

The Griffins' Nest

INFORMATIVE • IMPARTIAL • INDEPENDENT

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VANCOUVER, BC

2022-2023 STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED



NEWS REPORT by *Mackenzie Chung (10)*

As the end of May approached, students and staff likely noticed the dozens of Student Council campaign posters pasted around Hamber's walls. With the school year coming to a close in a few weeks, the people pioneering next year's events for the student body have been determined. Following weeks of campaigning, the results of the election were announced on May 18.

At the top of the Student Council are

next year's co-presidents, **Maya Kooner (11)** and **Wilson Liang (11)**. Besides the events the council normally runs, the two presidents shared a desire to push for a greater range of resources and events circling around highlighting communities, such as Asian Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Pride Month for next year. "We're really looking forward to bringing back all the traditional events Hamber knows and loves while also growing and expanding our horizons with the student body's help" Liang expressed. The two presidents' job on next year's council is to not only oversee

and manage the rest of the council, but to act as the bridge between Student Council and Hamber's Administration.

Right by the co-president's side is next year's youngest member on the executive board, Vice President **Sophia Keng (10)**. Being on Hamber's Student Council since grade 8, Keng is well equipped for the responsibilities that a vice-president has to take on. Sophia talked about her desire for taking more of a leadership role in the Student Council, after being a grade representative for the current grade 10s for the current school year and how that led to her ap-

plying for her new role on the council

Pulling events for next year together is **Ayana Chang (11)**, next year's Social Coordinator. While the entirety of Student Council works to help set up events for the student body, the Social Coordinator takes on a lead role in organizing big school events like school dances.

Next year's executives expressed their appreciation for this year's dance, The Imposter Promenade, stating it could act as a baseline for what bigger events for next year could look like.

On the flip side, helping to sort out the more technical side of events run by Council are next year's treasurer and secretary. Being fulfilled by **Michael Lee (11)**, the role of treasurer deals with all things money relayed, from keeping reports on the current financial status of Council, to submitting funding requests from clubs to the school accountant, much to do with how Student Council affords their operations is known by the treasurer.

Natalie Tam (11) will be next year's secretary, making sure all Student Council records are up to date. The secretary records minutes, a detailed list of all business covered at meetings, and is also responsible for sending out any emails or forms of communication. Natalie expressed that as her final year of high school was approaching she wanted to take on a leadership role, and especially so wanted one that could impact the school community in a larger way.

Hamberites will greeted in the morning by **Ryan Hsu (12)**'s voice as

Director of Communications on the announcements.

The Grad Class of 2023 will have **Daniel Lee (11)**, **Tiffany Lien (11)**, **Alanna Rudolph (11)**, **Willow Song (11)**, and **Emily Webb (11)** and to thank for pioneering grad-exclusive events. From prom to ideas for a high tea, Webb expressed she is "so excited to be on grad committee and am lucky to help direct the course of [The Class of 2023's] final year."

Many on Student Council hope to run Carfreeival next year.

Carfreeival is a late spring event in which an array of carnival-themed games and activities deck Hamber's grounds. Carfreeival has not run since 2019. Due to time constraints this event did not take place this year.

Student Council is a community that is constantly being changed, worked, and refined, and a few things the Executive board wish to see for next year are advertising for school-wide events, getting the news out about Student Council roles during election times, and a call for a more equal distribution of work between the members of the council themselves. The two co-presidents especially expressed their want for the non-executive members of next year's council to be able to take on more responsibility with decision making and input into projects.

Although there is still more to come before the 2021-22 year comes to a close, for all those remaining in Hamber's halls next year, Student Council and its events are in good hands.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR by *Spencer Izen (12)*

Signing Off: A Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

After serving two years as Editor-in-Chief, my tenure at the helm of *The Griffins' Nest* is coming to a close. Looking back, the paper is barely recognizable from when I started out as a reporter in September 2017.

Without a doubt, being an editor has been an exceptionally rewarding part of my time in high school. It's been a privilege to have been able to earn the trust of so many and seek the truth on the public's behalf. Our team has grown immensely, both in size and in skill.

Future members of the Editorial Board have a substantial challenge ahead of them. Not only are they responsible for managing *The Nest*'s Hamber-based club print publication, but they also have the largely exclusive role of keeping tabs on British Columbia's second-biggest, \$655 million school district. They'll have to do the latter understanding their role is one that is unappreciated and unwanted by the people that run the Vancouver School Board.

It isn't a secret by now that VSB senior management is no fan of *The Griffins' Nest*. They've proven themselves highly allergic to dealing with journalists. And when they get called out in professional media for what they have done, they deflect and deny that they've ever mistreated us or violated our constitutional rights. (Thankfully, though, I haven't found anyone subscribed to their narrative.)

Four editors, including myself, will be graduating knowing the District dislikes us. It's unfortunate, but also a testament to the impact of our reporting. In the last two years, we've shed light on gaps in student consultation and academic planning, kept the public informed on Omicron and our schools, investigated the instructional inadequacy of the Vancouver Learning Network, and uncovered flaws and disinformation behind the now-largely reversed MACC program cancellation, opened the door to extensive public scrutiny regarding VSB long-term planning, and challenged the provincial government's

commitment to funding public education.

But with that, I would like to offer a few reflections.

To the younger reporters, the Grade 8s and 9s: it was not long ago that I was you. I joined *The Nest* five years ago and stuck with it all the way until now. Student journalism is for everyone, and for everyone to make a difference in their community through every article. Even if you don't see it, just trust me that with every piece you opine or report, you've made Hamber better. I look forward to seeing your names on the masthead in the next few years. And remember, as the Canadian Association of Journalists says, student journalists are real journalists.

Mr. P. Scaglione, The Nest's club sponsor, has stood by the newspaper no matter what we reported on and what challenges we faced. The Nest is student-led in its entirety. While we write our own handbooks, policies, and instructional resources, design our own print publication and website, and keep ourselves in the editorial decision driver's seat, we wouldn't be anywhere without the input of Hamber's Social Studies Department Head. As more advanced student newspapers appear in Canadian public schools, the teachers that will be most closely associated with them should follow Mr. Scaglione's lead.

To the VSB, just stop. I've trained our team not to put up with your nonsense.

Though we have rocky relations with the District, our relationship with Hamber Administration is the opposite. **Mr. D. Ambrose**, our main administrative contact, has modelled how student media and school officials can work together. In the past, we have been on other sides of the table. But this year, I'm so grateful that he and **Ms. M. Jensen** took the time to understand our unfamiliar but pioneering operation and developed an appreciation for student journalism. They deserve a shoutout, and as other free and robust student media initiatives across Canada, these administrators set an example for how to sup-

port them.

Thank you to every lawyer and civil libertarian who stood with us against the actions of the VSB. Specifically, that includes those at the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association, Canadian Association of Journalists, Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Canadian Institute for Information and Privacy Studies, Canadian University Press, Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy & Public Interest Clinic, Student Press Law Center (United States), and Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) Centre for Free Expression. Your aid has been essential to our success.

I am especially indebted to our hundreds of sources, named and unnamed, over the years who have provided invaluable information to us, sometimes at great personal risk. To all the students who participated in collection forms, parents who texted, emailed, and video conferenced with us, the expert commentators who shared their analyses, the District Parents Advisory Council members who taught us the inner workings of Vancouver public education, and members of the public who reached out with a tip or an insight, you are so much of the reason we are able to produce our journalism. We have been able to report on so many issues because of you.

To my fellow editors who are graduating this year: I have been most humbled in working with each one of you. Your contributions to *The Nest* and Canadian student journalism will be felt for years, and you deserve recognition in a much longer form than what I could provide here. There is so much to say and not enough ink to print it. I extend a sincere mazel tov to Executive Editor **Hannah Azad (12)**, Executive Editor **Erika Chung (12)**, and Managing Editor **Jessica Kim (12)** for their commitment and dedication to the paper and for their innovation and ingenuity. I would encourage all readers to do the same. They have left enormous shoes to fill.

I firmly believe in the importance of our

masthead motto, and that *The Nest* should never waiver from it. The values of being informative, impartial, and independent are central to what it means to be a *Griffins' Nest* student journalist. We are beholden to one interest and one interest only: the public. We are a newspaper that strives to get the best stories to our readers, be the fairest in our news reporting, and be fiercely autonomous in our editorial judgement. We invite different perspectives to use the pages of our publication as a platform for community betterment.

The Griffins' Nest is the place for all students to channel their ambitions, interests, and abilities through good, ethical journalism. I am proud of the work we've been able to do and congratulate everyone who has been a part of it.

However, the media outlet the graduating editors and myself reimagined must now be passed on to the new group.

Your 2022-2023 Editorial Board, led by current Executive Editor incoming Editor-in-Chief **Stephen Kosar (11)**, will consist of **Teresa Chen (11)**, **Max von Dehn (10)**, **Adelaide Guan (9)**, **Simone Hamilton (11)**, **Ellis Jackson (11)**, **Katja Radovic-Jonsson (10)**, and **Alanna Rudolph (11)**.

Being a student journalist is a uniquely challenging position in many ways. But what you put in is what you get out, and it's been well worth it for me.

I hope I've served our readership well and that students, teachers, administrators, parents and guardians, school staff, trustees, and members of the public that make up our Hamber and Vancouver School District community continue to place their confidence in *The Griffins' Nest*.

With that said, it's time for me to sign off. Thank you for your trust, and for the opportunity to serve in this role. @ehnewspaper forever.

Spencer Izen
2020-2022 Editor-in-Chief | *The Griffins' Nest*

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

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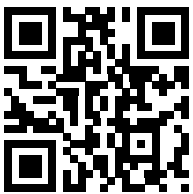
MR. P. SCAGLIONE

We acknowledge that we report the news from the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

The Griffins' Nest is a student-run, independent newspaper based out of Eric Hamber Secondary School. Publishing throughout the school year, we cover news relevant to Hamber students, staff, and families and the Vancouver School District in an informative, impartial, and professional manner. We amplify student voice and keep our community up to date.

All articles are curated by the Editorial Board (with the exception of opinion pieces). Complaints may be filed through a form hosted on our website.

The Griffins' Nest adheres to the Canadian Association of Journalists' Principles for Ethical Journalism and Ethics Guidelines and the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics.



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News Report

A concise, fact-driven, objective and impartial account of a news-worthy story.

News Analysis

An in-depth interpretation or explanation of a news story through a close examination of the facts and their contextual significance or meaning. They are not persuasive, but an informative, sufficiently non-editorialized discussion based on the weight of evidence.

Opinion

A person's perspective on a particular news story. Opinions represent an argument or stance that is solely representative of the author and NOT of the newspaper as a whole.

Editorials

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

Students speak out on the state of Hamber's vending machines

NEWS REPORT by Katja Radovic-Jonsson (10)

Though Hamber's culture has changed throughout the past few years, one thing has remained constant: the vending machines. These convenient machines have been incredibly popular among students for lunchtime and after-school snacks for many years, but recent months have seen an increase in complaints among students, from concerns about the food and drink selection to the inflating prices of items in the machines.

Many students are generally satisfied with the food and drink selection available in the vending machines. "The selection is surprisingly decent," Daniel Brandao (10) shared. "There's a large selection," Alisha Wong (10) agreed, saying that she has "been getting the same drinks every time since Grade 8, and they're still pretty good!"

Other students disagree with this notion. Some, such as Cindy Si (10), claim that the selection is too consistent. "The drink options never change, and the snacks only change once every few months or so," she said.

Eloise Ramslie (9) concurs: "I think the main issue is that there's no connection between what's ordered and what the student population wants. They're not asking the school community about what they'd like to see being stocked up." She thinks that an increase in communication between administration and the student body would improve overall student satisfaction with the selection.

There have also been complaints about the vending machines being out of order much of the time. "The food and drink selection is adequate, but oftentimes they've run out of everything or the machines are broken," said Thomas Catchpole Sterling (10). JB Ferrer (10) shares this opinion, stating that "the drink machines are always broken, so there's basically never any drinks". Ramslie stated that she often doesn't bring cash to school, "but even if I did, I wouldn't be able to use it most of the time, since the drink machines are almost always broken."

One major concern is the vending machines' way of encouraging so-called



KATJA RADOVIC-JONSSON

'healthy choices', especially in drink machines. "I really don't like the promotion of diet soda," Maddie Baker (11) shared. "I think the promotion of zero-calorie drinks in a high school environment can be really toxic." Many agreed with this notion, such as Ayana Chang (11), who claims that the school's attempt to make the vending machines healthy is sub-par. "They make some attempt to be healthy, but the options they're giving us in the machines aren't really healthy, so they might as well put the 'good stuff' in."

On the other hand, encouraging healthier options is not necessarily a bad idea. Ellena Arthur (10) explained: "It's a good idea to encourage healthy eating, especially considering how accessible the vending machines are. If they only sold really unhealthy foods, it wouldn't be good for the student population." Baker agrees that "while the idea of encouraging healthy eating is good, the way that they're trying to encourage it is problematic. It's all about balance, really."

When asked about their thoughts on the prices of items in the vending machines, the students interviewed unanimously agreed that items in the machines have become too expensive. "The prices are ridiculous now. I went to the grocery store the other day and bought a drink for a dollar or two. That same drink

in the vending machines costs around four dollars." Andre Chen (9) shared. Si had similar thoughts on the matter, saying that "a tiny bottle of the aloe drink costs around the same as a three-liter drink at a grocery store."

The recent price increases have affected many students' spending habits at the vending machines. Catchpole Sterling thinks that students are going to be using the machines a lot less now that the cost of merchandise has increased so much. Chang agrees: "I used to use the vending machines all the time, but now I almost never do."

With the vending machines serving as many students' only food source in the afternoon, many students fear that they have become much less accessible. "After 12:15, the cafeteria closes, so if you're hungry at school in the afternoon, you're going to have to go to the vending machines and spend four dollars on a tiny granola bar," Baker explained. "That's just not affordable for many students."

Although administration claims that the prices are likely increasing due to economic inflation, many students feel taken advantage of. "Even if inflation is behind these increases, it doesn't explain why they're selling things for double the normal price," Chen stated. Ferrer feels that "it just feels like they're trying to

make a profit off of us."

With this, students are finding new alternatives to purchasing from the vending machines. "Students have started stealing from the vending machines," Ferrer explained. "It's pretty bad to be honest." He, like many other students, knows that stealing from the vending machines is not a very moral thing to do, but ultimately understands why they do it.

One student who decided to remain anonymous shared: "It's a very sad scenario. Students are hurting their arms by trying to break into the machines for snacks that are honestly mediocre at best. If prices were more reasonable, students would just buy things from it." They also worry that the more students steal, the more the prices could increase. "We risk creating a sort of vicious cycle, which is what I really fear."

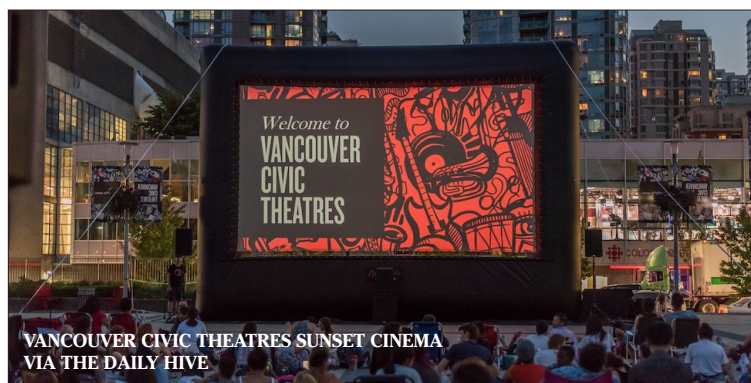
What confuses students the most is that the suppliers do not take any action to prevent theft. One student stated that "the supply company should know that there's been stealing happening by now. There must be some kind of inventory taken whenever they restock. So why do they keep restocking the bottom two shelves when they know that they're the easiest to steal from?"

Another alternative that students use in the afternoons is to buy food elsewhere. "I've certainly seen an increase in students who leave during class to get food at a nearby convenience store," shared a student. "They're taking away from their own learning in order to satisfy their hunger now."

Allison Lee (10) is disappointed with the entire situation. "The school discourages us from leaving the school to buy food, but then they inflate the prices of food at school, which just leaves us in a tough place," she said.

Baker concurs, emphasizing that the inflated prices are creating an accessibility issue. "This situation is really putting students under a lot of stress, especially if you don't have food at home or you often forget to pack your lunch. The VSB seriously needs to regulate the prices of vending machine items", she stated. "The bottom line is, students are desperate. And they're hungry. And when students are desperate and hungry, they're going to get their food, one way or another."

What to Watch Summer 2022: Upcoming Movies



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES SUNSET CINEMA VIA THE DAILY HIVE

NEWS REPORT by Jaya Wood (9)

This year, many exciting movies have already been released, but even more are scheduled to release in the summer.

These first few movies are all comedies. If you are looking to find a funny movie to watch along with friends or family, get ready!

Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank is an animated movie that follows a sorrowful dog that starts to train to become a samurai to protect the village of cats from a dangerous villain. This movie stars Michael Cera, Samuel L. Jackson, Ricky Gervais, and Mel Brooks. It is directed by Mark Koetsier, Chris Bailey, and Rob Minkoff and

is set to be released on July 15.

DC League of Super-pets is the next cartoon centred around the famous DC heroes' pets. These pets work together to save their owners after being kidnapped. This movie stars Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Kate McKinnon, and John Krasinski. Directed by Jared Stern, this movie releases on July 29.

Famous comedian Jo Koy plays a fictional version of himself in *Easter Sunday* when he attends a Filipino family Easter celebration. Starring Jo Koy, Jimmy O. Yang, Tia Carrere, and Brandon Wardell. This movie is directed by Jay Chandrasekhar and is going to be released on August 5.

This next movie is titled *The Man From Toronto*, starring Kevin Hart and Woody Harrelson as a "screw-up" and an assassin. They must stay alive together when they are mistak-

en for each other. Directed by Patrick Hughes, this movie will be released on August 12.

If you are looking for an action-packed film, these are the movies to get excited for!

Chris Hemsworth returns to the role of Thor in the new movie *Thor: Love and Thunder*. This movie revolves around Thor wanting to find peace, but Gorr the God Butcher forces him to defeat this threat with the help of his former allies. Along with Chris Hemsworth there will be appearances from Christian Bale, Natalie Portman, and Russel Crowe. Directed by Taika Waititi, the release date of this movie is July 8.

This next movie is based on the Japanese novel *Bullet Train*. Brad Pitt acts as an assassin wanting to retire when he is given his final task on a bullet train. This journey turns out to be much more than he expected. Starring Brad Pitt, Joey King, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, and Brian Tyree Henry and directed by David Leitch, this movie is to be released on August 5.

These next few movies are for lovers of horror and thriller movies.

In *Bed Rest*, Melissa Barrera is a pregnant woman put on mandatory bed rest. She starts noticing supernatural events taking place in her home. Co-starring Guy Burnet, Kirsten Harris, and Erik Athavale. *Bed Rest* is directed by Lori Evans Taylor and the release date is July 15.

Beast follows a man visiting a game reserve in South Africa with his daughters. They suddenly become prey to a dangerous lion that starts to stalk them. It stars Idris Elba, Sharlto Copley, Iyana Halley, and Leah Sava'

Jeffries. This movie is directed by Baltasar Kormákur. The release date is August 19.

Fear features a group of friends who come together at a remote getaway in the mountains. They soon discover the strange history behind the getaway and are forced to fight for their lives. This movie stars Joseph Sikora, King Bach, Terrence Jenkins, and Ruby Modine. It is directed by Deon Taylor and will be released on August 26.

If you love thrillers but want a bit of humour these two movies are the ones to wait for.

In *Vengeance*, a NYC journalist travels to the south to uncover the truth of his girlfriend's strange death in this comedic thriller. Starring B.J. Novak, Issa Rae, Ashton Kutcher, and Boyd Holbrook and directed by B.J. Novak. The release date of this movie is July 29.

Bodies Bodies Bodies, a group of friends come together for a house party to play a murder mystery game when they realize a real murder has actually taken place. They must solve the mystery for real. This movie stars Amandla Stenberg, Maria Bakalova, Myha'la Herrold, and Chase Sui Wonders. Directed by Halina Reijn, this movie releases on August 5.

To end your summer with a bit of romance, check out the following movie!

Three Thousand Years of Longing follows a woman who encounters and falls in love with a spirit who offers her three wishes in exchange for his freedom. This movie stars Idris Elba, Tilda Swinton, Aamito Lagum, and Nicolas Mouawad. It is directed by Georgia Miller and arrives in theatres on August 31.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

How to be a super cool Instagram Influencer (Real!!!)



MANTAS HESTHAVEN/UNSPASH

SATIRE by Noah Yu (11)

With summer right around the corner, it's the perfect time to take pictures for your Instagram feed. However, it may feel basic, dull, stale, and monotonous to post photos similar to everybody else's. Fortunately, Noah exists, and provided are his best variations of the freshest Instagram trends.

1 - Post a mirror selfie

...but not just any typical mirror selfie where the photographer covers their face with the phone and has the flash on! Instead, post a picture where as much of your body as possible is hidden! This can be achieved by retreating behind a couch, bed, or any preferred large piece of furniture. You may also use an editing program to remove any body parts that are still visible. In other words, post a 'mirror selfie' without the 'selfie.'

2 - Show off a summer fit

Are you tired of seeing other people pull off clothes that you can't? Say goodbye to your insecurity by showing off your unique, funky style! Catch your followers' attention by wearing plague doctor masks, bulletproof armour, neon safety vests, or blacksmith aprons in your posts. If you're feeling particularly rambunctious, wear them all at once.

3 - Share your summer activities

Show your audiences what seasonal activities you're up to — a picnic here, an endangered species hunt there.

4 - Use a quirky filter

The Snapchat Dog filter will always be a classic. However, everybody is bored of it. Instead, choose something that will accentuate your quirky, silly-goofy side. Filters of horror movie characters such as The Nun and Annabelle will definitely evoke a reaction from the public.

5 - Spice up "golden hour" pics

Sunset pics are aesthetically pleasing, but **only** the super edited ones. Feel free to embrace this trend of over-editing photos by deep-frying (that is — for those unfamiliar with the term — to extremely oversaturate) all the scenery!

6 - Post your memories with friends

What better way to fill your Instagram feed than with photos of treasured memories with friends? "But Noah," you might whine, "what if I have no friends?"

Why not edit an admirable figure into your post instead, such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Chris Bumstead or "CBum," or Ronnie Coleman?

Take Rainbow Dash from *My Little Pony*, for example. She's the bravest pony around. Furthermore, she would "...never leave [her] friends hanging" (*My Little Pony*, Season 1 Episode 2). With her strong loyalty to her friends, she serves as the perfect example of how people should love and treat each other. Rainbow Dash, an advocate for the Magic of Friendship, is a truly respectable and admirable figure.

How exactly did Heartstopper steal our hearts?

REVIEW by Sara Maya Budhiraja (9) and Adelaide Guan (9)

Originating as an incredibly popular Webtoon — a form of online comic — Alice Oseman's *Heartstopper* had already touched millions of people worldwide. When a TV adaptation was announced in January of 2021, fans were skeptical that the TV version could fill the big shoes left by the groundbreaking graphic novel series. However, following its release on April 23, 2022, the show now holds an impressive rating of 100 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes, has been nominated for a British National Television award, and was viewed for nearly 25 million hours in its first week of release. The cast has been widely praised, from *The New York Times* to its army of fans on social media. To top it all off, the success of the show spurred Netflix to renew it for two more seasons, announced May 20, less than a month after it was released.

For many years in popular media, queer characters and stories have been left on the sidelines in favour of the main plot and characters, and exist only as comic relief or as the "gay best friends" of protagonists. *Heartstopper* turns that narrative on its head, putting a queer love story at the center of the plot, and adding side characters with differing sexual orientations and gender identities.

The story of *Heartstopper* is one that many LGBTQIA+ kids could relate to. Two students fall for each other at an all boys school, and while there is joy in finding a boyfriend, struggles with internalized homophobia and stereotypes from peers still plague the happy couple. However, *Heartstopper* does an amazing job of not othering its main characters, Nick Nelson and Charlie Spring. They like sports, music, and hanging out with their friends, just like any other kids. They are also gay and bisexual, respectively, and that is treated as simply a part of who they are, and not a challenge to be overcome.

Heartstopper features a young and diverse cast, many of whom are fresh to the industry... and fresh out of high-

school! Their experiences amplified the story furthermore, creating genuine and realistic characters. As an example, Yasmin Finney, who first gained popularity through her personal TikTok videos about her experience as a Black transgender teenager, plays Elle Argent. The accurate and authentic casting added to *Heartstopper's* relatability, and demonstrated to the audience the reality of being a queer high school student.

Although *Heartstopper* is a light-hearted show, it deals with sensitive, real topics. Charlie was outed to his school against his will, and has to deal with corresponding mental health repercussions throughout the series. He faces intrusive thoughts and has to come to terms with an assault and the bullying he faced prior to and during the timeline of the show. Nick is initially portrayed as a stereotypical "rugby lad," but he must reconcile this image of himself with his sexual orientation, and face coming out to his mother, played by Olivia Coleman, and his friends.

Transgender character Elle Argent has to adjust to life at an all girls school after coming out, and deals with the loneliness that comes from leaving her friends. Tara and Darcy, a lesbian couple at the school, befriend Elle, but struggle against the negativity they encounter after outing themselves as a couple.

In the end, every character in the show must grapple with feelings of first love, and what that means for themselves and their friends.

As the weeks since the show's re-

lease start to stretch into months, the praise and verbal accolades for *Heartstopper* keep rolling in. An emotional and pivotal scene in the show is Nick's coming out to his mother, and many fans of the show have shared on Twitter and Instagram that they have been inspired by the heartwarming moment to come out to their families as well.

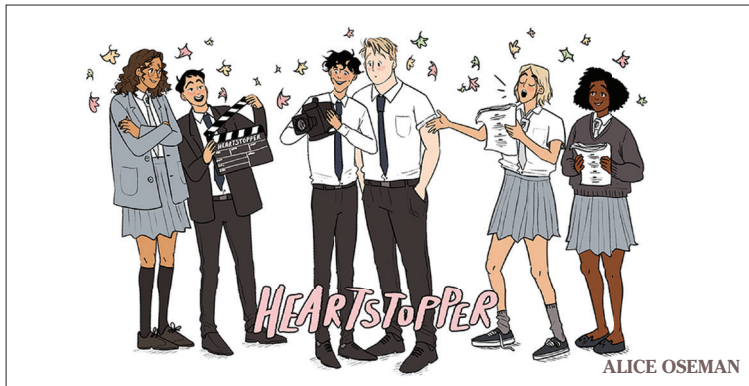
Kit Connor, who played Nick Nelson, even took to social media to respond to the tweets. Nick's character has been subject to large amounts of praise from fans, with one fan stating on Twitter; "thank you #heartstopper for giving us nick nelson. for giving bisexual people such healthy representation. To see him figure himself out, understand he is bi and tell his mum on his own terms in his own time and for her to just hug him."

Another user tweeted that Nick Nelson was the best boyfriend in cinematic history, and others have showered the rest of the cast with compliments, commending Joe Locke's portrayal of Charlie as his first acting job and the skill with which he played the emotional character. Other characters in the show, such as the teachers and Charlie's sister Tori, who play more minor roles, have been lauded for "the most emotional and heartwarming scenes of the series."

Aside from love from fans on Twitter, publications like *The Guardian* and *The New York Times* have spoken on the success of the show, with *The Guardian* naming *Heartstopper* as "the loveliest show on television," and *The Times* stating *Heartstopper* is a "TV love story with the soul of a comic," and calling it a "heartwarming" and "faithful" adaptation.

Nick and Charlie are the stars of *Heartstopper*, but it's the plot, representation of issues queer youth face and the young cast that really steal the show.

Alice Oseman's webtoon has made the perilous leap from book to TV, and as of right now, their story has safely landed.



ALICE OSEMAN

HAMBER ULTIMATE DOMINATES, WINNING CITIES, ZONES, PROVINCIALS

NEWS REPORT by Tiffany Adams (8)

Over the past few months, Eric Hamber's ultimate teams have dominated their respective leagues.

Senior A finished their season undefeated after playing 32 games and three tournaments: Miles Winch in Semiahmoo, Reign Cup in Richmond, and Valhalla in Burnaby.

The team won City Championships, Zone Championships, and Provincial Championships, bringing three

banners back to Hamber

Senior A player, **Jamie Jung** (12), spoke to the experience of playing at Provincials as a senior, sharing "That feeling of playing your final high school game with all my closest friends the best players possible. It's a really great experience and a great way to end my high school experience."

In the final, at Newton Athletic Park in Surrey and livestreamed on YouTube, Hamber came out on top versus Sutherland with a definitive 12-4 victory.

"It was an amazing opportunity

because we [were playing] against the best schools — the top 16 in BC — it was great to showcase my strength to thousands of viewers not only in person, but on live streams as well," Senior A player **Victor Poon** (12) noted.

Both Jung and Poon shared they think the future is very bright for Hamber Ultimate. Junior A had notable success this year, also winning City Championships and Provincials in their respective league. With the Grade 12 athletes graduating and leaving the program there is no indication Hamber's legacy will not continue.



SENIOR A ULTIMATE

Vancouver District Student Council's Sister School Switch Returns



VDSC

NEWS REPORT by Arianna Tham (10)

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the Vancouver District Student Council ("VDSC") has brought back their annual Sister School Switch. The Sister School Switch is a District-wide event where students shadow a peer from a different school for a day. This year's guiding question is "How have students built connections and resiliency in their school communities post-pandemic?"

Every year before the pandemic, a certain number of representatives from each VSB school would participate in this event. The number of students per school varied depending on the number of schools that participated. This year, the numbers ranged from one to 12 students per school. Participants were selected through an interview process.

The students met up on May 26 to introduce participants to their Sister School Switch partners. The school switches took place on May 27 and May 30 when both partners were given the opportunity to temporarily attend a new school in Vancouver. "It was one of the best school days I've had in a long time" **Kathy Ling** (10) from Windemere Secondary School shared, referring to her day at Eric Hamber with Hamberite **Lauren Chow** (11).

The event was held over a two-day period. Participants began their day at their sister school by attending their partner's first-class and shadowing them until lunch. At lunch hour, visiting partners were given the option to explore the school on their own and meet up with people that they may already know from the school, or that they met during the switch. They would continue to shadow their partners during blocks three and four.

In the past, the VDSC Sister School Switch event took place over the duration of four days so students were able to attend all of their partner's classes. However, with the semester system replacing the linear system the length of the event was shortened down to two days.

This year's event produced refreshing memories for participants at Hamber and Windemere. "During our partner meeting, we instantly got along," Chow shared, "I appreciated being shadowed [and] it was enjoyable to be Kathy's mentor at Hamber. [Windemere] was smaller [than Hamber] and I met a whole new group of people. Kathy was a great host, taking me around the school and introducing me to many of the students and teachers. I felt like I learned a lot about the school in just a day and I would definitely go back!"

"My biggest highlight of the day was meeting Lauren's friends, connecting with some of my mutuals, exploring the entire school, going on walks around the park, and trying new things like using a camera in her photography class" Ling revealed. She also expressed her appreciation for the abundance of artwork and the outgoing personalities at Hamber.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

SENIOR GIRLS SOCCER UNDEFEATED IN REGULAR SEASON, SECOND IN CITY

NEWS REPORT by *Simone Hamilton* (11)

Hamber's Senior Girls Soccer team experienced great success this season, with 10 wins and zero losses in their regular season. The Griffins powered through the competitive quarterfinal and semifinal games. The team was undefeated until they reached the city final game against Tupper, where they took home second place.

Some players found the result to be disappointing. "We wanted to win for the Grade 12s because it was their last game [playing with Hamber]," **Alexis Moscovitz** (10) said. **Nina Louis** (12) found the game to be bittersweet. "It was quite sad to end it off on a loss, but I think overall I was happy about the way we played," Louis remarked.

Longtime coach and teacher-sponsor, **Ms. J. Polukoshko** (English) described watching the final. "[I was just] crazy full of pride. I was just so proud of the girls that they got there and that they were trying so hard and playing so well."

Winning all ten regular-season games was an achievement for the team, however, the girls soccer program at Hamber has had a history of success. "[The program] is a lot of fun and has seen a lot of success over the years... I don't know if I can confident-

ly say that I 100 per cent know we had an undefeated season, but I do know we've won city championships in other years," Polukoshko stated.

Some credit their success to the coaches themselves, "[Paul Morris] was a really inspirational coach, and also it couldn't have been possible without Ms. Polukoshko," **Ellie Ramslie** (9) told The Nest. Morris is a parent of a former Senior Girls Soccer athlete and has been coaching the team since 2018. Polukoshko has been coaching for 16 years.

Other players feel like their success was attributed to the team's bond. "The teamwork we had, the relationship we had with each of our teammates, it was really strong... and communication on the field was better because of that," Louis reflected. Moscovitz agreed, sharing, "Working together was a big part of it, and also being supportive of each other and building people up."

From a coach's point of view, Polukoshko remarked, "[We've had] amazing senior leadership from our Grade 12s, who've been playing soccer for a long time on the team. They've brought a lot of positivity, encouragement, and leadership."

Leadership on and off the field was something that older players passed on to their younger teammates. "We had a game when our Grade 12s were at prom...it was a quarter-final game,



Hamber Senior Girls in the semifinal game against John Oliver. Louis scored the winning goal, putting final score at 1-0

... it couldn't have been possible without Ms. Polukoshko...

and our juniors stepped up big time and played amazing soccer and got us to the semis," Ms. Polukoshko concluded.

The team faced challenges at the beginning such as rebuilding the roster after two dormant seasons because of COVID-19. Louis elaborated, "Coming back in Grade 12 with a whole new team, [where] grades 8 to 10 have never played on a school soccer team before, [and] building those connections again and getting a feel for the new team. It was hard to organize who was playing what and where, because it was

such a brand new experience."

Smaller trials during the season were explained by players, "There were many injuries," Moscovitz recalled.

The loss of Hamber's oval due to the new school construction also impacted the team. "Instead of [practices] being right after school, they were half an hour after school. I'm sure that cut into some peoples' schedules... We [also] had to walk to an alternate location for our practices," Ramslie said.

Other commitments and scheduling tested the team's on-field chemis-

try. Louis explained, "Not everybody can go to the practices because of other commitments, so not being able to practice with each other as much as we would hope."

Despite these challenges, most were overcome by the team's hard work and passion over the season. The team's persevering attitude had shined through for many.

During the final, Polukoshko observed that the players "[were] showing such tenacity. They never gave up, they were working the entire time."

That same work ethic was a take-away for a younger player Ramslie. "I think that this team has taught me to bring a lot more drive [into games]," Ramslie said.



"Life begins after high school!" Teachers' Gift Advice to Grads

NEWS REPORT by *Marissa Lear* (12)

As The Class of 2022's time among these locker lined halls dwindle down to mere days, a myriad of emotions bubbles up within our class. While overused Dr. Suess quotes and unsolicited opinions are being thrown at Grads from relatives and friends, The Nest wanted to ask the adults who have been with the grade 12s since grade 8 what pearls of wisdom they have to offer as they step outside the blue and maroon of Hamber, including their own high school experiences.

Several teachers remarked on how our generation is "far more...aware of what the world needs," according to **Mr. I. Sehmbi** (Physical Education). With the change in times and public political progression we witness every day, **Ms. S. McEachern** (Social Studies) noticed that the class of 2022 is "equipped with the...awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusivity." It is these positive differences our grad year possesses that will enable us to make the affirmative impact we desire as the Hamber teachers are confident that these differences will lend themselves to be greatly advantageous.

High school wasn't all TikTok

trends and Clash Royale for some of our Hamber teachers. Their days were filled with regrettable perms and rival school basketball games that made midtown showdown look mundane. In fact, many reminisced on how the lack of technology during their adolescent years fostered meaningful relationships that are still going strong today. For **Mr. A. Stevens** (Science), some of his greatest memories during his time as a student here at Hamber were the lunches he spent with his friends.

But besides these differences in technology and trends, extracurriculars were common — often at the center of many's high school experiences. That isn't dissimilar from the theatre rehearsals and sports practices that cultivated those core memories and friendships for our teachers. Relationships seemed to be a common theme with teachers since the majority of their advice to grads revolved around maintaining friendships.

"Living is about the relationships and positive connections you make with people" as **Mr. D. Mugford** (English and Physical Education) put profoundly, since "that's all we can ever hope to be remembered for." Awards will become dusty, the definition of "cool" will change, and black ink on certificates will fade. Nonetheless, the impact one can have on another human is etched in stone.

Throughout the interviews conducted, there was a general sense of nostalgia as the interviewees reminisced on their high school days.

The vast number of options students have today could become "paralyzing" as Stevens explained while reflecting on the advice he wishes to leave the graduating class of 2022 with.

Savouring these final moments is an opportunity many Hamber teachers stressed to not let pass by. At the same time, it is equally important to remember that the "bends in the road make life so much more interesting...than the proverbial 'straight path'" when we exit high school like McEachern suggests. It can certainly be scary to flee the proverbial nest, but **Mr. J. Overgaard** (Physical Education) wisely recommended that we "take more risks, step outside of [our] comfort zone." This is a necessity that several teachers agree with. So much so, that Stevens wishes he could tell his 17-year-old self that "there is lots of time to change your mind about what you want to do" and what he can do now, is pass this advice onto us so that we can "allow [ourselves] the kindness of making mistakes, changing [our] mind[s], or not knowing the answer." Adaptability is key when taking our next steps because there are so many things that are out of our control. "There is always more than one path and eventually... you'll get there" as advised by an assured **Ms. S. Chan** (Science and Mathematics).

When it comes to choosing a career path, Mugford recommends finding "an area in life where you can contribute to the world." Numerous teachers agreed with this sentiment as well as finding something that makes you truly happy, even if it's not exactly what your parents had in mind for you. Planning for the future is an extremely taxing task, full of question marks and empty answers. However, it is crucial to keep in mind that we are "good enough" for tackling this next chapter and one does not need to be "perfect" to deserve to be happy. Having a positive outlook on life is key as well. When times get tough, having "something to hold onto" like Chan recommended can be one's saving grace.

The Hamber teachers have faith in the grads to succeed and wish them off with several pieces of advice, learnt from when they were in our shoes. And as Overgaard so confidently put it, "life begins after high school!"

Hamber's Seismic Upgrade: An Overview

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh* (8)

Back in June 2018, the provincial government revealed their plans to fund the construction of a replacement school building for Eric Hamber Secondary School.

The Vancouver School Board, or VSB, had come to the decision to rebuild the school mainly because it was in dire need of a seismic upgrade. As Eric Hamber Secondary School was first built in 1962, the school structure is quite old, and not well prepared to handle and protect properly against many threats. With a seismic upgrade, the school will have a better design and stronger build, leaving it much more protected by earthquakes and major disasters.

That page is an appendix that shows the amount of progress that has been made with the new seismic upgrades.

This seismic upgrade was also made because of the Seismic Mitigation Program that the Vancouver School District is currently going through. It is a program that is an initiative that strives to give schools better and safer protection.

One fact that makes this seismic upgrade all the more thrilling is that it is the largest seismic project in Vancouver's history according to a news release by the BC Government on May 13 2022.

It was in April of 2020 that a \$105 million Design-Build contract was struck between the Vancouver School District and Bird Construction, whereas \$105 million was given to Bird Construction to design and build the new school.

As stated on a webpage for the Vancouver School Board, the building will be around 15,000 square feet with four floors, and be able to fit approximately 1,700 students ranging from grades 8 to 12.

Although the fourth floor will be used as a child care center, it will be closed off from the high school, with a capacity of up to 69 children aged one to four.

The school will include a 350-seat auditorium, and two gymnasiums fit with change rooms, a health room, and a fitness room. However, when the plans for the new building were first drawn up, they did not include an auditorium at all. Many people were outraged by this loss of an auditorium, and had to lobby for it through the VSB and the local government.

Of course, all building codes and safety rules will be followed in the construction of the new school. This is thanks to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED certifications.

However, as explained by the Eric Hamber Parent Advisory Council, the new building will be around 26 percent smaller than the original school, yet with a larger capacity rate of 1,700 students. Places such as the drama studio and space for the fashion program will be drastically cut down.

Currently, construction for Eric Hamber's new school is ongoing, and the beginning framework for the building can already be seen.

When Hamber students finally make the transition from their own school building to the upcoming one, the old school building will be used as a halfway point for other schools that are getting seismic upgrades.

Unfortunately, the school's track and football field was eliminated when construction first started in May 2021. The field needed to be removed, because the land that it resided on where the new school was going to be built.

Even more, as touched upon in a public engagement report by the VSB, there will not be a replacement field for it built until at least ten years, because of the lack of open space to put it. Since many different schools will be using Eric Hamber's old building for their own during their school's seismic upgrades, the demolition of the old building will be delayed quite a while.

However, Hamber students can look forward to moving into their new school building as soon as next year, as it is intended to be finished in the late summer or early fall of 2023. More specifically, the school will be ready for occupation of students in September of 2023, in time for the new school year.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE



Rex Orange County Concert at the PNE Forum in June

A Summer of Music: What's Playing and Where?

NEWS REPORT by Adrian Yue (9)

After two years of COVID-19, venue restrictions, and postponements, concert advertisements and dates are making their way back to Vancouver. With many artists set to headline and perform this summer, the arts and culture scene of Vancouver is slowly making a resurgence.

Over the course of June, July, and August, over 300 concerts are scheduled to play within the city, both indoors and outdoors.

The artists set to perform include Mitski, Five Seconds of Summer, Shawn Mendes, Phoebe Bridgers, Kendrick Lamar, and The Weeknd, amongst others.

From The Beach Boys at the Pacific National Exhibition ("PNE"), to

Alicia Keys at the Rogers Arena, there will be a musical event for everyone this summer. Furthermore, there are going to be more concerts in outdoor locations, with Mitski's performance at Deer Lake being a prime example.

Longtime events such as the Vancouver Folk Music Festival are anticipated to come back, joining the TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival in enhancing the city's live music festival scene. The PNE's live concerts are also expected to make a resurgence, effectively starting the return of our annual outdoor summer concerts.

Besides Rogers Arena, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, and the Orpheum, many local bands and music venues are hosting small and indie artists and their performances. Venues such as The Rickshaw, The Roxy Cabaret, will be open this summer, giving dimension to Vancouver's concert scene.

Live music does not need to take

place in a specialized venue; many cafes and restaurants will also have local artists on some nights. Places such as Frankie's Jazz Club in Yaletown offer a more casual way to have a night filled with culture.

Many people are taking to social media to announce the return. Stories, tweets, and Facebook posts of concert experiences are becoming prevalent once again. With summer around the corner, social media is going to see an increase in culture-related posts and updates. Large artists, including Shawn Mendes, are also taking to these platforms to announce their tour dates, cancellations, and plans.

However, attendees are still encouraged to wear masks as per the Provincial Guidelines. Although capacity restrictions have been lifted, mask-wearing recommendations are not expected to disappear anytime soon. Venues such as the Vancouver Folk Music Festival have decided to close down their kitchen this year due to concerns about COVID safety.

The Rogers Arena is anticipated to host concerts for The Lumineers, Shawn Mendes, Alanis Morissette, Maroon 5, Seventeen, John Fogerty, The Killers, Backstreet Boys, Kendrick Lamar, Alicia Keys, Greta Van Fleet, and others this summer. Queen Elizabeth Theatre, located near Stadium Chinatown Station, will be headlining Jason Mraz in July. The Orpheum, near the entertainment district, will feature Charli XCX, Thundercat, Rainbow Kitten Surprise, Phoebe Bridgers, and Here are There Music Festival.

Outside of Vancouver, Mitski will be playing at Deer Lake and multiple festivals will take place in the suburbs. Festivals such as FVDED will be hosted in Surrey and Squamish Constellation Festival in Squamish. Indigenous culture is highlighted through the Talking Stick Festival, active until July 3, 2022. In Burnaby, the Blues and Roots Festival is going to take place in August.

This summer is bound to be one for the books as Vancouver prepares to launch itself back into live music and events.

HAMBER'S PEACE AND HOPE FOR UKRAINE FUNDRAISER

NARRATIVE by Julia Chuk (8)

The Peace and Hope for Ukraine fundraiser was a school-wide fundraiser to raise money for children in Ukraine.

The fundraiser took place from late April to early June and was run by the Settlement Workers in Schools Team, Community Schools Team, and various Hamber students. A total of five events were held including a donations booth, a candle workshop, a friendship bracelet workshop, a magic cards workshop, and a hot lunch fundraiser for Hamber staff. Through these events, over \$500 was raised. All proceeds from this fundraiser are going to the United Nations Children's Fund ("UNICEF"), which is a globally-recognized charitable organization working to provide children with support and welfare.

Whilst heavy fighting between Russia and Ukraine continues, the escalation of conflict in Ukraine has caused civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure, forcing people to flee their homes seeking welfare, assistance and shelter. Approximately seven million refugees have since left Ukraine and crossed borders in neighbouring countries, 90 per cent of these Ukrainian refugees are women and children.

In response to this crisis, Canada continues to stand with the people of Ukraine and is committed to helping refugees find safe haven. "Ukrainians have fought like heroes over the past number of months, and they're not just fighting for Ukraine, they're fighting for the values that underpin so many of our free democratic societies, which is why the world needs to continue to step up," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Canada has stepped up humanitarian aid to Ukraine, providing \$245 million. Of that, \$145 million has been allocated to the United Nations, the Red Cross Movement and non-govern-

mental organizations. The remaining \$100 million will be given for military equipment in the form of lethal and non-lethal weapons for Ukraine, hoping it will help Kyiv fight Russia.

The war has taken the lives of thousands and turned daily life into a heart-breaking struggle for many Ukrainians. Canada is home to almost 1.4 million Ukrainians, their presence in our community has advanced multiculturalism and their stories of prevailing in times of struggle have taken a prominent role in education and politics. The strength and adaptability during times of ongoing struggles that Ukrainians have shown are truly inspiring. A list of Vancouver-based organizations are stepping up to offer a helping hand for Ukraine in its time of need, and we can provide them with urgent assistance by supporting one of the following: Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Centre of Vancouver Island ("UCCVI"), Ambulance for Ukraine, Salvation Army Fundraiser. This is just the start and by getting involved to support and donate to these organizations, we can make a difference in helping the people of Ukraine. "Slava Ukraini!", or "Glory to Ukraine", as President Zelenskyy said in a self-shot video posted on Friday marking the 100th day of Russia's war on the country, a message of hope and resilience shown to the world.

Our successful fundraiser truly gave our community the ability to aid the people of Ukraine.



Graduating Grade 12s Reflect on Prom and Grad

NEWS REPORT by Reya Khanna (10)

The Class of 2022 was the first graduating class in two years to get a normal graduation experience as things opened up post the onset of COVID-19. They had their Prom and Convocation Ceremony on May 19 and June 7, respectively.

The highlight of many grads' final year of high school was prom. This year's prom, named "When the Clock Strikes Twelve," was held at the Pan Pacific Crystal Ballroom, as it has been for years.

The Grad Committee sold a total of 302 tickets, with a small portion of those being Hamber students' guests. At the event, attendees enjoyed food, dessert, and punch provided by the Pan Pacific hotel.

Grad Committee's **Tarini Talreja** (12) shared that this year's prom was confirmed only one month prior to the event, so details and planning had to be arranged in a shortened time period. "It was fun but also a little stressful ... we had a lot of stuff to do in a month," she explained. Fellow committee member **Hazara Sandhu** (12) shared, "We weren't sure whether [prom] would happen. Luckily it did, COVID got better, and we got the right of way."

Sandhu spoke to the committee's implementation of a game of musical chairs. "We wanted to do something a bit fun and something for the time and a little extra, so that is why we decided on musical chairs. We thought it would be funny and get a lot of good laughs," she elaborated.

Prom royalty was also a segment of the event that the committee planned with a grade-wide vote amounting to four Prom Royals: **Jamie Jung** (12), **Louie Lee** (12), **Jacoba Moscovitz** (12), and **Maddi Huynh** (12). With their Prom dates, the royals opened the dance floor to Ed Sheeran's song "Perfect."

The seniors were appreciative of

the planning and work that was put into Prom. "The Grad Committee did an amazing job creating the slideshow and MCing the event," **Sofia Gobin** (12) shared.

Many graduating seniors remarked that the dance floor was a highlight of prom. **Barbara Negaro** (12) enjoyed "dancing with people I haven't talked to in four years." Others, such as **Anjali Dajee** (12) found the photo booth especially memorable.

Prom also provided some with realizations about their time in high school and the people they have grown up with over the past 5 years. "[Prom] marked the end [of senior year]. I might never see any of these people again," **Lucy Low** (12) said.

Along with Prom, this year's Grad Committee planned Grad Sunset, pumpkin carving, spirit weeks, GQ Day, Valentine's Day grams, karaoke, grad hoodies, and are in the process of organizing the upcoming grad breakfast.

Graduation also brings feelings of nostalgia for some teachers. "We see them grow up from Grade 8 to Grade 12, so we are going to miss them, but it is also full of hope and optimism because we are proud of them and know they are going to do really well," **Mr. A. Stevens** (Science) explained. The Class of 2022 is especially special to Stevens as they began Grade 8 when he began teaching at Hamber.

Mr. P. Beharry (Drama) shares similar feelings about graduation. He explained, "Because of [the emotional commitment that it takes in drama and in acting class], I sometimes get to know students and see aspects of them that aren't as apparent in other classes. I end up having a strong student-teacher relationship with them through the work." He continued, "Because of that, it is always a very difficult and yet exciting time every year when Grade 12s graduate because we have been working toward seeing them graduate and it is kind of the progression and the natural end cycle that is expected

and desired, but at the same time, you know that they will be going on to other things and continuing their journey."

As the end of senior year approaches, graduates have spent time reminiscing on their high school experiences. "It is strange looking at who you are hanging out with now and then thinking back of how you thought of them in Grade 8 or 9," expressed **Samantha Jubly** (12).

"[Graduation] is both exhilarating and melancholic because high school is an era of its own. The unknown is thrilling but knowing that you are leaving so many good memories and people, and the daily routine that you've grown so accustomed to is a little bit daunting," said **Gloria Rahgozar** (12).

Many of the grads are excited for the next chapter of their life, but are simultaneously saddened to leave Eric Hamber and no longer see the people they have met over the past 5 years at the school. "I am a little bit sad and excited. I think it is really nice being able to start something new, but I am going to miss all my friends and seeing them every day. [It is] bittersweet," remarked Dajee.

Jubly's advice for younger students is to "do as much as you can whether that is in school or with your friends. Experience as much as you can."

"...Experience as much as you can."

Many graduates say that their Grade 12 year flew by, and they advise students to have fun in high school and to make the most of your years while you still can.

Amelia Rea (12) summed up how many grads feel about graduating. "It feels exciting or scary, sometimes both, but never neither."

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

Heather Lands: The Largest Indigenous-Led Redevelopment Project in Vancouver



NEWS REPORT by Derek Chau (10)

The Heather Lands nearby Eric Hamber Secondary is changing. The plans for redeveloping the Heather lands were recently approved in the public hearing on May 24, 2022. What will happen to the 110-year-old Fairmont building that has A-list status under the Vancouver Heritage Register, and how will the future of this area pan out?

The Heather Lands is a 234,219 sq. m plot of land – located between 37th Avenue and 33rd Avenue, between Heather Street and the alley behind Willow Street – with a rich history. According to the Heather Lands Policy Statement in 2018, It was once a forest and an important hunting ground for First Nations peoples until the area was logged to make space for an all-boys private school, named the Langara Boys School.

The Langara Boys School operated for five years until its closure in 1917. The land and the school building were later bought by the federal government to establish a hospital for World War I veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. However, after the nearby Shaughnessy hospital recovered from a fire, the hospital staff and equipment relocated to said hospital.

Almost immediately, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) established their headquarters for their “E” division, which today is the largest division in the RCMP. Thousands of RCMP veterans lived and trained there every day, holding formal ceremonies and adopting a new Canadian flag in what they called the Fairmont lands and, subsequently, the Fairmont building.

The RCMP “E” division headquarters stayed on the Fairmont lands for decades, only moving to Surrey in 2013. Afterwards, the Fairmont lands were returned to the First Nations people through the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh (MST) Nations Partnership and the Canada Lands Company (CLC), who renamed the parcel to the Heather Lands.

With ownership of the property, a policy statement was written by the MST Nations and the CLC in 2016 detailing the approach the MST Nations and the CLC were taking to redevelop this land. The vision laid out was a residential district with 2,610 housing units: 540 units for social housing, 400 units for market rental housing, and 1,670 leasehold strata-titled units. The district would also include 4.4 acres of park space, a First Nations cultural centre, an MST Nations-operated childcare facility, a plaza, and a francophone school run by Conseil Scholaire Francophone.

Many principles and priorities were highlighted in this policy statement. The first and foremost was communication, making sure that all parties involved with this redevelopment had their opinions acknowledged and their key values integrated into the design. This brings along another priority that was outlined: reconciliation. The Fairmont building is historically known for its ties to the RCMP, who has played a role in suppressing First Nations people of their

culture and traditions. To the MST Nations, the building stands as a physical reminder of their oppressors.

According to the policy statement, if the Fairmont building was not removed from the Heather lands by 2023, the building would be demolished despite its A-list status in the Vancouver Heritage Register. With so much historical significance, from the architecture to its significance to the RCMP, the Fairmont building became the center of controversy in the redevelopment plans.

The City of Vancouver has identified a few cases where redevelopment of a historically oppressive landmark took place in BC. The Indigenous-rooted example provided was the St. Eugene Mission School in Cranbrook BC, which, after years of controversy that was similar to the controversy of the Fairmont building, was voted to be kept and became a resort for anyone to stay at.

The public consensus recorded by the City of Vancouver from the first open house held in 2016 was that many wanted the Fairmont building to be repurposed as a community centre, or a museum commemorating both the RCMP and the First Nations people. However, the MST Nations and the CLC are still adamant about their decisions.

The Fairmont building is not the only building on the Heather lands. There are two other buildings – an office building and an administrative building – that have no status in the Vancouver Heritage Register, so the buildings will most likely be demolished when construction begins.

Currently, despite the rezoning plans being approved on May 24th, 2022, construction cannot start without permits. The next step the MST Nations and the CLC will have to take is applying for building and development permits.

Once the permits are acquired, the plaza will be built on the northern side, towards 33rd Avenue, for retail stores, office space, and the cultural centre. An open nature-filled park along with some mid-rise to high-rise buildings will take up the heart and center of the site, and residential units will line 37th Avenue and the southern area of the Heather lands. New roads and bikeways will also allow residents to connect with the existing transportation network.

Some other notable features were highlighted in the policy statement, especially when it comes to designing around nature. For instance, the buildings’ designs plan to keep the central park sunny from 9 AM to 4 PM for the equinoxes. The design and placement of the buildings and their features will also consider solar heat gain and how to “minimize mechanical energy use.”

The redevelopment of the Heather lands will be a large project that spans many years. Due to the size of the district and the potential rise in population in the area, other amenities must be accommodated.

TransLink, Vancouver’s transportation governing body, has made plans to create new bikeways in the area and a Canada Line SkyTrain station at 33rd Avenue and Cambie. These plans of expanding the transportation network are included in the Cambie Corridor Plan.

PERSPECTIVES OF THE PROVINCE AND THE CITIES ON HOUSING

NEWS REPORT by Ellis Jackson (11)

Over the past decade, housing prices in British Columbia have increased significantly. According to the BC Real Estate Association, the average price of a home in the province increased by 18.7 per cent, from \$781,572 in 2021 to \$927,877 in 2022. Just in Vancouver alone, prices have reached an enormous \$2,093,600 for a detached home, and the prices are only moderately lower for townhouses and apartments, according to the city’s Real Estate Board.

To tackle this challenge, the provincial government and municipalities have made differing, and at times conflicting, proposals. David Eby, the Attorney General of British Columbia and the Minister responsible for Housing, has embarked on a series of changes designed to increase housing supply. Eby has focused on a lack of supply as the source of the province’s housing woes. He suggests that speculation and foreign ownership, long lamented as a source of BC’s housing problems, are not the primary cause. “I believe strongly, our government believes strongly, and I know our premier believes strongly that we need to address both toxic demand as well as the shortage of supply,” he said in an interview with The Tyee.

To alleviate these problems, the Province has embarked on a two-pronged approach: targeting “toxic” demand through the introduction of vacancy and flipping taxes, increasing the foreign buyers’ tax, and creating a registry of corporate land ownership, and targeting supply through building more housing.

The Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”), a forum for the self-described “common voice” of local governments province-wide, claims that the municipalities are already doing their part to build housing, while stating that the province itself is principally responsible for the housing crisis by not doing enough to fight speculation. The UBCM has expressed a desire for more power from the province to combat speculation.

The UBCM has also stated that the evidence does not support a need for greater supply in BC. A report from ear-

lier this year contended “housing supply, as best can be determined based on the data available, has kept pace with population growth in British Columbia over the past five years.” They argue that speculation is the main problem, and that if this speculation were curbed, housing would be more affordable.

“At the same time as we have every indicator of a shortage of supply of homes to buy and rent, and every indicator of unprecedented levels of in-migration to BC, the UBCM is issuing a report that says we’re approving enough housing in response to this report. He expressed concern over the fact that many of the Ukrainian refugees taken in by the federal government would head to BC, and that BC would bear a disproportionate amount of the one million immigrants the government is planning to take in over the next three years.

Eby has proposed that to solve the housing crisis, the province must take a more active role. He has said that the government is considering introducing a measure that would allow the province to override municipal decisions on housing and new housing projects, to allow for greater construction and development.

The government has also considered instituting minimum housing targets, zoning reforms, and measures to expedite approval for projects.

“I’m also concerned that this could take away the local autonomy from locally elected governments who represent the electorate in those communities,” said Craig Hodge, an executive at the UBCM and a Coquitlam city councillor told the Vancouver Sun. He also commented that the City of Coquitlam has been proactive in reforming land-use policies and encouraging higher density construction, and hopes that the province recognizes that.

He also expressed some concerns that such an action could harm communities due to their distinct needs, citing the differing sizes of Vanderhoof, a town of approximately 4,000 people, and Victoria, a capital city of 400,000.

The government has reportedly drawn inspiration from measures taken in other jurisdictions like California or New Zealand. The administration of Governor Gavin Newsom in California has instituted a new policy tying funding for infrastructure with housing construction, while the government of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in New Zealand has created new rules effectively abolishing single-family zoning in its largest cities.

“The context of saying we’re already building enough housing is very odd to me, just knowing what’s happening in terms of people moving to B.C. and the demand out there,” Minister Eby has stated in response to the statements of the UBCM.



CANADIAN PRODUCT STEWARD-SHIP COUNCIL/YOUTUBE

Why BC’s family doctor crisis is not ending anytime soon



NEWS REPORT by Teresa Chen (11) and David Zhang (11)

At the same time when over 800,000 British Columbians are without a family doctor, students are being turned away from practicing family medicine.

Over the past five years, BC has developed a family doctor shortage despite several attempts to solve this problem, including the current plans set in place by BC Health Minister Adrian Dix.

BC opened 26 urgent and primary care centres (“UPCCs”) since November 2018 to combat the family doctor crisis. These centres treated over 5,000 patients in their first year of operation. The goal of opening UPCCs was to provide urgent but non-emergency care to those without family doctors. Unfortunately, many of these UPCCs are understaffed and unapproachable with their long wait

times.

Part of the issue is not the number of UPCCs open, but is instead the fee-for-service system that pays family doctors, critics say. BC family doctors are paid from \$30 to \$50 per patient visit, and that amount then has to pay for staff, medical equipment, and renting office space.

The low payment per patient, in combination with the high expenses and amount of administrative work per patient, amounts to very little take-home income for each doctor.

Having the fee-for-service system also means that family physicians don’t get paid sick leave, resulting in serious burnout for many doctors. Dr. Tahmeena Ali, a 20-year-old industry veteran who was named BC’s Family Physician of the Year in 2020 by the College of Family Physicians of Canada, told CBC that she reached her breaking point after contracting COVID-19.

Dr. Ali worked from home and tended to patients virtually whilst she was also sick, resulting in barely any time for recovery. Upon returning to her office, she was bombarded with administrative work, allowing her very little time to see more patients.

According to another CBC interview with Alicia Pawluk, a specialist in family medicine, the take-home income of a family doctor is almost comparable to minimum wage. As a result of the low income, young doctors and students are disincentivized from choosing family medicine over other medical fields.

This shortage has eventually led to many issues, including increased wait times for emergency rooms and walk-in clinics, as well as patients being diagnosed too late to make full recoveries.

Medimap, a Canadian medical clinic directory, says BC residents wait 58 minutes on average to be seen at walk-in clinics, which is more than double Canada’s national average of 25 minutes. It also says that BC has the longest wait time of all Canadian provinces, with six of the top 10 cities with the longest average wait time being in BC.

Without a proper solution put in place to help family doctors survive financially and physically, British Columbians can expect the number of people without family doctors to continue to increase.

Recently, the BC College of Family Physicians launched their “My Family Doctor Cares” campaign to “raise awareness that there is a crisis in family medicine that will not improve until the health care system takes better care of the family doctors who take care of British Columbians.” The campaign’s website includes an email template to be sent to local Members of the Legislative Assembly instructing them to take action.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE



BC's New \$800 Million Museum

NEWS REPORT by Nigel Goto (10)

On May 13, the provincial government unveiled a bold new plan to build an \$800 million museum by 2030. The Royal BC Museum ("RBCM") would be planned in collaboration with BC Indigenous groups to provide a new cultural hub for Victoria.

RBCM is BC's "provincial museum and archives, collecting artifacts, documents and specimens of British Columbia's natural and human history, safeguarding them for the future and sharing them with the world", according to their website.

The RBCM will close its doors this year for construction and will begin construction on the new museum in 2025. It plans to contain various artifacts to depict and distinguish the different cultures and histories of the Indigenous peoples in what is now BC. The building's design, which will be chosen between 2024 and 2025, will reflect the cultures of the Lekwungen Nation, Songhees Nation, and Esquimalt Nation. The Royal BC Museum has been applauded as a step in the right direction for reconciliation in BC, with several prominent Indigenous figures including Chief Ron Sam of the Songhees Nation, Chief Rob Thomas of the Lekwungen people, and Brenda Baptiste of Indigenous Tourism BC openly supporting the project.

The other central reason behind the new museum comes due to the museum's age. In a press release, Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport stated that the museum is no longer safe. She wrote that the current RBCM is not seismically safe, and many of the exhibits contain asbestos. Additionally, she found that the museum did not meet current accessibility standards, limiting who can enjoy the museum.

There are many possible effects the Royal BC Museum could have on

BC and Canada as a whole. Centralized tourist attractions like the RBCM can help boost the economy, encourage tourism, and create more job opportunities. The BC government's estimate suggests that 1,950 direct construction jobs and more than 1,050 associated jobs will arise from the project, contributing to BC's economic recovery following COVID-19.

However, the rebuild has come under considerable criticism since Premier John Horgan's announcement of the project. The BC Liberals have been some of the strongest critics, with Opposition leader Kevin Falcon calling the rebuild a "billion-dollar vanity project" after taking his seat in the legislature, saying it was disappointing to see "when British Columbians are struggling with the highest housing and the highest fuel prices in North America at \$2.34 per litre."

The Green Party has also taken several issues with the new museum. Adam Olsen, the MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, and member of Tsartlip First Nation has come out strongly against the RBCM. In a column he wrote for *The Daily Hive*, Olsen said he felt that the museum was the "status quo masquerading as reconciliation." He also questioned if the museum was where Indigenous People's sacred objects should be held, rather than working to return them to their rightful owners. Critics have also shared that there are other pressing concerns such as the family doctor crisis, and rapidly-increasing gas prices that should have taken higher priority.

Others such as Tseshaht Elected Chief, Ken Watts, recently asked Premier John Horgan to consider cutting down the museum's budget to fund smaller museums for Indigenous groups' respective territories. This plan would drastically benefit the Indigenous Peoples, letting groups like Tseshaht keep artifacts of extreme importance in their territories.

PRIDE IN VANCOUVER: 44TH ANNUAL PARADE

NEWS REPORT by Elle Glen (8)

After three years without Vancouver's Pride Parade, Parade attendees are ready to go all out for the 44th annual event.

"It's been three years since we've had our major in-person Pride events in Vancouver for a variety of reasons," Lee Keple, Interim Executive Director of the Vancouver Pride Society, said in a news release. "COVID-19 has presented a number of challenges for event organizers like us as well as the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities that we serve. To have our signature programming safely return to Vancouver, to see these communities coming together again to celebrate Pride—it's something we've been waiting for and working towards for a long time."

The parade, themed Together Again, is scheduled for July 31 from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. "The parade route marches right through central downtown, beginning on Robson Street at Thurlow Street, continuing through the West End to finish at the Sunset Beach Festival site," says the City of Vancouver's Guide to Pride.

Any route changes, can be viewed

on the Vancouver Pride Society's website.

The topic was chosen to emphasize the significance of in-person community-based events, according to the VPS's release.

Each year, there are approximately 150 parade entries boasting kaleidoscopic floats, dancers and performances for its three-hour route time.

The first official Vancouver Pride Parade took place over four decades ago in 1981. When the first parade was proposed in 1980, it was met with backlash from citizens and politicians alike. Following a shift in municipal government, Mike Harcourt, a member of

the NDP, was elected mayor. After he endorsed the campaign, the parade permit was passed and a date was set for early August. David Myers, a pride activist and a witness to the first parade in 1981, told CBC in an interview, "It meant that we had recognition of our right to parade with a permit. That we could finally be out and about with our celebrations." He expressed the joy it brought him to see the spectacle that Vancouver Pride had become.

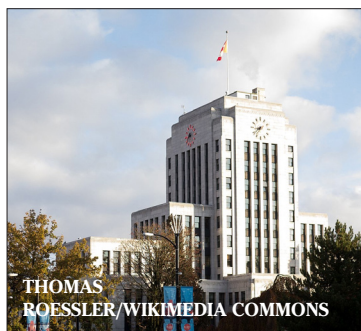
"I'm astounded we've come so far," he said. "We have come far since 1981 and continue to make progress."

This year, at 1:00 PM, the festivities will be temporarily suspended for a moment of silence to pay tribute to activists who battled for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, those who are no longer able to celebrate Pride with us, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ people around the world who continue to face oppression and discrimination.



VISION EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY VIA DESTINATION VANCOUVER

#VanElxn2022: A Preview



THOMAS ROESSLER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NEWS REPORT by Alanna Rudolph (11)

Mark your calendars — October 15, 2022 is the next Vancouver municipal election. Residents will vote on the next mayor, City councillors, Vancouver School Board trustees, Vancouver Park Board commissioners, as well as three capital plan questions. For grade 12 students who recently turned or will be turning 18, this is the first election they can vote in.

Those eligible can register to vote through Elections BC. Students aged 16

or 17 can add their names to the Future Voters List, which will automatically register them once they turn 18.

One mayor and 10 City councillors will be elected for a four year term. Vancouver City Council is governed by the Vancouver Charter. Their role is to pass bylaws, maintain City services, collect property taxes, and more. Vancouver's current mayor is Kennedy Stewart, who defeated previous mayor Gregor Robertson in the 2018 municipal election. Kennedy Stewart will be running for re-election under his recently formed party Forward Together Vancouver. Other candidates running for mayor include John Coupar for the Non-Partisan Association (NPA), Ken Sim for A Better City (ABC), and Mark Marissen for Progress Vancouver. As the deadline for nominations is Sept. 9, there may be more candidates announced in the coming months.

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is made up of seven commissioners, who will be elected in October for a four year term. Vancouver is the only municipality in Canada with an elected Park Board. The Park Board is responsible for Vancouver's 250 public parks and beaches, as well as VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, and various recreational facilities including but not limited to community centres, pools, ice rinks, playgrounds, sports fields, and street trees.

Nine Vancouver School Board trustees will be elected. They will represent the interests of electors in making district decisions for student's well-being. The board selects the superintendent and oversees their actions in day-to-day activities, as the superintendent, not the board, is responsible for individuals in the district. Trustees also must approve a balanced annual budget, including approval for borrowing, use of District land, spending plans and more. The school board holds regular meetings in the evenings that the public is invited to attend.

In addition to electing officials, voters will also share their voices through three capital plan questions. Vancouver's capital plan details the city's financial investments and funding strategies for infrastructure and amenities. Each plan is for four years, such that it aligns with the electoral cycle. The 2023-2026 capital plan draft was released in April 2022, and is available for anyone to view. Voter approval is required for the city to use debt as a funding method, and the October municipal election is the opportunity for voters to give or deny that approval.

Information about candidates will be announced in the coming months. All those who are eligible to vote in the 2022 municipal election are encouraged to be active in their community and exercise their democratic rights by voting.

What's with all the rain lately? BC's recent weather, explained

ANALYSIS by Salena Sharma (8)

The weather this spring on BC's southeast coast has been quite different compared to previous years. Typically, around April and May is when the temperature begins to increase. This year, however, was not the case. Instead of spring bringing warm weather, it brought more rain.

Most regions in B.C. are known for having heavy amounts of precipitation. Vancouver, for example, is known for its nickname, "Raincouver." The city resides next to the Pacific Ocean, which is one of the reasons why it experiences a large amount of rain. Vancouver usually receives more rain in the months between October to December but this year, the city had an abundance of rain

in April and May.

A statement from the B.C. government revealed that places such as Vancouver Island, the Skeena-Bulkley region, and Peace have also experienced more precipitation than usual. While this happened on the west coast, rain amounts on the South Coast remained the same as they usually would around April and May.

Scientists believe that the increase in heavy precipitation may be because of climate change, Nathan Gillette from Environment Canada told *The Vancouver Sun*. Some parts of Canada, including B.C., were hit by a heatwave in June and July of 2021. Scientists formulated that the heatwave was due to high pressure and dry conditions. Another reason could have been because of the large use of greenhouse gas emis-

sions which trapped the Sun's heat in Earth's atmosphere leading to warm temperatures. This warm weather may be the reason why some regions of B.C. had a lot of rain. The spring rain also brought along cold temperatures to most parts of B.C., particularly its western coast. Temperatures ranged below normal across the province from -4.5°C to 1.5°C. Victoria broke its record of having the lowest temperature in May. They recorded a 10.6°C replacing their record of 11.7°C in 1945. Meteorologist Arnel Castellan informed *CTV News* that the cold weather we have experienced these past two months is because of a deep, low-pressure system that has surrounded parts of North America.

Along with creating new records with the cold temperatures, B.C. has been receiving snow melt slower than usual. By the end of May, most snow on the mountains should be slush by now, but that is not the case. Residents are afraid of encountering the same heatwave as last year because if the temperature suddenly rose, the snow would melt instantly and could lead to potential flooding in most areas. A report from the B.C. government wrote that places near the rivers Thompson,

Cariboo, Peace, and Northeast are being watched closely in case of a flood occurring.

The B.C. government acknowledged the possibility of these changes in weather three years ago. A report of the Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for B.C. said that there is a medium chance of there being a burdensome amount of rain in 2050. This means that experts are not too sure what the precipitation will look like in 2050, whether it will be in copious amounts or if it will remain the same. Climate Projections for Metro Vancouver wrote that Vancouver's precipitation rates are expected to increase by 5 per cent but it is not clear if that number will increase or decrease.

A United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) report discovered that heavy precipitation doesn't mean that the total precipitation in an area has risen, it means that precipitation will fall on more intense occasions, a report by the United States Environmental Protection Agency released in 2021 stated. An example of this is when B.C. encountered one of its worst rain downpours. This took place around the middle of November in 2021 and wreaked havoc in most of Southern

B.C. Fraser Valley is an example of a region that underwent a terrible flood that killed many animals and forced dozens to evacuate their homes. Agriculture was hit severely as local livestock were ruined. Abbotsford experienced this effect and their agriculture rates dropped down by a significant amount. B.C. is still in the process of getting everything back to normal since the terrible downpour. A report from Environment Canada stated that the rain that devastated most of Southern B.C. was twice as likely because of climate change. Danny Blair of the Prairie Climate Centre in Winnipeg commented to *The Vancouver Sun*, "It's worth it to have these heavy rains and the effects of climate change if it will gain public attention."

Climate scientists are forewarning people about the effects climate change will have on Earth in the coming years. B.C. is working to reduce its greenhouse gas emission by 16 per cent by 2025 and then plans to have its emission reduced by 80 per cent in 2050. B.C.'s Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as well as building awareness of how people may do their part to help B.C. achieve its climate goals.

EDITORIAL

STEWARDS OR ADVOCATES: WHAT WILL IT BE TRUSTEES?

“If trustees are simply bureaucratic figureheads masquerading as elected advocates, it calls into question their utility.”

EDITORIAL by *Hannah Azad (12), Erika Chung (12), Spencer Izen (12), Jessica Kim (12), and Stephen Kosar (12)*

Last Tuesday, on June 6, Vancouver School Board (“VSB”) trustees voted 6-3 in favour of closing the Queen Elizabeth Annex (“QEA”).

The Board’s move to close the school was an unpopular one, and raises fundamental questions about the VSB’s co-governance relationship with the Ministry of Education and what it means to be a school board trustee.

One day prior to the Board’s decision, The Griffins’ Nest released a months-long investigation that identified the origins and story behind the pressure exerted on the VSB to close the site.

The small, West-Side school had been up for closure four times in the past decade and a half. Since 2019, the Ministry of Education has pressured the VSB to close the school and transfer it to the province-wide francophone school district in exchange for funding for the much-needed

Olympic Village elementary.

Funding for school sites is primarily the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, which generally provides school districts with capital grants for seismic, expansion, or new-site projects.

The QEA-for-Olympic offer, made by then-Minister of Education Rob Fleming, was rejected by trustees. Several of them referred to the suggestion as a “quid-pro-quo.”

Although Olympic Village had been a capital priority for the VSB for nearly ten years by this point, trustees wouldn’t engage in trading a school for a school.

One year later, NDP Premier John Horgan called a snap election. The riding of Vancouver-False Creek, which includes the Olympic Village area, had been held by the BC Liberals. Then-NDP MLA candidate Brenda Bailey, joined by Vancouver-Fairview MLA George Heyman, stood on the site of the proposed school and pledged that an NDP government would fund its construction. “A re-elected BC NDP will build

a new school in Olympic Village,” their party’s statement reads.

Bailey flipped the riding for the NDP when the October 24 election arrived.

Soon after, VSB trustees followed up with the Province asking them to confirm and expedite their election promise. But nothing happened, and the Ministry of Education backed off the government’s commitment.

This past fall, VSB staff again brought forward a recommendation that the Board close QEA. The Ministry still had an interest in the school being traded to the francophone school board, and even though the provincial government promised they would pay for Olympic Village, the District came running back to the offer trustees turn down just two years prior.

[The full investigation, including details regarding the Province’s amendment to the School Act likely motivated by the QEA situation and the flawed public consultation engagement, can be found on The Nest’s website.]

At the Special Board Meeting on June 6, each of the nine trustees were given an opportunity to present their rationale for voting for or

EDITORIAL

against the motion to close QEA.

Trustee Allan Wong moved the motion and was the first to speak on it. Wong announced that although he “could have presented a clear case of why to keep the QEA school open” based on personal meetings, emails, and results from the engagement process, he votes to close the Annex. “When I sorted all the information, I had to make a decision of what my role as a trustee required of me” he stated.

Trustees Lois Chan-Pedley, Estrellita Gonzalez and Janet Fraser followed, all voting to pass the motion. Gonzalez explained that moving QEA's French Immersion program could help the district, which is in a functional deficit, better utilize operating costs.

Meanwhile, Trustee Barb Parrott advocated against the resolution. “If you [trustees] don't agree with this motion, it doesn't necessarily mean you don't want to act — it may mean that you want to act in different ways,” she emphasized, “We're not going to do the work that the government wants done, because we believe there are better options that meet the needs of the Vancouver district, which we are entrusted with.”

Parrott spoke to the precedent being set by voting based on external pressure flowing from Province.

A former teacher, Parrott admonished the Ministry's heavy-handedness, saying, “I don't support that kind of behaviour in the kids I taught, [and] I certainly don't support that kind of behaviour from governments.”

Days before the June 6 VSB vote, the Province amended the School Act to give the Minister the authority to expropriate land held by a local school board, like QEA, to be forced over the francophone district.

Trustee Jennifer Reddy seconded Parrott's decision, highlighting her concerns around the consultation process and their consideration of future developments in the city.

In an emotional address, Trustee Oliver Hanson announced that he too opposed the motion. Hanson stated that he has been clear about his stance against school closures since QEA was considered to be shut down in 2009.

“What I ask each one of you, my fellow trustees, is to block out the noise, forget the politics and ask yourself one question when you're making a final decision tonight: ‘What's in the best interest of our learners?’” he concluded.

“Vote your conscience and not how the Ministry wants you to vote.”

But voting how the Ministry wanted them to is exactly what six of the nine did.

All trustees acknowledged the decision to close or not close the Annex was not one to be taken lightly. However, those who voted for the motion echoed the concerns of QEA advocates but used the Province's inaction on Olympic Village to justify their vote. In particular, Trustee Chan-Pedley framed her vote to pass the motion as one of necessity. The province did not fulfill their election promise and the school board offered options, but QEA was the only appropriate site. Because of existing overcapacity issues at Simon Fraser, she and many of the other trustees felt the need to close QEA.

This reflects on a larger issue with trustees. As the 2016 Forensic Audit and Review noted, “this is a primarily stewardship-based view of the role.”

The 2016 report was spurred on by the Board's refusal to pass a “balanced budget.” Trustees refused to accept the Ministry's \$24 million cuts and stood up to a government underfunding the public education system.

The 5-4 vote against the budget was tipped by Janet Fraser, who was the only member of the Green Party with a seat on the Vancouver Board of Education. Joining the four Vision Vancouver trustees, the report classified the dissenters as “advocates,” as opposed

to “stewards.”

Following the 2016 trustee's belligerency, the Province ordered an investigation into their conduct.

“Some [trustees] expressed the view that they are accountable to the public that elected them. Some believe that they are accountable to the Province, and still, others mentioned they believe they are accountable to parents, students, teachers and other workers,” read the report. These dichotomous viewpoints are summarized simply as “advocacy first” or “stewardship first.”

The present Board, unwilling to stand up to the provincial government and demand they fulfill their promises, accepted a position of dangerous stewardship in the QEA decision when they voted to close the school.

If trustees are simply bureaucratic figureheads masquerading as elected advocates, it calls into question their utility. QEA has shown us that the trustees have given up on championing important causes. Trustee Chan-Pedley stated herself that “advocating to the province has only gotten us so far,” and placed a vote in the province's favour.

Six years after the 2016 crisis, Janet Fraser effectively abandoned her once-advocate label and crossed the ideological floor to stewardship when it came to the QEA vote.

When the Province tries to strongarm school boards, it leads to an erosion of autonomy and more importantly, public trust in the institution. And when trustees don't stand up to the Province, they become pawns.

We can't have pawns on our school board. Public education requires strong, robust advocacy when the Ministry comes short. So when Vancouver votes for VSB trustee this Fall, those of us eligible will be marking our ballots for candidates who will stand up for our District and demand more from the Province and won't bow down to pressure.

CANADA

Competition Bureau attempts to block Rogers-Shaw Merger

ANALYSIS by Alice Deyell (8)

A merger deal between Rogers Communications and Shaw Communications is slowly making its way through layers of governmental approval. If approved, the new company will be the largest telecommunications firm in Canada.

This new company would dwarf both Bell and Telus, the next two largest telecom companies. Together, the four companies serve over 90 per cent of Canadians.

The merger would give Rogers 16 cable services based in Western Canada. National satellite television service and other broadcast and television services will also be acquired.

Rogers and Shaw first announced their agreement in March 2021, stating that Rogers would purchase all of Shaw's Class A and B shares, gaining all the voting rights to the company. The transaction will total \$26 billion, paying \$40.50 per share.

Rogers and Shaw insist that they will have the scale, assets, and capabilities needed to deliver better wireline and wireless broadband network investments. They also state that Canadian consumers and businesses will have greater choice in wireless services.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

(CRTC) cleared the merger earlier in 2022, though they did add some conditions, requiring Rogers to give a total of \$27.2 million to different initiatives and funds, five times what was originally proposed. Rogers is now required to create an Indigenous news team in all provinces to deliver stories to First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

Additionally, commitments to increase support for local news must be reported annually, such as employing more journalists at CityTV stations and producing 48 more news specials in primetime each year. The final requirement is to distribute a minimum of 45 independent English and French-language services, to ensure that independent programming services aren't at a negotiating disadvantage.

In the past few months, the Competition Bureau, an independent government regulatory agency that protects and promotes competition, has filed an application to stop the transaction.

The federal regulator is asking the Competition Tribunal, a quasi-judicial body that adjudicates issues under the law, to prevent the proceeding of the Rogers-Shaw Merger. They seek an injunction to stop the deal closing between the two companies until the bureau's application is heard.

The bureau's investigation determined that "an established, independent and low-priced" competitor will be

removed through the deal. In a media release, the bureau states it is seeking a "full block of Rogers' proposed acquisition of Shaw."

It will also prevent the wireless services competition between the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario, and will additionally suppress 5G competition areas, according to the Competition Bureau.

"Eliminating Shaw would remove a strong, independent competitor in Canada's wireless market – one that has driven down prices, made data more accessible, and offered innovative services to its customers," Matthew Boswell, the Commissioner of Competition, said in a statement. Boswell and the Bureau expressed that Shaw has constantly challenged the big three telecommunication companies and that removing it will let Telus and Rogers' prices skyrocket.

Shaw currently provides wireless services across Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, to around two million people. Its data prices have decreased, where they had previously increased year-over-year, and its wireless subscriber base recently doubled, all of which would go to Rogers in this transaction.

Currently, Shaw is trying to sell Freedom Mobile, which makes up the bulk of its wireless services, to appeal to the Bureau.

LONG LINES AT CANADA'S AIRPORTS DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES, RESTRICTIONS

ANALYSIS by Mathew Fu (11)

According to CBC, the ease on safety regulations and travelling restrictions after two years has left airports overwhelmed and unable to prevent long wait times in airports all across Canada.

Travelling by air has been a test of patience for the past few decades, but recently, CBC news attests wait times have surged with the influx in passengers. Due to staff shortages and changing screening protocols, many of Canada's largest airports, like YVR in Vancouver and the Pearson Airport in Toronto, are experiencing drastic delays.

Unfortunately, this occurrence has not been uncommon in recent times where frustrated passengers have also taken to social media platforms to share their complaints, posting photos and videos of long lines at security, customs and the piled-up baggage.

The Canadian Airports Council is currently investigating the issue, stating that there is not enough space to accommodate the long lineups of travellers. Furthermore, the Council is emphasizing the federal government's role in this issue as well, where random COVID tests and public health questions at customs are creating serious delays for passengers.

The Council's interim president Monette Pasher describes the extra steps that are four times longer than pre-pandemic times to process people arriving for flights. "We're seeing that we clearly cannot have these public health requirements and testing at our borders as we get back to regular travel," comments Pasher. According to CBC News, airports do not provide enough space to accommodate passengers for a lengthy customs process and they are not the right place for COVID-19 tests either. "Getting back to regular travel with these protocols and testing in place, the two can't coexist without a significant pressure and strain on our system," Pasher explains.

According to CATSA (Canadian Air Transport Security Authority), the agency responsible for screening luggage and passengers, the issue is related to the shortage of security screeners. "Screening resources are scheduled according to airline traffic. Prior to the pandemic resources could be cross-utilized more efficiently between the Transborder and Domestic and International checkpoints due to staggered passenger peaks,"

Suzanne Perseo, spokesperson for CATSA explained. "As air travel recovers, we are observing simultaneous peaks, which can result in passengers flooding more than one security checkpoint at a time, making the redistribution of resources to address these passenger volumes more challenging." Dave Flowers, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 140, a union representing CATSA workers, told CBC News that CATSA has trouble retaining employees. As stated by a spokesperson for Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra, the government is trying to address these delays. Specifically, the government is hoping for more screening personnel to address delays and has since set up a committee to investigate the issue further. "Transport Canada has worked with CATSA to develop a plan to increase the number of screening officers at passenger screening checkpoints," said Transport Canada in a public statement posted on the Government of Canada's website, "Transport Canada also created the Airport Operations Recovery Committee. With participants from the largest airlines and airports, as well as CATSA, the committee is investigating causes and recommending solutions to address airport wait times." This statement has also addressed speculations and outrage on Twitter about the federal government asking airlines to

reduce schedules in response to congestion. "We confirm that our Government has never asked, and will not be asking airlines to cut back on their flight schedules," the statement says.

John Gradek, a lecturer at McGill University's school of aviation management, told CBC News that airlines must account for passenger volumes airports can accommodate while adjusting flight schedules when necessary. "Yeah, the [COVID] protocols are there, but the protocols have been there for months – it's not a brand new thing, right?" Furthermore, Gradek sees no indication that the federal government will alter public health measures at airports and wants to see more collaboration from all parties to fix the matter. "Everybody has to work together, and from what I see happening, it's broken down."

The following are also a few questions travellers may be interested to know.

How early do travellers need to arrive at the airport?

Travellers are encouraged to arrive at the airport at least two hours prior to a domestic flight and three hours prior to international flights. According to the Cindy Horton, an independent travel agent with the Travel Group in Vancouver, it is also difficult to pinpoint one root cause for the delays. "I actually think it's a combination of things," she commented. "Normally, you just go to the check-in counter, you'll be funnelled into security and off you go. But now, because things are slow, they're rerouting people, the signage is confusing, people are going into the wrong line up, wasting more time there, missing flights. So there's a number of different factors." What she advises is that travellers arrive early and prepared. "Have your check-in procedure done and your boarding card in hand," she suggested. "Anything that can be done in advance will just move things along. Where [travellers] run into trouble is when people haven't done that, and so somebody arrives and they don't have the paperwork and then everybody else kind of gets backed up from there."

What can travellers do beforehand?

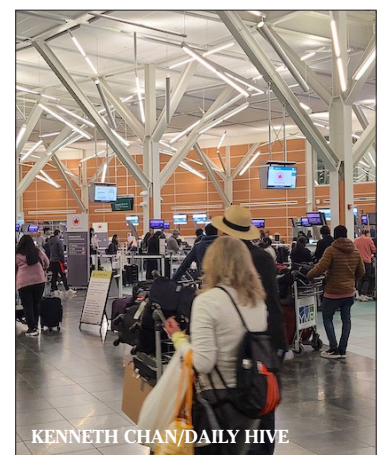
Travellers should update their ArriveCAN app and upload the required information within 72 hours of your travel. Following transactions, travellers should also print out their receipts if they don't have a smartphone. Check-in procedures can also be completed online beforehand and the boarding pass should be ready on phone or printed in hand when the traveller arrives.

What are the current COVID-19 requirements?

Applying both domestically and internationally, all travellers 12 and up must have proof of vaccination to board a plane in Canada. "Fully vaccinated" is defined as having at least two shots of an approved vaccine with the last dose at least 14 days before the traveller's flight. It is also important that the traveller is ready to show their proof of vaccination at any point in time. Furthermore, they should not present any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and will be asked to follow public health procedures, like wearing a mask on the plane.

What about travelling to Canada?

Passengers travelling to Canada still need to provide proof of vaccination by using the ArriveCAN app or by registering online within 72 before arrival in Canada. Passengers also only need to be fully vaccinated and it no longer needed that they provide a negative COVID-19 test. Additionally, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children under 12 do not need to provide a valid COVID-19 test result if they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult.



British Columbia Records its First Case of Monkeypox

NEWS REPORT by Stephen Kosar (11)

The first case of Monkeypox was confirmed in British Columbia last week, as health authorities around Canada and the world scramble to understand the recent outbreak.

Monkeypox, a disease caused by the monkeypox virus, causes fevers, headaches, aching muscles, and swollen lymph nodes. One to five days after the onset of fever, those infected also develop skin rashes and lesions, usually around the face, palms, soles of feet, and genital areas. Symptoms last anywhere from five to 21 days. Scientists have noted these symptoms have characteristics of smallpox, albeit at a less severe level.

According to the World Health Organization ("WHO"), three to six per cent of cases have historically resulted in death.

Monkeypox is ordinarily endemic to the tropical rainforests of Central and West Africa. The current outbreak is the most significant spread of the disease outside the continent. As of June 8, the WHO has confirmed 1,285 cases outside of Africa, mostly in Europe.

Currently, Canada has 112 confirmed cases, with the vast majority being in Quebec.

The one infection in BC was in a Vancouver resident who recently travelled and came in contact with a monkeypox-positive individual. An epidemiologist at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control ("BCCDC") told CBC in an interview that a public health follow-up was being conducted by Vancouver Coastal Health, with the case likely being an isolated incident.

Dr. Catherine Hogan, a medical microbiologist for the BCCDC, says the risk of infection is low for British Columbians.

"The spread has been relatively limited and there are a number of interventions in place to limit that spread," she stated. "The transmissibility between humans is low."

Usually, the primary cause of transmission is from animals to humans. While named Monkeypox, monkeys are not the only animals able to trans-

mit the virus. During the first outbreak of Monkeypox in North America in 2003, the disease came from prairie dogs that were kept as pets and infected over 70 people in the United States.

However, the current outbreak is transmitted human to human, likely through close contact with infectious skin lesions and other bodily fluids. In Canada, it has disproportionately affected men.

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, stated during a press conference last Friday that all 112 confirmed cases are in men aged 20 to 63, with "the majority report having sexual contact with men."

Hogan stressed that while a high proportion of the cases are in men who have been in close contact with other men, "infections don't only occur in that group."

"Anyone who has close contact or prolonged contact with a case of monkeypox is at risk of having the infection," she reiterated.

On many Canadians' minds right now is the possibility of this outbreak becoming another pandemic. While

experts do not agree that this will be as far-reaching or as impactful as COVID-19, many believe that the public health system is better equipped to handle outbreaks such as this one due to the pandemic.

"What has been identified through some of the COVID efforts is the need to continue in that collaboration and to have open channels to share information so [experts can better understand the] epidemiology," Hogan remarked.

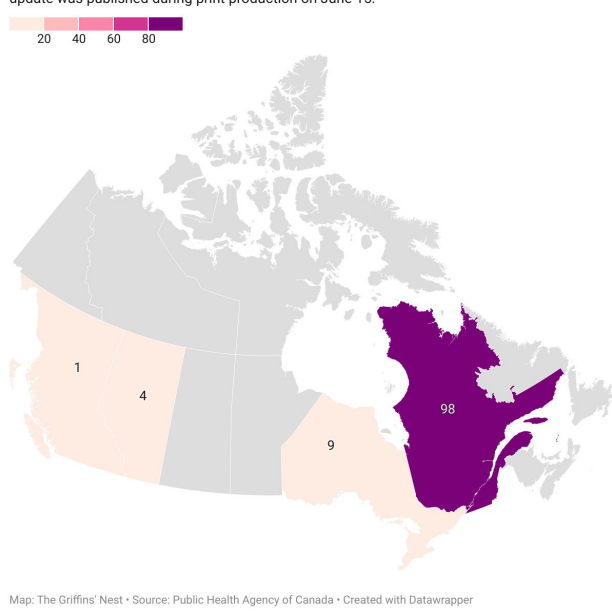
Intervention and prevention measures have also been implemented. Contact tracing, therapy for those who have developed severe symptoms, and vaccines for those at risk of exposure have all been part of the federal government's strategy.

While monkeypox does not have its vaccine, the WHO claims that the smallpox vaccine is 85 per cent effective in preventing monkeypox, owing to the similarities between the two viruses.

With the situation changing rapidly, Hogan recommends visiting the BCCDC website for the most up-to-date information on monkeypox in BC.

Canadian Monkeypox Cases by Province and Territory as of June 10, 2022

As of June 10, Canada reported 112 confirmed cases of monkeypox across four provinces: BC, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. Of those 112, Quebec recorded 98 of them. The most recent update was published during print production on June 15.



CANADA

Canada's Success At Their First Sailing Grand Prix



NEWS REPORT by Mia Boguslavsky (10)

This May, Team Canada made their debut in the latest season of the Sailing Grand Prix. The team finished in third place, beginning the series with

success.

Sailing Grand Prix ("Sail GP"), is a series of eight international events with each participating country sending a team to compete for the championship title.

Launched in 2018, season one of Sail GP garnered over 1.8 billion online views and 133,000 in-person spectators,

which was, according to Sail GP, a "successful kickoff". That year, the Australian team, led by Tom Slingsby, won first place, the Japanese team came in a close second, and team China was not far behind with bronze.

For each event, six races are held. Five races that the entire fleet must compete in are used to determine the top three teams. The final race includes only the top three boats and is used to determine the winner.

The boats raced are called F50s — a one-design catamaran class comprising a crew of five. Each person is responsible for handling a different part of the boat, whilst working together to complete a race.

Season three, launched in the spring of 2022, was marked with the entry of a new country participating: Canada. Led by Phil Robertson, the Canadian team made their debut in Bermuda on the weekend of May 14 to 15, which

marked the first event of the season.

In his review of the Bermuda event posted to his website, Robertson stated, "Our plan was to come in without high expectations, make sure we focused solely on learning and enjoy the experience. Well what happened next was not what I expected."

On the first day, Team Canada surpassed all expectations by scoring first, second, and fifth in the three races that were held that day. A stronger breeze was present on the second day, which increased the difficulty and resulted in them placing fifth and seventh during the last two fleet races. However, their spot in the final had already been secured.

In the final race, Canada finished third, after Australia and Great Britain. This was an excellent start to the season by a country that has never had an F50 team before.

Canadian supporters have expressed their excitement for the next event, set to take place on June 18 to 19 in the US.

COVID-19 4th Dose in Canada

NEWS REPORT by Julia Ling (11)

British Columbia is rolling out a fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine — another booster shot for seniors in long-term care or assisted living facilities. Six months after receiving a third dose, the booster will be made available to all seniors over the age of 70 and Indigenous people over the age of 55.

The booster dose is also being made available to those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). These groups include but are not limited to: those who have received solid organ transplants, are undergoing treatment for cancer, or are otherwise immunocompromised. However, CEV people are still subject to a six-month gap between the third and fourth doses.

Currently, BC is not making the fourth dose available to people who are not in the aforementioned groups. BC Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry stated on May 10 that the third dose is "very, very highly protective still for people staying out of hospital and preventing severe illness". She also said that with increasing age, immune systems fade more easily, so it is imperative for seniors to receive the fourth dose.

Ontario has a slightly different plan from BC, and is offering the fourth dose to seniors aged 60 or older, as well as First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and their household members over 18. Ontario recommends that the fourth dose be administered five months after the third. However, the minimum interval is 84 days after the third dose. Individuals are only eligible to receive their fourth dose after three months if they are a resident of a long-term care home, retirement home, elder care lodge, or other assisted living settings.

Eligible immunocompromised (CEV) Ontarians aged 12 and over can also receive a fourth dose. Youths aged 12-17 must wait six months after their third dose, but adults can receive it after three months. CEV seniors aged 60 and up, Indigenous individuals, and residents in assistive care are even recommended to receive a fifth dose five months post the fourth.

Quebec's immunization committee, the CIQ, officially recommends the fourth dose to limited groups of people, including the immunocompromised, those in long-term care, community-dwelling seniors over the age of 80, and those in close and frequent contact with above groups. The CIQ has no official recommendations on the fourth dose for the general adult population, but the vaccine is available to any who decide to have it.

The YWCA #AddTheM Campaign, Explained

ANALYSIS by Teagan Nichol (9)

The Young Woman's Christian Association's ("YWCA") recent campaign, #AddTheM, is trying to bring attention to the inherent gender inequality within professional sports. The YWCA and its supporters have been trying to get "Men's" added to the beginning of professional sports league names, combating the notion that sports leagues are inherently male and women's sports must be distinctly labelled as such.

"Without the 'M', men's sports leagues are treated as the default for all sports, automatically leaving women out of the conversation," Christine Sinclair, Canadian professional soccer player and top international goal scorer, explained in a statement, "It's hard to fight for equality, when all of women's sports are treated as an afterthought."

Over the past few months, YWCA #AddTheM campaign has been backed by Sinclair, along with a host of other high-profile individuals in the world of sports.

In a video released by the #AddTheM campaign via Twitter on March 24, Sinclair along with other athletes and sports hosts expressed their support for the movement, asking the simple question: "Ever wonder why men's sports is just called 'sports' but women's sports are called 'women's sports'?" The video portrayed an "M" being added to the logos of the NBA,

NHL, MLS and PGA, sports leagues that all have both men's and women's leagues.

Amy Juschka, the YWCA Vancouver's Branch director of marketing, communications, and advocacy at the YWCA and founder of the #AddtheM movement, started the campaign to highlight the neglect and isolation of women in professional sports.

According to Juschka, this inequality is resulting in women and girls abandoning sports, "One in three girls drop out of sports in their late teens, compared to just one in 10 boys," she highlighted in a press release, "Girls are losing out on all the advantages sport provides as they move into adulthood — from health and wellness, to leadership development, to the support of a team."

Along with the physical benefits of sport, they have been proven to improve mental health both in the short term and in the long term. This is a result of the physical activity itself and the community that sports teams foster.

The rally report, researched and put together by Canadian Women & Sports in partnership with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Campaign, had troubling findings about girls dropping out of sports. In 2020, only 18 per cent of women aged 16 to 63 years stay involved in sports and 62 per cent of Canadian adolescent girls are not participating in sports of any kind.

The call for gender-equal league

names has faced some resistance, but progress has been made. This year, the National College Athletic Association ("NCAA") added "Men's" to the "Men's Final Four" for baseball and basketball. Meanwhile, other leagues have removed gender markers from their women's leagues. In 2019, the Rugby World Cup, formerly the Women's Rugby World Cup, promised to remove the "W" from its name. Similarly, in 2021, the Premier Hockey Federation was rebranded, previously being called the Women's Hockey League.

The gender pay gap can be seen in almost every sport, with the top 100 paid athletes all being men, save Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka. "I cannot think of any other industry that has such a wage gap, really. Depending on country context and sport, a man can be a billionaire and a woman [in the same discipline] cannot even get a minimum salary," says Beatrice Frey,

sports partnership manager at UN Women.

The pay gap between men and women in sports is often justified by the lack of revenue and viewers that women's sports attract. Historically, men have been allowed to play professionally for longer and their leagues have been around for longer and many point to that as a reason for these disparities. However recently, this gap has been closing. As of 2017, 83 per cent of sports now reward men and women players with equal prize money compared to the 70 per cent in 2014, according to a study by BCC Sport. Still, progress is slow, "We are making progress, but it is happening at a glacial pace," says Fiona Hathorn, managing director of advocacy group Women on Boards.

"All of the issues that are important in other realms, like pay inequity and lack of opportunity, are also showing up in sports," concluded Juschka.



'HISTORIC' ELECTION IN ONTARIO: WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST PROVINCE?

NEWS REPORT by Adrian Yue (9)

Ontario held a provincial election on June 2, leading to the reelection of the Progressive Conservative Party (PC) under the leadership of incumbent Premier Doug Ford. The PCs won with 40.5 per cent of the vote. According to Elections Ontario, it was also the election with the lowest voter turnout in Ontario history.

Throughout the election, two parties took the spotlight. The PCs, led by Premier Doug Ford, and the New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Andrea Horwath. The NDP ran on a platform that sought to repair the educational and healthcare system and eliminate funding cuts that were set in place through the PCs last term. Their platform also touched on affordability, the environment, and the ending of boil-water advisories in Indigenous communities around Ontario. The PCs

ran on a platform that focussed primarily on the economy and transportation.

As votes were tabulated, it was apparent that the election had poor voter turnout. Data from Elections Ontario shows that only 43 per cent of eligible voters participated in this election. Contrasted with the 56.67 per cent voter turnout of the 2018 provincial election, this election marked a 13 percentage point decrease in voter turnout. Compared to the past three general elections, this dramatic drop is significant.

After the election, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath decided to resign from her position as leader of the Party.

"I'm going to keep doing [politics], but tonight, it's time for me to pass the torch, to pass the baton, to hand off the leadership of the NDP. It makes me sad, but it makes me happy that our team is so strong," she said in her speech to her supporters in Hamilton. Besides the NDP, Liberal leader Steven Del Duca also announced his resignation from his position as leader of the

party.

The PCs will endure a political landscape that has suffered two years of COVID, a nepotism scandal which prompted resignations from office, and an educational system that has been grappling with the consequences of virtual learning and budget cuts.

In 2019, it was revealed that many government officials who had obtained positions in the Ford government also had personal connections to former chief of staff Dean French. An investigation done by *Global News* found that these jobs, one of them a press secretary, paid roughly \$60,000-\$70,000 in salary.

After this scandal and the widespread reporting that accompanied it, French resigned from his position as chief of staff.

After the election, it is expected that the road to the Ring of Fire mining deposits, 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, is going to be built, along with several other highways.

That road in particular has been

controversial. The James Bay Lowlands, the site of the proposed mining project, is part of the Hudson Bay Lowlands, one of the largest wetland habitats in the country, if not the world. Many Indigenous communities occupy this stretch of land.

The James Bay Lowlands and its surrounding areas are also crucial carbon sinks. They provide for massive amounts of carbon sequestration, which is the capture and storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide—all important in the fight against the climate crisis. Besides being a carbon sink, it is home to many species of waterfowl and an essential part of Ontario's ecological diversity.

"Anything we build or make is going to have an environmental impact...construction materials have an irreducible one because of the chemical processes, that we use to make steel and concrete and asphalt, release greenhouse-gas emissions just through making them," Shoshanna Saxe, assistant professor in the Depart-

ment of Civil and Mineral Engineering at the University of Toronto warned *the Globe and Mail*.

Despite criticism, the provincial government is determined to commence construction on Highway 413.

Besides using jobs as a factor to kickstart highway construction, the PCs campaign was marketed toward the working class and tradespeople. Pictures of Ford on a tractor, in a hard hat, and participating in construction-related activities were common. Their slogan "Get It Done" also appealed to people who were looking for movement and progress within politics, experts said.

Ontario can also expect faster housing approval with less "red tape" after the election, with that referring to the processes and paperwork required for building houses. However, there is no mention of affordable housing in their goals—a key point in both the Liberal and NDP platforms, especially as housing prices continue to soar in the province.

CANADA

OPINION: Can we finally dump dress codes?

OPINION by Marissa Lear (12)

"It's too distracting to male students." "Your skirt is way too short." "Showing that much skin is not appropriate." "You can't wear that to school." For years these phrases have been tossed around as justification to warrant dress coding female students. While Eric Hamber and other District 39 high schools in Vancouver do not have excessively restrictive dress codes, that is not the case for the rest of the country and even some schools throughout the rest of the province.

On May 12, staff and teachers at École Secondaire Catholique Béatrice-Desloges in Orléans, Ottawa conducted a dress code "blitz" by removing predominantly female students from their classes, disrupting their education, asking students to bend backwards at the knee, and scrutinizing their wardrobe choices because they were not compliant with the "mid-thigh" shorts policy the school enforces. In response to this mass disruption, students gathered on the following day, Friday, May 13, to protest the blitz.

The actions of the staff were not only invasive to the students but also discriminatory based on gender bias. Students described their experience as "embarrassing," as many of them told CTV.

During the protest on May 13, a student was arrested for "trespassing" on the school property. Police reported that they had told him several times to stay off the road and premises. He was later released with no charges or tickets.

The choice to arrest youth for utilizing their right to free speech and protesting blatantly sexist dress codes did not sit well for parents throughout the District. The dress code blitz itself sparked conversation nationwide as the issue is no stranger to the front pages of newspapers and bright lights of TV. The Director of Education for the French Catholic school board, Conseil



des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est, issued a letter home to the families involved in the blitz apologizing for the "unacceptable" nature of how the dress code was enforced. Several meetings occurred following the blitz between French Catholic school board members, parents and faculty, as well as a combination of students and the above. Further "dialogues" are being continued in order to open the discussion on dress codes within the district. It is still up in the air whether these conversations will spark any real change or are simply a way for the staff and their superiors to save any remaining respect that students and families have for them.

While this particular incident has gotten quite a lot of media coverage, it draws awareness to just how large of an issue dress code enforcement unfortunately still is. Primarily when it comes to disrupting the education of female students. It is understood that dress codes are useful to a certain degree. They

protect fellow students from peers wearing clothes with hate speech on them. However, dress codes in high schools tend to be overly vague with some ending in "provocative dress is deemed inappropriate." These statements provide no guidance to students as to what is acceptable or not. Even if every single school's dress code went into excruciating detail including inches and centimetres, are they even useful? It is one thing for dress codes to prevent hate speech. It is a completely separate issue when they target female students, and use reasoning such as the prevention of "provoking" or "distracting" students who are mainly of the opposite sex. Students have been advocating to abolish dress codes for years, and with this blitz, it is time for school systems to start listening and taking action.

Enforcing dress codes is problematic for several reasons. First off, teachers frequently don't do so with the student's perspective in mind. More often than not,

it is a male teacher publicly acknowledging the inappropriateness of a female student's shorts, skirt, or low-cut top. Not only is this extremely demeaning to said student, but it amplifies the narrative that their education isn't as important as the students' who they are "distracting". Enforcing these rules becomes even trickier when staff turn to radical actions such as the blitz. Implementing dress codes and the mistakes when doing so cause more harm than the attire they try to prevent. A skirt above the knees isn't going to disrupt the school day but a blitz most certainly will. Therefore, dress codes create unnecessary tension between staff and students.

Dress codes also tend to be one of the more sexist rules schools administer. When a female student is seen wearing a low-cut top with spaghetti straps or shorts above mid-thigh, she is told to cover up. However, male students have walked around the school halls shirtless with gym shorts that appear to be from

the 80s, and no one bats an eye. The skin showing to punishment ratio is not equal across sexes and while females are sent home to change or are embarrassed in front of peers, male students get to continue classes undisturbed. The solution to this isn't to crack down harder on male students. Rather it is to readjust dress codes to be equal if they are even required at all.

These guidelines tend to be overly archaic as well, since they are not in tune with today's fashion or 21st-century weather reports. Even teachers were dressed in tiny tank tops and the shortest of shorts last year during the heat dome. Expecting anyone to wear knee-length shorts and bear no-shoulder skin is absolutely ridiculous. It is not practical to punish students for dressing for 30-degree weather.

Adjusting these rules has been a popular topic among conversations online and within schools. Nonetheless, that won't solve the problem of execution and the subtle sexism that occurs in the fine print. It is clear to students that dress codes are no longer productive. Why are board members so scared to completely nix them? Erasing these guidelines would be a huge step in the right direction to validating students' concerns and listening to their voices.

Who do dress codes benefit anyways? Have we not reached a point in time where students are allowed to express themselves through clothing however they please? It seems quite clear that there is no need for them anymore as implementing them is bluntly discriminatory, and they don't follow modern-day fashion trends. Eradicating dress codes is a topic that is brought up every time an administrative nightmare such as this blitz occurred. Have education systems finally had enough? Can we please stop treating students as if showing some shoulder skin is the same as running around classes completely nude? It is about time we dumped dress codes for good, and started listening to our students!

Is Canada done with the monarchy?

NEWS REPORT by Alexandra Chow (10) and Liliana Chow (12)

With the recent celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, many Canadians are wondering if the monarchy is still a necessary part of Canada.

In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch is the head of state. The monarch's representatives in Canada, the Governor General, and at the provincial level, the Lieutenant Governors, have powers that include royal assent and cabinet ministers.

Today, Canada is one of 54 Commonwealth nations, a nation with a historical tie to the British Empire and its monarch, with others including Australia, Nigeria, and India. Two Commonwealth nations, Barbados and Jamaica, have recently abolished their monarchies, leaving many Canadians wondering if Canada should do the same.

In early 2021, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex and the wife of Prince Harry, mentioned she experienced racism at Buckingham Palace through concerns about how dark her son's skin would be.

In response, political leaders contemplated the role of the monarch in Canada. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh declared that he "think[s] it's clear... I don't see the benefit of the monarchy in Canadians' lives." Meanwhile, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had no comment specific to the monarchy but said he "will continue to endeavour to fight against racism and intolerance every single day in Canada", before going on to say that "the answer is not to suddenly toss out all the institutions and start over."

According to an Angus Reid poll, 51 per cent of Canadians say Canada should not remain a monarchy. However, most Canadians do not care enough about the

Indigenous lawyer, Delia Opekokew, in an interview with CBC.

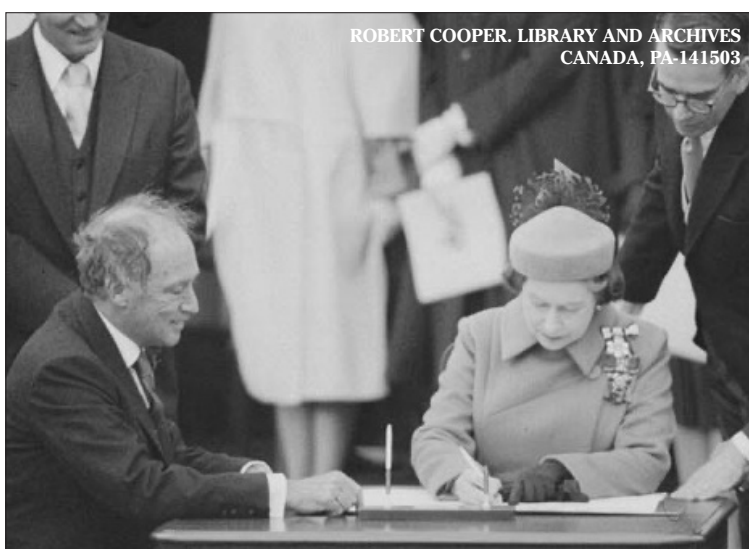
If Canada were to replace the monarchy, experts say it would take many years to accomplish that. One expert told Global News the process would be "enormously difficult."

Section 41 of Canada's Constitution requires the constitution to be amended before the "office of the Queen" can be abolished.

...little consensus on what should replace the monarchy.

As well, Parliament, the House of Commons, the Senate, and the ten provinces would need to unanimously agree to amend the constitution.

There is little consensus on what should replace the monarchy. Leger's survey found that 36 per cent of Canadians would prefer no monarchical tie. The next most popular option is a republic, which 16 per cent of Canadians would prefer.



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A Plague of Increasing Prices: Inflation in Canada

Total CPI Inflation, Monthly, 1996 to Present
Total CPI inflation reached a 20-year high of 6.8 per cent in April 2022. The Bank of Canada says its target range is between 1 - 3 per cent.



Chart: The Griffins' Nest - Source: Bank of Canada - Created with Datawrapper

NEWS REPORT by Michelle Park (11)

Since December 2019, the pandemic has brought significant changes to the global economy. Its impact on Canada's economy was no exception. According to the Bank of Canada, Canada's inflation rate has reached 6.8 per cent in 2022. Canada has not seen an inflation rate this high in over three decades. Inflation refers to a general increase in the price of goods and services, often observed when an economy enters a period of high demand.

According to Statistics Canada, the cost of living has risen mostly due to increases in the price of food and shelter. Food prices have risen 9.7 per cent over the last year while shelter prices grew 7.4 per cent.

Currently, Canada's job market is improving; wages are rising and the unemployment rate is at a pandemic record low of about 5.1 per cent in May 2022 after a high of 11.7 per cent in April and May 2020. As a result, inflation is likely to rise further in the short run before stabilizing. The primary concern for the Bank of Canada is adjusting the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to a control range of 2 per cent. The CPI is a metric referring to a representative sample of commonly purchased goods and services. According to Paul Beaudry, the Deputy

Governor of the Bank of Canada, the CPI should rise within the control range in order to avoid entrenched inflation. Entrenched inflation refers to when prices rise because the cost of labor and other prices are rising; in other words, when inflation feeds on itself.

The key drivers of inflation in Canada can be divided into two categories: domestic and international.

International inflation is primarily influenced by supply. Worldwide recovery from the pandemic resulted in major supply problems in critical industries such as energy, electronics, and other durable goods. Further, the conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated supply concerns while also driving up prices for oil, wheat, fertilizer, and other agricultural inputs.

Domestic inflation, however, has been mostly driven by demand. When people and businesses are eager to acquire more goods and services than the economy can generate, demand-driven domestic inflation occurs.

To stabilize inflation rates, the Bank of Canada has raised interest rates to discourage borrowing and spending and encourage companies to increase their prices more slowly. In turn, this realigns demand with supply. This will narrow the output gap, which is the difference between what the economy is capable of producing and what it produces. This so-called "tightening phase" will assure that demand in the Canadian economy does not remain above capacity for too long.

INTERNATIONAL

Philippines Election brings the Marcos family back in power



NEWS REPORT by *Hannah Azad* (12)

On May 9, 2022, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., often colloquially referred to as “Bongbong Marcos,” won the Philippines Presidential Election with nearly 60 per cent of the votes. Marcos Jr. beat several well respected figures, including Leni Robredo, Manny Pacquiao, and Isko Moreno. While many Filipinos celebrate Marcos’ victory, others fear that his presidency will mirror that of his father’s in 1965.

Marcos is the son of the late Filipino dictator, Ferdinand Marcos Sr., who held his position from 1965 to 1986. In 1972, he imposed martial law, which led to the imprisonment and deaths of countless civilians. Additionally, the Marcos family is known for stealing approximately \$10 billion from the state while in office. Riddled with corruption, violence, and human rights violations, this time is widely considered one of the darkest periods in the Philippines’ history.

Ferdinand Marcos Sr.’s dictatorship was put to an end in 1986 after millions of Filipinos across the country protested in what is now known as the People

Power Revolution. Their family was sent into exile in Hawai‘i, where Marcos Sr. passed away and his children and wife resided before returning to the Philippines in the 90s.

Despite their controversial past, members of the Marcos family have continued to become wealthy and influential Filipino politicians. Marcos Jr. was elected as the Ilocos Norte Governor, a congressman, and senator after his return to the Philippines. In 2016, he ran for Vice President, but lost to social activist Leni Robredo, who he ended up winning against in this recent 2022 election.

Over the past decades, the Marcoses have worked hard to rebrand their family name. Social media content from fan pages, Facebook groups, and more heavily glorified the late Marcos Sr.’s time in office. Advertised as the Philippines’ “Golden Era,” social media users neglected the poor living conditions associated with this time and instead highlighted the positives, such as the building of several of the Philippines’ major infrastructures.

Marcos Jr. did not participate in any presidential debates and avoided all media questions about his family’s past

throughout the 2022 election. “Judge me not by my ancestors, but by my actions” he stated publicly via his spokesman on May 11.

Marcos’ presidential campaign was centred around unity, which was encompassed in his slogan “Together, we will rise again.” He promised to improve the cost of living and increase the number of job opportunities available in the country.

Leni Robredo, who held the position of Vice President prior to this election, was runner-up to Marcos. She is widely known as an advocate against governmental corruption, which was represented in her campaign slogan “Honest government, a better life for all.” She received just under 30 per cent of the votes according to data provided on The Commission on Elections’ website. Senator and professional boxer, Manny Pacquiao received approximately seven per cent, while the Mayor of Manila, Isko Moreno received four.

On May 25, over 200 Filipinos gathered outside the Commission on Human Rights to protest against Marcos Jr.’s victory. The site had been labelled a “freedom park” as it allows for political rallies to be held without government permission. However, videos later posted to social media show police officers attempting to put an end to the demonstration, armed with shields, batons, and water cannons. The conflict between the two groups resulted in the injury of 10 protestors.

Marcos Jr.’s Inauguration is scheduled for June 30, 2022. Meanwhile, outgoing president, Rodrigo Duterte announced in November 2021 that he would retire from politics after his 6-year term ended rather than seeking another position in office as he previously planned to.

The “Court of Public Opinion:” Depp v. Heard

NEWS REPORT by *Bianca Takenaka* (10)

On June 1, after nearly three days of deliberation at the district court in Fairfax, Virginia, seven jurors returned their verdict in Johnny Depp’s favour. The Pirates of the Caribbean star received \$15 million in compensatory and punitive damages. Amber Heard was awarded \$2 million in compensatory damages in her countersuit against Depp’s lawyer, Adam Waldman. The defamation trial between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard has also been labelled by many as the “Court of Public Opinion” and is a detailed look into what occurs when serious accusations are filtered through the lenses of extreme fandoms and stan culture.

The term “Court of Public Opinion” refers to social media and news platforms influencing the public to support specific sides of a trying case.

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard’s relationship dates back to 2009 on the set of *The Rum Diary*. They married in 2015, and in 2016, Heard filed for divorce and a temporary restraining order against Depp, which were both finalized in 2017.

Heard released an op-ed for *The Washington Post*, stating “I become a public figure representing domestic abuse, and I felt the full force of our culture’s wrath for women who speak out.” Depp then sued Heard for defamation.

A recording between Depp and

Heard was published by *Daily Mail* and contained the voice of Heard confessing to physically hitting Depp in 2020. Soon after, a liberal trial was held in the UK over a British newspaper called *The Sun* abruptly exposing Depp as a “wife beater.”

Depp sued the paper’s executive Dan Wootton as well as its parent company, News Group Newspaper. He provided evidence of affairs Heard has had with Elon Musk and James Franco, as well as many other serious accusations. The judge sided with *The Sun* in November of that year. As a result, Depp was forced to resign from the Fantastic Beasts franchise for his role as Gellert Grindelwald.

In 2021, Depp sued Heard for \$50 million in damages, and she countersued him for \$100 million. On April 11, 2021 the second defamation trial between the two of them began.

The public line to enter the courthouse began before sunrise. Throughout the trial, people stood outside the building holding signs written “We love you Johnny Depp!” and “Justice for Johnny!”. The minority of this population was in favour of Heard. Few posters in the crowd displayed support to her.

Many fans, observers, and professionals have speculated that this court case as well as Amber Heard’s op-ed article for *The Washington Post*’s primary goal would be to influence public opinion.

Depp’s lawyers, Camille Vasquez and Benjamin Chew, addressed Heard’s op-ed article in the first few days of the trial. The Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union (“ACLU”), Terence Dougherty, testified on April 28. Vasquez asked, “Didn’t [Amber Heard] tell the ACLU that she wanted the op-ed to come out just after Aquaman was released?”. Dougherty responded stating that he recalled “that there was a conversation about the optimal timing for the op-ed piece.”

The American Civil Liberties Union is a non-profit organization founded to “defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by

the Constitution and law of the United States.”

The op-ed on domestic violence in which Heard was liable for was in truth drafted by the ACLU and headlined by an editorial staff of *The Washington Post* rather than Heard herself. The public have contemplated that Heard’s article (the main cause of this trial) was purely intended to gain publicity for Aquaman, in which she stars as Mera.

Legal expert Jesse Webber also expressed his thoughts on the trial, saying that Depp completed his goal of winning over the public by paying for his fan’s breakfast and shaking hands with the court’s security guards. Webber argues that this behaviour was all a part of his battle in the “court of public opinion.” “It’s exactly what he wanted” Webber stated “He wanted the public to love him again.”

In addition to legal expertise, “fancams” have arisen on social media platforms, principally TikTok, the short form video sharing app. TikTok videos varying from personal opinions on the trial as well as memes and forensic analyses of Depp and Heard’s courtroom behaviour have taken the internet by storm. In a 30-second TikTok clip by Ethan Trace, an influencer with over 3 million followers, captioned “AMBER HEARD CAUGHT LYING AGAIN”, Trace enthusiastically explains how Milani Cosmetics revealed that their palette, which Heard claims to have used to cover up bruises Depp gave her during their marriage, was not released at the time.

Scout Robert, an observer of Depp vs. Amber, was outraged by Heard’s sarcastic comments. In an interview, Robert stated that “when [Amber Heard] said that, she made the statement to the world that as a man, you cannot be abused.”

Domestic violence journalist, Rachel Louise Snyder, stated in an interview that the trial is widening the discussion and change of abuse stereotypes.

Snyder continued to explain her view of Depp vs. Heard during her interview, “Maybe he’s a victim, maybe he’s an abuser, maybe he’s a little bit of both. Same for her.”

THE CONVERSATION

Heard v. Depp trial was not just a media spectacle – it provided an opportunity to discuss the nuances of intimate partner violence

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Strip away the celebrity intrigue and media frenzy, and the high-profile court battle between actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard involved issues painfully familiar to many women and men across America.

The civil defamation case, which ended on June 1, 2022 with a jury ruling largely in favor of Depp, centered around discussion of intimate partner violence. IPV is experienced by an estimated 6.6 million women and 5.8 million men each year in the U.S.

Depp filed the libel lawsuit against Heard after she wrote an op-ed in *The Washington Post* describing her experience as a “public figure representing domestic violence.” A jury found that Heard had defamed Depp and awarded the American actor in excess of US\$10 million in damages. Meanwhile Heard was awarded \$2 million in a countersuit after the jury found that she was defamed by one of Depp’s legal representatives.

As a scholar and someone who cares about expanding public understanding of the complex dynamics of IPV, I have mixed views over the high-profile nature of the Depp v. Heard trial.

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The spotlight afforded an opportunity to openly discuss the nuances of IPV that are often overlooked and perhaps may empower some victims to feel less alone. However, many have consumed the trial as a form of entertainment, exposing a tendency of online observers to armchair-label the parties involved either as the “real” victim or perpetrator of abuse.

Bidirectional violence vs. mutual abuse

Away from the Depp v. Heard trial, IPV is experienced and perpetrated by both women and men across the world. Research suggests that around 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men in the U.S. have experienced IPV with some form of negative impact, be that fear, concern for their safety or injury.

Further, the occurrence and consequences of IPV have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of isolation and financial insecurity.

While some IPV will be unidirectional, meaning only one partner inflicts violence on the other, the jury of the Depp v. Heard trial heard evidence that each had been violent toward the other during their relationship.

The type of behavior alleged is what experts describe as bidirectional violence, and it is quite common in certain cases of IPV.

Indeed, a 2012 review of published studies measuring bidirectional versus unidirectional violence in relationships found that, on average, nearly 3 in 5 occurrences of IPV were bidirectional in nature.

Bidirectional violence is typically defined as instances in which a person reports both perpetrating and being the victim of violence.

Notably, it does not imply that the frequency, severity, motivation and consequences of the violence are the same between partners. Further, the term bidirectional violence is not synonymous with the notion of “mutual abuse” – a controversial term that arose during testimony in the Depp-Heard trial.

The term “abuse” implies a power

imbalance between partners. It would entail one partner utilizing the power differentiation to control, threaten and intimidate the other partner.

As such, the idea of “mutual abuse” does not make sense in the context of how many experts conceptualize IPV in heterosexual relationships, as there is unlikely to be a mutual power imbalance. While IPV may, and often does, involve abusive behavior, it is problematic to label a relationship as mutually abusive even if both partners are both violent toward each other, as one partner may be violent in response to the other partner’s abuse.

IPV is not a singular phenomenon

Allegations of violence and substance use on both sides during the Depp-Heard trial painted a troubling picture of what occurred in their relationship. An audio recording used in the trial depicted Depp’s apparent concern that he couldn’t take any more “physical abuse on each other” after Heard admitted to hitting him. Heard, meanwhile, testified that she hit Depp “reactively” while Depp hit her “proactively.”

This brings up another important point. To accurately measure and understand the nuances of IPV, one must consider the context under which the violence occurs.

For example, are both parties instigating the violence, or is one party acting in self-defense? Is the violence part of a repeated pattern of other abusive behavior?

Experts describe multiple types of IPV that involve different characteristics and patterns regarding how often women and men perpetrate such violence.

For example, “coercive controlling violence” – which is also referred to as “intimate terrorism” – is a type of IPV more commonly perpetrated by men than women, wherein one partner – the primary abuser – perpetrates coercive control over the other – the victim.

The goal of coercive control is to strip a victim of autonomy. It can involve both physical and nonphysical abuse tactics centered around fear, intimidation and degradation. For example, an abuser may restrict a victim’s access to credit and debit cards to exert financial control. Or they may limit a victim’s access to the outside world through monitoring or taking their phone.

However, coercive control is not present in all types of IPV. “Situational couple violence” is another form of IPV, characterized as conflict that escalates into physical violence. The violence can range from what is classified as minor, for example slapping, to severe, such as choking.

This type of IPV is perpetrated by women and men at similar rates, research shows.

Much of the research surrounding IPV is limited to heterosexual couples. There is evidence that both coercive control and situational couple violence are found in same-sex IPV. But it is unclear from current research how issues of power, control and situational violence as they play out in same-sex relationships conform to and diverge from heteronormative relationships.

Helping victims, providing resources

Outside of any courtroom people should be aware of the powerful impact IPV has on those who experience it.

Every day victims are silenced, dehumanized and, in the most extreme cases, murdered by their abusers. Over half of all female homicides in the U.S. involves an intimate partner – compared with about 5% of male homicides – and an abuser’s controlling behavior toward the victim is among the strongest risk factors for intimate partner femicide.

Meanwhile, IPV remains a significant problem for men, yet many men are left without the same resources as women and face unique stigma when seeking help.

INTERNATIONAL

War, Climate Change, Supply Chain Issues: Global Food Crisis Leaves Millions Hungry

VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS VIA THE FINANCIAL TIMES



to keep food available and we need to strengthen markets, ensure markets are working despite the crisis.”

The Russia-Ukraine War

Over the years, Russia and Ukraine have been responsible for 30 per cent of the world's wheat exports, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. However, it is predicted that within the next year, Ukraine's exports will decline by 35 per cent. A primary cause of this is Russia's Black Sea blockade.

The United Nations has called for the removal of the Black Sea blockade, a major disruption in exporting grain. “[T]hese people are running out of hope,” emphasized the World Food Programme's director, David Beasley.

With major Ukrainian ports such as those at Odesa and Chornomorsk blocked, supplies must travel less efficient routes. As Ukraine provides 15 per cent of the world's corn and half of the global supply of sunflower oil, prices for these products are soaring. According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation, food prices could increase by 20 per cent as a result of the war.

However, direct loss of food is not the only issue. News organizations report that fertilizer, too, has become a scarce resource as a result of the war. Farmers rely on fertilizer, and without it, there will be much smaller crops.

According to the New York Times, Russia exports nearly 15 per cent of the world's fertilizer. Due to sanctions, that fertilizer is not available to the rest of the world. Even if the war stops tomorrow, the World Food Programme believes the food market will take six to nine months to fully recover.

Climate Crisis

According to the United Nations, 20 million people could go hungry this year as a result of global warming. Southern Ethiopia and parts of Kenya lost approximately three million livestock last year, Asia is seeing rice fields destroyed by ocean floods, and Madagascar's vanilla crops are being swept aside by cyclones. The climate crisis is affecting various parts of the world differently, but the results are still the same: less food and more starvation.

Places like Kenya are putting more reliance on food imports, which, according to multinational British strategic consulting firm Verisk Maplecroft, is no cheap investment. The climate crisis is sliding one problem over the

next, with direct hits on crops and government spending. Especially for countries with upcoming elections, a lot of pressure is put on politicians to take action against the threat.

However, there is a more important underlying issue beneath weather abnormalities. Lack of food diversity is causing crops to become more susceptible to disease and less resilient to natural disasters.

The United Nations says that three main steps need to be taken to combat climate change's contribution to the food crisis: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the resilience of our food, and creating early warning systems for weather catastrophes.

India Bans Wheat Exports

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that India supplies approximately 10 per cent of the world's grain. However, on May 13, India announced a moratorium on grain exports. In the Commerce Ministry's notice, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, India's Director of Foreign Trade, announced the ban would not affect India and neighbouring or vulnerable countries. The ban intends to focus India's resources on these local and affected communities, as exporting abroad is too large a financial investment.

However, with the Russia-Ukraine war, climate disasters, and COVID-19, a lot of pressure was put on India to export. In fact, until a recent statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed India wished to provide global support from its reserves, reports *the New York Times*. Agricultural economist Ashok Gulati emphasized how badly the ban has reflected on India's government.

Agricultural experts suspect a reason for the ban could lie in the high chances of heat waves this year, which could wipe out fields of crops. In northwest India, crops have already been damaged by rising temperatures.

In an interview with *India Today*, food and trade minister Piyush Goyal said that India was willing to be “responsive,” and that their actions would not resemble a “dinosaur” in changing times, suggesting the ban may not be concrete.

For now, the World Bank has used \$30 billion to support low-income countries in accessing food, as the poorest communities have been hit the hardest. These are temporary measures to combat the food crisis, with experts warning that the issue could climb up the global food chain.

What Joining NATO Would Mean for Finland, Sweden, and The Rest of The World

ANALYSIS by Sam Liu (9)

The Nordic countries of Finland and Sweden have long had a reputation for being staunchly neutral. For centuries they have avoided entangling alliances, preferring instead to focus on their own defence and maintaining good relations with their neighbours. But in recent years both countries have been reassessing their security posture, and in light of Russia's war on Ukraine, both have applied for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (“NATO”).

While there are many reasons why Finland and Sweden have considered joining NATO, Russia's recent war of aggression was just the instigating factor. Security in Europe has been deteriorating, particularly in the wake of the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. The recent war has helped highlight the vulnerability of the Nordic region, which, until now, has been relatively insulated from such conflict.

As members of the organization, Finland and Sweden would be entitled to greater protection and aid. They would have the backing of the world's largest military alliance and could count on assistance in the event of an attack. This would help to ease the burden on these relatively small countries' militaries, which are already overstretched.

The joining of both countries would also benefit NATO, as Finland has one of the largest artillery forces in Europe, and Sweden has a strong navy with anti-submarine power.

With this military strength comes more power within NATO. Russia's old tactics relied on NATO not having enough troops in the Baltic States. However, with their inclusion of Sweden and Finland, this is negated. This could potentially reduce the odds of war.

Finland and Sweden are likely to pay approximately 1.2 per cent and 2.2 per cent, or \$30 million and \$60 million respectively, to the total annual NATO budget in the event that they join. This is due to the treaty's method of dividing costs amongst members based on their GDP. In perspective, the US, with a GDP of approximately \$20.94 trillion USD, pays 12 per cent of the NATO budget each year, which equates to over \$300 million USD. With Sweden's GDP of over \$530 billion USD and Finland's GDP of over \$270 billion USD, they would pay a substantially smaller portion.

Turkey has stated that they do not currently support Sweden joining NATO, due to Sweden harbouring the Kurdistan Worker's Party (“PKK”), which Turkey deems to be terrorists. As a result of this conflict, the estimated time it will take for Sweden and Finland to join NATO is a full year.

Russia has long threatened to take action if Sweden or Finland joins NATO, which has been a primary reason why both countries remained neutral. Since the two countries have applied for membership, Russia has reduced trade with them, specifically through energy cuts. Russia has assured that they will not take more actions unless there are movements of weapons and military personnel.

Despite these concerns, there has been minimal debate on whether or not Finland and Sweden joining NATO will have more of a positive or negative outcome. For both Finland and Sweden, joining would mean greater security for their countries, and for NATO, it would mean having more intel on Russia and being able to better protect the Baltic States. It mainly boils down to how long this process will take, and how fast they can get all existing members to approve their application.

ANALYSIS by Ruby Ellermann (9)

According to the World Food Programme (“WFP”), 811 million people spend their nights on an empty stomach, with a huge spike in starvation in recent years. In 2021, 193 million people were said to be in “urgent need of assistance” regarding access to food. This is an increase of almost 40 million from 2020, according to the WFP's 2022 Global Report on Food Crises, released this past May.

The report was forwarded with a message from United Nations Secretary António Guterres, who wrote: “We are facing hunger on an unprecedented scale, food prices have never been higher, and millions of lives and livelihoods are hanging in the balance.”

The lack of financial aid and resources can be traced back to four primary factors – the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war on Ukraine, the climate crisis, and India's ban on wheat exports.

The Pandemic

“[COVID-19] is showing us the weaknesses in the interconnected web

of activities that keep us fed,” explains an article by researchers at the University of Toronto. The article highlights the flaws of food banks, specifically the way they have struggled to accommodate the increase in their services' demand during the pandemic. Because they require face-to-face volunteer-based labour, they have struggled to operate fully while maintaining proper safety protocols.

Rising unemployment rates have also contributed to the food crisis. With people unable to work in person during the pandemic, many employees have left or lost their jobs, causing production in food industries to decline. Loss of employment also makes it more difficult for people to support themselves.

Hoarding has also resulted in shortages at stores and markets. According to the University of Toronto, stress is a big factor in this. When people are worried that stores will run out of necessary resources, they buy more than they need. Shops are struggling to meet the high demand for these items.

Agnes Kalibata, agricultural scientist, policymaker, and president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, explained in an interview with *The Guardian* that, ultimately, “we need

First Russian Soldier Tried for War Crimes Post Invasion of Ukraine

NEWS REPORT by Max Von Dehn (10)

On February 28, Oleksandr Shelipov, a Ukrainian man, was pushing his bike as he walked near his house. He was going to observe an exploded tank, a part of life in Ukraine since Russia's widely-condemned invasion.

Moments later, he was on the ground, shot dead steps from his house, by Russian tank sergeant Vadim Shishimarin.

This happened near the beginning of Russia's invasion, and now represents one of 40 cases trying Russian soldiers for war crimes. Over 13,000 investigations are being conducted, according to Ukrainian Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova.

The trial was abnormal, as it is one of the rare times that a country in the midst of a conflict has conducted war crime trials. Ukraine's prosecutor has said Shishimarin committed a war crime when he shot a civilian.

During his trial Shishimarin sat quietly, watching as the widow of Shelipov testified. For the entire trial, Shishimarin sat isolated in a glass box, his translator the only person next to

him. With Shelipov's widow meters from him, he admitted guilt for his actions in shooting her husband.

Experts have viewed trials like these as part of a larger effort to doc-

ument and show the world what has truly happened in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

During the trial, Shishimarin stated he shot Shelipov due to orders from the

officer riding in the car with him. The officer, whom Shishimarin had only met recently, told Shishimarin to shoot Shelipov because he was talking into a cell phone, which could lead to their position being reported. Shishimarin claimed he feared for his life if he did not shoot Shelipov. His defence stated that his superior officer who issued the order should have been on trial, instead of Shishimarin.

However, the three judges, at the conclusion of the trial, reached the same verdict as Shishimarin had pleaded: guilty. However, several experts have cast doubt upon the efficacy of such a prosecution during this time.

Robert Goldman, a war crimes and human rights expert at American University's Washington College of Law told the Washington Post that these trials may only “engender reciprocal trials [by Russia and its proxies in eastern Ukraine] that will be utterly devoid of due process”. Already, the Kremlin has begun actions to prosecute Ukrainian prisoners of war.

Moving to the future, Ukraine is going through more war crimes trials and is working with the International Criminal Court (“ICC”) to divert some of its cases to the ICC. The ICC has even begun plans to set up a location in Kyiv to help with the growing number of war crime cases. In the meantime, Ukraine's trial of Shishimarin is a stark reminder of the horror that has occurred since Russia's invasion.



FADEL SENNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES VIA NPR

INTERNATIONAL

A Look at New “Elections” in Hong Kong

ANALYSIS by Ellis Jackson (11)
and Julien Yuen (11)

Although Article 45 of the Basic Law, the de-facto constitution of Hong Kong, guarantees universal suffrage, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China passed a new law in early 2021 aimed at protecting Hong Kong from “unpatriotic” elements. The law establishes a pro-government panel that screens political candidates, to ensure they are of sufficient loyalty to the Chinese government on the mainland. The law passed the Congress with 2,985 delegates in favour, zero opposed, and one abstaining from the vote.

The reforms also changed the nature of the Legislative Council, Hong Kong's premier lawmaking body. The number of seats was increased to 90 from 70, however, the number of directly-elected representatives was reduced from 35 to 20, and increased sway was given to lawmakers appointed by special-interest factions, such as business, and to members appointed by the Elections Committee. Special-interest members and Committee-appointed members have historically leaned toward the government in Beijing. The Election Committee previously only selected the Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong, the city's primary official.

A new committee was also established and charged with screening prospective candidates to the Legislative Council, the Elections Committee, or those for the Chief Executive. The panel's goal is to ensure that candidates for public office have demonstrated sufficient patriotism.

In December 2021, the first election was held under this new system, and the outcome looked grim for Hong Kong's opposition. Turnout was greatly reduced, decreasing to 30.2 per cent, compared to approximately double in the 2016 legislative elections. Just 7 per cent of electors aged 18-20 participated, compared to 57.5 per cent in 2016.

The opposition, which had in the



...it can be expected that the political situation in Hong Kong will worsen as its suzerains up north assert direct control.

2019 District Council elections won a strong 388 out of 479 seats up for election that year, had a smaller footprint this election. Many of the democracy movement's leaders had been jailed and were facing criminal prosecution under a new security law passed in June 2020. This law criminalized subversion and collusion with foreign forces, among other related acts. In response, Canada and other countries, including the United Kingdom, suspended extradition treaties with Hong Kong and offered new immigration pathways to Hongkongers.

Five months after the Legislative Council election in December, the

non-elected Election Committee voted for the next Chief Executive of the Hong Kong government. John Lee won the rubber stamp election with 99.16 per cent of the votes as the sole candidate.

Who is John Lee?

John Lee joined the Hong Kong Police Force in 1977 after graduating high school without completing any undergraduate studies. He was then appointed as head of the Security Bureau, the government department that leads the disciplinary forces including the police force, in 2017. He later played a pivotal role in the crackdown against the

pro-democracy camp, including allowing police brutality and the arrests of protestors, lawmakers and journalists.

When he was the Secretary for Security, he proposed amendments to the Anti-Extradition Bill that sparked the 2019 pro-democracy movement, which demanded political reforms and accountability for police brutality, and subsequently led the local police force to squash the protests and dissent. In a press conference during the movement, Lee responded to a question regarding a policeman shooting the eye of a first aider by citing that “there would be no risks of being shot at if she was not present on site.”

In 2021, Lee was promoted to the office of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the second-highest office in the Hong Kong government and a post previously held by Sir Donald Tsang and Carrie Lam before they became Chief Executive.

In March 2022, the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute conducted a series of surveys. In a hypothetical election, 38.2 per cent of respondents voted to dismiss Lee as the Chief Secretary for Administration while only 23.7 per cent would reappoint him. Lee was also rated only 34.79 out of 100 by respondents in a survey on March 7.

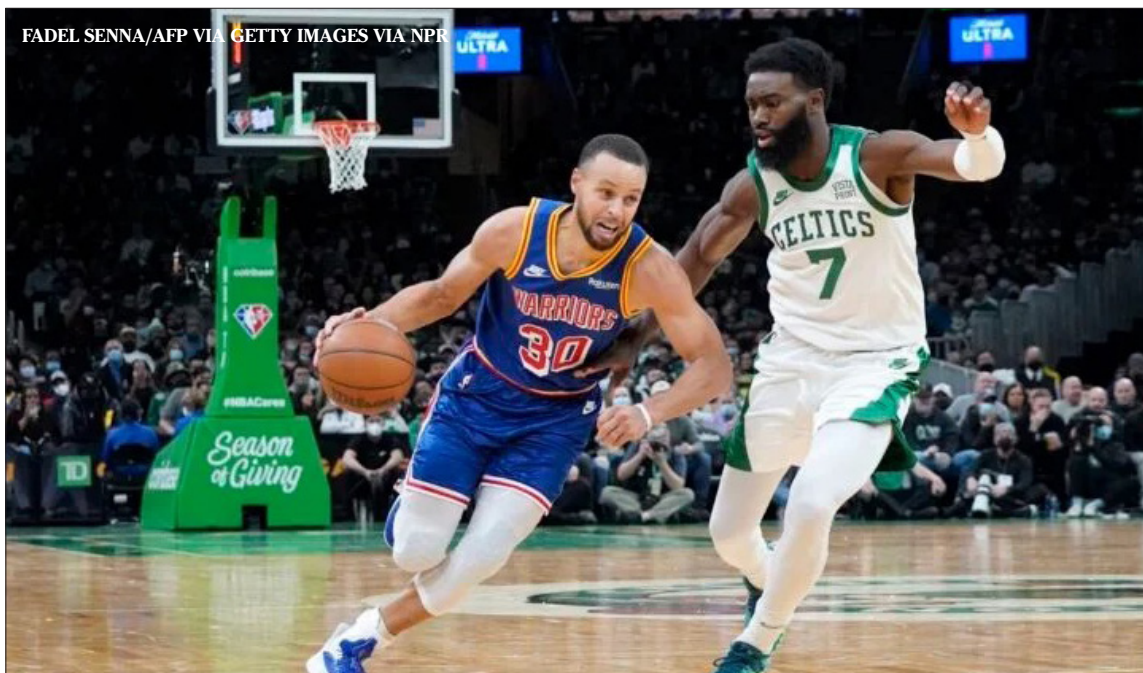
Beijing's Blessing

Lee is the first leader of the government to have origins in the police force since William Caine's governorship in 1859. What differentiates Lee from his predecessors is that they climbed up the ranks through the civilian side of the government and were educated post-secondary, while Lee is most experienced in policing and had no undergraduate studies.

Critics have stated that Lee's background indicates Xi Jinping's calculated decision to further force Hong Kong into submission. Beijing's approval of Lee represents the prioritization of “patriotism”, “national security”, and “order”, over the economy.

In an opinion published by Hong Kong Free Press, it is argued that the Administrative Officer grade of the government, which had previously produced Chief Executives Sir Donald Tsang, CY Leung, and Carrie Lam, would be sidelined after Lee assumes power as the new Chief Executive. It is also argued that Lee's appointment entails that Beijing is not looking for a politically skilled servant, but rather a loyal one.

With John Lee assuming power on July 1, the 25th anniversary of the transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom to China, it can be expected that the political situation in Hong Kong will worsen as its suzerains up north assert direct control.



THE 2022 NBA PLAYOFFS: A RECAP

NEWS REPORT by Shaan Sandhu (10)

As the NBA regular season came to a close, many fans were optimistic about their team's chances coming into the playoffs. Unlike past NBA playoffs, this year had no clear favourite to win it all. Whether you supported the number one seed Phoenix Suns, or the reigning champions Milwaukee Bucks, the odds could be in any team's favour. This was due to the old and new talent spread throughout the league. This has led to an entertaining first and second round in the playoffs, including the unpredictable series between the Boston Celtics

and Brooklyn Nets.

Boston Celtics Sweep Brooklyn Nets 4-0

Last season, the Brooklyn Nets almost swept the Celtics in the first round, beating them 4-1 in a short 5-game series. This loss motivated young stars Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum to step it up as this year's playoffs neared. Coming into the season, the Nets' Big Three (Kyrie Irving, James Harden, and Kevin Durant) were expected to make a deep playoff run. Chemistry and personal problems, like Irving refusing to get vaccinated, led to the downfall of this super team. Harden was traded to the Philadelphia 76ers at the trade deadline, leaving the Nets in a tough situation.

These factors led to the end of the

Nets' playoff run, allowing the Celtics to advance to the Eastern Conference Semifinals. After the loss, Durant expressed that “There's a lot of stuff that factors into why we lose, but they were just a better team.”

Philadelphia 76ers Beat Toronto Raptors 4-2

The Philadelphia and Toronto series has been long-awaited by many, as the last time they faced each other in the playoffs was in 2019 where Kawhi Leonard hit the historical buzzer-beater in game 7. That shot allowed the Raptors to advance and eventually win the NBA championship the same year. Because of this, the bar was high for both teams, hence the rivalry. The first game of this series was a disaster for the Raptors, as

their Rookie of the Year, Scottie Barnes, injured his left ankle, according to NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski. This left the Raptors without a key role player on their team, The 76ers then gained a 3-0 lead.

Most lost hope in the Raptors' chance at winning as no team had ever come back from a 3-0 lead in NBA playoff history. After the third loss, coach Nick Nurse left an optimistic statement for fans, “If it gets to 3-1, it's not 3-0 anymore. And 3-1 has been done.” This message boosted the energy within the Raptors roster as they managed to win the next two games, led by All NBA Third Team player Pascal Siakam. Siakam averaged 23 points in this series and put his all into each game. Unfortunately, his efforts weren't enough to take down the highly praised Joel Embiid, who finished second in MVP voting this season. Although the Raptors lost, the future is bright for Toronto with its young core of Gary Trent Jr, Scottie Barnes, and OG Anunoby.

Dallas Mavericks Upset Phoenix Suns 4-3

The Mavericks continue to be a dark horse in the playoffs, as many didn't expect them to make it past the first round. As they faced the number one seed Phoenix Suns, their odds looked slim. The series started with the Mavericks going down 2-0 to the Suns. Many Mavericks fans were optimistic because the Sun's lead point guard, Chris Paul, is known for blowing 2-0 leads throughout his 16-year career in the league.

Mavericks star Luka Doncic averaged 32 points in the playoffs so far this year, and he is shaping up to be the next big name within the NBA. Doncic wasn't the only key player on the Mavericks, as young point guard Jalen Brunson took a big step entering the postseason. He went from averaging 16 points in the regular season to 22 points in the playoffs. This breakout for Brunson paired with Doncic's one-of-a-kind skills allowed

the Mavericks to overcome the powerhouse that the Suns were supposed to be. Game 7 of this series was a complete blowout, the Mavericks achieved over a 30-point lead to win the game and advance to the Western Conference Finals.

Boston Celtics Edge Out Milwaukee Bucks 4-3

Going into this series, the Bucks suffered a major loss within their team, as their 3-time all-star Khris Middleton was out due to a Medial Knee Ligament (MCL) sprain in his left knee. This injury occurred during the Bucks' loss to the Chicago Bulls in game 2 of the first round. Coming into the second round, Middleton was optimistic to return for game 7. As the game neared, his injury refused to heal. This left the Bucks without their second star for the entire series, which forced their bench players to fill his role on the team.

As the series went on, the Bucks' bench couldn't stay consistent with their shooting. Their defense and offense heavily relied on 2-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo. Antetokounmpo averaged an astonishing 34 points, 15 rebounds, and 7 assists throughout this series. Even with these statistics, Giannis couldn't manage to get his team past the finish line and onto the Eastern Conference Finals.

Compared to the Bucks, the Celtics had a much deeper bench, consisting of talented young players like Grant Williams, Payton Pritchard, and Derek White. These players were crucial in the Celtic's success, as they could be relied on in situations where superstar Jayson Tatum was doubled teamed. Williams scored a career-high of 27 points and contributed to 7 of the 22 three-pointers made in game 7 against the Bucks. The Celtics secured a spot in the Eastern Conference Finals with this win. “I believe in myself, I believe in this team,” were the words Tatum used after the game 7 win, demonstrating that confidence is key to playoff success.

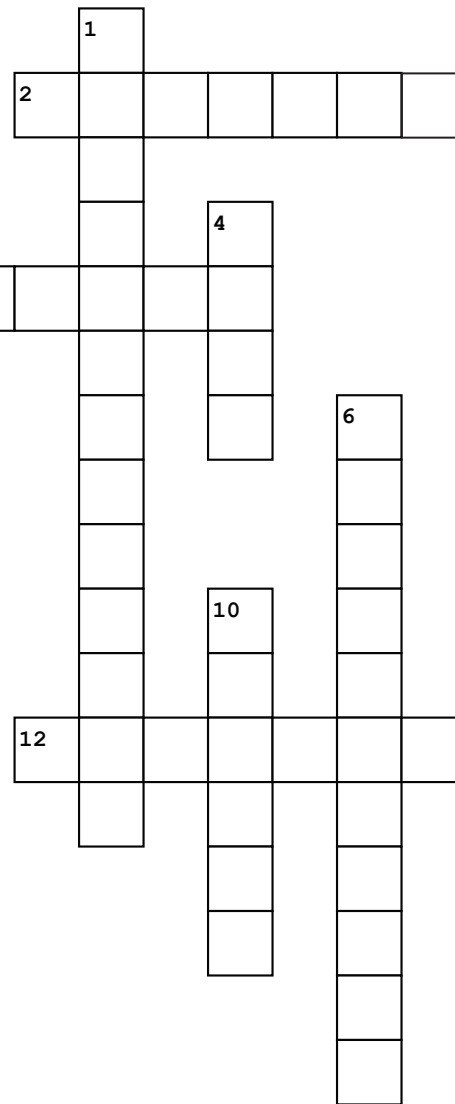
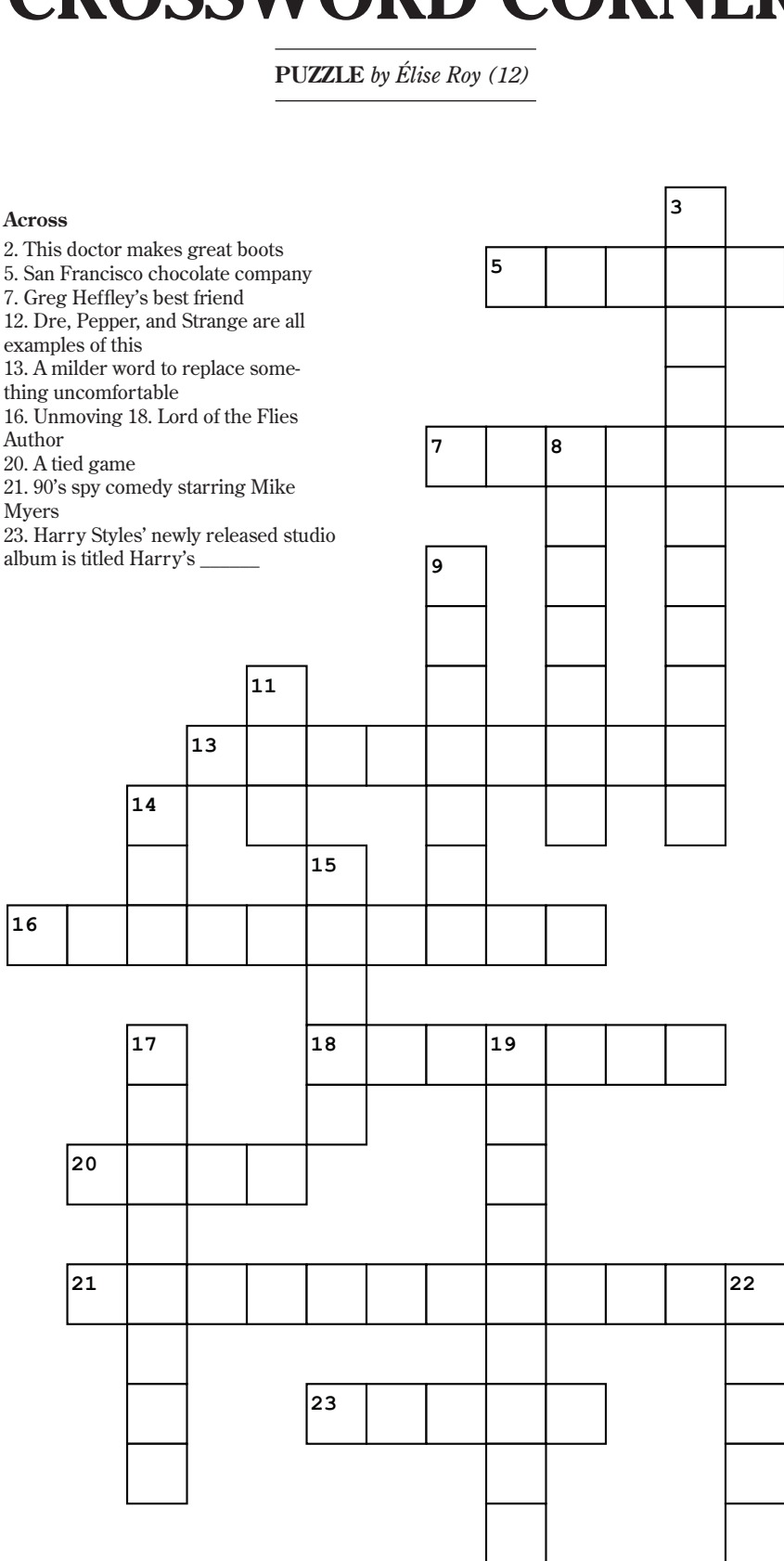
HAMBERGER

CROSSWORD CORNER

PUZZLE by *Élise Roy* (12)

Across

- 2. This doctor makes great boots
- 5. San Francisco chocolate company
- 7. Greg Heffley's best friend
- 12. Dre, Pepper, and Strange are all examples of this
- 13. A milder word to replace something uncomfortable
- 16. Unmoving 18. Lord of the Flies Author
- 20. A tied game
- 21. 90's spy comedy starring Mike Myers
- 23. Harry Styles' newly released studio album is titled Harry's _____



Down

- 1. Arthur Miller, author of *The Crucible*, was married to this famous blonde movie star
- 3. Custard dessert with caramelsauce
- 4. Renowned Indian restaurant on Cambie and 15th
- 6. Minerals in sports drinks for hydration
- 8. Neoprene is used to make this garment
- 9. Hamlet's love interest
- 10. Sherlock's right-hand man
- 11. Motherly type of flower
- 14. This artist just released a deluxe version of their album *Ctrl*, commemorating its five-year anniversary
- 15. Surname of Veronica from the Archie Comics
- 17. Cotton material with cord texture
- 19. University in Nova Scotia
- 22. "There's a ____ in my boot!"

ASK THE NEST

Q: Sometimes in the morning, I want to eat eggs for breakfast. I descend the stairs and ponder to myself: how should I make my eggs? Fried, scrambled, boiled, poached? Even within these stark categories are multiple distinct possibilities: sunny-side up, over easy, with pepper, without. I am suddenly bombarded with mental images, history of the humble French chef's hat, whose one hundred creases are said to have been reminiscent of the hundred different ways to prepare eggs. So immersed in the cultural and historical meanings of the French, I haven't been spatially aware, but now I can see that I am at the fridge. I open the door, and stare in. There are no eggs left. What should I do?

-Elegtric Love by Børns

A: Dear Elegtric Love,

It seems that you've been left with two choices here. One is to simply buy more eggs. However, if you can't do that right now, you could try eating something else. If you're unsure of what to eat for breakfast, you could try cereal, oatmeal, avocado toast, pancakes, waffles, pastries, or a smoothie. Unfortunately for you, the breakfast options are truly endless!

-The Nest

Q: I have a crush on a guy. He's nice. I like him and all, but there's one problem: I'm a guy too. I haven't really come out publicly nor do I feel comfortable doing that — I'm still figuring out who I even am. Now that he's told me that he might be going to another school, the bold, reckless part of me wants to make a move. What should I do?

-Crushing, Conflicted, and Confused

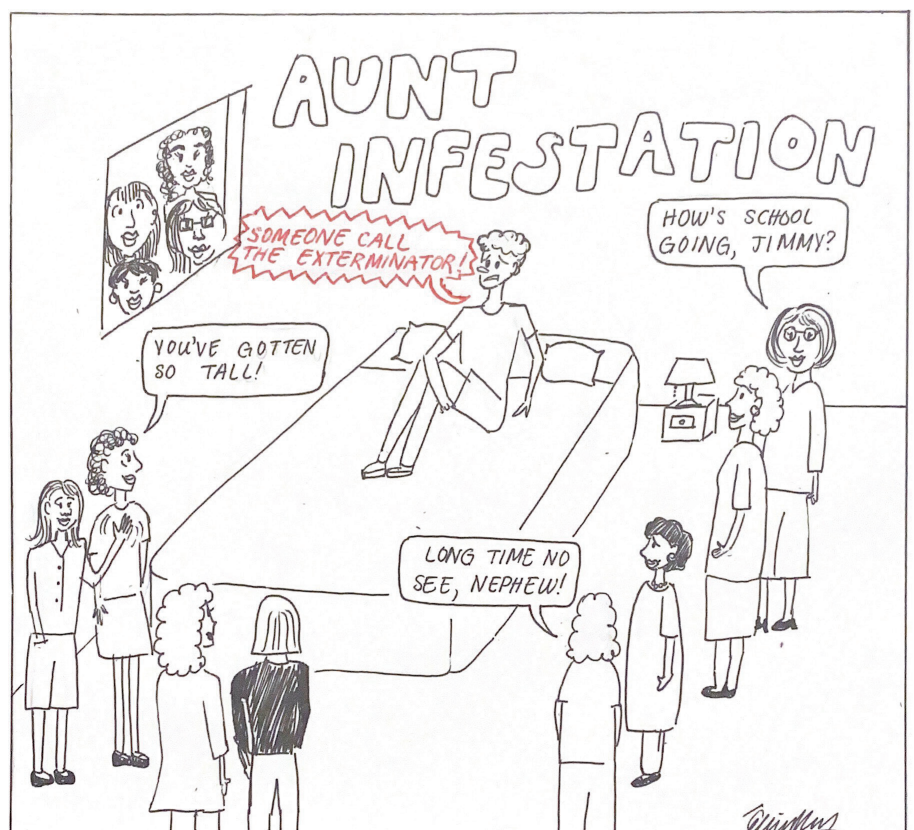
A: Dear Crushing, Conflicted, and Confused, It depends on how close you are (as a friend) to your crush. You stated earlier that you felt uncomfortable coming out publicly. It's important to consider that by making a move on your crush, you will be outing yourself. Do you think that your crush would tell others that you like him?

That being said, summer is coming up. I'd recommend arranging time to hang out — just the two of you — and getting to know him even better! You can decide then if you want to tell him you like him. You got this!

- The Nest



Your 2021-22 Editorial Board
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COMIC by *Élise Roy* (12)