/10 rating on *IMDB*. In spring of 2022, Netflix released the first season to be available for Canadian streamers.

Talking about the show, Zelenskyy said: “Although people weren’t very interested in politics at the time, we still somehow fantasised about and came up with the idea of a commoner becoming the head of state,” during an interview with *Cinema Escapist*.

Nevertheless, it became a massive hit across Ukraine and leading up to the 2019 election, Zelenskyy and Kvar-95 officially registered *Servant of the People* as a political party in Ukraine. Poroshenko’s popularity was quickly shrinking, as under his management the Ukrainian economy was stalling, a perfect opportunity for a new candidate to make his stand.

During his campaign, Zelenskyy used an unprecedented approach to marketing his platform and party: social media. By utilising sites such as Instagram and Youtube, Zelenskyy was able to target the younger generation, a technique that proved useful, as after the first round of votes he was leading with 30 per cent in his favour, in March of 2019. By April 21, he officially secured the title of President of Ukraine with an astounding 73 per cent of the total votes.

Zelenskyy’s inauguration speech was very popular, as it spoke of the president being no more special than any other

citizen: the reason many voted for him. It was a common belief that a disconnect between the people and their leader was hurting Ukraine’s economy and global status.

“After [my] victory in this election, my six-year-old son said, ‘Daddy, I was watching TV, they say Zelenskyy is the president. So it means I’m the president too, right?’ At the moment it sounded like a child’s joke. But later I understood that it was the truth, because every one of us is the president now. Not only 73 per cent of Ukrainians who voted for me— all 100 per cent. It’s not mine, it’s our common victory. And it’s our common chance for which we take shared responsibility,” Zelenskyy said after being sworn into office.

His two first years of presidency were eventful, with the Pandemic causing tension between himself and several Ukrainian mayors regarding restrictions. Many disagreed on how strict the policies should be, and whether masks and vaccines should be mandated. Mayors attempted to use the 2014 government reforms in their favour to promote autonomy within their communities so more lenient protocols could be issued, which further increased the strain between them and Zelenskyy.

Near the end of 2021, Russia stationed troops on the border, the southern side of Belarus, and the Black Sea, surrounding Ukraine. Western leaders negotiated with Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, and Zelenskyy, but to no seeming avail. In February of 2022, Russia launched a

series of attacks on Ukraine, with Ukraine losing control of several cities and citizens fleeing the country.

Zelenskyy, however, has remained in Ukraine and is considered the face of Ukrainian resistance against Russian forces. When accused of deserting Ukraine, Zelenskyy went out into the streets of central Kyiv, the epicentre of the fighting, and refused the United States’ offer for him to be removed from the danger zone.

“The fight is here. I need ammunition, not a ride,” he said, according to a US intelligence official with direct knowledge of the conversation.

Zelenskyy is currently still in Ukraine, dealing with the effects of war and doing his best to look after his citizens in the face of threat. An actor/comedian turned politician, Zelenskyy has shaped the face of Eastern Europe and the rest of the world significantly.



INTERNATIONAL

How Russia's Invasion Forced Germany to Rebuild its Energy Sector

ANALYSIS by Nigel Goto (10)

Germany has been making waves with its move to clean energy over the past few decades, setting an example to the world with its speedy transfer to a greener future. However, the sacrifices the country made to achieve clean energy have come at the price of self-reliance, an expense that has become apparent amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Shortly after the Fukushima Nuclear incident of 2011, the German public opinion shifted away from nuclear power, in fear of an incident of their own. Hearing of the public's demand, the German government laid a plan to phase out their nuclear energy source by 2022. In 2012, nuclear power contributed to a quarter of Germany's energy supply, according to the World Nuclear Association. However, taking out nuclear power meant that the energy had to come from somewhere else. Despite the large importance that rehauling the energy sector held, there were no plans to replace the energy that nuclear once accounted for.

Now nearly a decade since Germany's nuclear phase-out plan's conception, it is nearing completion. As of April 2022, only three of the original 17 nuclear power plants are open, with the remaining to be closed by 2023. However, in the process, the transformation has left Germany even more dependent on fossil fuels, leaving them in a complicated position.

As of January 2022, 41 per cent of Germany's energy originated from renewable sources, with fossil fuels responsible for under 45 per cent, according to BDEW's annual report. The proportions appear good, with renewables on the rise, so where is the problem?

Germany's current dilemma is not the energy they produce, but what it requires. Of Germany's fossil fuel supplies, Russia supplies half of Germany's natural gas and coal, along with a third of their oil. While fossil fuels are harmful to the environment, with Russia's support, they've been an integral tool for transitioning Germany's energy sector. In fact, before the invasion of Ukraine, Germany was planning to double-down on Russia's supply, constructing Nord Stream 2, a 15 billion USD pipeline from Russia's coast to Lubmin, Germany. Nord Stream 2 would have strengthened their natural gas infrastructure, but it meant relying heavily on one trade partner. This was a risk that Germany's EU allies did not

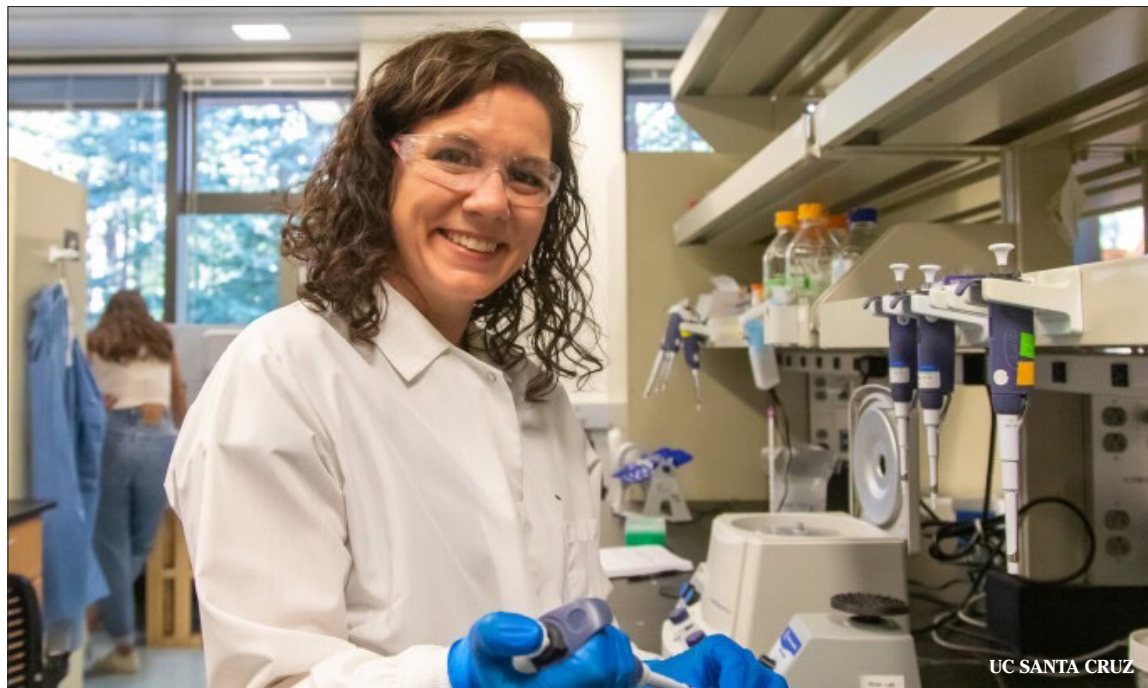
support, with fellow UN members such as the US and Norway encouraging Germany to step away. Germany listened, suspending the certification of the pipeline, despite its completion. However, with no additional plans to bolster its energy generation efforts, Germany is left in a delicate position.

However, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, escalating tensions between Russia and the EU have destabilized Germany's position further. For many EU countries, the EU's verbal and financial reactions to Russia's invasion risked pushing Russia to cut their current fossil fuels supply, dropping Germany's power generation drastically. Alongside their place in the sanctions against Russia, Germany has also reacted by putting the completed pipeline deal on hold, and is laying out plans to permanently end Russian fossil fuel imports. Cutting Russia's exports would be a massive blow to Russia's economy, as Germany is estimated to make up a quarter of Russian exports. However, it would put significant stress on Germany's economy too.

As Germany is forced to cut ties with Russian oil, gas, and coal, it is important to ask what set Germany down this path. Fossil fuel plants account for nearly half of Germany's energy, with renewables accounting for the majority of the second half. However, both energy sources are fickle, with fossil fuel plants largely reliant on Russian exports, and renewable energy reliant on weather conditions. However, Germany was once in support of a source that was more reliable, cheaper, and cleaner than fossil fuels, a source that is slowing down production, despite its benefits. Nuclear power met Germany's energy needs, yet Germany followed through with its Nuclear phase-out plan.

To support EU countries like Germany's energy sectors, allies such as the United States are providing welcomed support for the EU's energy grid. Providing supplies such as liquified natural gas for Germany along with other EU countries. However, outside help is only a temporary fix to offset any energy supply reductions. Fortunately, this situation will provide the EU with a need to rebuild its power grids to be more self-reliant and eco-friendly.

Along with other EU countries, Germany already leads in renewable energy, and Russian pressure could finish the conversion, making them the staple Green Country with self-reliance and stability, encouraging others such as Canada to follow.



UC SANTA CRUZ

Human Genome Fully Mapped: Two Decades in the Making

NEWS REPORT by Oliver Izen (10)

In 2003, the Human Genome Project ("HGP") announced that it had sequenced 92 per cent of a human genome, revolutionizing our understanding of genetics and human health. Now, two decades later, the HGP announced it has filled in the gaps, sequencing an entire human genome.

A genome is a complete set of an organism's DNA. Genome sequencing is the process of determining the complete sequence of nucleotides in a genome. It's akin to chopping up the world's largest book into individual letters, and then rearranging them into the correct order.

The Human Genome Project is a consortium of international scientists from 20 different institutions, with a shared goal of mapping and better understanding human genes. When they made their first announcement in 2003, the HGP left about 200 million of the roughly three billion DNA letters un-sequenced. That last 8 per cent that took scientists 20 years to complete were the highly repetitive sections, often called "junk DNA." Sequencing parts of a genome with a high degree of variation is a simpler process as it is easier to tell how they fit into

order. With a highly repetitive section, despite seeming easier to sequence, every piece looks almost identical, making determining placement of each genome part a difficult task. These sections are also some of the most important parts of the genome, containing most of the variation between individual humans. These variations could provide clues as to how human ancestors underwent evolutionary changes.

...how ancestors underwent evolutionary changes

To get around this blockade, scientists employed two technologies that did not exist during their initial sequencing endeavours. The first is the Oxford Nanopore DNA sequencing method, which allowed for "ultralong" reads of nucleotides (as many as one million DNA letters per read). However, this highly efficient method also came with an increased error rate. To patch any mistakes, the scientists used the PacBio HiFi DNA sequencing method, which at its maximum output could read 20,000 DNA letters at a time with an error rate of only 0.1 per cent. Having a completed human ge-

nome at their disposal, scientists will be able to expand their understanding of human evolution and pave the way for future medical breakthroughs. They will also be able to analyze genetic variation among individuals compared to the base genome. These comparisons could be used to investigate links between those variations and diseases. "These parts of the human genome that we haven't been able to study for 20-plus years are important to our understanding of how the genome works, genetic diseases, and human diversity and evolution," said Dr. Karen Miga, a scientist at the University of California ("UC") and leader of the consortium heading the project, in a UC press release.

The total cost of the HGP is \$450 million, with the most recent research endeavour costing a couple million. Adam Phillippy, head of gene informatics at the National Human Genome Research Institute, hopes that in a decade's time, Sequencing an individual's genome can become everyday practice, costing less than \$1000.

For researchers, their next steps will be to create a "human pan-genome reference," a compilation of genomic information from around the world. "Because we spent all of the hard work at the outset, getting this one complete and correct, we can now start to layer on these additional genomes on top of it, and do a so-called pan-genome representation that will have this as a basis but then have all of the variation kind of branching off of it," said Phillippy in an interview with BBC.

The goal of the Human Pangenome team is to sequence the genomes of 350 people from unique and diverse ancestral backgrounds.

NASA's Plans for 2023

NEWS REPORT by Alice Deyell (8)

This March, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ("NASA"), Bill Nelson, gave a speech about NASA's plans for 2022 and beyond. The speech was prompted by the release of US President Joe Biden's 2023 NASA budget. The budget request for the fiscal year totalled \$26 billion USD, a substantial upgrade from the previous year's. The eight per cent raise from the 2022 budget makes it the largest budget in NASA history. All this money will go towards a "new era" for the space industry, making more jobs, fostering STEM education, addressing climate change, and exploring space. With the new Space Launch System ("SLS") rocket on the launchpad in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the new moon program, Artemis, is just starting up. Artemis 1 will go to the moon this May in an uncrewed flight to test that all the systems are working correctly before sending humans.

While the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected everyone, Nelson insists the NASA family has stayed strong and pushed through challeng-

es. The pandemic even inspired their new vision statement: "Exploring the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all".

In a recap of achievements from this past year, Nelson elaborated on the launch of the James Webb Telescope, the International Space Station's ("ISS") operations, as well as preparation for the Moon and Mars. The James Webb Telescope is the most powerful telescope ever launched. It will take its first pictures in the summer of galaxies 13.5 billion light-years away, right after the Big Bang. It travelled 1,000,000 miles, which had 444 points of failure, yet the telescope's launch went even better than planned. Astronaut Mark Vande Hei recently returned from his record-breaking 355 days on the ISS, where Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts continue to work together. They are said to be unaffected by what is happening on the ground with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Astronauts and cosmonauts are keeping the international project of the ISS peaceful and professional for the time being. With the Artemis program taking humanity back to the moon for the first time in over 50 years, astronauts

will learn to live and work in a hostile environment, pushing the boundaries of space exploration. An outpost orbiting the moon, dubbed "Gateway", will act as a port between the Earth and deep space. Later this year, the crew for Artemis 2, the first crewed mission, will be announced.

Artemis will lead to the plans for the first humans on Mars sometime in the late 2030s. The science and tech demonstrations, extraction of resources and scouting for settlement areas on the moon will be a trial run for Mars. As Mars is farther away, by some million kilometres, having the moon as a final safety check will greatly improve the likelihood of success on the red planet.

In December, NASA signed agreements with three American companies to develop space stations and other commercial destinations. They will start in Low Earth Orbit ("LEO"), then expand further into space, all of which the budget supports. The United States will maintain a strong presence in the commercial economy of LEO after the retirement of the ISS. As for climate change, NASA will continue research on surface temperature, greenhouse gases, and other important factors in climate change. Their new goal, however, is to make that data, which is currently available to the public, easier to use and under-

stand. Another development on this front is the plans for the Earth System Observatory ("ESO"), a new generation of satellite missions. They will launch before the end of the decade, becoming a new "mission control" for the observation and mitigation of climate disasters.

From a presentation at NASA's Armstrong Flight Test Centre, shown on the screens at the main site, test pilot Tim Williams described NASA's advancement of clean aircraft. The X-57 Maxwell is NASA's first all-electric crewed aircraft, fully retrofitted to the title. It has electric batteries and motors, so much so that the four seats at the front are the only non-battery part of the plane.

The aerospace industry was interested in distributed electric propulsion, which began NASA's work on the electric aircraft. NASA's role as a breaker of barriers led them to create the Maxwell, influencing standards and paving the way for the future of electric aviation. NASA started by testing a modified electric wind on a semi-truck, which proved the motors could make 300 horsepower. From there, the batteries were created safely, so there were no thermal runaways and the plane could be made public. The X-57 will fly for the first time this summer, paving the way for a new line of quiet supersonic planes, the

X-planes. The X-planes will cut airtime in half. They will be made as airliners, not just fighter jets.

NASA has many plans, and goals they are working towards, from the Moon and Mars to the all-electric aircraft. They plan on recognizing and bringing down barriers that hinder fairness, and ensuring everyone has access to NASA's programs. The administrator stated that the State of NASA is strong, over the past year they had achieved the impossible. Concluding his speech with "onward and upward," NASA is prepared for a decade of electric aircraft, moon landings and space exploration.



OPINION

Roe v. Wade and the Fall of Reproductive Rights Across the United States

OPINION by Simone Hamilton (11)

In June, the highest court of the self-proclaimed "leader of the free world" is expected to reverse a pivotal precedent in the history of women's rights. The US Supreme Court is expected to reverse the precedent that made abortion an American constitutional right, in June 2022.

The Canadian abortion precedent is *R. v. Morgentaler* in 1988, which amended section 251(4) of the Criminal Code, where abortion was permitted in accredited hospitals with the permission of the hospital's Therapeutic Abortion Committee. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Criminal Code section that limited access to abortions violated one's right to security of person under section seven of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This ruling made it unconstitutional to give the choice of whether someone can have an abortion to anyone but the recipient, anating Therapeutic Abortion Committees in hospitals and making abortions accessible to those who want them.

Roe v. Wade, the American equivalent, was a 1973 US Supreme Court case that ingrained the right to an abortion in the constitutional rights of Americans and returned the liberty to one's reproductive organs to their owners. The tragic passing of Justice Ginsburg, a long-time judicial pioneer of women's rights and the retirement of reproductive rights-supporting centrist Justice Kennedy, struck chaos into the US Supreme Court. Three Justices were appointed within the former President's four year reign, creating a six-to-three conservative majority, or a six-to-three majority of those who are stuck in the Middle Ages.

That conservative majority is what led to a majority opinion draft written by US Justice Samuel Alito. The draft, written in February, was leaked to Politico, a reputable political news source, on May 2, 2022. This draft opinion reveals that the current majority of the American Supreme Court will ultimately vote to end the precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, through *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the case that they are deciding on. *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, is a case questioning the constitutionality of a Mississippi law that restricts abortion before viability. The law goes against the current precedent of *Roe*, however the majority of American Justices do not believe that it goes against the US Constitution.

Once the curse of regression



struck the upholders of liberty and justice, state level Republicans leaped to start crafting their equal part annoying, equal part misogynistic, anti-abortion legislation. Many states already had tricks up their sleeve to make this medical procedure as inaccessible as possible, like mandatory waiting periods between receiving mandatory state counseling and receiving your procedure and restrictions on using private insurance or medicaid to fund the procedure.

On May 15, 2021, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, enacted SB 8, a law seemingly immune to constitutional criticism. Like no other before it, this law makes abortion after fetal cardiac activity is detected, illegal. However, it is enforced bounty hunter, wild west style - any individual has the opportunity to gain \$10 000 in a civil law case against anyone who "aids or abets" the performance or inducement of an abortion. Not only does this law bypass constitutional liability through its untoward enforcement, it also gives Texans opportunities to make back the money they lost in the Texas power outages. Thanks Governor Abbott!

Republican lawmakers are apparently unfamiliar with the saying "snitches get stitches" because this ingenious display of authoritarianism really caught on. Idaho and Oklahoma passed similar laws after Texas. The Texas law has been called up to the Supreme Court three different times, and each time the court has refused to hear it.

The law that challenges *Roe* is Mississippi's House Bill 1510 or the Gestational Age Act. Mississippi restricts abortion through state law after 15 weeks, making an abortion provider liable to a criminal court. There are nar-

row exceptions in fatal fetal abnormalities or in life-endangering pregnancies. The key difference of state enforcement is what interests the US Supreme Court. If it is found constitutional, which the current majority opinion suggests, then it would reverse the right of an abortion within the first and second trimesters, or until viability, meaning until the fetus could survive without the mother, as granted by *Roe v. Wade*, pushing back American women's rights by almost half a century.

The six-to-three conservative majority and the majority draft document makes it almost certain that when they reach their decision in June 2022, the precedent of *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned. Republicans in red states have taken notice of that and have started passing laws that are unconstitutional. These laws that go in direct violation of *Roe* will be blocked temporarily by their state's Supreme Court, however will be re-enacted once the barrier of *Roe* is removed. Florida is one example. Copying the Mississippi law, the performance of abortion is illegal after 15 weeks with the only exceptions being in cases of fatal fetal abnormalities or if the birth would result in serious injury or death to the pregnant person. Arizona enacted a similar law, scheduled to be in effect in July, after the Mississippi decision. In Oklahoma, performing an abortion is now a felony charge that could result in up to ten years in jail or up to a \$100,000 fine. The exception being in medical emergencies. This law prohibits abortions at all points in a pregnancy, completely erasing women's bodily autonomy. Senator Greg Treat, a sponsor of the law says, "we will continue to push that envelope as far as we possibly can," the

envelope being any remaining illusion of control women have over their own bodies. Florida and Oklahoma are not the only states that believe that *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned. Twenty-two states either have *Roe*-trigger laws or pre-*Roe* bans. *Roe*-trigger laws are laws that will become immediately active once *Roe* is overturned, either restricting or completely banning abortion in that state. Pre-*Roe* bans are old inactive laws made before 1973 that were never removed and will become active once *Roe* is overturned. The Guttmacher Institute, a leading American pro-choice research and policy organization, estimates that if *Roe* is overturned, 26 states will heavily restrict or completely ban abortion.

One of those states is Kentucky. The state doesn't seem to need the Supreme Court's approval to remove women's bodily anatomy and give it to the gametes. Kentucky has banned abortions after 15 weeks with no exceptions for the pregnant person's life. They have also created requirements for abortions happening before 15 weeks that are financially and logistically impossible for abortion providers, but also scientifically blasphemous and just plain insulting. The "Cabinet for Family and Health Services" gets to decide which doctors can prescribe abortive pills for medical abortions, which is a lovely display of authoritarianism and disregard for the legal qualifications of MD's. It also begs the question, which doctors will they choose, if any? Surgical abortion providers must also provide a combination birth/death certificate or still-birth certificate for every procedure. It is unclear who exactly is going to tell republican lawmakers surgical abortions are not still-births or

births of any kind. On top of a certificate, abortion providers are required to either "cremate or inter fetal remains". It is insulting that the level of humanization of gametes is not extended to the actual living person that they are inside of. These 'requirements' are made to shut down abortion clinics and deter medical professionals from the procedure. However, the mere serious, legal suggestion of a certificate and burying of whatever cellular remains is humiliating towards the person requiring this medical procedure. Especially that their own life will be ignored if at risk later in the pregnancy.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* will be catastrophic for American women and people with uteruses. It is extremely unlikely that Canada's constitutional protection of abortion will be reversed. However, the accumulative population of female people in the 26 American states expected to ban or severely restrict abortion after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is 79.9 million. 79.9 million people will be directly affected by this verdict, as well as the entire reproductive rights movement.

Roe v. Wade was an international standard for human rights. Mexico only recently decriminalized abortion, joining Colombia, Uruguay, Argentina, and Cuba in South America. Ireland's historic referendum in 2018 amended its abortion ban. Andorra, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Poland and San Marino are the only remaining European countries with active abortion bans; Poland's ban recently enacted in 2020.

However, in Canada's southern neighbour, women are victims to changing state politics, where Republican-controlled states could impose any abortion law they would like. Justice Alito's majority opinion will be a political ruling, not a constitutional one. If the goal was truly to limit the number of abortions happening, lawmakers would need to focus on sex education and birth control accessibility. Guttmacher reports that in the United States between 2011 and 2017, the number of abortions fell by 19 per cent, the rate of abortion per 1000 women fell by 20 per cent, and the ratio of abortions to every 100 pregnancies fell 13 per cent. The trend of abortion in the US is a downward one, and that is naturally occurring without needing restrictive laws. There is no debate because there is no justification; believing in liberty and democracy means that you cannot impose a condition like pregnancy and a physical hardship like birth on an unwilling person. Enshrining the disregard for bodily anatomy into their constitution is not a step forward for America, it is 50 steps back.

VSB, Please Do Better When It Comes to Surveys

Public Engagement

Online Community Engagement

The Vancouver School District is committed to transparent and accountable public engagement and stakeholder feedback processes to inform planning decisions. Public engagement and stakeholder feedback processes will be designed and developed in accordance with Board policy and District administrative procedures. Public engagement activities are designed based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation.

Latest Projects

OPINION by Adrian Yue (9)

The Vancouver School Board's recent Multi Age Cluster Classes ("MACC") and Budget surveys, for a lack of any better phraseology, are poorly worded.

Despite running the budget survey for six school years, it has failed to provide clear questions, answers, and ways for clear, informed responses.

According to the Pew Research Centre, "it is important to ask questions that are clear and specific and that each respondent will be able to answer," something the VSB failed to do in their budget survey. Despite many of the questions having simple structures, it failed to address the views of the public in a specific manner. One must call into question articles of the survey obtained from the Budget Development 2022-2023 Engagement Summary Report such as "Indicate

your support for re-allocating funds from one area to increase another," which does not specify which areas of funding are cut, and can have serious consequences for VSB funding of programs.

A lack of specifics can also result in difficulty interpreting the statements given, as is the case with question four of the survey. The District, possessing nine departments, is home to a variety of staff and employees ranging from counselors, to janitors, to accountants. A simple "indicate your support for staffing" does not offer the level of nuance and complexity required for staff across the district. Support for staffing can be interpreted as 'support for understaffed positions', 'support for pre-existent staff', 'support for staff recruitment', and many more. With questions like these, the

...can be dangerous and sway public opinion...

school district has failed to provide adequate understanding and context

to the citizens of Vancouver.

Leading questions can be dangerous and sway public opinion.

Conceived judgement to a survey that is meant to capture public opinion. For a public institution, it is paramount that the general public's voice be heard in surveys, through trustees, and events of public engagement. Wording questions in ways that are nonspecific and leading fails to capture the views of the community and the people whom public education is meant to serve.

This is not the first time they created a misleading survey.

In January-February 2022, an aspect of the VSB's Multi Age Cluster Class (MACC) survey posed great alarm in survey creation, most notably the duration descriptions for the proposed Gifted Education Centres.

Within that section of the survey, a positives and negatives chart was made for the proposed lengths of the GECs, namely four, six, and eight weeks long. The descriptions for four weeks and eight weeks were provided with pros and cons, but the description for six weeks only listed the positives.

After investigating the MACC revisioning and the paper which seemingly justified the duration in a previous

Nest article, the six-week GEC time length has been proven to be disinformation.

In a survey that sought the public's input, was published by a government entity, and made for a democratic system, inadequate representation of survey material should not be tolerated.

As obtained from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the definition of a survey is "to view or consider comprehensively"; this comprehensive view is hampered by a failure to provide unbiased, impartial evidence for the surveyee to consider and judge.

While the surveys' aim is in the right place, the way they are created and described can undergo change. Instead of using words such as 'support', the VSB can incorporate starters such as 'what do you think about...'. This would help to ensure that the questions do not become leading questions and sway the public's opinion. Additionally, proper provision of the positive and negative impacts of a decision should be put on the survey to help users create thoughtful responses.

The VSB needs to uphold its democratic obligations through surveys, but in a way which does not involve poorly worded questions and misleading tables.

OPINION

OPINION by Marissa Lear (12)

Gender Inequality in Secondary Schools

OPINION by Marissa Lear (12)

The words “gender equality” were first brought to light in a mass political way in the 1920's. Now, 100 years later, our school communities pride themselves on the vast advancement of gender equality. However, there is little to be proud of.

With the passing of International Women's Day, we all saw the peppy Teams posts and shiny school posters decorating the halls, declaring how important the women in our schools are. Talk of female empowerment was blaring from all angles with little action done to provide sustenance behind any of these proclamations.

It took less than a five-minute conversation with any female teacher or student for me to fully grasp just how behind our education system is when it comes to providing equal opportunities for female students as schools do for our male counterparts.

While a huge problem is the little change being made to correct these inequalities, the much bigger issue is the lack of awareness that accompanies this topic.

Few students feel empowered to

speaking up about the sexist micro-aggressions which take place in classrooms and school halls, yet those are the places we are supposed to learn to use our voice and practice advocating for what we believe in. So why aren't more students doing that? As several female students told me, more often than not, it's the teachers who contribute to the inequalities. What makes those situations so difficult is the fact that these teachers are authoritative figures. There is an unspoken standard to “just take it and accept it” as one interviewee said in order to avoid getting in trouble for calling a teacher out.

Besides punitive and ineffectual repercussions, many students fear social reprisal for speaking up as well. One girl even went as far to say that she never realized how bad some of her experiences were until now because it had been so normalized to the point where sexist comments or a lack of opportunities because of her gender didn't faze her. By covering bullet wounds with band aids and failing to recognize the issues within our own halls, students go through high school believing that we have made huge progress when in reality, these issues are rooted in the ones students faced 100 years ago.

The primary setting for these inci-

ruptions it caused to their class. Some students experienced anything from teachers getting angry to straight up being told no when in reality, these girls needed to use the washroom for feminine hygiene reasons. What made these stories much more horrifying, was finding out that mere seconds later, a male student asked to use the washroom and he was allowed to go but she wasn't.

While on their own, the majority of these situations appear small, over time they add up. Ignoring the frequency of these events not only discourages students from speaking up but sends the message that female students “aren't worth the extra 10 seconds it would take to reconsider if these comments are appropriate” as one interviewee put it. Our education system is not “ahead of its time” for diminishing women's inequality in school settings.

In fact, we are extremely far behind. Creating an awareness around these issues and starting a conversation is the first step, but what's next? How are we going to ensure that these issues don't become the same weights the next generation has to carry and the one after that? How can we finally end the issue of women's inequality in high school?

Unfortunately, gender inequality in high schools isn't limited to gym class and sports teams. Numerous students I interviewed have been dress coded. One was even told that the shirt she was wearing “put her at risk because a guy in her class could have a reaction to it.” I have heard far too many stories where female students have been denied permission to use the washroom and harsh comments were made about the number of times they've had to the bathroom or the dis-

ruptions it caused to their class. Some students experienced anything from teachers getting angry to straight up being told no when in reality, these girls needed to use the washroom for feminine hygiene reasons. What made these stories much more horrifying, was finding out that mere seconds later, a male student asked to use the washroom and he was allowed to go but she wasn't.

While on their own, the majority of these situations appear small, over time they add up. Ignoring the frequency of these events not only discourages students from speaking up but sends the message that female students “aren't worth the extra 10 seconds it would take to reconsider if these comments are appropriate” as one interviewee put it. Our education system is not “ahead of its time” for diminishing women's inequality in school settings.

In fact, we are extremely far behind.

Creating an awareness around these issues and starting a conversation is the first step, but what's next? How are we going to ensure that these issues don't become the same weights the next generation has to carry and the one after that? How can we finally end the issue of women's inequality in high school?



JEFF HITCHCOCK/FLICKR

Dear Students: Please Stop Creating Disingenuous Non-Profits

OPINION by Spencer Izen (12)

Last summer, through a mutual friend, I met a student from a neighbouring school district. One of the things we talked about was how our relative jurisdictions foster an abundance of clubs, student-led organizations, and initiatives.

My new acquaintance from Richmond shared that her school administration had introduced the practice of limiting students' to running a single club. If you were the president of debate club, you could only be that. If you were the secretary of chess club, that was it for your club executive journey. The student said her administration enacted that rule, albeit widely unpopular, to promote equity across school-based initiatives.

At the time, I was incredulous upon hearing that. It seemed so uncalled for and misguided of an administrative action. I even said something to the effect of it being an unreasonable restriction upon free association. But now, through the better part of Grade 12 and having completed and witnessed the post-secondary application process, I have pivoted my stance on the issue, because it, in part, attempted to address one of the broader issues within education today.

By the time students reach the upper grades, it's almost cliché to hear

the notion that post-secondary institutions are interested in those who are well-rounded, demonstrating both academic excellence and extracurricular (“EC”) initiative. The words “personal profile” often end up in some element of that conversation, and an increasingly popular “EC” to build said profile upon is the broad category of “youth organizations” that many of our demographic chose to devote their time to.

There are a number of admirable student organizations out there, both based in and outside of schools. There are a dozen or so that rank highly in my mind. But for every outstanding youth organization, there are probably a decent handful of less admirable and completely disingenuous ones.

In pursuit of the stand-out personal profile, youth organizations have sprung up like morning glory in the uncurated garden that is our student startup landscape. After observing hundreds of them, I generally find most fall into one of three specific categories:

1. Representatives & Advocates (subcategories “A” and “B”, respectively)

This category is probably the easiest to picture. These are self-described councils, boards, and issue-focussed groups that exist to further youth empowerment or to push for change on a specific social justice problem. Some stage neighbourhood clean-ups, food drives, fundraisers, and other ac-

tion-oriented events.

2. Networkers

This group is generally more focussed than the previous and usually brings youth together around academic interests or occupational prospects. They host webinars, discussions, and case competitions.

3. Aggregators

Aggregators are fed by the work of the previous two categories, and mainly use digital media to promote other youth organizations. Basically, they create platforms and spaces for other youth organizations to advertise themselves and discourse.

I don't think this model is perfect, but I do think it captures much of my annoyance with youth organizations, in that many operate insofar as their purposes are vague and sufficiently inflatable to end up as a core component of a personal profile. Simply put, there are a lot of youth organizations that exist only to satisfy a checkbox on a university application.

One of the newer trends in youth organizations is to entrench BC's Societies Act and its federal counterpart, the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act into the process. Although opening up eligibility for grants and funding and establishing personhood for the organization, it isn't entirely clear why some choose to do this. However, what is clearly achieved by this, is that many

have the ability to become “registered non-profits.”

I've noticed multiple “registered non-profits” incorporate themselves under those respective statutes, and neither of the two obvious benefits were applicable. I suspect incorporation is a medium for the facade of legitimacy for many.

I've also found students from local private schools are responsible for a greater proportion of the disingenuous organizations than those of us from the public system.

Much of this is somewhat insignificant. It's reasonable to expect that people would pump up their volunteer-

...exploit social movements and systemic inequalities...

ing tires ahead of application season. There are some youth organizations, however, that push the boundaries of simply trying to stand out on an application, and go past harmless embellishment of their accomplishments. And that's where a more serious problem lies.

Some category 1(b) organizations in particular have gone completely beyond negligible inflation to, in some in-

stances, film, photograph, manipulate, and outright take advantage of real crises in Vancouver for their supposed goodwill to be promoted on social media. To make matters worse, many of the students participating in these organizations themselves do not have a solid understanding of the issues or “stigmas” they claim to be combatting.

One of my peers remarked that this end of the spectrum displays an extraordinary level of privilege and ignorance, and actually adds to crises through fascicle attempts at social aid.

In the quest for letters of admission, a substantial number of students are propping up disingenuous non-profits that exploit social movements and systemic inequalities in exchange for a bolstered post-secondary application. While there are many youth organizations that are, well, genuinely genuine, the ecosystem is polluted with far too much trash.

Students are capable of taking on complex issues and doing work that actually does change and better their communities. But, the sheer number of disingenuous non-profits started by youth calls for action on the part of teachers and anyone who raises high school kids to guide students away from dishonestly simulating volunteer work, and from admissions officers to begin cracking down and sending a signal that they aren't interested rewarding insincerity.

OPINION

The Electric Car Fallacy

OPINION by Max Von Dehn (10)

Humanity has been dealing with the consequences of their actions for as long as humans have existed. However, they have reached a point where the consequences are beginning to overthrow them. Climate change is the consequence of humanity's progress one that has only become more severe in recent decades. Combustion-powered vehicles are a significant factor contributing to the climate crisis, and because of this, society has searched for a replacement for them. Electric vehicles (EVs) have been one of the favoured replacements, but only recently have they picked up mainstream appeal. To the general public, electric cars seem like the perfect solution as they produce far fewer emissions than a traditional car. However, they are far from perfect, and their current appeal showcases a major problem with how humanity tackles the issues they are presented with.

It is important to remember that electric cars are not fundamentally bad, however it is how they are sold that has the greatest harm to society. Electric cars are sold as almost a solution to climate change – the best change an ordinary person can make. This idea is not only incorrect, but damaging to the fight against the climate crisis. Electric cars are a product of complacency, and their downsides are rarely discussed.

One of the major issues that electric cars face is energy infrastructure. While Canada has access to many renewable energy sources, which can be used to power electric cars, the rest of the world is far from the same. In the United States—the country with the second-most cars per capita – car emissions only make up approximately 15 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. However, the production of energy makes up over 25 per cent. These emissions

are produced by the burning of fossil fuels, meaning that just because a car is electric, it does not mean it does not run on fossil fuels.

Additionally, electric cars have diverted the public's attention to a specific sector's CO2 emissions. There are many other sectors of the economy that could reduce emissions at the same rate as electric vehicles, however much of the public's efforts have been put towards transportation. The agriculture industry is a good example of this, as in the United States, it produces 11 per cent of all CO2 emissions, over 50 per cent of which is due to the

...is damaging to the fight against the climate crisis.

methane released from cows and other farmstock. A far smaller change such as lowering the amount of meat in the average person's diet could impact climate change just as much as buying an EV, at a far lower cost. However, it is important to remember that these ideas are not mutually exclusive. They work best when implemented together.

Another often-overlooked issue with EVs is their lithium-ion batteries. Lithium is a critical component of the batteries, and its mining takes a large toll on the environment. This is usually due to the large amount of water needed to operate the mines, which often pollutes the local water table. As the demand for lithium increases due to higher EV usage, more mines must be created, forcing the destruction of ecosystems and people's livelihoods.

Finally, electric cars disproportionately favour the financially well-off. Generally, those who can afford an electric car have a good amount of disposable income, meaning they of



PRISCILLA DU PREZ/UNSPASH

ten produce the most CO2 due to their expenditures. Electric cars in these cases are often used as a form of moral licensing, justifying a morally-questionable action by making a moral decision. If governments are to make all cars electric, it could strain those who cannot afford a new car, making life even more difficult for them.

This is not to say that electric vehicles are bad. After all, anything is better than the current vehicles in the transportation industry. However, the western world's infatuation with cars has prevented them from making the most beneficial, eco-friendly changes to their lifestyle. A good example of modern transportation done right is showcased in Europe. In most major European cities, having a car is not necessary at all. Instead, public transit is used as a main method of transportation. Public transportation is the solution to many of electric cars'

faults; it is just as energy-efficient as EVs, but allows for mass transport that is far more affordable to the average person.

Many major cities in the United States struggle with traffic jams, but with good public transit, those could be avoided. However, public transit requires infrastructure to be built, and a commitment to be made by the public. But despite society's desire for improvement, humanity is not willing to change. Public transit is the change needed, but electric cars were what they wanted. This is the electric car fallacy; humanity's unwillingness to change, instead opting for the easiest fix.

This isn't a problem exclusive to electric cars, but simply a recurring issue with how humans think. The simplest way to work around this issue is just to remember that the easiest solution isn't always the best one.

COVID Protocols in School Sports – Players, Transparency

OPINION by Julia Ling (11)

With interschool sports reopening this year, protection against COVID-19 has been on every organizer's mind. Currently, Hamber Athletics requires a permission slip to be signed by parents, nearly the same as previous years, but with a specific section on daily health checks added. Handwashing is encouraged and vaccines are not mandatory.

The current Provincial Health and Safety Guidelines for school sports state that sports and spectators are back at full capacity, with optional masks for everyone. Equipment is also subject to frequent sanitation. These procedures are relatively effective at preventing the transmission of COVID, but transparency on the protocols between school and student athlete is sorely lacking.

...transparency on the protocols...is sorely lacking



KATJA RADOVIC-JONSSON

Nadia Kim (11) played Senior Girls Basketball this year, and acknowledged that hands were washed and basketballs were sanitized, adhering with current procedures, but "didn't realize that that type of safety protocol was in place." Kim agreed that masks should be optional for sports, stating "The body needs air to work, even more so when playing sports. We wouldn't want students passing out or becoming lightheaded."

Currently playing for Senior A Ultimate, Sefa Remedios (11) was also unaware of the current health and safety procedures. She observed that her team was not making specific efforts to clean equipment, saying "It's so tedious, so [I think] no one wants to be the one to do it." She also expressed that wearing masks should be optional for players, but noted that individual comfort levels had always varied, even before optional masking.

Lack of communication and knowledge of protocols can cost teams in many ways. Players could get sick and potentially spread it to the rest of their team, or even to other schools and spectators. The health and safety of people involved takes the most importance, but Remedios also observed that it could affect the teams' performance, expressing "Every team member is valuable, and even one person out is a hit to our team."

To improve team cohesion and the overall health and safety of our communities, communication between players and administrators should be clearer and more frequent.

The Batman – An Analysis



SCREENRANT

OPINION by Noah Yu (11)

DC's most recent movie, The Batman, starring hotties Robert Pattinson and Zoë Kravitz, has taken the media by storm. This is most likely because the majority of its viewers are Twilight's Edward-obsessed stans, but what is it about this Batman movie that makes it so unique compared to the previous ones in its franchise?

1 - Batman is an E-boy

The Batman is the only Batman movie where Bruce Wayne is shown wearing dark eyeshadow when unmasked. The modern movie proves its trendiness through this depiction of E-culture. This shows how much effort its producers have put into making the movie relatable for younger audiences.

2 - Catwoman walks down a catwalk

It is important to note that dur-

ing the club scenes in The Batman, Catwoman ironically struts as if she were walking down a catwalk. Kravitz "slayed" during this crucial part of the film. Her character is, as one would say, a "girlboss."

3 - Alfred Pennyworth has a mustache

Alfred Pennyworth, played by Andy Serkis, has a mustache in The Batman. This differs from previous Batman movies significantly, as Pennyworth is typically portrayed as an older, balding, mustacheless man. One may ask, "why is this detail important to the movie?"

Perhaps the fact that he has a mustache means nothing – but then again, everything happens for a reason, therefore the fact that this detail ended up in the film is worth being analyzed. For those who are unaware, mustaches (otherwise known as moustaches) are "strips of facial hair grown above the upper lip," as defined by Wikipedia.

The earliest documented examples of mustaches in societies can be dated back to the Iron Age of the Celt-

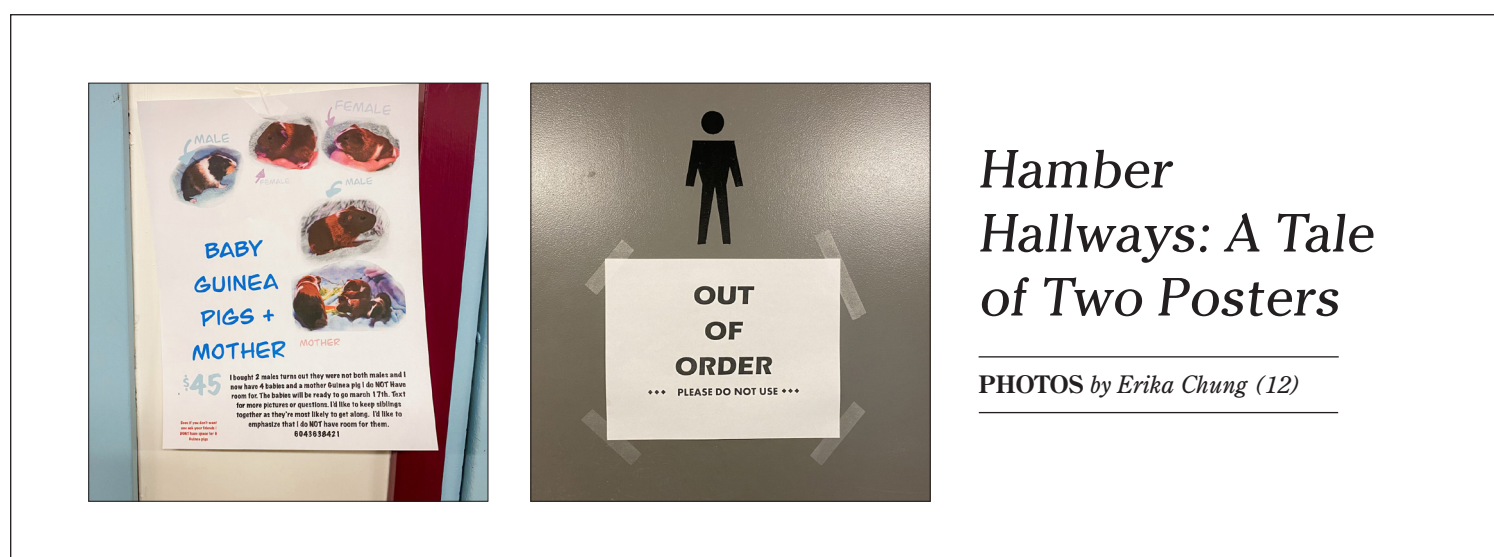
ics, where nobles were distinguished by shaving their cheeks but leaving a mustache to grow on its own. Mustaches continued to be trendy amongst upper-class males throughout the Middle Ages, and were prominent during the late 1800s. In a variety of cultures, they are also often associated with power. Discrimination against mustaches is prevalent in various places; for example, in Eureka, Nevada, mustached men cannot legally kiss women. However, their growth should not be restrained by society.

In summary, Alfred Pennyworth has a mustache because he is rich.

Not only does Pennyworth have a mustache, but he also has a beard – but, that's an entirely different story.

4 - Insane use of prosthetics and makeup

Colin Farrell, a 45-year-old Irish actor, uses prosthetics and impressive makeup to play The Penguin, a friendly, older gentleman. This demonstrates how much the art of film makeup has evolved over the years. Then again, why didn't they just cast an older guy in the first place?



Hamber Hallways: A Tale of Two Posters

PHOTOS by Erika Chung (12)

FROM THE CONVERSATION

THE CONVERSATION

If Elon Musk succeeds in his Twitter takeover, it would restrict, rather than promote, free speech



TWITTER

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On April 25, following several weeks of speculation, Twitter announced that it had reached an agreement to sell the company to Tesla CEO and multi-billionaire Elon Musk. In mid-April, Musk made public his desire to acquire Twitter, make it a private company, and overhaul its moderation policies.

Citing ideals of free speech, Musk claimed that “Twitter has become kind of the de facto town square, so it’s just really important that people have the, both the reality and the perception that they are able to speak freely within the bounds of the law.”

While making Twitter free for all “within the bounds of the law” seems like a way to ensure free speech in

theory, in practice, this action would actually serve to suppress the speech of Twitter’s most vulnerable users.

My team’s research into online harassment shows that when platforms fail to moderate effectively, the most marginalized people may withdraw from posting to social media as a way to keep themselves safe.

Withdrawal responses

In various research projects since 2018, we have interviewed scholars who have experienced online harassment, surveyed academics about their experiences with harassment, conducted in-depth reviews of literature detailing how knowledge workers experience online harassment, and reached out to institutions that employ knowl-

edge workers who experience online harassment.

Overwhelmingly, throughout our various projects, we’ve noticed some common themes:

Individuals are targeted for online harassment on platforms like Twitter simply because they are women or members of a minority group (racialized, gender non-conforming, disabled or otherwise marginalized). The topics people post about matter less than their identities in predicting the intensity of online harassment people are subjected to.

- Men who experience online harassment, often experience a different type of harassment than women or marginalized people. Women, for example, tend to experience more sexualized harassment, such as rape threats.
- When people experience harassment, they seek support from their organizations, social media platforms and law enforcement, but often find the support they receive is insufficient.
- When people do not receive adequate support from their organizations, social media platforms and law enforcement, they adopt strategies to protect themselves, including withdrawing from social media.
- This last point is important, because our data shows that there is a very real risk of los-

ing ideas in the unmoderated Twitter space that Musk says he wants to build in the name of free speech.

Or in other words, what Musk is proposing would likely make speech on Twitter less free than it is now, because people who cannot rely on social media platforms to protect them from online harassment tend to leave the platform when the consequences of online harassment become psychologically or socially destructive.

Research shows that when people receive online harassment on a social media platform, they are likely to withdraw from using it.

Arenas for debate

Political economist John Stuart Mill famously wrote about the marketplace of ideas, suggesting that in an environment where ideas can be debated, the best ones will rise to the top. This is often used to justify opinions that social media platforms like Twitter should do away with moderation in order to encourage constructive debate.

This implies that bad ideas should be taken care of by a sort of invisible hand, in which people will only share and engage with the best content on Twitter, and the toxic content will be a small price to pay for a thriving online public sphere.

The assumption that good ideas would edge out the bad ones is both counter to Mill’s original writing, and the actual lived experience of posting to social media for people in minority groups.

Mill advocated that minority ideas

be given artificial preference in order to encourage constructive debate on a wide range of topics in the public interest. Importantly, this means that moderation of online harassment is key to a functioning marketplace of ideas.

Regulation of harassment

The idea that we need some sort of online regulation of harassing speech is borne out by our research. Our research participants repeatedly told us that the consequences of online harassment were extremely damaging. These consequences ranged from burnout or inability to complete their work, to emotional and psychological trauma, or even social isolation.

When targets of harassment experienced these outcomes, they often also experienced economic impacts, such as issues with career progression after being unable to complete work. Many of our participants tried reporting the harassment to social media platforms. If the support they received from the platform was dismissive or unhelpful, they felt less likely to engage in the future.

When people disengage from Twitter due to widespread harassment, we lose those voices from the very online public sphere that Musk says he wants to foster. In practice, this means that women and marginalized groups are most likely to be the people who are excluded from Musk’s free speech playground.

Given that our research participants have told us that they already feel Twitter’s approach to online harassment is limited at best, I would suggest that if we really want a marketplace of ideas on Twitter, we need more moderation, not less. For this reason, I’m happy that the Twitter Board of Directors is attempting to resist Musk’s hostile takeover.

From Ryerson to Toronto Metropolitan University: What can we learn from the renaming?

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Ryerson University has a new name: Toronto Metropolitan University.

University president Mohamed Lachemi recommended the name from a list developed by a committee of professors, administrators, students and alumni. The name change process was motivated by the Mash Koh Wee Kah Pooh Win (Standing Strong) Task Force.

The university’s renaming is a welcome step in helping reconcile Canada’s long history of colonization, both past and present. It signals a willingness to make amends for Canada’s mistreatment of Indigenous people, especially in educational settings.

Ryerson’s renaming has the potential to teach important lessons across society as we strive for a more equitable future given our inequitable past.

Create a balanced history

Mash Koh Wee Kah Pooh Win focused on the university’s complex relationship with its namesake, Egerton Ryerson. His educational policies’ racist legacy devastated Indigenous communities — he was an architect for Ontario’s residential schools.

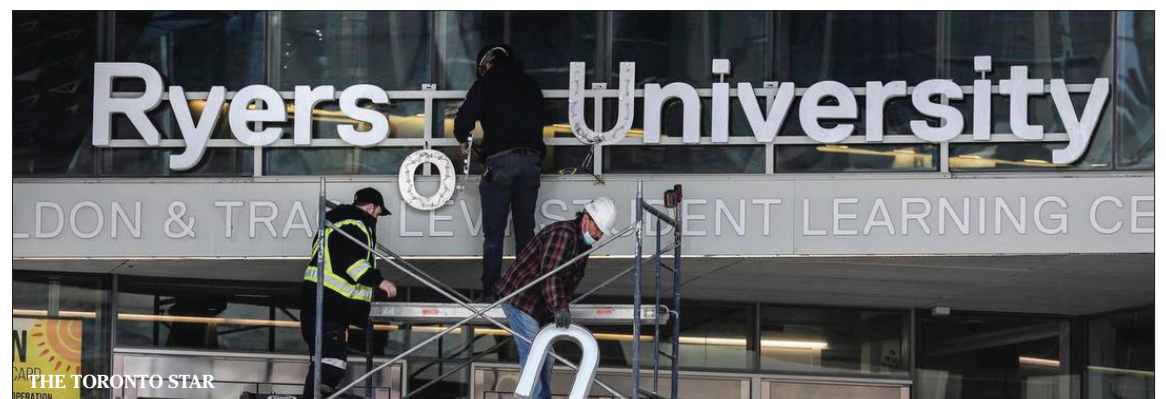
Archivists dug through records. Historians were consulted. Scholars researched. Knowledge keepers provided wisdom. And by canvassing Ryerson community members past and present, the task force reached a delicate balance.

The authors detailed Egerton Ryerson’s troubling past. They bound him to his influence in creating Ontario’s residential schools. They even shared his offensive statements on Indigenous education aims.

But the authors also highlighted Egerton’s many accomplishments. This included Indigenous school fundraising and helping petition the Crown to confirm the Mississaugas’ legal title to reserves.

After the buried bodies of Indigenous children were found at former Indian residential schools, Ryerson’s statue on campus became even more harmful, traumatizing and triggering to many staff, faculty and students. His name adorning buildings, email signatures and sports teams likely did the same.

In an interview with *The Globe* and



Mail, president Lachemi said the new name reflects the wishes of community members:

“It’s a name that fits us perfectly. We’re located in the heart of our country’s biggest and most diverse city, so the university represents all that it means to be metropolitan. We are a gathering place for people from all over the world, from all walks of life, with broad and diverse perspectives, lived experiences and aspirations.”

Toronto Metropolitan University is expected to be in use soon but signage will take time. The blue and yellow colour will remain and Ryerson will still appear on official documents until the university’s governing legislation is amended — likely after the provincial election in June.

Acknowledge institutional inequality

Many institutions have dubious pasts. Some even supported residential school atrocities, such as creating a discourse around assimilation.

We must condemn Egerton Ryerson, but acknowledge that many Canadians benefit from systems similar to the ones he helped fashion, not just education. During the pandemic, the wealthiest Canadians have prospered. In contrast, low wage workers, often women and marginalized people, have continued to suffer. The pandemic has accelerated lasting trends where seniors, people with disabilities, recent im-

migrants, marginalized and Indigenous people felt the most negative impacts of income inequality.

But the pandemic, Black Lives Matter and racial reckoning have also forced a kind of social reset, helping prompt the name change at Ryerson.

Mash Koh Wee Kah Pooh Win captured the sadness imperilling Ryerson’s community. The community grieved the legacy of a man they never met, but they are all too familiar with the punitive educational system he created.

We must repair public institutions that allow obscene financial and social inequality as well as personal devastation that can potentially cascade across generations. But first we must acknowledge our own role in allowing their perpetuation.

Renaming is a start

Although it could have been resisted and there was initial opposition by some groups, Ryerson’s renaming speaks to how fundamental institutions like universities can listen to Indigenous people and their allies to drive welcome change.

From this, Ryerson’s renaming should not remain a symbolic act. And this achievement should not mean the battle is over. Instead, a name change means the fight has only just begun.

Scrubbing Egerton Ryerson’s name from the institution feels good. It is similar to removing his statue from

the university’s grounds. But improving the worst parts of the educational policies he helped birth is better. This includes improving antiquated practices.

And Indigenous people must help lead this change. Their knowledge and culture should fully inhabit education. Some equitable education policies could include:

Indigenizing curriculum.

- Practising culturally relevant pedagogy.
- Diversifying curriculum.
- Implementing inclusive education.
- De-streaming public education.
- Ensuring equitable learning.
- Public education has caused unjustifiable suffering. Many educational settings are driven by punishment, not proactive discipline. They homogenize, dehumanize and test incessantly and excessively.

Renaming public entities begins the process of repairing inequities — Ryerson is one example, Toronto’s Dundas Street is another — but it cannot end them. Regressive institutional practices must be questioned.

Chronicling past atrocities, honouring those tragically lost, incorporating survivors’ voices and building equitable institutions is the only way to build a truly inclusive society.

HAMBERGER

ASK THE NEST

Q: My siblings never want to do anything with me unless I bribe them. What can I do to change this?

-Resistant Relatives

A: Resistant Relatives, Try being honest with your siblings. Tell them that you value spending time with them, though it may feel awkward. Find an activity that you are both interested in. For example, if you both enjoy playing basketball, tell your sibling(s) that you'd love to play with them at the Hillcrest open gym!

-The Nest

Q: How do you prioritize and manage time well when there are so many school obligations, clubs, and extra-curriculars?

-Multitasking Menace

A: Dear Multitasking Menace, It can feel defeating when there isn't enough time to accomplish everything on your to-do list. You must be realistic, and know that you can only do so much in one day.

- Use your agenda!
- Make note of the tasks that are absolutely necessary, and do those first (studying for a test, writing an essay).
- Clubs are for your enjoyment! Let's say you are a part of Hamber Reads, and need to finish a novel for an upcoming meeting. Remember that you are not obligated to read if you need some time to breathe.

-The Nest

Q: How do I start a conversation without being awkward?

-X

A: X, Approach them with a smile! This summons confidence and eases the awkwardness. Next, try starting the conversation with a common topic. This can be as simple as asking a peer what they thought of a classroom activity.

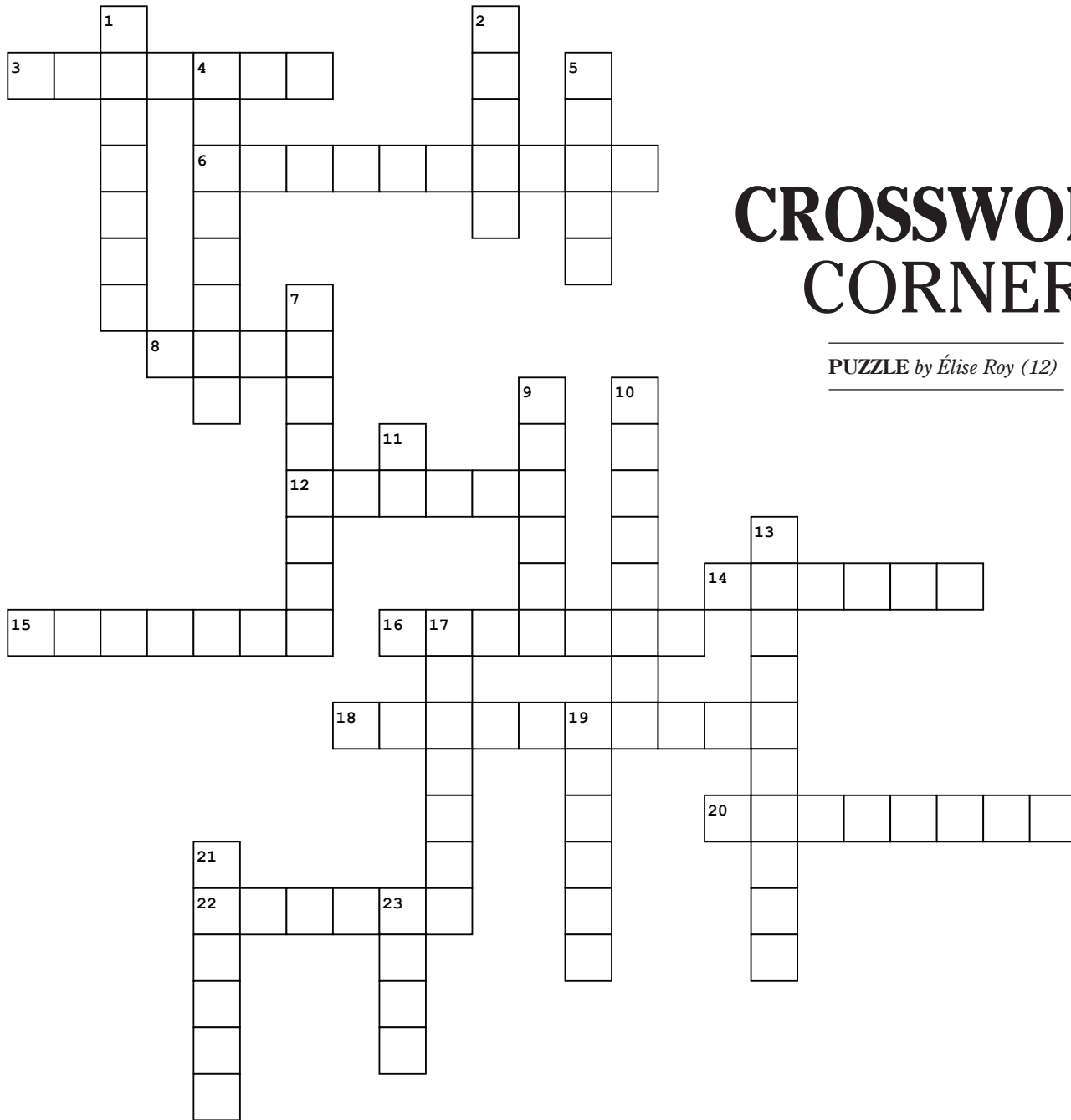
After many years as a Hamber student, I have learned that my peers are much less standoffish than I imagined. Stepping out of my comfort zone to start a conversation has always been worthwhile.

-The Nest



Seeking advice? Reach out to The Nest anonymously via the form on our website <https://www.ehnewspaper.ca>

If your question wasn't answered, please write to us again: you may be featured in issues to come or on our Instagram!



CROSSWORD CORNER

PUZZLE by Élise Roy (12)

Across

- Country that experienced the potato famine of 1845-1852
- Lost their shoe at midnight
- Green mineral used in sculptures and jewellery
- Medical term for nearsightedness
- Name of ice shelf the size of New York City that broke off Antarctica on March 15
- Japanese fried chicken
- Surname of Blue Suede Shoes singer
- (1) Island country off the coast of Africa; (2) title of movie starring animals Alex, Marty, and Melman
- Knowing several languages
- (1) Bookstore; (2) sixth colour of the rainbow

Down

- Comic strip written by Charles M. Schulz that ran from 1950-2000
- The Stawamus _____ is a popular hike located in Squamish
- Infamous island that housed prisoners including Al Capone
- Small bespectacled man who wears a red and white stripes
- Dark brown Australian spread made from yeast extract
- Word beginning with H meaning time off from an activity
- King of Ithaca, also known as Ulysses
- In Alcott's novel Little Women, the four sisters are Beth, Amy, Meg and ___
- (1) Renewable energy source; (2) title of Lorde album
- Surname of singer who dropped and broke their award at the 2022 Grammys
- Drake's first name
- Exclamation for falling tree
- City in Egypt home to famous pyramids



COMIC by Julia Ling (11)