

The Griffins' Nest

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VANCOUVER, BC

Canada Returns to the FIFA World Cup, First Time in 36 Years

NEWS REPORT by David Zhang (12) & Evan Couch (12)

The FIFA World Cup is the world's most prestigious association football tournament. Hosted every four years and garnering over 3 billion viewers, the World Cup surpasses the Summer Olympic Games for total number of views.

The host country of the World Cup is decided through an exhaustive ballot system by FIFA's Congress, with the first-ever tournament being hosted in 1930, in Uruguay. Twenty-one other tournaments have since been organized.

FIFA was originally formed by Belgium, Denmark, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland, with the goal of promoting football. Originally consisting of 24 competing teams, president Gianni Infantino recently confirmed the expansion up to 48 teams to allow weaker teams a chance on the world stage.

The 2022 World Cup, hosted in Qatar, has quickly become one of the most controversial tournaments. Being the first ever FIFA tournament hosted during the fall due to extreme summer heat, the Qatar World Cup has broken many norms and traditions.

In the opening game of the 2022 World Cup, Qatar lost 2-0 to Ecuador, the first time a host country has lost during an opening match. Ecuador's captain Enner Valencia scored the first goal less than three minutes into the match, but it was disallowed as video assistant referees (VAR) deemed him to be offside. Valencia, however, was able to score a penalty kick after being grabbed by the goalie, and subsequently scored a header.

Many Qatar fans expressed their disappointment through social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. A large number of Qatar spectators were seen leaving the stadium before the match finished.

Following the opening match, Saudi Arabia vs. Argentina was widely considered to be a sweep for Argentina, considering Saudi Arabia was ranked 51st in the world, whereas Argentina



CANADA SOCCER



CANADA SOCCER



CANADA SOCCER

was ranked 3rd. With Lionel Messi scoring a penalty goal, giving Argentina an early lead, Saudi Arabia's chances of winning seemed bleak.

With some resistance from the opposing team, Japan eventually beat Spain in their match; the winning goal was scored by Ao Tanaka. It was a surprise to both the Japanese and Spanish teams that the goal counted since the ball was half out. Japan scored two goals in the early second half of the match, ending it with a final score of 2-1.

Canada returned to the FIFA World Cup for the first time in 36 years. Canada played in the World Cup for the first time in 1986, and left the competition with no goals or wins. Canada's first game against Belgium,

on Nov. 23, ended with a score of 1-0, in favour of Belgium.

This year, on Nov. 27, the Canadians lost for the second time against Croatia with a final score of 4-1. Hakim Ziyech and Youseff En-Nesyri of Morocco scored the initial points of the game. Alphonso Davies scored the first and only goal for Canada 68 seconds into the game. Moroccan player Nayef Augerd scored on his own net, which is known as an own goal. Canada gained a point for this, but it was not enough to win the match. Canada left the World Cup without a win again, though John Herdman, coach of the Canadian team, said in a *CBC* interview that he thought the Canadian team "achieved a performance that [they were] proud of."

The 2022 World Cup has been surprising to many followers of the sport, despite the concerns that were raised even before the tournament had started.

On Dec. 2, 2010, Qatar won the FIFA committee vote to host the 2022 World Cup. This was significant at the time since the World Cup had never been hosted in the Middle East, or during the fall. However, the US Department of Justice accused Qatar of bribing FIFA officials to secure the hosting right.

Other countries including Russia and South Africa have previously been accused of bribery to secure hosting rights.

US prosecutors revealed that five executives of FIFA were bribed to vote

for Qatar, with recordings of two FIFA executives agreeing to vote for Qatar instead of the US being leaked. More than half of the FIFA committee responsible for the 2022 World Cup was accused of misconduct, including the former FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, who was charged with fraud, criminal mismanagement, and forgery.

Qatar has also been criticized for violating human rights over its treatment of migrant workers. Qatar, which has a population of roughly 3 million, has only 313,000 Qatari citizens. More than 90 per cent of the population are expatriates from other countries.

Due to the lack of labour force, Qatar has resorted to hiring migrant workers to finish the infrastructure for the \$200 billion USD tournament. Most of these workers were promised housing accommodations, food, insurance, and a basic salary, but this was not the case. Migrant workers had their passports taken to prevent them from leaving Qatar and working non-construction jobs.

Workers were required to pay a large recruitment fee that would have required many months to pay off, but according to *The Guardian*, the money needed was handed out either months late or not at all. Temperatures in the summer reached beyond 40 degrees Celsius, which led many workers to suffer from heat stroke. Injured workers were required to pay for their own medical services, and didn't receive any compensation. The unethical cost of the recruitment fee and living expenses, combined with the delayed pay often meant migrant workers were receiving a net loss of money.

In an interview with *South China Morning Post*, Jovanie Cario, a Filipino migrant worker said "[he] had a colleague who was arrested that told [him] prison food was good, and that [you get] a good night's sleep." Upon hearing this, Cario and his friends purposely got themselves arrested so that they could "return back home with full stomachs."

According to *The Guardian*, more than 6,500 migrant workers have died in Qatar since the country won the hosting right. An average of more than 12 migrant workers have died each week since Dec. 10, 2010, but the Qatar government has only recognized 3 deaths as "work-related" since 2014-2020. Qatar officials have stated to *BBC* that they have made "significant progress to ensure the reforms are effectively enforced."

Flu Cases Increasing Steeply: Canada is in the Midst of Influenza Epidemic



GETTY IMAGES VIA BLOOMBERG

NEWS REPORT by Arabella Mew (10)

Canada is in the midst of a national influenza epidemic, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada ("PHAC"). The latest report by Flu-

Watch, Canada's national surveillance system on the spread of influenza, announced that "all surveillance indicators are increasing and all are above expected levels typical of this time of the year".

Canadian health officials have been warning citizens throughout the flu season to take precautions. The national influenza epidemic, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic cases, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and

other respiratory illnesses, along with the shortage of children's pain relief medications, have significantly strained hospitals across the country as well as other parts of the Canadian healthcare system.

Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, advised in a health briefing on Nov. 8 that Canadians should get their flu shot, wear a mask, and stay home when sick, especially as we approach the holiday season. She stated that wearing masks is a layer of protection that could "make a difference in terms of dampening the surge so that the hospitals can cope just a little bit better."

"We've just been through the biggest pandemic of the current era, and it is very important to take note of lessons learned and be as objective as we can," said Dr. Tam. The flu seasons of the past couple years ended abruptly after public health restrictions were put in place to combat COVID-19, and Canadians can take similar actions in the midst of this year's national influenza epidemic.

Dr. Donald Vinh, an infectious disease specialist at the McGill University Health Center, explained to *Global News* that the nature of this year's flu season is not only a reflection of the virus, but also of human behaviour. In-

fluenza is disproportionately affecting children and youth, and the lifting of COVID-19 public health measures like wearing a mask and physical distancing in schools likely plays a role. Young people are generally healthy and often feel "impervious to diseases", and may be less likely to take precautions, Dr. Vinh said.

The weekly percentage of positive tests is currently sitting at 6.4 per cent, which is beyond the seasonal threshold of 5.0 per cent, reported the PHAC. Between Nov. 27 and Dec. 3, 9855 laboratory detections were reported, compared to the 8242 reported in the previous week; an increase of about 19.6 per cent. Since the influenza season started in August, there have been 109 ICU admissions and 36 influenza-linked deaths.

46 per cent of reported cases in Canada were of individuals aged 0-19 years old. However, the groups experiencing more serious outcomes were younger children and older adults: children under the age of 4 and adults over the age of 45. Health experts say it is surprising to see high numbers of lab-confirmed flu cases among children and youth since lab tests for flu are usually done after hospital admittance, and in regular years more seniors are admitted to hospitals because of influenza.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

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EVAN COUCH

Hamber Hosts Canley Cup Events

NEWS REPORT by Allison Lee (11)

Editor's Note: Mackenzie Chung (10) & Arabella Mew (10) are also reporters for The Griffins' Nest

Vancouver District Student Council's Canley Cup event is back at Hamber this year. The event typically runs from late November to the second or third week of December. Schools across SD 39 aim to raise money for the community in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. However, there have been many changes to the event this year, including Hamber's events and fundraising strategies or where proceeds are going across the district.

Hamber's Student Council held four fundraising events for this year's Canley Cup: Bring Your Own Mug, Holiday Trivia, Holiday Market Place & Pictures With Santa, and Holiday Karaoke.

Bring Your Own Mug was hosted after school in the cafeteria on Nov. 29. Students were instructed to bring their own mug to school in order to purchase hot chocolate for \$1. If they forgot to bring a mug, they could pay \$2 to get hot chocolate in a cup provided.

Maya Kooner (12), one of Hamber's Student Council co-presidents, believes that "the school community really enjoyed it" and that "the snow helped the advertisement of the event", as it had snowed heavily on the day of the event, and created a festive atmosphere.

Holiday Trivia was held in the auditorium at lunch on Friday, Dec. 2. Students created teams with their friends and went head-to-head bracket tournament style to see who could answer the most questions about holiday related themes to win a prize.

"We've done a trivia event in the past for Pi Day," said Kooner. "People really loved it. So we decided to bring it back and charge admission."

In the end, the Grade 12 team, which consisted of Adam Chu (12), Cecilia Oliveira (12), Maddie Baker (12), Lauren Berg (12) and Emily Webb (12) was victorious. They received a gift basket from Student Council.

Holiday Market Place & Pictures with Santa took place in the cafeteria on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Clubs interested in selling a product or hosting an activity were given space in the cafeteria to do so.

"We decided to combine Pictures with Santa, [and] do one big mesh," said Wilson Liang (12), the other co-president of Student Council. Pictures with Santa has been a popular event in past years, where students would pay a small fee for a polaroid photo of themselves and their friends with Santa.

Holiday Karaoke was the final event for Hamber's Canley Cup, scheduled to be held in the auditorium at lunch on Thursday, Dec. 8.

"Grad committee did a karaoke event, and there was good turnout



VERONICA MIRANDA

there. So we thought, 'Hey, why don't we do it school wide and see what kind of holiday spirit the Griffins can muster together?'" Kooner said about the idea of a karaoke event.

However, this event was cancelled. According to Liang, Student Council executives hosting the event were sick, partially hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend the event.

"This cancellation was decided by our teacher sponsors and the executives leading this event," he explained.

Student Council has been working hard to make these events happen.

"This year, we decided to go with a different approach than prior years, because we felt that delegation is a big problem within the student council," Kooner explained. "To combat that, we have this team of executives. Each executive or pair of executives were paired up to an event, and they were assigned a committee of around five [or] six people from the general StuCo. That committee, alongside the leadership of the executives [and] me and Wilson's guidance, was in charge of planning those events."

Kooner described this process as being a learning experience for members of Student Council, as they experienced planning an event "from the ground-up", including figuring out which steps needed to be done in order to host these activities. Liang also added that Student Council is thinking of implementing different committees, such as an events committee, that would be in charge of organizing school events.

The student council also ran into difficulties with getting the student body engaged in these activities. Ayana Chang (12), Student Council's social events coordinator, remarked on how it was difficult to find clubs interested in participating in the Holiday Marketplace event.

"We've really tried on Instagram to encourage [students] to take part in the events," she said, speaking to effective promotional strategies. "I think the Instagram is honestly the most effective despite the fact that not enough people check it regularly. I would say it's more effective than the Teams posts [...] and I

also think the morning announcements really help."

Mackenzie Chung (10), the secretary of VDSC, agreed.

"A lot of the events we have now we can only promote through social media," she remarked, comparing this year's events to last year's class-to-class donation strategy.

Arabella Mew (10), Hamber's junior VDSC representative, mentioned that "one of the things we strive to do as a student council is to plan events that appeal to the general population". She described how engagement and participation amongst the student body was largely impacted by the type of events that were planned and how they were advertised.

"We've definitely had a lot more student-to-student engagement this year than last year when it came to advertising for the Canley Cup," Chung agreed.

Mew and Chung also described their experience working with VDSC and Hamber to host the Canley Cup activities.

"As the junior Vancouver District Student Council Representative, I work with my senior representative, and basically we're kind of the links in between the two councils. So that means that whatever information that we get from our meetings with the Vancouver District Student Council, we're able to give [to] Hamber and from there, just make sure that we make decisions as a student council for what is best for our school," Mew explained.

Mackenzie, however, explained that by "being on the exec council at the VDSC, it's a lot more of the logistical side [...] we had meetings with the food bank to talk about the logistics of the event [since] the Canley Cup this year is structured a lot differently."

Their experience and knowledge working with the VDSC has proven to be useful in Hamber Student Council meetings. "We build off of the ideas that we've seen in the past and also from other schools, and that's something that's really special about the Vancouver District Student Council, [you] get to meet with people from different schools and

see what's going on there, and really everyone is able to pitch these events and we see the feasibility and how they'd be received by the general school public" Mew reflected.

"When it comes to making decisions about certain events, we have to step in and be like 'oh, actually we can't technically do that, because of XYZ,'" Chung described.

Last year, Hamber hosted a class-to-class competition between second block classes to raise the most money for the Canley Cup. The class that had raised the most at the end of a certain time period won a pizza party.

However, a similar competition is not happening this year for several reasons, one being instructional time. According to Kooner and Liang, Student Council is not allowed to impede on teacher's instructional time, and a pizza party would be doing that.

Student Council is also trying to put more of an emphasis on the idea that every contribution matters.

"We don't want to pressure people [or] force them to actually donate to the Canley Cup," Liang said.

Kooner added to this point, "there are so many factors that may influence why a class can't fundraise as much as another class, depending on size, depending on grade. There's [numerous] factors, and we don't want to create unfairness."

Another strategy mentioned by Liang that has been implemented to raise more money has been to send out a newsletter to the parents. This informed them of the events happening at Hamber and directed them to online donations. Hamber had raised the most online donations out of all high schools in Vancouver last year.

In previous years, 100 per cent of the proceeds from the Canley Cup went to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. This year, many schools were able to donate to other charities and local organizations of their choice, according to Chung. This way, students and schools were able to feel more connected to the Canley Cup cause, as they could choose an organization to support that aligned with the values of their school.

There have also been a number of changes to what canned and food items the Greater Vancouver Food Bank is accepting this year. According to a recent Greater Vancouver Food Bank policy, only two items are now being accepted from school food drives: dry-packaged pasta and low sodium canned salmon.

"As a student council, we decided that it makes more sense for Hamber to only do monetary donations this year, because we don't want to have the possibility of wasting food," Mew spoke.

There are still many ways to help and support the Great Vancouver Food Bank, either by donating online to their website, by supporting school events such as the Canley Cup, or even volunteering at some of their locations

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

COVID-19 SHUTS DOWN HAMBER'S SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

NEWS REPORT by River Cheng (8)

For three years, Hamber's ski and snowboard club hasn't been running. To find out why, The Griffins' Nest interviewed **Mr. M. Albrecht** (Business Ed), former sponsor of the ski club.

"Ultimately, the closing of the Ski Club was a result of COVID," explained Mr. Albrecht. Whistler Blackcomb, the mountain Hamber's ski club visited in the past, said that they won't be opening the Schools on Snow program (a program run by Whistler to teach students how to ski) this year, due to "likely staffing shortages."

"The mountain said we were no longer eligible to go on weekends, and that we had to rebook for weekdays," Mr. Albrecht recounted. This would take students out of class and require teachers to be called upon to supervise, meaning they would not be able to teach their classes.

Last year, the ski and snowboard club was not able to visit the mountain either. Though everything had been organized; all the spots filled, and the rates figured out, the school board cancelled the trip because of fuel shortages. A couple of months later, they once again tried to hit the slopes but the mountain was too understaffed to run the program.

"I am disappointed that I'm not able to provide an opportunity for stu-

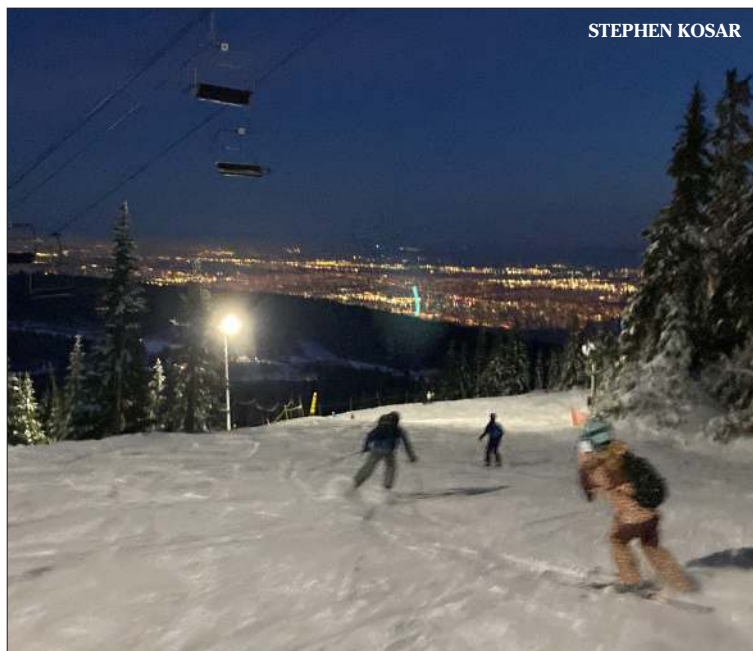
dents to make their way up to one of the best ski hills in the world... [the ski club] have had some great times up there," said Mr. Albrecht. He had been involved with the ski club for a long time, and regrets that he and his colleagues will not be able to ski.

Historically, Whistler Blackcomb would offer a full day of skiing and snowboarding lessons to students at a discount. The ski club would go up the mountain four times a year, giving many students the opportunity to

learn new skills. It was an immensely popular club and would sometimes need two school buses to take everyone up to the top of the mountain.

Mr. Albrecht hopes to restart the club. He says that the club is likely to reopen again next year and encourages students to look out for announcements next September.

"Hopefully, Whistler Blackcomb will change their plans in future years so that they have enough staff available," said Mr. Albrecht.



STEPHEN KOSAR

A Look into Students' Favourite Holiday Traditions

ALANNA RUDOLPH



GETTY IMAGES VIA BBC



Hamber's Seismic Upgrade to be Completed for the Upcoming Year



DAVID ZHANG

NEWS REPORT by Anthony Lu (11)

Next year, the construction of the new school is expected to finish, and Hamber's staff and students will then move into the newly constructed building. Whether eagerly or anxiously, students and teachers alike are anticipating attending classes in a different school. The Nest had the chance to chat with Hamber's principal, **Ms. M. Jensen** (Administration), about what we know so far about the new school.

The website of KMBR Architects and Planners, the group working on the new school project, claims that Hamber students can look forward to a "new, modern, four-storey school building" that is to be completed in September 2023. Ms. Jensen expects the new school to be fully constructed no earlier than somewhere around that time frame, possibly around a month before the 2023-2024 school year begins. She also said that the construction of the new school is currently on schedule.

Though the new school is expected to be finished not long before school starts, students may very well be able to participate in an orientation of the new school before the start of classes. Ms. Jensen explained that she and members of the team working on the project have been talking about "how best to support students through the big move between the two schools" for the past months.

According to Ms. Jensen, one big change is that the new school will be less confusing.

"The new school layout has a very straightforward, easy to navigate physical plant," remarked Ms. Jensen. She explained that many support services for students, such as the office, the counselling suite, the career office, and the international education office will all be centrally located. In addition, there will be no maze.

Ms. Jensen is optimistic about how the new school will affect the Hamber community.

"I think there's so much to look forward to in the new school," Ms. Jensen commented. "I look forward

to hearing about the connections that students and staff are making in the new physical plant." She added that students will come to know the new school, just as they do the current one, and will start to hand down new stories and memories over time.

The process of moving into the new school and students' roles in that process were something that Ms. Jensen was unsure about.

"Because it's such a large-scale change process for students and because it's not fully defined when the moving date will be, it's best not to guess what the process is going to look like until we've got clear information," she explained. "That way, we're best able to guide students."

However, Ms. Jensen expects students to play a key role in helping the school community adjust to the new building.

"It's very likely that I'm going to have students who I'm working with who can help guide their peers through this change process," she said. "Over the years, we've had two students who have recently graduated who had helped for years on the project, and so we'll get new students to help us with the big physical move that's about to take place."

According to KMBR's website, the new school will be able to hold a maximum of 1,700 students and 120 staff members. It will include "37 general instruction classrooms, 10 science classrooms, various learning spaces, a library, administrative offices, a multi-purpose room, a large common space, technology education shops, a 350-seat auditorium, three music rooms, and two connected gymnasiums (one double gym plus single practice gym) with changing and storage rooms, dance studio, weight room and health & fitness lab."

The new school will also double as a childcare facility that will be able to hold a maximum of 69 children. It will include the "added use of a childcare facility serving four age groups located on the roof of the school, with separate access from the rest of the school, and an outdoor rooftop play area."

NEWS REPORT by Ella Pendlington (10)

With winter break quickly approaching, so are some students' favourite traditions. Eric Hamber is filled with a variety of individuals with their own values and experiences. From Christmas to Diwali celebrations, what do Hamber students love the most about their traditions?

"Christmas is not a religious holiday for me and my family, but we still celebrate it," shared **Zoey Cheang** (10). Every Christmas, her family has a tree and does a gift exchange with one another.

Elise Redivo-Salvador's (11) family always wears matching pyjamas on Christmas Eve. "It is a tradition that started with my grandmother on my mom's side," she explained. "It is something she used to do with her family and it is something we continue to do every year."

Harshal Rai (10) celebrated Diwali this past November. "My favourite part of Diwali is when we light Diyas [oil lamps lit during the festival of Diwali] and place them on our porch," she shared. "We do this as a way to welcome the good spirits."

Many students have unique memories from their holidays. Cheang stated, "Last year was my first white Christmas, so that was special for me!"

"On Christmas Day, me and my friends decided to go sledding," Redivo-Salvador shared, recounting how she and a friend went down a really steep hill, thinking they would be able to avoid the duck pond at the bottom

as it was so far away. However, as they sped down the hill, they realized that they would fall in.

"We were both freezing and drenched," she exclaimed. "It was not pleasant for us, but for my other friends watching, it was quite funny!"

Food is also a fun part of traditions for many students. **Andre Chen** (10) and his family have celebrated Chinese New Year for as long as he can remember. His favourite part is the delicious food at the celebratory dinner. "Before we can enjoy the food, we have to pay respects to our ancestors and let them have the first go. We set up extra plates, glasses and utensils."

"My favourite part of Diwali is when we light Diyas"

A food that Chen most enjoys during this celebration is Year Cake.

"Since I normally only get to eat it during Chinese New Year, it always brings back memories of past celebrations."

Redivo-Salvador says peppermint bark is her favourite holiday food. "It's a dessert my mom makes around Christmas time. I love it because it tastes delicious and it's really fun to make!"

Rai appreciates Kaju Katli during Diwali. "This dessert is made with cashews, and I love cashews. It's a dessert I look forward to every Diwali."

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

Holiday Music Review: The Best Christmas Tunes

REVIEW by Mia Boguslavsky (11)

As the holiday season approaches and stores are breaking out the Christmas playlists, you're bound to hear these songs sooner or later, so here is my personal (and impartial — I do not celebrate Christmas) opinion on some of the most popular songs.

"All I want for Christmas is You" - Mariah Carey - 9/10

This song is perhaps the most famous Christmas song in popular culture and department stores, and though it is extremely overplayed from November 1st all the way through Boxing day, it deserves 9/10 for the iconic Mariah Carey vocals. Minus one point because it does seem like a lot to ask for a person for Christmas.

"Let it Snow" - Michael Bublé - 6/10

Though Michael Bublé's voice is perfect for Christmas music, this song is so incredibly incorrect. I cannot think of a single day near the holiday season where I was just able to sit inside and do nothing instead of frantically studying and buying presents for what seems to be a thousand people. Also, judging on Vancouver's reaction to the last time it snowed, we do not want to 'let it snow'.



GETTY IMAGES
VIA THE GUARDIAN

"Last Christmas" - Wham! - 8/10

An iconic song from the New Wave era, this song is the perfect mix of chill and Christmas-y. This song is perfect for Christmas karaoke or singing along to in the car. Minus two points for the narrator still being very obviously hung over their ex.

"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" - Brenda Lee - 9/10

An absolute banger that brings out all the happy Christmas vibes and memories of elementary school holiday parties. Listening to this makes me want to put on an ugly sweater and drink a cup of hot chocolate.



SPOTIFY



SPOTIFY

"Feliz Navidad" - José Feliciano - 10/10

My favourite holiday song, and I don't even speak Spanish. This song makes me want to get up and dance, the vibes are great. It's so cheerful and happy, and singing it with other people is the best holiday experience ever.

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town" - The Jackson 5 - 4/10

Don't get me wrong, The Jackson 5 are iconic, but this song is so irritating. Why can't you cry just because Santa is coming? Also, we know that he is coming, that's one of the main traditions of Christmas, we don't need to hear it repeated 20 times (I counted) in under three minutes.

"Frosty the Snowman" - Gene Autry - 9/10

Another Christmas icon, Frosty the Snowman gets his own feature song. This movie is such a holiday staple, especially in the younger grades. Hearing this song reminds me of the good old days of class parties and the last day before winter break. Minus one point because it gets stuck in my head in the most non-Christmas-related months.

"Jingle Bell Rock" - Bobby Helms - 8/10

Jingle Bells' older and more refined sibling, this song used to be my least favourite holiday song because of hearing it in a school assembly every year, but it's definitely grown on me. The rhythm is good, incorporating the best lyrics of Jingle Bells while changing the genre from Christmas carols to classic rock n' roll.



Hamber's Senior Field Hockey team faces off Kitsilano Secondary, Nov. 2.

"A superstition I have occurs when I do shootouts. I always hit the top of the net with my stick before we start!"

ALEXIS MACAULAY (12)



ARLYN GILMOUR (11)

BREAKING THE RECORD: HAMBER'S SUCCESS AT FIELD HOCKEY PROVINCIALS

NEWS REPORT by Mackenzie Chung (10)

After a four year hiatus from the event, Hamber's senior girls' field hockey team found themselves on the grass of provincial turf. Their accomplishment didn't end with just making it to the event, however, as the team managed to battle their way to quarter-finals, taking seventh place in the province.

Their trek to the championship began with their regular season standing of 2nd in the city, with three wins, one loss, one tie. This meant the team met the qualifying mark for Sea-to-Sky Zones, where they would have to fight their way to earn a spot as one of the province's best.

"If you were to ask most of the players if they thought we had the chance to go to provincials in the beginning of the season, I think a lot of them would've said they didn't think so," said one of the team's two sponsors, Mr. I. Sehmbi (PHE). "But then a couple weeks nearing the end we realized, 'Hey, we could probably do this.'"

After a loss to North Vancouver's Handsworth Secondary, the Hamber team was thrown into a game they would have to win to make their way forward, against a familiar opponent, Kitsilano Secondary. Beginning their game with a classic Hamber cheer, the stakes were high and the nerves were out the roof, but the team pulled through with a 2-0 win.

Once successfully qualifying for provincials, their first match faced off against Centennial Secondary. The match resulted in a 1-1 draw, and Hamber would soon move on to their second and final pool game against Victoria's Oak Bay High School. After an intense game with a successful 1-0 finish for Hamber, the team would have to win a shootout against Centennial to determine the winner and subsequent quarter-finalist from the result of their previous tie.

"We all met at the school parking lot at 7:15 a.m., we were the first team there and we were getting all amped up

to play," Kate Bouchard (10) stated. "I wasn't thinking about whether or not we would lose the shootout. Our team worked so well together that I knew we had nice odds of setting Hamber history by making quarter finals."

That sentiment soon proved true, as the result of the match was a 1-0 shutout, thanks to Alexis MacAulay's (12) performance as goalkeeper. She described the way she prepares for matches like these, saying "[A] superstition I have occurs when I do shootouts. I always hit the top of the net with my stick before we start!"

The second the shootout had concluded, the team had officially broken Hamber's record for provincial success. The team cooled off after matches with self-lead yoga, preparing for the next one to come.

Their quarterfinal game was a matchup against the powerhouse school Handsworth, where Hamber was ready to bring their all against the incredibly strong team. After a 3-0 loss, they would go on to play Cowichan and South Delta in two matches to end off their 2022 season.

The team's dynamic and support for one another carried themselves to the end, and after naps in the provincial changerooms, homemade charcuterie boards, and samosas from Mr. Sehmbi, they would eventually find themselves as the seventh ranked school in the entirety of British Columbia.

Many of the team's players expressed their gratitude to all of the seniors on the team for keeping everyone collected throughout their journey, telling their juniors to persevere through mistakes. They understood the pressure the team was under and by not faltering under that stress, alleviated it for the rest of their teammates.

As a first-year in Hamber's halls, Violet Juby (8) has enjoyed her time on the team.

"[My] intro into highschool sports has been great so far! Everyone is welcoming and kind, and so supportive. [I] will definitely be joining other sports teams this year."

With the season now over, the team will be setting their sights on next year's provincials, with the fuel from this year's success to keep the fire burning.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

MOST ANTICIPATED MOVIES OF 2023

NEWS REPORT by Maggie Perreault (8) & Amira Heran (8)

With theatres reopened and excited fans awaiting new movies, 2023 will be a big year for film. Here are some of the movies causing the most buzz.

Wonka

This origin story of the infamous chocolatier stars Timothee Chalamet as a young Willy Wonka. The star-studded cast also includes Olivia Colman, Keegan Michael Key, and Matt Lucas. The movie's scheduled release is December 2023.

Ant Man and the Wasp: Quantumania

Kevin Feige announced at the San Diego Comic Con that the Marvel Cinematic Universe phase five will begin with the third instalment of the Ant Man franchise, *Quantumania*. This movie features returning characters of *Ant Man and the Wasp* as they venture into the quantum realm. The release is scheduled for Feb. 17, 2023.

Super Mario Bros

The upcoming *Super Mario Bros* movie starring Chris Pratt as Mario has been going viral online. This movie follows the classic characters Mario and Luigi as they try to save Princess Peach (voiced by Anya Taylor-Joy) from Bowser. Its release is expected at the end of March 2023.

Barbie

The 2023 live action Barbie movie stars Margot Robbie as Barbie and Ryan Gosling as Ken. This movie is a comedic look at what would happen if an imperfect Barbie faced the real world. The cast also includes Will Ferrell, Kate McKinnon, Michael Cera, and Simu Liu.

John Wick 4

This is the fourth look at Keanu Reeves' character John Wick as he tries to defeat the High Table. Bill Skarsgård will be playing the new main villain, Marquis de Granmont. *John Wick 4* is expected to be released in March of 2023.



JAAP BUTENDIJK VIA WARNER BROS PICTURES

Dungeons and Dragons: Honour Among Thieves

This movie is a comedic take on the role-play game *Dungeons and Dragons*. The cast includes Rege Jean Page, Chris Pine, and Sophia Lillis. Its release is anticipated on Apr. 7, 2023.

The Little Mermaid

The enchanting animated film, *The Little Mermaid*, is being remade into a live action film, starring Halle Bailey as Ariel, Melissa McCarthy as Ursula, and Awkwafina as Scuttle. This movie is planned to come out in May 2023.

Spiderman: Across the Spider Verse

Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse was an Oscar-winning movie in 2019. *Into the Spider Verse* was well-liked with its unique graphics and hit song *Sunflower*. This sequel will follow Miles Morales and Gwen Stacy as they travel the multiverse. This film is expected to release in June 2023.

Dune: Part Two

Denis Villeneuve, director of *Dune*—released in 2021, announced that *Dune: Part Two* is underway, given

that the first movie performed well at the box office and resonated with fans. *Dune: Part Two* will complete the rest of Frank Herbert's 1965 novel. It also includes returning actors Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya.

Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

This movie is the fifth instalment of the *Hunger Games* franchise and is based on the book recently released in 2020 by Suzanne Collins. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is a prequel to the *Hunger Games* trilogy.

Top 10 Pop Culture moments of 2022

NEWS REPORT by Elle Glen (9)

1. The Oscars Slap

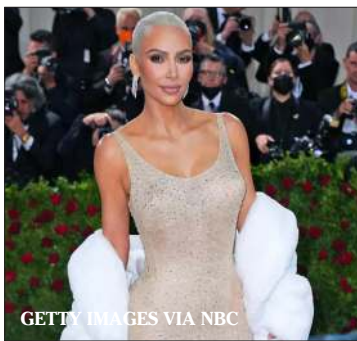
During Chris Rock's presentation for Best Documentary feature at the 94th annual Academy Awards, Will Smith walked onstage, slapped the comedian and instantaneously became the subject of the internet's wrath (and countless memes.) The slap came in response to an offensive joke from Rock concerning Jada Pinkett Smith's bald head, which she has been shaving due to her Alopecia Areata. After returning to his seat and continuing to yell profanity at the comedian, Will Smith received the award for Best Actor and a 10-year ban from any Academy events.



GETTY IMAGES VIA THE NEW YORKER

2. The Wicked "Ye" of the West

Rapper Kanye West, now legally known as Ye, posted a slew of anti-Semitic tweets which resulted in him being locked out of both his Twitter and Instagram accounts. The controversy caused Adidas to terminate its business partnership with Ye, in which he is expected to lose \$246 million. Other companies such as Balenciaga and The Gap have followed suit, and Peloton will no longer play songs by Ye in any of their classes or workouts. After being unsuspended from Twitter, Ye posted a photo of a Swastika and was suspended once again. Amidst all this, Kanye also announced his 2024 presidential bid and at a dinner with Donald Trump, invited the former president to be his running mate.



GETTY IMAGES VIA NBC

3. Johnny Depp vs Amber Heard: Trial by TikTok

In early 2022, Actor Johnny Depp sued his ex-wife Amber Heard for defamation over an op-ed that she had previously published in the Washington Post about sexual violence. She then countersued for \$100 million, and after 3 months it was found that Depp had been defamed and was awarded \$15 million, a large sum compared to Heard's settlement of \$2 million. Although the events that took place in the courtroom were messy and at times hard to watch, the real damage was done online. The internet's reaction turned out to be the ultimate defamation and ultimately dragged both Depp and Heard's careers down with it. After being "cancelled," Amber Heard received an open letter from political activist Gloria Steinem, as well as other feminist groups supporting her against

the "public shaming" she was receiving from the media and the internet.

4. #Spitgate at the Venice Film Festival

This year, the Venice Film Festival, the oldest and most prestigious film festival in the world, became the grounds for the petty drama that took place at the Don't Worry Darling premiere. Everyone's eyes had been on the film ever since Shia LeBeouf was fired and replaced by pop star Harry Styles, who started dating director Olivia Wilde 3 months after his casting. Rumors of a feud between Wilde and leading lady Florence Pugh were amplified after Pugh showed up to the festival late and refused to look Wilde in the eyes. To add insult to injury, a video of Styles approaching co-star Chris Pine and taking a seat next to him went viral, and fans were convinced that Styles had spat on Pine, and thus #Spitgate began.

5. Ticketmaster is "The Problem"

When Taylor Swift announced pre-sale for tickets to her US Era's Tour, Ticketmaster became the grounds for a real life *Hunger Games*. After millions of fans rushed to the site, it crashed, and buyers were faced with a myriad of error messages and hours of wait times in the virtual queue. Prices on



MIKE MARSLAND VIA VOX

the site started at \$49 and went for as much as \$899, but in the mad scramble to get a ticket, resale websites were selling them for as much as \$28,000 USD. In a response on Instagram, Swift described the experience to be "really difficult ... and extricating for me to just watch mistakes happen with no recourse." With this only being the beginning, fans are wondering, "Are you ready for it?"

6. Kim Kardashian's 5 Minute \$4.8 million Dress

Kim Kardashian's 2022 Met Gala look was taken directly from history as the dress was once worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang "Happy Birthday" to JFK. The 60 year old dress is now worth \$4.8 million and is owned by Ripley's Believe It or Not. Kardashian controversially wore the gown to climb the steps of the Met, before changing into a replica inside. Having been unable to fit into the dress at the initial fitting, Kardashian also lost 16 lbs for the occasion.

7. And the Word of the Day is...

Wordle, the phenomenon that completely overtook pop culture and the internet, might be the only thing anyone remembers from 2022. This word game was created and released

during the COVID-19 pandemic and was bought by the New York Times for over \$1 million in January. Since then, multiple spin-offs and satires of the game have appeared including Taylordle for the Swifties and Nerdle for people who think math is fun. It has become custom for people to share their daily score with friends.

8. It's Me: Mario!

Tragedy has struck fans of Nintendo in the heart, and have left them to lick their wounds on the internet. The reveal of the long-awaited poster for the new animated movie, *Super Mario Bros*, was overshadowed by Mario's lack of a rear end. Devoted fans are attempting to create a Sonic the Hedgehog-style fan campaign in order to right the wrong. In contrast, after the second trailer was released, fans were utterly delighted by the physique of Donkey Kong, and have declared that he has single-handedly "saved the film."

9. The Wrongest of Wrongs: Herschel Walker

Herschel Walker, former NFL player and Georgia Senate nominee's campaign was overshadowed by hypocrisy. After taking a public stance against abortion, not one, but two women came forward with allegations that

Walker payed for their abortions. He denied these allegations but acknowledged in an interview that he had sent a \$700 check and a get well card to one of these women. After denying that it was specifically for the abortion, his excuse for sending the large sum was that "I send money to a lot of people. And that's what's so funny."

10. Royal Family Reacts to Season 5 of The Crown

The hit Netflix original series, *The Crown*, released its fifth season 2 months after the death of monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, and it now has the attention of the royal family. After constant inquiry, Prince William revealed on *The Graham Norton Show* that he refuses to watch it and gave a "firm no" when asked by Olivia Coleman, who plays Queen Elizabeth in the third and fourth seasons of the show. Royal Expert Katie Nicholl shared with *Entertainment Tonight* that although the soon-to-be-crowned King Charles III had watched and enjoyed previous seasons of *The Crown*, "We don't know if the King is going to watch this series ... I think the last series was a little too close to the bone as well," as seasons four and five cover his infidelity, divorce and the death of his ex-wife Princess Diana.

The Vancouver School Board's New Trustees

NEWS REPORT by Teagan Nichol (10)

On Oct. 19, the final results of the Vancouver civic election were announced, revealing the Vancouver School Board's (VSB) nine trustees for the next electoral term.

The VSB is made up of nine elected trustees, representing the electorate, and one student trustee, representing Vancouver's student body. They meet regularly to vote and discuss policies concerning the governance of School District 39.

This year there will be six new trustees, Victoria Jung, Alfred Chien, Josh Zhang, and Preeti Faridkot from the ABC party, Suzie Mah from the Coalition of Progressive Electors, commonly known as COPE, and finally Independent Christopher Richardson. They will be joining the three incumbent trustees, Janet Fraser and Lois Chan-Pedley from the Green Party of Vancouver, and Jennifer Reddy, the only trustee from the OneCity Vancouver party.

The ABC party, on the now-deleted platform declaration document which they referred to during their candidate's campaigns, stated few detailed plans and objectives for their four elected VSB trustees. The party has two very specific policies they wanted to implement: to reinstate the School Liaison Officer Program (SLO), which previously had a police officer stationed outside 17 high school before its dismantling in 2021, and to restore the honors classes, which supported accelerated learning until 2021, when the VSB ended the program over the "inequity" the program perpetuated.

On Nov. 28, the party's trustees followed through on their first objective, in a 5-4 vote, reinstating the SLO program for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was brought forward by ABC trustee Faridkot, and was supported by all four ABC trustees in addition to independent Richardson.

"The complete removal of the SLO program ... I just don't see that moving us closer to the goal. The program is about, first and foremost, prevention of crime," ABC Trustee Zhang said in a board meeting discussing the future of the program.

Many of the other trustees, including student trustee Mia Liu, urged to delay the vote to collect information about the results of the programs and more input from VSB students and parents. Trustee Mah pointed out that the previous board of trustees took over a year to research, debate, and eventually end the program, whereas



this board of trustees took only weeks to decide to reinstate it.

The program was disbanded in 2021, in a 8-1 vote, after concerns were raised in a March 2021 report by Argyle Communications on the effect of police presence on students' mental and physical well-being, especially students of color and Indigenous students.

The BC's Human Right Commissioner, Kasari Govender, wrote a letter to the BC School Trustee Association on Nov. 25, recommending that these programs not be reinstated without research proving the success of the programs.

ABC also promised to restore the Honours program. The program was designed to provide enriched and accelerated education classes to motivated students. The students enrolled in these programs did three years of one subject's curriculum in two years. Citing equity issues and early student streaming, the VSB announced at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, that it was going to end the Honours program, dissolving the last two Honours classes from Magee and Eric Hamber. Many parents within the district have requested the programs be brought back to accommodate for their children's learning needs.

Trustee Zhang, spoke to many parents' concerns, stating that he and his party's trustees were in favor of individualized courses tailored towards



students' specific needs and those that encouraged academic excellence.

Trustee Richardson was a member of the ABC party up until Sept. 25, when the party released a statement declaring their separation from his candidacy. The decision came after the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) declared the Headwater Foundation, a charity which Richardson directed, had "failed to devote resources to a charitable purpose, failed to meet its disbursement quota, and failed to file an information return as and when required by the Act". Richardson has been the director of at least 40 charities in BC and at least five have had their charitable status revoked by the CRA.

In the statement released on Sept. 25, the party stated, "Should Mr. Richardson be elected, he would not be able to join the ABC Caucus until the matter is resolved to satisfaction." However, as of publication, there has been no announcement that he has or will rejoin the party. However, Richardson has not distanced himself from the party's objectives. As his vote on the SLO program indicates, it is likely he will vote with his previous fellow party members on issues the ABC party campaigned on.

During the election there were a few key issues prioritized by other candidates. The elected COPE candidate, Suzie Mah, campaigned on three main objectives: to establish a univer-

sal meal program for children, to improve the VSB's Indigenous education by establishing an Indigenous high school and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and to secure more funding for the district's schools.

COPE proposed an Indigenous high school in their 2018 platform, stating that they "will work to close the racialized achievement gap by creating an Indigenous high school that will focus on academic excellence to ensure students receive support to graduate to post-secondary studies." Mah emphasized that she would continue to work with the other trustees to accomplish this goal.

The coalition has also been trying to establish a universal meal program since 2018, something they deem essential to maintaining the emotional and physical wellbeing of VSB students.

COPE are not the only ones trying to create a stable supply of food for Vancouver students. Earlier this year, the previous VSB trustees, along with an ad hoc committee and nutrition and food experts, created the VSB food framework, stating that we need a Universal School Food Program initiated over the next ten years. The coalition expressed that this ten year period was too long to leave many students without food security, stating, "Mah [wants] to see quicker action on this issue and more pressure applied

at both the provincial and federal levels to address food insecurity so that Vancouver students can have access to healthy and nutritious food which is critical to physical and emotional health."

Another one of the priorities of COPE is to secure more funding from the provincial government to help manage the VSB's debt. Earlier this year, the VSB received an audited statement, showing a \$11.6 million deficit in the budget for this year, with the budget being approved by trustees. This follows several years of collecting debt, even after the VSB used 7.4 million dollars of the VSB's \$11.1 million contingency fund this year. With the deficit this year, when the VSB is planning their budget for 2023-2024, they'll have to make adjustments to pay back this debt. COPE is concerned it will be from programs supporting students or from teacher's payroll.

"I remember in the 2010-11 budget year, the board proposed to issue lay-off notices to over 400 teachers," said Trustee Mah. "When any district proposes layoffs, it causes huge upheaval in schools. This October's new board of school trustees need to work together to make the case for more funding for Vancouver schools. We just can't revisit that nightmare ever again. Unless we get more education funding, trustees will be faced with making huge cuts this spring."

VSB BRINGS BACK SLO PROGRAM

NEWS REPORT by Cynthia Zhu (9)

On Nov. 28, the newly elected Vancouver School Board (VSB) school trustees voted 5-4 in favour of reinstating the School Liaison Officer (SLO) program after it was cancelled by the previous board in 2021.

After the municipal election in October, the ABC party made up the majority of school board trustees elected. Four out of nine trustees were part of the ABC, and the fifth was a former member of ABC. Led by then-mayoral candidate Ken Sim, ABC Vancouver had promised to bring the SLO program back in their campaign.

"A return of the School Liaison Officer program is something that many students, parents, and educators have been calling for," stated ABC trustee

Preeti Faridkot in September. "Reinstating an updated version of the program will be an excellent step towards creating safer, more welcoming schools while addressing concerns that led to the program being cut in the first place."

Multiple trustees attempted to delay the vote, hoping for more information from those who would be affected the most by this decision. However, these motions failed to pass.

Trustees Lois Chan-Pedley, Janet Fraser, Suzie Mah and Jennifer Reddy voted against the motion to reinstate SLOs.

Despite the motion promising a "revised and reimagined program", Fraser and Chan-Pedley said that they voted against it as the wording of the description of the new version of the SLO program did not protect Black and Indigenous students.

The two trustees said that since the

VPD was not taking action against racism among its members, it "cannot be trusted to seriously consider and address the safety and well-being of Black and Indigenous students" in schools.

Trustee Mah pointed out in CBC that it took more than a year for the previous trustees to remove the program, and it took just weeks between the new trustees taking office and reversing that decision.

It is currently unknown how they will implement the new SLO program in schools. In an interview with The Nest, board chair Victoria Jung said, "I can't speak to how it will be changed. What I can speak to is what we're going to do to make those changes."

"Our first step is to engage, engage with the community, engage with stakeholders, and engage with the Vancouver Police Department. There are a lot of gaps and bridges that we need to mend. And so it'll begin with engaging and consultation."

The SLO program operated in the VSB from 1972 until early 2021. Police officers were stationed in all 17 VSB secondary schools with the aim to increase

the security of schools by giving crime prevention lessons, speaking to students informally and acting as a liaison between the school and the criminal justice system.

In June 2020, the VSB commissioned an independent review of police in schools by Argyle Communications.

Almost a year later, in March 2021, a detailed program report regarding the actions they took and plans for the future was released. The surveys they conducted noted a spectrum of opinions, both opposing and supporting the SLO program. Out of almost 1500 survey respondents, 4 per cent identified as Black and another 4 per cent identified as Indigenous.

The report revealed that Black and Indigenous students were more likely to mention negative feelings of distrust and fear over positive feelings of mentorship and support. Students who identified as persons of colour often expressed a personal connection to SLOs they could relate to, such as those of the same ethnocultural background. They mentioned looking to the SLO as a trusted figure to seek conversation and guidance.

On Apr. 26, last year, the VSB school

trustees voted 8-1 in favour of ending the SLO program.

Trustee Jennifer Reddy opposed the motion during the vote, saying that cancelling the SLO program would not do what people hoped to achieve.

"This motion doesn't go far enough to be unequivocally clear that, in fact, school liaison officers, police will be removed from schools," Reddy told CBC News. "It spends more time delineating what the next steps of working with police in our schools will be, much of which is already covered in our own protocol."

She said the board had reviewed the SLO program, and the trustees agreed to centre the voice of students, but pointed out that the motion centralizes the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) in its next step.

The motion mentioned that the VSB would continue working with the VPD to help VSB students learn about dealing with emergencies, lockdowns, and violent threats as well as determine processes to ask for help with information sessions to deal with gang prevention, restorative justice, "stranger danger", and internet safety.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

A YEAR AFTER THE FLOODS

NEWS REPORT by Juliana Takenaka (8)

A year after historic floods severely damaged large swathes of British Columbia, the province has yet to fully recover and repair infrastructure destroyed in the storms.

This onslaught of extreme weather in 2021 brought severe damage upon communities, agricultural lands, and roads. The flooding forced about 17,000 people to leave their homes, with many still affected. It damaged highways across the province such as Highways 1, 3, 5, 8, and 11.

Highway 8 recently reopened in November after intense repairs by the province, but other highways such as Highway 1 won't be fully repaired until 2024.

About 700,000 farm animals died in the floods, and trucks and supply trains were unable to get to the Lower Mainland since roads, highways, railroads, and other transport infrastructure was destroyed.

The flood damage caused an economic decline by disrupting transportation and agriculture. Issues in the supply chain meant that stores were unable to stock up, leaving many communities in a severe supply shortage. Fixing the damage caused by the flooding cost about \$9 billion, according to *The Globe and Mail*.

BC responded to the floods by getting help from the Canadian Red Cross, who paid some of the costs behind the repairs. They also provided financial support to homeowners affected by the flooding.

When conditions improved, highway contractors began fixing the highways. Some organizations, such as Global Medic, made hygiene kits and cleanup kits to help people affected by the flood.

The Canadian Armed Forces came to help those dealing with the floods in Fraser Valley by providing air and land support to help with the government relief effort. The CAF evacuated endangered livestock, built dikes and dams, transported supplies, and relieved trapped inhabitants.

British Columbia Experiences Unusual Weather



TRISTAN LE RUDULIER VIA CBC

NEWS REPORT by Salena Sharma (9)

British Columbia's weather has been turbulent this year, with abnormal heat in early fall, as well as snowfall in early November in some parts of the province. Scientists confirm that this drastic weather change is due to the effects of climate change.

The weather in British Columbia has been drastically different compared to the heat dome and bomb cyclone most regions in BC encountered last year.

A heat dome occurs when a powerful ridge of high pressure traps warm air underneath it—blocking cool air from rising. A bomb cyclone is formed when a low-pressure system intensifies—carrying wind and rain to dry land.

Regions across British Columbia faced hotter-than-normal weather throughout September and in the first weeks of October, setting new records

for both months. The typical September weather in Abbotsford would usually be 15.3 degrees Celsius, but this year, an average of 17.9 C was recorded, according to *CBC*. Additionally, Victoria experienced its driest September since 1898.

The warmer weather in BC has taken a toll on the agriculture industry and farmlands across the province. *The Western Producer* reported that the warmer weather slowed the return of cattle to some ranches. Ranchers are cautiously optimistic that the low levels of hay and grass will still enable them to feed their animals through the winter. According to *CTV*, these ongoing abnormal weather patterns are making it more difficult for farmers and agriculture experts to predict when crops will be planted and harvested.

BC is not the only province faced with this heat in its fall season, however. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories also took longer to adjust to the fall weather than expected. In a news report from *Global News*,

Calgary was still in its "T-shirt season" in early October. This time is typically when most Calgaryans get snow tires to brace for the heavy snow they normally receive in the coming weeks.

Compared to the catastrophic flooding in October 2021, this year, regions in BC were struck with wildfires. The drought in BC caused many wildfires to spread near the eastern parts of Fraser Valley, resulting in poor air quality in certain parts of the province. According to *Vancouver Is Awesome*, the air quality in Vancouver on Oct. 17 was equivalent to "smoking five cigarettes."

Normally, October is one of the rainiest months in Vancouver. According to *The Canadian Press*, Vancouver normally receives an average of 165 millimetres of rain between July and October. The city has received only 16 millimetres this year—10 per cent below the average.

The transition from fall to winter weather in Vancouver was quicker than expected this year, especially after the city did not experience its usual fall

weather. Vancouver received snow in early November—the earliest snowfall in nearly 70 years according to *The Daily Hive*. New Canadian Life states that Vancouver normally receives most of its snowfall around February with occasional snowfall in January and December. According to records from Current Results, Vancouver has not received snow in November since 2010.

The City of Vancouver advises residents to start getting used to hot summer days above 30 C. A meteorologist informed *Global News* that these weather patterns will be seen more frequently in the coming years due to global warming.

The government has funded 2,080 temporary winter shelter spaces and approximately 480 extreme weather response (EWR) shelters to prepare for the cold winter. The spaces will open in the coming weeks, and more may be established to help those without homes brace for the freezing temperatures, the Government of BC announced.

These effects of climate change are anticipated to get much worse in the coming years as the overall global warming is nearing its target rate of 1.5 C. The consequences of this event would be far more fatal than we currently face in BC.

According to a report from *Inside Climate News*, 14 per cent of the world population, including BC, will be subject-

Vancouver experiences earliest snowfall in nearly 70 years

to immense heat at least once every five years. Ecosystems around the world will change and result in the scarcity of needed commodities. Currently, the temperature of Earth has increased by 1.1 C since the 1800s, according to *The Vancouver Sun*. Based on a report from *Metro Vancouver*, Vancouver could grow out of its nickname, "Raincouver," as rainfall rates are expected to decline by 20 per cent, and the duration of hot summer days will fluctuate.



BEN NELMS VIA CBC

BYE BYE BARGE ON THE BEACH

NEWS REPORT by Alanna Rudolph (12)

On Nov. 24, the English Bay barge was removed after being stranded for over a year near the seawall at Sunset Beach.

The 3.5 million pound barge ran aground on Nov. 15 last year during an atmospheric river event. It was deemed structurally unsound by the barge removal company, and attempts to tow it away were unsuccessful.

Vancouver Pile Driving Ltd. was contracted by the owner of the barge to demolish and remove the barge in a deconstruction process that took 15 weeks.

Safety barriers and fences were installed on June 30 and deconstruction began on July 25.

It became a Vancouver landmark and subject of many 'memes'. In De-

ember 2021, the Parks Board erected a sign unofficially renaming the area "Barge Chilling Beach". The sign was removed in January, after numerous acts of graffiti, where an individual spray-painted the name of the beach in the Squamish language on the sign.

The City of Vancouver stated that assessments were done to evaluate the impacts to the shoreline, habitat, and environment.

Hatfield, a Canadian environmental consultancy, worked with Vancouver Pile Driving in planning and monitoring the project. Hatfield and local Indigenous groups assisted in monitoring water quality, debris containment, and underwater noise, known as hydroacoustics, as well as implementing spill prevention, waste management and fish and wildlife protection.

A statement from Vancouver Pile Driving from June read, "VanPile is working towards a safe and efficient

removal in consultation with the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority."

In February, owner of the vessel Sentry Marine Towing said that the barge could not be refloated and would need to be taken apart. At the time, they estimated the process would begin within 30 days and take up to 60 days.

The owner hasn't had to pay any fines or administrative monetary penalties. In a statement, Transport Canada said its investigation found that no federal rules were violated when the barge ran aground.

While the City of Vancouver said that the barge owner would be responsible for all costs of removal and security, the city had been paying for 24/7 security while the barge sat in English Bay. The city will be seeking reimbursement for costs.

A YEAR AFTER DEVASTATING FLOODS HIGHWAY 8 REOPENS

NEWS REPORT by Evin Jaaf (8) & Brooke Nichol (8)

On Nov. 9, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure announced in a press release that Highway 8 was finally reopened to the public after 361 days of closure.

During the devastating atmospheric river and floods of November 2021, the Nicola River destroyed more than 7 kilometers of Highway 8. According to the Ministry's press release, a total of 30 sites of washouts were repaired, including five sites that were washed out during summer floods.

The highway connects Spences Bridge on Highway 1 to Merritt on Highway 5. During and after the floods, this caused huge delays in the exportation of goods, and at one point, isolated the Metro Vancouver area from the rest of the province. These closures also isolated many rural citizens and Indigenous groups including the Nooaitch, Shackan, and Cook's Ferry peoples.

Now, a year later, most of the repairs to the highway, though temporary, are already more secure than the original road, which was built in 1953. The date that the permanent repairs will be completed is still unclear, as well as

the price range. The temporary repairs to Highway 8 have cost approximately \$100 million, according to the Ministry of Transportation.

Though the highway is reopened to the public, the project remains an active construction zone and is not suitable in the event of Highway 1 or Highway 5 closure, as the project is focused on allowing people to return to their homes and reconnecting communities only linked by the route.

Ongoing closures and delays are to come due to more construction, though the progress made in such a short time frame was lauded by officials.

"We all owe a huge debt of gratitude for the impressive work that crews and staff have done to reconnect the people and communities along Highway 8," said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure in the Nov. 9 press release.

The floods mostly affected agricultural areas in Abbotsford. About 1,100 farms were ordered to evacuate and it is presumed that about 630,000 chickens, 420 cattle and 12,000 hogs were killed, as reported by *CBC News*. Now, these farms have almost entirely recovered. The majority of the annual crops have been planted, and most cattle and adultery farmers have recuperated their livestock.



BC MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION VIA CBC

Chinatown Seniors and Their Non Profits

NEWS REPORT by Adrian Yue (10)

In a neighbourhood experiencing rapid gentrification, inflation, and rising housing prices, minority populations are often underlooked and underreported. Vancouver's Chinatown, often known for its heritage, culture, and association with the Downtown Eastside (DTES), is also home to a vulnerable immigrant population that is significantly composed of elderly Chinese seniors.

Despite the heavy monolingual presence in the community, access to cultural services and businesses are diminishing. In 2016, the Hua Foundation—a community non-profit—was consulted by *The Globe and Mail* for an article on the gentrification of Chinatown. It was noted by Kevin Huang, executive director of Hua Foundation, that there was a “loss of 50 per cent of the area’s greengrocers in the last six years, 33 per cent of herbal stores, 60 per cent of fishmongers, and 38 per cent of [barbecue meat shops] and butchers [who] closed in this time period.”

In the eastern end of Chinatown, where the cultural economic activity is normally concentrated, green-grocers, printing services, and medicinal shops that offer culturally appropriate foods have noticeably diminished from 2009 to 2022.

However, there is a strong community of activists, organizations, and nonprofits that have been active in helping the low-income diaspora in the Chinatown area. Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, a community non-profit, has been running a grocery delivery campaign. Their website states that these are “culturally appropriate grocery deliveries for seniors to reduce isolation during the pandemic.” Furthermore, the organization does medical translation for Chinese seniors.

Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, a charity based in the area, has purchased the May Wah Hote, a single room occupancy (SRO) that was listed for sale in 2017. It was bought to fulfill a vision of “affordable housing in Chinatown.”

Youth Collaborative for Chinatown, an intergenerational community-build-



ing non profit, has created “hot + noisy” events in the area. These events have helped to engage community members in the area through the game of mah-jong. They have also helped to raise money for Gain Wah restaurant after it was damaged by fire. Community advocacy and non-profit groups have continued to support the area’s vulnerable population in the face of adversity.

Despite the services offered, nonprofits can only do so much. In an outreach flyer made by Yarrow Society, it noted that the grocery delivery program is not accepting any more intakes as of January 2022. In addition, they no longer serve seniors residing in the Grandview-Woodlands Neighbourhood.

Records show that the majority of support systems in the area for low-income non-English speaking seniors has been in the form of nonprofits and community centres. Although the Healthlink phone line (a health services phone line providing callers with registered nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, and exercise professionals, along with translation services) is available, federal funding in the area has been stuck in the realm of museum creation, supporting non-profits through grants, and social housing projects.

In a Maclean’s article on seniors in Chinatown, Teng Lai Lim, an outreach worker for Chinese Seniors at the Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre, and others have “campaigning for more staff and additional hours”. However, this attempt has operated to no avail. Staffing shortages and a lack of funding

has prompted the grocery program and staffing shortages in nonprofits and other organizations with a giant service community.

Through the pandemic, anti-Asian hate, lack of translation services, and an aging population, seniors in the community are often underrepresented and overlooked. When consulted by *The Tyee* in 2021 as part of an article on vaccine equity and translation, Rachel Lau, staff member of the Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, said that “if [the seniors] don’t have the language support, they just won’t go.” Vancouver Coastal Health initially opened the clinic in Strathcona with signage in English.

In a demographic profile done by the City of Vancouver on the Strathcona and Chinatown area, it is reported that only 82 per cent of the population in Strathcona know English, with 22 per cent of the population being Cantonese speaking. Half of the residents in the area are also in the lowest 20 per cent of incomes across Canada, per the same profile.

Lim additionally said in Maclean’s that “due to language barriers, many seniors living in Chinatown don’t get the help that they need”; especially with the closing down of culturally appropriate and affordable stores in the area, food insecurity has been a significant issue in the neighbourhood. With 61 per cent of the population relying on rent subsidies in Strathcona, according to a demographic analysis done by the City of Vancouver, a question of affordability covers the neighbourhood.



the SPS had been underway since November 2018. In July 2020, the Surrey Police Board (SPB) was established, and in August 2020, the SPS was created. 314 officers have already been hired, 154 of which are already working under the jurisdiction of the RCMP.

“I have talked directly with the RCMP and they have a program to ladder the SPS officers,” Locke told CBC News a week before the vote. “We absolutely believe that every police officer is important and we will take care of them.”

However, a press release issued by The Surrey Police Union the following Thursday disagreed, stating that Locke’s claims exposed the “disconnect” between city hall and the SPS. Union president Rick Stewart also stated that 94 per cent of the front-line officers employed at the SPS signed a pledge stating they “have no intention to apply to nor join any RCMP detachment.”

“Tonight’s vote not only affirms my promise to restore Surrey RCMP

as Police of Jurisdiction, but it will finally reveal the costs of the transition, which will be made available to the public,” said Locke in a statement following the vote. She explained that it was “time to get beyond the back and forth of policing in Surrey and bring transparency to the process.”

According to a draft report from city staff, the transition to the SPS would cost taxpayers an additional \$235 million over five years. The report also states that the city’s policing budget will fall short by nearly \$21 million as the “city is paying for administrative overhead in two police agencies.”

The decision to keep the RCMP must also be approved by Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth in order to be implemented.

“I need to see a plan from the City of Surrey on how they intend to do that, as well as from the RCMP in terms of how they intend to re-staff,” Farnworth said at a press conference on Nov. 15.

BC Teachers Ratify New Collective Agreement

NEWS REPORT by Stephen Kosar (12)

The BC Teachers’ Federation (BCTF) members voted 94 per cent in favour of the new collective agreement between the BCTF and the provincial government in late November.

The new collective agreement comes after months of negotiations between the BCTF, who represents the 49,000 unionized teachers in BC, and the BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA), who represents the 60 school boards in BC.

The two parties met a total of 47 times since Mar. 15. On Oct. 28, the two parties reached a tentative agreement, reliant on BCTF members ratifying the agreement, which they did on Nov. 30.

The new agreement includes a \$427 increase to each step of a teachers salary grid, which can differ in each school district.

Under the first year of the new agreement, which will be the 2022-2023 school year, teachers will receive a 3.24 per cent wage increase, which will rise to 5.5 per cent for the second year. In the third year, wages will increase by 2 per cent.

In addition, the new agreement allows for a 1.25 per cent wage increase in the second year to account for a potential rise in the cost of living. The cost of living adjustment will decrease in the third year to 1 per cent.

“These salary gains will help address recruitment and retention challenges in BC education as well as affordability issues for many members,” a tweet from the BCTF reads.



KEN SIM’S FIRST MONTH AS MAYOR

NEWS REPORT by Reya Khanna (11)

Ken Sim was elected as the mayor of Vancouver for the ABC party on Oct. 15, and was sworn in as the 41st mayor in early November. Sim is the first person of colour and subsequently the first Chinese-Canadian to obtain this position. He ran for mayor in 2018 with the Non-Partisan Association, but finished second and left the NPA in 2020. In 2021, ABC was launched as “A Better City” party.

As stated on the ABC website, “We want Vancouver to be a city where residents feel safe to walk down the street and a city where every generation can afford housing. We hope to build on Vancouver’s legacy as a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant city.”

Sim also said help was needed in addressing Vancouver’s mental health and opioid addiction crisis in his speech when he was being sworn in.

A central campaign promise of Ken Sim was to hire 100 police officers and 100 mental health nurses for what the ABC party calls “a renewed approach to community policing”. On Nov. 22, council approved \$16 million in funding for the program, coming from the 2023 city budget. The vote on this motion was split 6-3, between the ABC majority and the OneCity and Green councillors.

Councillor Kirby-Yung moved a motion to put in place ‘Urgent Measures to Update Vancouver’s Chinatown’. This motion will take in consideration the long-standing history of Chinese-Canadians, the effects of historical and current discrimination, and the cultural importance of Chinatown, to develop a

multi-pronged approach like San Francisco’s to support the neighbourhood.

The motion was carried unanimously on Nov. 16, to develop an action plan by January 2023 that includes, but is not limited to, “robust street, alley, and sidewalk cleaning, litter and needle pick-up, new graffiti removal strategies, place-making, new murals or local artwork, as well as outreach opportunities that include local community groups in graffiti clean-ups, safe walks, and seniors support.”

The standing committee also voted on adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, as a part of working on the anti-racism strategy. Canada is a member of the IHRA, which is made up of government officials and experts from 35 countries, and has the purpose of supporting Holocaust remembrance, education, and research.

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism is “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Nico Slobinsk, the senior director of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs’ told Global News, “IHRA is the consensus definition of antisemitism that best reflects the living experience of Jews today.”

Sim also went to the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, missing his first Police Board budget meeting. Sim has said that he planned this trip long before he became mayor.



Surrey Brings Back the RCMP

NEWS REPORT by Adelaide Guan (10)

Surrey’s new city council voted to keep the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as Surrey’s Police of Jurisdiction (POJ) on Nov. 14, halting the spending and hiring of the Surrey Police Service (SPS).

The vote followed a report collated by three city general managers, which instructed the council to either endorse the maintenance of the RCMP as POJ or continue the transition to the SLS. In a five to four vote, the council elected to maintain the RCMP as Surrey’s POJ. City staff was instructed to inform the SPB that they were to “pause all new hiring and expenditures pending further Council direction.”

This comes after Brenda Locke of Surrey Connect defeated incumbent mayor Doug McCallum of Safe Surrey Coalition in the Surrey municipal election for mayor by 973 votes. Locke campaigned against McCallum’s plan to transition from the RCMP to the SPS, saying she would “pull the plug on work done to establish the SPS” and instead stick with the RCMP. Locke and four other Surrey Connect councillors now hold five out of nine seats on the city council.

The transition from the RCMP to

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

Vancouver Art Gallery Provides a Wealth of Exhibits Surrounding Diverse Groups

NEWS REPORT by Joy Wang (8)

Vancouver's largest museum, the Vancouver Art Gallery, has announced free admission for youth ages 13-18. This was achievable due to the \$1 million donation from the April 1 Foundation of Vancouver. The free admission will last from now until 2027.

"The Gallery is a place to meet and share ideas. With the support of the April 1 Foundation of Vancouver, thousands of children and youth 18 years old and under will have the opportunity to engage with art and foster their own creativity," said Anthony Kiendl, CEO and director of the Vancouver Art Gallery, in a written statement.

The Vancouver Art Gallery has a collection of art from all over the world. However, the current exhibits mainly focus on the history of Canada, Indigenous peoples, and Asia. Through the variety of pieces displayed, the gallery draws attention to politics, female artists, and nature.

The exhibitions currently available are, "Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in The Modern Moment", "Jin-Me Yoon: About Time", "Guud San Glans Robert Davidson: A Line That Bends But Does Not Break", "Spotlight: KC Hall", "Marie Khouri - I Love", "Offsite: Lani Maestro", "Young Activist Reading Room: Remembering As Repair", and "Provisional Structures | Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators".



The most popular exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery is "Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in The Modern Moment". This exhibit features over 200 art pieces, including paintings, sculptures, clothing, and photographs, and will be open until Jan. 8, 2023.

The gallery is also showing "Jin-Me Yoon: About Time". Jin-Me Yoon's photography, videography, and installations show what it's like to live in a world with

climate change on the unceded ancestral lands of the Indigenous Peoples. This exhibition will be open until Mar. 5, 2023.

"Guud San Glans Robert Davidson: A Line That Bends But Does Not Break" is another exhibition featuring Indigenous art. The artist Guud San Glans Robert Davidson creates traditional indigenous Haida art in the hope of reviving the culture of the Haida. Da-

vidson's art will be displayed at the Vancouver Art Gallery until Apr. 16, 2023.

As guests come into the Vancouver Art Gallery, "Spotlight: KC Hall", a mural, is seen in the lobby. KC Hall's mural consists of Northwest Coast designs, lettering, and graffiti, connecting traditional and modern art. The mural will remain in the lobby until Oct. 15, 2023.

In the middle of the "Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in The Modern

Moment" exhibition, which is the Vancouver Art Gallery's first-floor rotunda, is the "Marie Khouri - I Love" exhibition. There are three hand-carved structures which have been made to respect her Arabic culture. These structures are for guests to sit in, and will remain until Jan. 8, 2023.

One exhibit is not displayed within the Vancouver Art Gallery. "Offsite: Lani Maestro" will be displayed at the gallery's offsite, 1100 West Georgia Street, until Apr. 9, 2023. This exhibition is a neon sign spelling "No Pain Like This Body", which is what Lani Maestro thought of while walking down Hastings Street, Vancouver.

Aside from sculptures, paintings, and photographs, the art gallery also provides two hands-on exhibitions, "Young Activist Reading Room: Remembering As Repair" and "Provisional Structures | Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators". "Young Activist Reading Room" is a room with books on modern day colonized peoples and women for children, families, and students. This exhibition is until Jan. 8, 2023.

The latest exhibition, "Provisional Structures | Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators", will be open until Apr. 16, 2023. Papalia hopes to provide care for the disabled community and bring them justice. To do so she added models, workshops, talks, a digital library, and discussions with guest artists to create new ideas.

The Best Bubble Tea Spots



REVIEW by Willow Peterson (9) & Bryony Prior (9)

Bubble tea has certainly become a cultural phenomenon in Vancouver, and the drinks' popularity seems to grow by the minute. Bubble tea is made from a base of sweet milk tea, fruit juice, or slush, with tapioca pearls, fruit-flavoured jelly, popping pearls, or any other mouth-watering variation of additions to top it off.

Unlike baby formula and coffee, bubble tea is suitable for all ages. However, not all bubble tea is made equal. We made it our mission to find the best bubble tea in the neighbourhood. This review will inform you of the prices, service, taste, variety, and location of four bubble tea shops reasonably close to Eric Hamber.

Hot Cha Café

Price - \$. Service - 4/5. Taste - 3/5. Variety - 5/5. Location - 3/5. Overall Rating - 4/5.

Hot Cha Café is a small, family-run business, with some of the best prices in the city. They offer a wide variety of both food and drink, making it a wonderful place to stop by for a quick snack. They provide indoor seating, and there is also a small outdoor plaza nearby; the perfect place to sip on your delicious drink with a friend on a warm summer's day.

Hot Cha Café is, however, quite the trek from Hamber, at an approximate 30 minute walk. While the decoration of this shop may not be the most aesthetic, Hot Cha Café makes up for what it lacks in appearance with its

outstanding prices and variety of food. This cafe offers over 25 different kinds of drinks, all of which can be bought for under \$5.00, excluding tax and separate additions. They also serve several meals such as bubble waffles, crepes, ice cream, and even savoury dishes, such as wonton soup.

While at Hot Cha Café, we decided to try their weekly special and classic milk tea. Here's what we thought.

Weekly Special - Brown-Sugar KitKat Cheesecake

Hot Cha's Brown Sugar KitKat Cheesecake drink wasn't my favourite drink as it was ridiculously sweet. To add onto the sweetness, they ran out of tapioca pearls, so I had to replace them with smaller, clear tapioca pearls. A bonus, however, was that the small was only \$3.75 and the large was \$4.25, so although I didn't really enjoy the drink too much, it didn't make that big of a dent in my wallet. Overall, I was a bit disappointed by this drink, but I think if the clear tapioca pearls were replaced with normal ones, the drink would have tasted a bit better.

Classic Milk Tea

Hot Cha Café's classic milk tea was not the best I've ever had. The milk tea itself was somewhat bland. Because they had run out of regular tapioca pearls, I had to replace them with their brown sugar agar pearls, which were oddly quite crunchy and hard. Compared to the usual soft and chewy texture of typical pearls, these brown sugar agar pearls left much to be desired. If these pearls had been replaced with regular ones, however,

I think this drink would have been a lot tastier.

You can find Hot Cha Café at 3306 Cambie St, Vancouver, BC.

Xing Fu Tang

Price - \$\$ Service - 5/5. Taste - 4.5/5. Variety - 4/5. Location - 4/5. Overall Rating - 4.5/5.

Xing Fu Tang's hand-made fresh boba pearls and variety of toppings and drinks make it an excellent bubble tea shop. Don't forget to stir 18 times before taking your first sip! Xing Fu Tang has a small indoor seating area along with a utensil table including a choice between plastic and paper straws, as well as napkins. The interior is exceptionally clean with polished walls and wooden floors. The staff working there are very patient and kind. The service is outstanding, with it only taking around two minutes for an order of one brown sugar milk tea to be completed.

Xing Fu Tang is around a 25-minute walk from Hamber, but trust us, it's worth the distance. This shop's wide variety of unique drinks and add-ons make it a perfect bubble tea shop for more adventurous bubble tea drinkers. Xing Fu Tang offers unusual toppings such as their coconut bunny jelly, sakura agar, and cheese milk foam. They also sell drinks that you will seldom find elsewhere, such as their fresh kiwi soda and strawberry boba milk.

Xing Fu Tang's prices are pretty average, with their drinks in the regular size ranging from \$5.29 - \$6.99 and their drinks in the large size ranging from \$6.09 - \$7.79.

While at Xing Fu Tang, we decided to try the drink they're so well known for - their Brown Sugar Pearl Milk Tea. Here's what we thought.

Brown Sugar Pearl Milk Tea

The Brown Sugar Pearl Milk Tea has an amazing high-quality taste. The brown sugar pearls are still lukewarm after being cooked right in front of your eyes, and have a wonderful rich and sweet taste. The pearls are perfectly chewy and soft without having a rubbery texture. The overall appearance of the drink is a masterpiece so if you want a delicious beverage and an aesthetic photo of your bubble tea to post on your Snapchat or Instagram story, this is the perfect drink.

You can find Xing Fu Tang at 3432 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC.

Chatime

Price - \$\$ Service - 5/5. Taste - 4.25/5. Variety - 5/5. Location - 5/5. Overall Rating - 4.65/5.

Chatime's unique seasonal bubble teas and variety of drinks makes it a great place to go to, especially if you are looking for a new boba drink to try out.

The shop's interior is gorgeous, with massive window seats, exceptionally clean floors, and an excellent layout of seating. The staff are kind and patient. Upon asking, they helped us decide which drink to get and talked us through their best sellers and specialties. Despite the shop being quite busy the day we went, the service time was great, and it only took about three minutes for our orders to be complete.

Although Chatime is slightly more expensive than some other bubble tea shops, with their prices ranging from \$5.70 - \$7.80, the amazing taste of their drinks makes up for the slight dent in your wallet.

Chatime is about a 23-minute walk from Hamber, but believe us, it's worth the struggle. While at Chatime, we decided to try one of their seasonal specialties and their Brown Sugar Pearl Milk Tea. Here's what we thought.

Seasonal Specialty - Mango Tango

The Mango Tango drink is one of Chatime's limited time 'Tropical Trio' drinks which are all made from real fruit. The drink wasn't too sweet and had an absolutely stunning ombre of magenta, rose and golden yellow, on par with a beautiful Hawaiian sunset. The mouth-watering pieces of fresh dragon fruit scattered throughout the drink helped to enhance the amazing taste of this beverage. However, the drink only had a faint taste of mango, which was greatly outweighed by the more prominent dragon fruit flavour, contrary to this beverage's title. Despite this, the drink was still a delicious and refreshing treat!

Brown Sugar Pearl Milk Tea

Chatime's Brown Sugar Pearl Milk Tea drink was perfectly sweetened and had a high-quality milk tea taste. The tapioca pearls perfectly complemented the tea in a chorus of deliciousness. The drinks' appearance

is a gem; perfect for an aesthetic photo to share with friends and families. This amazing milk tea might just become your next go to drink!

You can find Chatime at 6361 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC

Sharetea

Price - \$\$ Service - 4.5/5. Taste - 3/5. Variety - 5/5. Location - 3/5. Overall Rating - 3.75/5.

Sharetea may just be the winner for the most striking interior. With a gorgeous black ceiling, polished floors, and a beautiful layout, this bubble tea shop gives off the perfect vibes. They have a wide variety of drinks to offer, with up to 20 different flavours and variations of classic teas to choose from. Sharetea also has plenty of unique toppings that you can choose to include for extra charge in your drink, including ice cream, pudding and aloe vera.

The staff at Sharetea are kind and patient. The service time was pretty quick, with it taking around three minutes for each drink to be completed.

Sharetea's prices aren't too bad, with their lowest price standing at \$4.70, and their most expensive standing at \$7.50, not including tax or toppings.

Sharetea, however, is around a 35-minute walk from Hamber, making it quite the distance to travel. While at Sharetea, we decided to try their Classic Milk Tea and their Mango Ice Blended Drink. Here's what we thought.

Classic Milk Tea

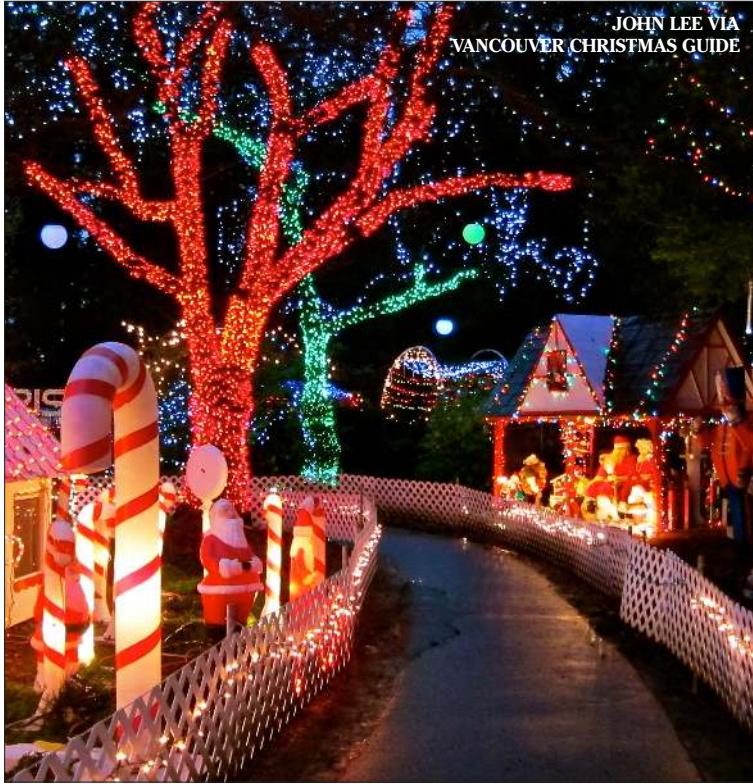
This drink was overall not too good, as it was a bit too sweet and tasted slightly bland and watery. The milk tea was nothing special and neither were the pearls. However, the drink wasn't awful, and if it had had a more unique flavour or a more polished final look, I probably would've enjoyed this drink to a greater extent.

Mango Ice Blended Drink

The Mango Ice Blended was a bit too sweet, even with only 50 per cent sugar. The drink only came in a large size and was much too big. For \$7.30, this beverage wasn't worth the cost. The sweetness was overwhelming, and the mango flavour was too subtle.

You can find Sharetea at 2828 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

JOHN LEE VIA
VANCOUVER CHRISTMAS GUIDE

Best Winter Holiday Activities to Try Around Vancouver

NEWS REPORT by *Kyler Der* (9)

With the winter holidays just around the corner, places all over Vancouver are getting ready for December festivities. There are so many different attractions across Vancouver worth visiting this month.

Just across the street from Hamber is a Vancouver holiday favourite. For over 38 years, the Festival of Lights has transformed the 15-acre VanDusen Botanical Garden into a winter wonderland with more than a million lights. Some features include the Rose Garden, the Scottish Shelter, where you can make donations to the non-profit organisation Make-A-Wish and light a candle, and tunnels illuminated by the lights. No tickets are available on site, as they are only sold online. The festival will be open until Jan. 2 from 4 pm to 10 pm.

The Hyatt Regency hotel downtown hosts an annual gingerbread house display called Gingerbread Lane in their lobby. Creators range from amateurs to professionals. Despite being closed during the pandemic, they have announced on Facebook that they are back this year and will be open from Dec. 2 to Dec. 29. The exhibit is a competition and viewers can vote for their favourite gingerbread house.

Just a short walk away from Hyatt Regency is Woodward's Display in Canada Place. The displays were originally located at Woodward's, a department store that shut down in 1993. Since 2010, the displays have acquired a new life on the Promenade Deck. Each exhibit features moving animatronics in unique tableaux, such as Santa's Workshop, polar bears, storefronts, and many more. These displays are free to visit and are open from 8 am to 11 pm daily.

The Christmas Market at Jack Poole Plaza is a European/Germanic-style market divided into four main parts. Visitors can buy goods for sale at Marktplatz

(Market Plaza) and Kaufmannsgasse (Merchant Alley). Tasty treats can be found at Tannenbaum Terrace (Eats and Treats) and Gourmetstrasse (Gourmet Street). The festival also features other attractions, such as the Sky Curtain of Lights, and the Alpen Haus. It will be open until Dec. 24.

The Canyon Lights at Capilano Suspension Bridge Park is a well-known Vancouver attraction with tons of holiday lights and cheer added to it. At their suspension bridge, Treetops Adventure, visitors can get a spectacular view of the lights adorning the trees. There's also the "Arc de Lumina" light tunnel on the Cliffwalk. The Canyon Lights will be on until Jan. 22.

If you're looking for something a little more antique and vintage, look no farther than Burnaby Village's Heritage Christmas. The 10-acre historic village has been bedecked with a mix of modern lights and old-fashioned decorations. Among the festive features are the popular eco sculptures, a bird-themed scavenger hunt, and live music performances. Decorated storefronts are sure to transport you back in time. Heritage Christmas will go on until Jan. 2.

While the PNE has been a summer favourite for more than 110 years, the fair has decided to expand into the winter season with the PNE Winter Fair. It includes an ice rink, live performances, a marketplace, and, of course, bright festive lights. The fair will run daily until Dec. 23.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Bright Nights at Stanley Park. Unfortunately, the trains will not be functioning this year. However, the park will be lit up with Christmas lights and displays like light tunnels and giant reindeer. In addition to that, there will be food trucks, live music, and an antique fire truck. The displays will be up until Jan. 1. Admission is free, but the event is a fundraiser for the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund and attendees are encouraged to donate.



TERESA CHEN

A Look Into Vancouver's Eastside Culture Crawl

NEWS REPORT by *Teresa Chen* (12) & *David Zhang* (12)

Vancouver's annual Eastside Culture Crawl returned for the 26th time this November with over 425 artists in 68 different studios. It started on Nov. 17 and continued until Nov. 20.

The Culture Crawl is an art festival run by the Eastside Arts Society (EAS) each fall, in which local artists open their studios to the public. Various types of artists are involved, including painters, printmakers, photographers, glassblowers, sculptors, weavers, potters, furniture makers, and more.

The event is located throughout East Vancouver, spanning from Columbia Street to Victoria Drive and from 1st Avenue to Waterfront. The location was chosen to decrease overall costs, since the average rent is lower in the area compared to the rest of Vancouver.

"The fee for participating is quite low and it covers advertisements too," expressed Ms. S. Labrie (Technical Studies), a participant in the festival. On the Culture Crawl website, it states that the early bird fee is \$145 and the regular fee is \$185.

Anyone can visit any of the artists' studios during the 4 days, free of charge. Artists offered live demonstrations and had numerous pieces of art for sale.

For the Culture Crawl, some artists work together in large shared spaces while others have individual studios. Parker Street Studios is one of the largest shared spaces at 152,000 sqft. It's the most popular place for people to visit, featuring over 200 artists in the same building.

Terminal City Glass, a cooperative sharing space for glass makers, held a live demonstration by Ms. Labrie, founder of SML Glassworks, on how to make a multi-coloured drinking glass. Ms. Labrie shared that she enjoys working with glass because it "has endless possibilities and [she] keep[s] discovering new ways of working with it." She also has a website (sonyalabrie.com) and an Instagram account (@[sonyalabrie](https://www.instagram.com/sonyalabrie)) where she showcases her glasswork.

Suzan Marczak, a plein air painter, of-

ten paints scenic pieces while hiking. She explained that with "the mosquitos, rain, and cold [weather]" in Vancouver, it can be difficult to finish a piece while outside, so typically she'll complete the sketch while in nature, then continue when she returns to her studio.

Maria Keating, another glassblower, primarily makes glass beads as a "form of meditation". She shared that she enjoys glass beadwork because it's fast and sim-

ple yet the end results are beautiful. Keating says "[glasswork] swept her, and 20 years later, [she's] still enamoured by it."

Lastly, Kaija Rautianien, a weaver, creates traditional west coast tapestries with the help of 3D software. In her work, she explores the connection between humans and nature. She particularly loves weaving images of bears, stating that she "hope[s] the woven bear images [will] awaken positive thoughts [in others]."



DAVID ZHANG



DAVID ZHANG

THE PNE ANNOUNCES NEW \$9 MILLION ROLLER COASTER



PNE

NEWS REPORT by *Kaitlyn Lee* (8)

The Pacific National Exhibition recently announced the purchase of a new \$9 million roller coaster for 2024. It has been designed and will be built by Zamperla, an Italian manufacturing company for rides and attractions. In a PNE press release, Zamperla said it will be Canada's fastest launch roller coaster.

A launch coaster is a type of roller coaster that launches the train to a high speed very quickly. It starts the ride with high acceleration, sometimes with motors, catapults, tires, chains, or other mechanisms. Traditionally, the acceleration is caused by gravity.

This new roller coaster is the largest single attraction investment made by Playland.

"We know that the new coaster will be an impressive addition to Playland's ride roster and we are looking forward to introducing it to our guests in 2024," said Shelley Frost, PNE's president and CEO. "This coaster will be the fastest of its kind in North America."

"Featuring an open tunnel, 18 meter first drop, airtime hills, helices and sweeping turns, (it will) make the experience unlike anything else in the country," said the PNE press release.

The plan is for the total track length to be 380 meters and for the maximum height to be 18 meters. There will be one train with three vehicles per train

and 12 passengers per train. The launch acceleration will be 1.3 G.

According to officials, this new ride will be located where the former Corkscrew Coaster was.

So far, the name and theme of the new ride haven't been decided yet. It is set to start construction in 2023 and is expected to be finished and opened in 2024.

Some of Zamperla's past projects include: the Time Warp roller coaster at Canada's Wonderland in Vaughan, Ontario in 2004; the Grand Exposition Coaster at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri in 2006; and the Thunderbolt roller coaster at Luna Park in Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York City in 2014.

CANADA

Controversial Bill C-11 Would Allow Government Commission to Manipulate YouTube Algorithm

ANALYSIS by Austin Witter (11)
& Hinson Chan (11)

The House of Commons voted in favour of Bill C-11 on June 21, titled the Online Streaming Act, ensuring its passage to the Senate where it is now in consideration.

The bill has sparked controversy over its proposed regulation of online content on YouTube and other platforms, which many content creators have opposed. According to its proponents, the legislation is intended to promote bilingualism and diversity in Canadian broadcasting.

A previous version of the bill, C-10, was introduced in 2021 as an amendment to the Broadcasting Act of 1991, which was written with a different media landscape in mind and does not address online content. C-10 was not able to pass the Senate before Parliament dissolved in preparation for the election that year. It was reintroduced in 2022 as Bill C-11 once Parliament was reinstated, and now only requires Senate support to become law.

A major component of the legislation involves updating regulations for the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), which decides which programs will be aired on Canadian television.

C-11 would grant the Commission “a power to make orders imposing conditions on the carrying on of broadcasting undertakings,” which under the new measures would include “online undertakings”, says the official C-11 summary. Currently, the CRTC regulates only traditional media, or “old media”, such as TV and radio.

In some ways, the legislation seems to be caught between opposing objectives. The amendment is stated to apply “in a manner that is consistent with the freedom of expression and journalistic, creative and programming independence enjoyed by broadcasting undertakings,” while also upholding “the commitment of the Government of Canada to enhance the vitality of official language minority communities and to support and assist their development, as well as to foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.” How one point might be prioritized over another should a conflict occur has not been clearly addressed.

Another aim of the bill is to ensure that Canadian content reflects Canadians’ diversity. Supporters of Bill C-11 argue that it creates opportunities for diverse voices that might be at a disadvantage in an unregulated media landscape, such as Indigenous and French creators.

“Canadian programming “should [...] serve the needs and interests of all Canadians,” reads the bill, “including Canadians from racialized communities and Canadians of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, abilities and disabilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and ages.” How such policy would be applied is still uncertain.

A statement on the bill’s Senate webpage admits that “it is difficult to say with precision” how C-11 would affect Canadian broadcasting, and while the bill outlines new priorities for the CRTC, “precisely what this would mean in concrete terms for broadcasters is not yet known.”

Much of the controversy surrounding C-11 stems from its potential to affect discoverability on digital media services. Point (q) of the bill states that “online undertakings that provide the programming services of other broadcasting undertakings should ensure the discoverability of Canadian programming services and original Canadian programs, including original French language programs, in an equitable proportion.”

Such an objective would necessitate altering the algorithms of platforms like YouTube and TikTok to favour Canadian content in some way. It would



WANGKUN JIA DREAMSTIME VIA
THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA



ADRIAN WYLD VIA
THE CANADIAN PRESS



TORONTO STAR

also require that supported content to be certified in some way, the existing system being the affirmation of certain media as Canadian content or CanCon by the CRTC.

It is unclear how C-11 will apply to user-generated content on social media such as TikToks and YouTube videos. A spokesperson from the office of Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez, who proposed the bill, said that “platforms like YouTube will have to contribute to Canadian culture and pay its fair share,” while “users will not have any obligations.” Though lawmakers have stressed that C-11 would not subject individual creators to CRTC regulation, the bill’s lack of an explicit exemption invites various interpretations.

According to Peter Menzies, former vice-chair of the CRTC, it is the Commission’s job to interpret the Broadcasting Act, meaning it could change the policy directive in future without new legislation. Current CRTC chair Ian Scott has not been wholly clear about how far the Commission can go regulating content posted by individual users. When asked whether C-11 could “capture [...] individual users creating content,” Scott replied that “there is a provision that would allow us to do it as required.” He later seemed to renege on that statement, assuring Liberal MP Chris Bittle “we don’t regulate individuals, we regulate broadcasting undertakings. [...] We don’t dictate content, neither what is broadcast nor what is watched, obviously, by Canadians.”

This came a month before a CRTC ruling condemning a Radio-Canada broadcast for its use of the n-word, requiring the Société Radio-Canada to issue a formal apology and provide a report to the Commission on its internal practices.

In favour of C-11 stands the Canadian Media Producers Association, or CMPA, an established organization representing the developers and producers of most independent English-language movies and TV shows in Canada. They highlighted the Broadcasting Act’s lack of an update in 30 years. “Canada needs updated broadcasting legislation to ensure we can compete and succeed on the world stage,” explains their website, which urges viewers to write to Senators in support of C-11. Much like the Liberal MPs that put forward the bill, they invoked Canada’s national identity: “without long-overdue updates to Canada’s federal broadcasting legislation,” they wrote, “Canadian industry is at risk of becoming a whole lot less

Canadian.” The CMPA did not address online user-generated content on their webpage.

A letter submitted to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage by TikTok was respectfully critical of C-11. They proposed amending certain sections of the bill, explaining that while “TikTok supports the objectives of C-11, [...] we believe the Broadcasting Act is not the correct regulatory toolkit.” The company took issue in particular with Section 4.2, the contentious “exception to the exception”, which could allow the Act to impact individual creators, says TikTok, even though Liberal lawmakers have emphasised the contrary.

The bill states that the Commission could regulate some online content, taking into consideration “the extent to which a program [...] directly or indirectly generates revenues,” whether it was shared as part of a “broadcasting undertaking that is required to be carried on under a licence”, and whether it possesses a “unique identifier”. Most online content such as YouTube videos and TikTok clips fall under all three of these categories. Despite the clause stating that the Act will not affect programs uploaded to online social media services (4.1.1), an exception (4.1.2.b) is immediately made for content that falls under section 4.2’s above provisions. Hence the “exception to the exception.”

creators say they’ve been subjected to outdated broadcasting rules

TikTok believes that the implications of its users having to abide by Canadian content (CanCon) regulations could be very broad. “To be clear, this means any (their emphasis) video on TikTok that uses music could be subject to regulation under the Broadcasting Act,” the service noted in their brief, recommending that the bill be amended to exempt short clips of videos or music from regulation. They expressed worry that “[CanCon regulation] would give an unfair advantage to well-resourced and established media voices,” ostensibly the inequity C-11 is trying to mitigate.

Hitesh Sharma, popularly known as Teshar, a Juno-nominated musician from Regina who became successful

through TikTok, worries that C-11 will make it more difficult for aspiring creators to follow in his footsteps.

“There are no gatekeepers on TikTok. If your content is good and engaging, it finds an audience,” he said in an interview with the Regina Leader-Post. “For a self-taught Indian kid from Saskatchewan, with no industry connections, TikTok was a game-changer. [...] Bill C-11 threatens that low-barrier path—one based on talent and audience preference, rather than government-established quotas—by subjecting platforms like TikTok and the creators using it to outdated broadcasting and Canadian content rules.”

Jeanette Patell, head of Canadian Government Affairs & Public Policy at YouTube, has released a lengthy statement from YouTube’s perspective as well. She notes that C-11 would directly influence the YouTube algorithm in Canada, leading to a worse experience for Canadian viewers. The current algorithm, as Jeanette puts it, “sorts through billions of videos to recommend content tailored to your specific interests, like how to play the violin, or watch hockey highlights.” She explains how Bill C-11 could put this approach at risk. “Instead of seeing content on your homepage that’s based on your interests, Bill C-11 would give the CRTC the authority to shape what content is presented for you.”

YouTube also raised concerns that CanCon certification might negatively affect YouTubers globally, even if they were supported in Canada. “When users are recommended content that is not personally relevant, they react by tuning out - skipping the video, abandoning the video, or even giving it a ‘thumbs down’.” When our Search and Discovery systems receive these signals, they learn that this content is not relevant or engaging for viewers, and then apply this on a global scale.” they said in a recent blogpost. This statement has been linked to in various advertisements that have appeared on YouTube imploring Canadians to petition against the bill.

The Act isn’t viewed favourably in the eyes of Canadian YouTubers, either. Although the bill promises to support Canadian content that might otherwise be overshadowed by more prominent names in the industry, in a new media age where anyone can post content on YouTube, it has become easier for creators to gain traction starting from modest beginnings.

Linus Sebastian, creator of the LinusTechTips channel, expressed that

“it’s such a [...] last century’s solution today, because it used to be that yes there were voices that couldn’t be heard because of the cost of creating traditional media [...] but YouTube [has] already fixed that. Literally anyone with a \$40 phone off of eBay can be a content creator, now that the barrier to entry is basically zero.”

What Bill C-11 considers as ‘Canadian content’ has also been called into question. The CRTC uses a ‘points’ system dating back to 1984 to certify a Canadian film or television program. Any program can be certified as Canadian content if the producer is Canadian and the production “earns a minimum of 6 out of 10 points” on key creative positions for live action productions. For example, a Canadian screenwriter would be worth 2 points, while a picture editor is worth 1 point. No exemption is given for independent creators. The cost of applying for the benefits and completing the paperwork doesn’t help either; according to Sebastian, “you can’t afford to do it until you’ve grown a lot, and then you’re not going to see the benefits from it for a year, potentially years [...] so it’s really not helpful unless you’re a large company, which is what it always comes back to.”

J.J. McCullough, a Canadian YouTuber and a Washington Post columnist, has amassed over 800,000 subscribers making videos largely about Canadian culture and history. He has spent over a year fighting to prevent this bill being passed, repeatedly appearing at House of Commons and Senate hearings and recording his experience in a series of videos. McCullough believes the Act is bordering on government censorship, infringing on the right of consumers to choose which content they want to consume. Addressing the House of Commons at a meeting in June, he even drew parallels with the soft fascism tactics of Viktor Orbán’s Hungary. “I don’t think that a progressive, democratic country like Canada wants to set the road map to regulating the Internet that can then be adopted by the Viktor Orbáns of the world,” he explained.

Anthony Housefather, a Liberal MP from Montréal, responded to McCullough’s comments by invoking bilingualism, which he views as the main concern of the legislation. In a tense debate with McCullough, Housefather contended that C-11 is not only about promoting Canadian culture, but that it is integral to “the protection of French original content in Canada. [...] I am a proud Canadian [...] a Quebecer who’s against Bill 96, who’s against Bill 21, who’s spoken out against those things. But I also believe you have a right to be a French-speaking Canadian and live anywhere in this country and be comfortable and be an English-speaking Canadian and live in Quebec and be comfortable.”

Housefather went on to inquire about McCullough’s views on bilingualism, quoting a Huffington Post opinion in which the creator called the policy “a threat to Canadian democracy.”

“I do not believe that it is the role of the government to impress upon Canadians French content if they don’t want it. [...] I believe in the freedom of consumer choice and I believe that content should sink or swim based on its popularity,” McCullough responded to a query by Housefather about C-11’s provisions on the protection of French culture.

“I’m giving you the opportunity to express those views here at this committee, and all of Canadians [sic] can hear exactly what you think about that, which is important, and which wouldn’t have happened in Viktor Orbán’s Hungary, probably,” replied Housefather.

“I think we’re reading two different bills,” Housefather remarked twice during the meeting. His comment reflects a common theme across the discourse surrounding C-11, in which each interested party supports or takes issue with a different facet or application of the wide-ranging legislation.

EDITORIAL

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES 385 & 403

Teachers and Students Are Uncertain About the Implementation of the New Clubs Policies

EDITORIAL

After speaking to numerous members of the school community, including a member of Student Council, club executives, sponsor teachers, and administrators, *The Nest* has found that the new Administrative Procedures 385 and 403 regarding clubs and social media use, have received mixed reviews from the Eric Hamber community at large. Many club executives and teacher-sponsors were critical of the implementation process and have received little to no guidance regarding the implementation of the policies.

BACKGROUND

In May 2022, the Superintendent of the VSB approved Administrative Procedures 385 and 403. AP 385 or Extracurricular Activities, is otherwise known as the clubs policy, and AP 403 is called Social Media Guidelines.

AP 403 connects to the clubs policy through its 3.3 section, where it states that social media created for or by clubs and other extracurriculars, is of the responsibility of the sponsor teacher, requiring oversight of all content distributed online through a club account.

AP 385 requires all clubs to have a charter that contains general information about the club, in addition to having a "supervisor" that is responsible for club activity.

Section 6.6 of the AP also states: "Student participants are to be made aware of all procedures and guidelines as outlined."

The district stated in an email to *The Nest* that the intention of the clubs policy was to provide consistency between

student extracurriculars and enshrine "longstanding expected practices aligned with the School Act."

Administrative procedures are created by district staff and stakeholders to guide district operational functions. APs are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, which is made up of elected trustees. However, administrative procedures are presented to the Policy and Governance Committee of the Board upon approval by the Superintendent.

In the email, VSB officials chronicled the process of creating said procedures; "All APs are reviewed by the Administrative Procedures Working Group (APWG), which includes stakeholder feedback and suggestions on proposed, revised and new APs."

In many sections, AP 385 shares exact wording with Surrey Schools' Policies 9920 and 9920.1, with the VSB attributing this to the equal responsibilities of school staff across municipal boundaries.

In a Sept. 7, 2000 article, *CBC News* reported on the controversy surrounding 9920 and 9920.1, when they were still in draft form. The article reads, "John Wynd-

ham, president of the Surrey Teachers' Association, says the board has been threatening to prevent any gay-straight clubs in the district since last spring." The *CBC* article directly references one of the drafts' sections that students must receive parental permission to participate in any extracurricular activity. Under the current Surrey policy parents may exclude their child from any available school extracurricular activity.

Surrey Schools also contained sections of 9920.1 that required school officials to keep a roster of each club that can be made available to parents, and notification of guardians prior to guest speaker appearances. Those sections were a part of AP 385 until October 2022 when they were removed after feedback that they do not protect the anonymity of students of vulnerable groups.

The district explained their decision to remove those sections, saying it was "to ensure the AP did



A student signs up for Reach for the Top at Clubs Day.

not inadvertently create barriers to student participation particularly, but not exclusively for SOGI clubs."

STUDENTS

Contrary to section 6.6 of AP 385, many club executives were not informed about the procedure and the few who are aware of it are not certain what the procedure entails.

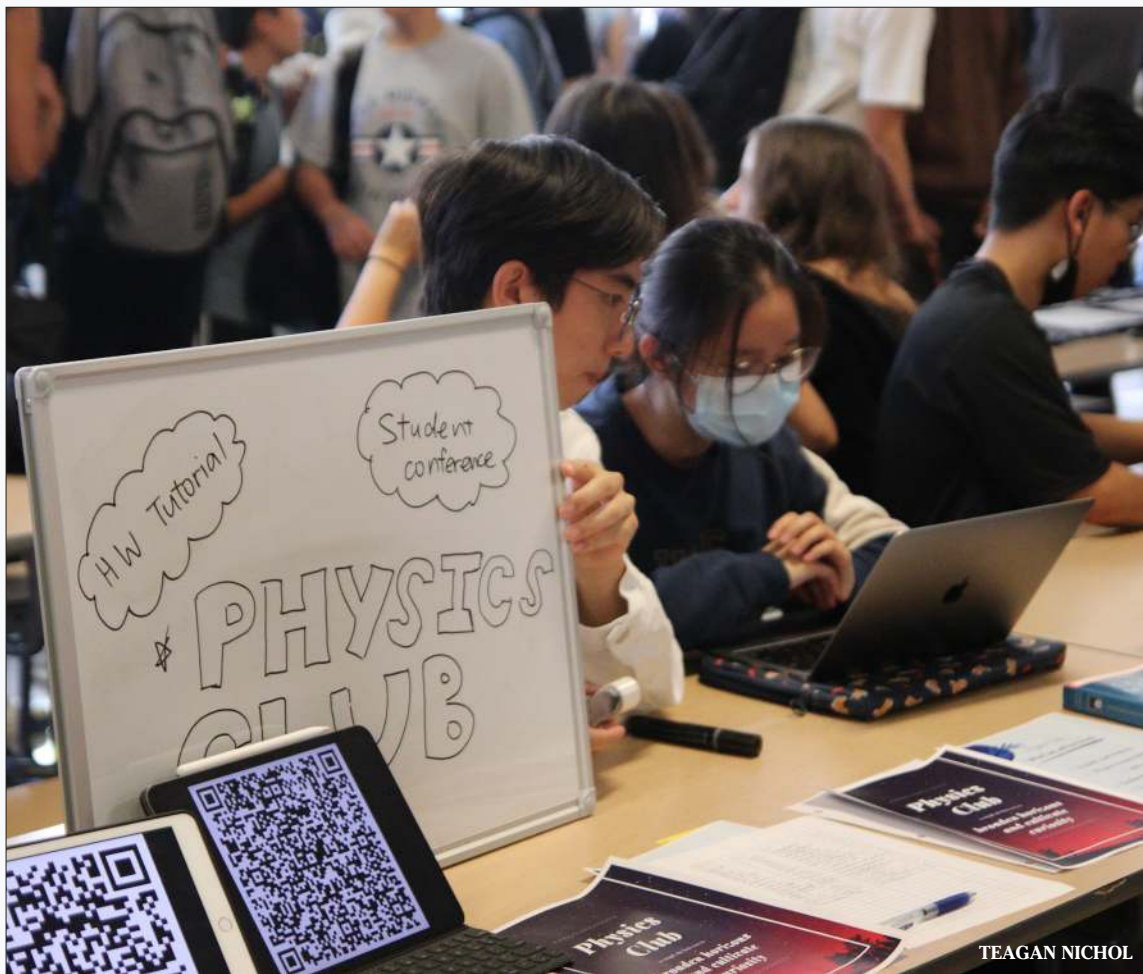
"Should we have learned about this? Where

would we have?" questioned Gemma Holland (12) and Esra Kilicarslan (12), co-executives of Social Justice club, when asked if they knew of the new administrative procedures.

"As far as I'm aware, we have not been informed of any policies, at least for the [clubs] I'm in," a club executive who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told *The Nest*. They said that they were not notified of AP 385 prior to being interviewed and that "there hasn't been any communication about any policies [from teachers or administration]."



EDITORIAL



Leaders promote Physics Club at Clubs Day

Another club executive stated that they were not at all familiar with the procedure, explaining that they “know the policy is tightening school rules when it comes to what clubs’ operations can look like,” but were not informed of any specifics. They additionally mentioned that the process of starting up clubs this year has been significantly slower compared to last year.

One expectation outlined under AP 403 and AP 385 is that social media accounts run by clubs must be monitored by teacher sponsors. Hamber club executives expressed that social media plays a big role in their communication with club members, and enables them to share

details about events with the student body.

One executive voiced that they “[weren’t] aware of a specific policy”, and their club sponsors had already been monitoring the content posted on their accounts in prior years. They haven’t faced any further restrictions following the implementation of AP 385.

Meanwhile, another club executive said that social media supervision was not enforced for their club last year. While they stated that they don’t mind having content checked before being posted, they’re also not sure of the reasoning behind the policy, and they “wish there was more of a clear [direction stating that] ‘this is what we’re looking for’ and ‘this is what you can and can’t do on social media.’”

“We can’t really regulate ... or put too much control on [social media] right now, because I’m pretty sure that not all clubs are aware of [the new policies],” said a Student Council executive who chose to remain anonymous. While they pointed out that the social media policies could be beneficial as they’re “more geared towards protecting people’s identities”, they admitted that “the execution [of the policies] is a little slow”.

This executive also described the Student Council social media accounts as being “dry” as a result of how slow the reviewing process is. They shared that they have been wanting to post more and that they are “pretty sure the majority of Student Council has filled out media consent [forms], [yet] there have been things that [Student Council] has been trying to release that are [still] currently

on the backburner.”

When asked about whether any Hamber clubs have official status this year, the executive was unsure. They expressed that they were displeased with the way clubs were organized this year, and explained that in previous years, Student Council was a lot more involved in the process of approving clubs.

“As of this year I actually don’t know if any of these clubs are approved,” they said. “I just assume they’re approved because administration hasn’t spoken out on that [sic] behalf.”

TEACHERS

Some teachers have voiced concern over the new policies. Some expressed a lack of ability to monitor the social media accounts of student clubs due to an absence of time or minimal presence on social media.

One teacher who requested to remain anonymous voiced that “it’s a lot to ask sponsor teachers,” and that they “don’t have the capacity to also be overseeing or maintaining their social media.”

Teachers have expressed that more guidance is needed from administrators to properly implement the policies.

“[The new policies] were distributed last year into teachers’ mailboxes as paper copies and then that was pretty much it,” a teacher revealed. They stated that there was only one meeting with administration where the policies were discussed, and it was not brought up again.

“Although the policies were in place, clubs had already been established [by the time the policies were discussed],” leading to confusion and uncertainty regarding the running of clubs.

The Nest had the opportunity to interview **Ms. T. Seeliger** (Visual Arts), the sponsor of Art Matters, who felt that AP 385 and AP 403 “...doesn’t really affect the way the club would run.” Ms. Seeliger expressed ambivalence towards the new policies, remarking that “I don’t think it’s necessarily beneficial,” but that she does not think “it’s going to cause a lot of problems.”

However, Ms. Seeliger did question the necessity of the new procedures, asking “why ... all of a sudden after years and years of being clubs do we now have to have this extra filter that we’re kind of going through.”

M s .

S. Chan (Science) also commented on the new district policies, “I always think it’s good to have formalized procedures in place,” further explaining, “because our staff changes, we get new staff members and that way everybody knows what’s involved when you’re sponsoring a club,” and that it “makes everything more consistent.”

Ms. Chan expressed that the procedures “wouldn’t make me reconsider if I was to sponsor say a new club or even the current ones if I was to continue sponsoring it again.”

ADMINISTRATIVE

Hamber’s administration, however, felt that they had been “well-supported” by the district in implementing the policies.

Ms. M. Jensen, Hamber’s principal, said, “The district has been very supportive. Where there have been questions that have come up as we implement AP 385, we’re able to give feedback from the school to our district office.”

She added that any feedback “hasn’t been directly from [her]self”.

In the past, Student Council has had a role in managing clubs. This year, Ms. Jensen has been taking on more of the work.

“Some of the work that student council might have done in the past, I’ve been able to lift off of Student Council by having me be the point person for collecting details on club operations,” she said.

“I think that that’s good for the principal to be in that position, because then, as parents and guardians are asking me questions [...] I’m in a good position to be able to speak to what that question might be asking about,” she explained.

Ms. Jensen elaborated, having more information about clubs allowed the administration to “connect further with teachers in regards to our students’ interests”.

Members of Student Council had a different perspective on this, with one member saying, “I’d just like if Student Council had more say in how clubs are run, or how they’re organized, or even how they’re put together”.

They go on to mention one of Student Council’s past responsibilities.

“A decade ago, student council was very involved with actually distributing [funding] amounts,” the StuCo member described a past method of club funding administration: “clubs would request for a certain amount and based on the funding that was provided to StuCo, we would delegate and give out money based on what we feel this club has accomplished or what events they’re doing.”

CANADA

Canadians with Mental Illnesses Will Soon Be Eligible for Medical Assistance in Dying: Bill C-7



NEWS REPORT by *Chloe Mayor Moure (9) & Lucy Samudio (9)*

MAiD—medical assistance in dying—has been a legalized and authorized way of death since the Parliament of Canada passed Bill C-14 in 2016. MAiD is the process in which a patient diagnosed with an irremediable illness has the option of asking a doctor or nurse to administer them drugs that will offer a painless death.

According to *CBC News*, “More than 13,000 people have chosen to end their lives [this way].” Although the use of MAiD has gained attention in recent years, this option is not available for everyone. According to the Government of Canada, “In order to be eligible for medical assistance in dying [...], you must: be eligible for health services

funded by the federal government, or a province or territory [...], be at least 18 years old and mentally competent [...], have a grievous and irremediable medical condition, make a voluntary request for MAiD that is not the result of outside pressure or influence [and] give informed consent to receive MAiD.”

The criteria for eligibility regarding MAiD has recently been updated by Bill C-7, which consists of a new set of criteria for eligibility. The criteria will allow those with mental illnesses as their sole condition to have access to the process as soon as Mar. 17 next year. This revision has caused an abundance of support, controversy and diverse opinions that have been shared by government officials, doctors and psychiatrists. In a similar vein, survivors and those diagnosed with mental illnesses have shared their opinions related to their own experiences on this

matter.

Dr. Justine Dembo, a member of the 12-person Independent Expert Panel on MAiD and Mental Illness holds the strong belief that patients whose suffering derives from a mental illness should have access to MAiD. She has stated this belief during a discussion with faculty members of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

“If those with mental illness were to be excluded, it would further perpetuate stigma, implying that the suffering from mental illness is not as severe or that mental illnesses are not as serious, while also implying that individuals with sole mental illness lack decision-making capacity.”

A study by Ipsos from 2021 displays that 65 per cent of Canadians support access to MAiD for those whose sole condition is mental illness.

Glenn Johnson, diagnosed with chronic depression and PTSD is another supporter of giving those suffering from mental illnesses access to MAiD. He has shared his beliefs regarding this subject in the past during an interview with *CBC*, urging Canada’s Parliament to make a change regarding the criteria for eligibility.

“Pain is pain. Suffering is suffering. And there is no foreseeable end to either my chronic pain or my mental health issues. I want to know why people like myself, with mental illness, are not able to access MAiD?”

Although the majority of Canadians have shared positive reactions concerning the eligibility criteria for Bill C-7, many have concerns. Many believe that

Canada’s Parliament should rethink the expansion of the Bill C-7 eligibility criteria. A poll done by Policy Options displays that uncertainty, as “Almost seven in 10 Canadians say policy-makers should give considerable weight to the concern that expanding MAiD may lead to people with mental health issues like depression choosing an earlier death rather than dealing with the underlying causes of their condition.”

Dr. Sonu Gaind, Chief of Psychiatry at Humber River Hospital elaborates on this during the same discussion in the Department of Psychiatry at University of Toronto. He stated his belief that “MAiD expansion represents a colonial legacy of policies that favour the autonomy of the privileged at the expense of the marginalized...”

He further remarked, “We can’t predict irremediability in mental illness, this means that already marginalized people who could have gotten better will instead get MAiD during periods of transient despair worsened by life distress. Canadians should know that, instead of only being told MAiD is about autonomy to die with dignity.”

There are also Canadians who consider themselves “cautious supporters,” only partially supporting Bill C-7, as they agree with the general idea but believe additional measures should be added to ensure the safety of applicants for MAiD.

Donna Stuart, Member of the Order of Canada shared her similar perspective with faculty members of the Department of Psychiatry at University of Toronto.

“I think that individuals with men-

tal illness should be eligible for assessment for MAiD, but strict safeguards must be developed to protect vulnerable individuals so that very few will qualify for MAiD. Those who do not qualify will likely benefit by being referred for diverse forms of psychiatric, psychosocial, and environmental care that they previously have not received.”

Certain safeguards have already been included in Bill C-7, such as there will be a minimum 90-day wait for the assessment of a MAiD request. Jason LeBlanc, an independent MAiD researcher and caregiver for his wife, strongly opposes this. In a *CBC* opinion article, he stated that “Under the amended legislation my partner fulfills a criterion that will on one hand deem her suffering “intolerable,” and on the other, ask her to tolerate said suffering for at least another three months — with the potential outcome that she’ll still be denied MAiD at the end of the assessment period. A cruel reward.”

Dr. Stewart emphasized the importance of dialogue remarking, “By presenting and defending different perspectives, our faculty members help all Canadians to gain a better understanding of the clinical and moral factors involved with this issue.”

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto stated in a Sept. 21 news release, “Regardless of individual opinions, participation in these discussions is an essential contribution our faculty members make to Canadian society. Only through open dialogue, can we make the best possible decisions when faced with difficult decisions.”

Federal Government Announces Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

NEWS REPORT by *Aubrey Brandt (8) & Joanna Piddocke (8)*

The Canadian government has unveiled a plan to end gender-based violence (GBV), as part of their commitment to achieve gender equality.

On Nov. 9, Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, joined together with Karla MacFarlane, Nova Scotia’s Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, in announcing the endorsement of the ‘National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence’.

The 2021 Federal Budget committed \$601.3 million to creating a new national action plan to end gender-based violence over the next five years. The 2022 budget proposed investing \$539.3 million over five years to support provinces and territories as they implement the National Action Plan.

In the Nov. 9 press release on the action plan, the federal government stated that the Québec government has invested major financial investments to end violence against women, making gender-based violence a top priority.

The press release also stated that Québec, although supporting the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence’s primary objectives, is unable to comply with its requirements since it plans to continue bearing full responsibility for this issue within its borders. The Government of Québec intends to obtain its fair share of federal funds through a deal that upholds its independence to sustain the programs, initiatives, and services it implements in response to the needs of its region to end gender-based violence.

According to the federal government, the plan would allow anyone facing gender-based violence to have access to protection and services. The National Action Plan has five main pillars, including: support for victims, survivors and their families; prevention; re-

sponsive justice system; implementing Indigenous-led approaches; and social infrastructure and enabling environment.

“We know that gender-based violence is unacceptable and has no place in Canada. We also know that it’s a significant barrier to achieving gender equality and our government is doing everything we can to prevent it and address its root causes. The National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence gives us the roadmap to address the persistent gaps in care, support and front-line services—bringing us closer to building a safer and more equitable Canada for everyone.” explained Ien.

Canada’s Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence

\$44 million is spent per year to prevent gender-based violence

launched in 2017. The Government of Canada committed more than \$800 million over nine years and over \$44 million per year to ongoing efforts to prevent gender-based violence, support victims and survivors as well as their families, and promote responsive legal and justice systems.

Although the national action plan is a step towards ending GBV in Canada, many anti-violence experts quickly pointed out the broad goals and vague promises set in the document, and how it failed to specify the certain commitments that would be in place to help victims access support. The document explaining the action plan lists “opportunities for action” under each pillar, or says what “actions could include” instead of laying out specific steps in achieving Canada’s goal.

“We’re not calling it a national action



UNITED NATIONS



plan, because in our mind it’s not really a national action plan,” said Lise Martin, executive director of Women’s Shelters Canada, an organization that supports shelters across the country.

Many people were disappointed by the action plan, commenting on how it only suggests what provinces and territories could do, instead of implementing some mechanism to guarantee action from the government.

“It leaves the door open to not doing



a whole lot of things – and a lot of inconsistency,” explained Angela Marie MacDougall, the executive director of BC Battered Women’s Support Services.

More than 11 million people in Canada over the age of fifteen have experienced intimate partner violence, as reported by the Government of Canada. GBV affects predominantly women and girls. In Canada, most of the population that are at risk of GBV include Indigenous women, Black or racialized

women, immigrant and refugee women, Two-Spirit, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, other sexually and gender diverse people, and women with disabilities.

In Canada, a girl or woman is killed once every two days, according to the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability. 173 women were killed last year, mostly by men, in Canada alone. This number is a 26 per cent increase from 2019.

CANADA

Emergencies Act Inquiry

NEWS REPORT by Jeffrey Chan (10)

The Emergencies Act was invoked on Feb. 14 in response to the Freedom Convoy protests in Ottawa for the first time since its introduction 34 years ago. The act gave the federal government and authorities additional powers, and its use required a public inquiry into the justification behind its invocation.

According to the act, it is only to be invoked when a national emergency "cannot be effectively dealt with under any other law of Canada."

The inquiry, formally titled the Public Order Emergency Commission, is held to determine whether the government was right to invoke the act to end the convoy protests. It is carried out through evidence given by key players and witness testimonies, then it is passed through a panel of discussions held by the commission where experts input their judgement on various topics relevant to the inquiry.

The decision of whether the invocation was justified will be made by Paul Rouleau, an Ontario judge and the commissioner tasked with leading the public inquiry.

Rouleau will make recommendations relating to changes to the Emergency Act itself, when it is appropriate to invoke the Act, or areas for further study.

After the input of all experts and witnesses, Rouleau has until the start of February to submit his findings to Parliament. The final report will then be submitted to the House of Commons and Senate by Feb. 20.

According to an interview in The Agenda with Steve Paikin with Susan Delacourt, a national columnist for the *Toronto Star*, "[The inquiry] has the potential to be far more than what-the-government-did-wrong inquiry [...] The story here goes beyond what Trudeau and his government needed to do to control the convoy [...]."

"This is a chance for Canadians to look at how deeply the country was shaken by two years of COVID, and how vulnerable (or naive) Canada is to be insulated from dysfunction rattling through other institutions home and abroad."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's testimony, given on Nov. 25, claimed that the federal government found itself with an uncontrollable dangerous situation, which was what led him to his final decision. He explained that engaging with the protestors would have sent the wrong impression, as if the government would change public policies for anyone willing to block the streets of Ottawa.

Even though the blockades on sever-

al streets were cleared before the act was invoked, Trudeau defended that it ensured the blockages were not reinstated. Trudeau himself stated in his testimony that "the responsibility of a prime minister is to make the tough calls and keep people safe."

The Emergencies Act details that public emergencies constituting as "threats to the security of Canada" can be found in section 2 of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Act.

David Vigneault, the CSIS director, clarified in his testimony on Nov. 21 that the protests were not a national security threat on the basis of the CSIS Act, but the cabinet could have a separate interpretation under the context of a public order emergency. However, he later supported the invocation of the Act, because "the regular tools were just not enough to address the situation."

Former directors of CSIS Richard Fadden and Ward Elcock, who led the agency from 2009 to 2013, and 1994 to 2004, respectively, believe that there should be no mention of the CSIS Act in the Emergencies Act, because the CSIS definition of a national security threat is precise by nature. "What [the CSIS Act] has to do with the declaration of a public order emergency escapes me entirely," Fadden told the commission in his Nov. 28 expert testimony.

Brenda Lucki, Chief of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), commented that she thought the federal government had lost confidence in the Ontario and Ottawa police forces, stating "People were wondering if there was ever going to be an end to this, because they hadn't seen any outwardly enforcement action."

The retired chief superintendent from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Carson Parady, testified on Oct. 21 and echoed Lucki's stance, saying that the Emergency Act provided powers that helped police cope with the convoy, but was not necessary to address the gridlocked Ottawa streets. "We tow vehicles every day. We did not explicitly need [the authority given by the Act] to tow a vehicle," elaborated Parady in his testimony.

However, Ottawa's city manager, Steve Kanellakos, contradicted that statement, saying that before the Act was invoked, the city was struggling to convince tow truck companies to move the vehicles causing blockades.

The invocation of the act was met with substantial public support, according to a new survey by Nanos Research commissioned by *The Globe and Mail*. 48 per cent said that they support the usage, while 18 per cent somewhat support it. The remainder are either undecided or are against the invocation.



JOE O'CONNOR VIA THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shortage of Children's Tylenol and Advil

NEWS REPORT by Salena Sharma (9)

Since April, Canada has been experiencing a shortage of children's acetaminophen and ibuprofen - commonly known by their respective brand names, Tylenol and Advil - despite the increase in production. As a result of these scarce pain relievers, children across Canada are fighting respiratory illnesses without proper care.

Unprecedented demand for these products has skyrocketed compared to previous years in Canada. Two other viruses joined COVID-19 in late August, making a "triple-demic" in Canada. These two viruses, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza, have taken a toll on hospitals across Canada as they receive numerous patients - of which most are children - infected with these diseases. Chief Public Health Officer of Canada Dr. Theresa Tam shared with reporters at a press conference on Nov. 16 that lab positivity this year is 8 per cent for RSV and 16 per cent for influenza. Tam advises parents to have their children vaccinated against influenza as they are more prone to catching the virus with their underdeveloped immune systems compared to adults.

Manufacturers were instructed in April to speed up the production of acetaminophen and ibuprofen to meet demand in Canada. This has been ongoing for over six months despite receiving shipments of these foreign products. According to Chief Medical Advisor at Health Canada, Dr. Supriya Sharma, Health Canada has been working with distributors since

April to determine how the demand for the medicine will change over the next few months. It was believed that increasing production rates would suffice to meet Canadians' needs.

Tylenol is used to relieve pain and decrease the effects of fever. A similar product is ibuprofen, commonly under the brand names Advil or Motrin, commonly used to relieve body pains, and treat fevers and inflammation. Both drugs are used for the same purposes, but Advil is more commonly used to reduce inflammation and Tylenol is often used to treat fevers.

As the demand for these medicines escalates, companies like Haleon and Johnson & Johnson have been speeding up their production to supply Tylenol and Advil to consumers. Health Canada reports that the production of these products is double what it was last year.

Minister of Health Canada Jean-Yves Duclos mentioned in a press conference on Nov. 26 that the demand for analgesics across Canada in a typical year is about 300,000 to 400,000 units; due to RSV, current demand is much higher than those numbers. In November, a total of 1.1 million Advil units were ready for children from Haleon. Duclos phrased this as "a significant amount versus the typical November."

Canada is receiving imports of these products from Australia and the United States. Despite the large amount they are acquiring, it is still not enough to supply Canadian pharmacies and hospitals. Duclos announced that analgesics from Australia are currently on the way to Canada to be distributed among hospitals that require these units.

"It'll take time, but things will get better as we start to see the results of

increased production of Canadian acetaminophen and ibuprofen," Sharma shared. When asked why the US is not experiencing the same shortage, she stated that "demand hit Canada at a time pharmacies were replenishing stock."

Sharma guaranteed that "more than one million bottles of product[s] will have entered Canada to supply hospitals, community pharmacies, and retailers." Minister Duclos confirmed that the one million bottles of liquid ibuprofen and acetaminophen mentioned by Sharma have arrived in Canada and are being distributed to community pharmacies. During the Nov. 26 press conference, Health Canada Director Kim Goddard assured parents that the redesigned units will not be expensive, despite the inflation concerns.

Supplies from other countries started arriving in the early fall as cases of influenza and RSV started ramping up. Health Canada has been reviewing companies' proposals since then, according to Sharma. She also states that they will assess the proposal to ensure it is the same as most products in Canada, and assures Canadians that Health Canada is "assessing proposals for these supplies [ibuprofen and acetaminophen] on a priority basis."

Some parents have taken all the measures required to ensure the well-being of their infected children. Parents have travelled to pharmacies in the US to stock up on ibuprofen and acetaminophen. Several parents were advised by their doctors to cut up adult medications to give to their children, based on a news report from the *Toronto Star*.

With no medications available, parents have been bringing their infected children to the hospital in hopes of treatment and the medicine needed for their children. A *CTV News* article reported that staff in hospitals across Canada are working strenuous hours due to the staffing shortage and the unprecedented number of sick patients.

In the summer, health professionals began recommending that parents ask their family doctor for a prescription for Children's Tylenol as there were not as many shortages across some regions in Canada back then. This tactic was not long-lasting, as it was a matter of time before this product became scarce across Canada.

Sharma advises parents giving their children alternative fever relievers to be cautious about the amount given. Children's medicines are made according to their weight and other allergens. These incoming foreign products will not be analogous to the ones parents are used to. She states, "Parents should make sure that they have enough information to use that product correctly."

ONTARIO EDUCATORS GO ON STRIKE—FORD STRIKES BACK

NEWS REPORT by Sara Maya Budhiraja (10)

After years of tensions between the Ontario provincial government, the Canadian Union of Public Employees known as CUPE, and other teachers' unions across the province, grievances came to a head as over 55,000 education workers went on strike.

CUPE had been negotiating with the province over Ontario teachers' collective agreements after their contracts expired in late August.

Their demands included an 11.7 per cent annual raise for teachers and more student supports, citing inflation and increased burden on teachers and school staff. The government countered with a 2.5 per cent raise annually for teachers making less than \$43,000, and a 1.5 per cent raise for those making more.

After negotiations broke down, CUPE announced its intention to strike. In response, Premier Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative government fast-tracked Bill 28, titled Keeping Students in Class Act, 2022 through the legisla-

tive assembly, which intended to fine educational workers up to \$4,000 per day for going on strike, and fine the union \$500,000 a day. With this bill, the union made an estimate that a potential strike could cost around \$200 million a day.

In defiance of the bill, Ontario saw a massive walkout of teachers and other school staff, leading to school closures for two days.

Bill 28 quickly became highly controversial due to its infringement on the right of association, protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. To bypass this challenge, Premier Ford's government invoked Section 33, commonly known as the notwithstanding clause of the Canadian Constitution, which allows a province to bypass certain Charter rights.

This move spurred quick backlash from unions across the country, including a branch of the Labourers' International Union North America, Canada's largest construction union, which formerly supported the premier.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Union also condemned the move stating, "an important piece of the Charter of

Rights and Freedoms is being shredded before our very eyes." They cautioned that the province's move was eliminating previous precedent when it came to what really warranted the use of the notwithstanding clause.

The Ontario provincial government's proposed use of the clause drew criticism from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as well as Canada's justice minister, who called it "exceedingly problematic."

"The Ford government has been much quicker to reach for the clause and the worry from a constitutional rights perspective is that it's becoming increasingly normalized to invoke it," constitutional lawyer Ewa Krajewska told *The Guardian*, "and I'm concerned that every time there's a bit of a blow-up about rights and legislation,

the government is just going to invoke the Notwithstanding Clause. The fact that they're willing to go to it so quickly should give everyone pause."

However, Krajewska also states that the federal government has little agency in situations like these, no matter how much they disagree with the decision.

After days of heated public and private debate, the union and the government reached an agreement, with Premier Ford offering to withdraw Bill 28 if CUPE workers returned to their jobs. They went back to work, and the controversial law was repealed on Nov. 14.

However, the union took the opportunity provided by the repealing of the bill to argue their case for salary increases, which they deemed were still not fair or large enough, and they expanded on their need for provincial

investment into new student services. They gave a five-day notice of a second strike on the day the bill was repealed.

On Nov. 20, the proposed day of the strike, just after the negotiating deadline, the union and the provincial government announced that they had reached a tentative deal. Even though a strike was off the table, Laura Walton, the president of CUPE's Ontario School Board Council of Unions said the union was still disappointed by the compromise.

"What we have been told by this government is that they are not willing to budge any further," Walton said. "For that, to parents and families, all I can say is that I'm disappointed and so is the entire bargaining committee. As a mom, I don't like this deal. As a worker, I don't like this deal."



INTERNATIONAL

US Midterm Elections

NEWS REPORT by Zak Tucker (8)

On Nov. 8, Americans headed to the polls with their views on abortion, inflation, the war in Ukraine, and democracy top of mind. The Midterm Elections, which take place halfway through a president's term, see some congressional, gubernatorial, and other state-level seats up for grabs. In contrast to many poll predictions, a so-called Republican "red wave" did not cover the nation. Instead, Trumpism and election-denialism failed to sway voters in many races.

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and 50 years of federal legal precedent that allowed abortions in the US, abortion access was a question on ballots in four states, the results of which carry much political weight. Also, midterms are seen by many as a referendum on the current President, as explained by *The Guardian's* Washington D.C. Bureau Chief, David Smith. With President Biden having just turned 80 and Trump announcing his campaign in 2024, how each performs, including their influence on their respective parties, will massively impact the 2024 race.

In the US Senate, the upper house, 35 of the 100 seats were up for re-election. Democrats flipped one seat in Pennsylvania.

The newly-elected Democrat, John Fetterman, who, following a stroke, was faced with questions regarding whether he was fit to run, won against Trump-endorsed TV doctor Mehmet Oz by 4.8 percentage points.

In Georgia, a runoff election took place on Dec. 6, as the state requires candidates to win at least 50 per cent of the vote. During the runoff, Democratic incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock clinched the state with 51.4 per cent of the vote in a tight race against Trump-

backed Republican Herschel Walker.

This puts the Democrats at 51 seats, and the Republicans at 49. Before the election, the Senate was split 50-50 with the Vice-President able to break a tie. However, President Joe Biden's ambitious agenda has still been largely held up due to the filibuster, a procedural rule that requires the support of 60 senators for major legislation to pass. Democratic Senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, now an independent, have pulled their support from numerous pieces of legislation, adding to the stalemate, with just a handful of scaled-back measures making it through.

Following the Georgia runoff, Senator Sinema announced that she will sit as an independent, describing a "broken partisan system in Washington." However, she will remain part of the Democratic Caucus, responsible for organizing the Senate, along with two other independents.

In the House of Representatives, all 435 seats were up for re-election. The Republican Party, also known as the GOP, gained nine seats, putting them at 221 seats, barely surpassing the 218 seats needed for a majority.

Since the election, Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she is stepping down as Speaker, having led the Democrats in the House for nearly 20 years. Representative Hakeem Jeffries was subsequently chosen to replace her as party leader in the house, without any opposition, and is the first black person to hold the position.

Democrats see this as unity in the party while former house minority leader Kevin McCarthy is struggling to appease the right flank in his bid for Speaker, part of a larger struggle within house Republicans.

"It shows that Democrats are in array, Republicans are in disarray," said Rep. Ted Lieu, vice chairman of the Democratic caucus.

With the need to secure 218 votes for speakership, McCarthy only has an expected four Republican votes to spare. He also faces opposition from the right-wing House Freedom Caucus within the GOP, composed of 52 members, through their bid for speaker, Ari-



zona Rep. Andy Biggs.

According to *CNN*, with no other House Republican yet announcing a bid for speaker, the race could become historic, with multiple rounds of voting until someone receives 218 votes. In their last face-off in the House Republican Conference, McCarthy led 188 to 31 votes.

In 36 gubernatorial races, Democrats flipped three seats in Maryland, Massachusetts, and Arizona, while Republicans flipped one in Nevada bringing their totals to 24 and 26, respectively.

And the three races where the Democrats picked up seats were all against Trump-endorsed extreme election deniers. En-masse, voters seemed to reject Trumpism and election denialism.

Although it remains prominent in the GOP, when it comes down to competitive races, and positions that control elections and how their certified, particularly Governor and Secretary of State, "election denialism was wiped out," says Hallie Jackson, senior Washington correspondent at *NBC News*.

"Over and over again...When elec-

tion deniers ran for offices that have significant oversight over elections themselves, voters rejected them," according to *FiveThirtyEight's* Kaleigh Rogers.

They created an "utter disaster" and "cost the Republicans dearly," wrote Aaron Blake in *The Washington Post*.

The Post compiled a list of nine candidates who could exercise the most control over the 2024 election if elected. All of them lost.

Many other election deniers still won in safe Republican areas, but by smaller margins. Those with other strong parts of their platforms performed better.

For example, J. D. Vance, the GOP Senate candidate in Ohio and Ted Bud, running in North Carolina, denied the election, but it wasn't the centerpiece of their campaigns. And, for Vance, Ohio is a safe Republican state, but still, he only won his race by six percentage points, compared to Trump's eight points in 2020 and the governor, attorney general and secretary of state who all won their races by more than 20 points.

Stephen Hayes, CEO and Editor of *The Dispatch*, a conservative news outlet, who's had multiple conversations with grassroots members along with congresspeople, said, "This is Donald Trump's loss".

Trump's endorsements "did not produce the decisive win the Republican candidates hoped for," wrote Chris McGreal in *The Guardian*. Instead, as in 2018, his endorsements "mobilized the opposition dramatically," generating more donations for the Democrats, instead of the Republicans.

"Ultimately, those candidates that Trump endorsed, they did worse than non-Trump endorsed candidates," said Hans Hassell, Associate Professor of Political Science at Florida State University.

Moreover, the "Trumpiest of Trumpists," in the words of Colorado Sun columnist Mike Littwin, Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, barely held onto her seat in Colorado leading by 554 votes in a race where more than 326,000 were cast in total.

Despite all of this, Trump announced his bid for President Nov. 15, saying he wants to "make America great and glorious again".

HARVARD BROUGHT TO COURT OVER AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES

NEWS REPORT by Justin Chuk (10)

In November 2014, an organization created by Edward Blum, Students For Fair Admissions (SFFA), sued Harvard, alleging that the university discriminates against Asian-Americans. SFFA seeks to prevent Harvard and other post-secondary institutions from using affirmative action - the practice of considering student background characteristics such as race when assessing applicants. Eight years later, multiple cases have reached the US Supreme Court.

The US Supreme Court was presented arguments from two cases (Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College and Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina) on Oct. 31, which challenged race-conscious admissions at Harvard and at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill on the grounds that they discriminate against Asian-American applicants. SFFA argues that admissions officers at Harvard in particular hold Asian-American applicants to a higher standard by subscribing to this "model minority" stereotype.

The case states that Harvard's admission process includes a subjective personal rating, which measures specific characteristics such as "leadership", "kindness", and "likeability".

"[The personal rating] ensure[s] that its freshman class is reduced to no more than a certain percentage of Asian Americans," the Silicon Valley Chinese Association Foundation (SVCAF) wrote in a brief supporting the SFFA. A federal investigation discovered that it was common for Asian-American applicants to not meet these characteristics, being

described as "quiet", "reserved" and "soft spoken".

The SFFA claimed this was evidence that affirmative action is no longer necessary—or, even, that it hurts the very types of students it's meant to protect by enforcing stereotypes on Asian-American applicants.

A 2018 analysis of Harvard's admissions data conducted on behalf of the plaintiffs by Peter S. Arcidiacono, an economics professor at Duke, concluded Asian applicants are effectively penalized in subjective ratings of their personalities. Some Asian-American students told *The Atlantic* that they have downplayed their Asian identities to avoid coming off as "nerds" while applying to prestigious schools.

Associate justice of the US Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor, also stated that minorities of colour are "more likely to be in an under-resourced school", and that they "are more likely to be taught

by teachers who are not as qualified as others and more likely to be viewed as having less academic potential."

"I am just one of many Asian American students and alumni who believe the university's race-conscious policies helped our admission and made our education better. Affirmative action is successful because it opens doors for people who would otherwise be excluded—and because it recognizes that everyone benefits from having diverse perspectives at the table," wrote Sally Chen in an op-ed for the *Los Angeles Times*. "The program is an acknowledgment that our education system isn't fair, and laws that help remedy its inequities are necessary." Chen is a Harvard graduate who testified on behalf of the university in the case's 2018 trial in a US district court.

A decision has yet to be ruled out for the current lawsuit, but one can expect by June of 2023.



"Strong, Safe, and Great," Former President Trump Announces 2024 Run

NEWS REPORT by Ruby Ellermann (10)

Former US President Donald Trump announced on Nov. 15 that he will be running in the 2024 US presidential election. He is the first impeached president to run twice for office, and would be the second commander-in-chief to win two non-consecutive terms if elected.

Trump announced his bid for president during a speech at his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago. He opened his speech by addressing the, "protesters, riots and destruction that have taken place in Milwaukee," and the impact this has had on African-American citizens, later transitioning into the need for increased law enforcement. This was followed by a range of other issues Trump wishes to address, including education, taxes, healthcare and government corruption. He concluded his speech claiming he will make America, "strong ... safe ... and great," again.

Present at his announcement was former first lady Melania Trump and other family members of Mr. Trump, in addition to notable Republicans and reporters. Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump was absent, announcing the same day that she does, "not plan to be involved in politics."

CNN commentators believe that the early timing of Trump's campaign can be traced back to the unexpected results of the midterm elections, where Republicans did not have as strong a showing as pollsters were predicting.

Despite having been impeached twice, and the FBI's search of Mar-a-La-

go for classified documents earlier this year, Trump still has significant influence among Republicans. However, he will still face serious competition in the GOP in the 2024 election.

Trump did not mention any of his potential rivals in his campaign speech. Yet, according to a national survey of Republican voters by Seven Letter Insight, 36 per cent of Republicans would vote for Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and only 26 per cent for Trump. A recent poll by *CBC* revealed that only 40 per cent of Republicans believe Trump should run again for office.

Looking at the broader state of the US government, the majority of voters during the midterm elections told exit pollsters that they deem neither Biden nor Trump satisfactory candidates to run for office.

Trump's top advisors have expressed concern in another area, namely that Trump's focus on conspiracies could lead to a loss in the election, *CNN* reported. In connection to the false claim of voter fraud expressed by the Republican party and voters in the 2020 presidential election, Trump said that he would only allow paper ballots if elected and narrow voting to one day, reported *CNBC*.

Trump's leadership PAC, Save America, has earned him more than \$60 million USD. The Federal Election Commission has prohibited the use of this money for his campaign, although Trump has put \$20 million USD towards a new PAC, which officials fear may slide into his campaign.

PACs, also known as political action committees, are organizations that campaign for or against politicians, policies, or legislation.

INTERNATIONAL

Twitter: A New Business Venture for Musk

TARANJEET SINGH
VIA FLICKR

ANALYSIS by Alexandra Chow (10)

On Oct. 28, Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX and CEO of Tesla, closed on a \$44 billion USD deal and acquired Twitter. Immediately after, drastic changes were made to Twitter's employees, features, and policies.

Musk began investing in Twitter in January 2022. On Mar. 14, his 9.2 per cent stock made him the largest shareholder of the company. After Musk's announcement in early April that his stake was worth almost \$2.9 billion USD, shares rose by 27 per cent.

On Apr. 5, Twitter announced that Musk would be joining their board of directors. However, five days later Musk said he would not be joining. In a message to the Twitter employees, CEO Parag Agrawal said he "believe[s] this is for the best" and that Twitter "will always value input from [their] shareholders whether they are on [the] Board or not".

On Apr. 14, Musk offered to buy Twitter for \$54.20 USD per share. This amounts to a total company value of

about \$43 billion USD. Eleven days later, his offer was accepted. Musk then sold about \$8.5 billion USD of his Tesla stock to put towards this deal.

Even before the deal was closed, Musk started mentioning the changes he would make to Twitter. He said he would allow banned users, such as Donald Trump, to return.

Kate Klonick, an associate professor at St. John's Law School, told *CBC News* in an interview that she worries that "re-platforming some of the worst members of society that have those authoritarian voices [will enable them] to find each other, to create violence, to challenge the rule of law."

However, on May 13, Musk put the deal "temporarily on hold". He requested evidence that the "spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5 per cent of users", in a tweet. In early June, Musk threatened to exit the deal if no further information was given. Twitter said it had already shared information with Musk.

On Jul. 8, Musk moved to stop the deal. He believed he did not receive the information he requested regarding

the amount of spam or fake accounts. An attorney representing Twitter said Musk's attempt to stop the acquisition was invalid since Musk "knowingly, intentionally, willfully, and materially breached the Agreement", according to an email disclosed in a securities filing.

Forcing Musk to complete the deal he had started, Twitter sued him in Delaware's Chancery Court. In the lawsuit, Twitter said "Musk refuses to

trash the company, disrupt its operations, destroy stockholder value, and walk away". If Musk had been allowed to abandon the deal, he might still have been forced to pay a \$1 billion USD termination fee.

On Oct. 4, after weeks of trying to extract himself from the deal, Musk proposed completing the original deal. The deal was closed on Oct. 28, the last day before the trial in Delaware would

Twitter said "Musk refuses to honour his obligations to Twitter and its stockholders because the deal he signed no longer serves his personal interests"

honor his obligations to Twitter and its stockholders because the deal he signed no longer serves his personal interests". Twitter went on to claim Musk "believes that he — unlike every other party subject to Delaware contract law — is free to change his mind,

have moved forward.

In the days after Musk acquired Twitter, there was an increase in hate speech on the platform. According to *The Star*, use of the n-word increased by over 500 per cent compared to the previous average.

Shortly after Musk's take over, many of Twitter's employees were laid off. CFO Ned Segal and CEO Agrawal were among those in-office during the acquisition who were escorted out when the deal closed. Following the release of Vijaya Gaade, head of legal, questions were raised about how Twitter would abide by the laws they were mandated to follow.

On Nov. 4, about half of all Twitter employees received an email notifying them that they had been laid off. The email said, "Today is your last working day at the company". 200 of the more than 3,000 employees laid off were from Canada. According to the Associated Press, a lawsuit was filed in San Francisco about Twitter violating federal law by not providing adequate notice to employees.

Musk also changed the work policies for Twitter's employees. On Nov. 9, effective immediately, all employees were required to work in-office at least 40 hours per week. Previously, employees had the option of working remotely. The monthly days off for the whole company that had been established during the pandemic were removed.

On the same day, the policy for the blue verification check mark was changed. Rather than being limited to the authentic accounts for organizations, users could buy the check mark for \$7.99 USD, with the Twitter Blue subscription. The check mark beside a user's profile could be clicked on to see if it was a verified account or a Twitter Blue account. Soon after, numerous imposter and spam accounts pretending to be verified organizations appeared.

One such example was a fake account impersonating Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, which tweeted that insulin would be provided for free. The official Eli Lilly replied, saying, "We apologize to those who have been served a misleading message from a fake Lilly account. Our official Twitter account is @LillyPad.", but not before Eli Lilly's stock share price decreased by 4.37 per cent.

More features were added to Twitter Blue, including an "edit" and "undo" options for tweets. News stories from certain publishers could be viewed without advertisements. Users were also able to post videos longer than two minutes and 20 seconds.

On Nov. 10, grey "official" check marks were added to authentic accounts, such as those that had a blue check mark before the new policy. Users such as Coca-Cola, Nike, and the Toronto Star received an "official" label. However, this feature was removed a few hours later.

A week and a half after the initial layoffs, Musk sent an email to the remaining employees that gave them the options of "working long hours at high intensity" or receiving "three months of severance".

As of Nov. 23, Twitter's online rules have said they are "no longer enforcing the COVID-19 misleading information policy." Since its creation in January 2020, this policy has suspended 11,000 accounts and removed almost 100,000 pieces of content, according to Twitter. It was created to stop false claims that could lead to misinformation.

TICKETMASTER MISHANDLES TAYLOR SWIFT TICKET SALES FOR 2022-2023 ERAS TOUR

NEWS REPORT by Olivia Gowans Hoar (9)

The popular musician Taylor Swift announced the Eras Tour in early November, a stadium tour with 52 dates in the United States. Swift decided to sell tickets through Ticketmaster, the major North American concert company with a near monopoly on the market. With the hope of ensuring that more fans would get tickets than scalpers, Ticketmaster used the Verified Fan Program. Anyone could sign up for Verified Fan, but only some were guaranteed to get a code for a Nov. 15 presale. Due to unprecedented demand, the Ticketmaster website experienced

widespread system failures, causing many fans to express their frustration with the online ticketing platform.

Swift partnered with Capital One

"tomorrow's public onsale for Taylor Swift, the Eras Tour has been canceled"

Bank for a presale for fans with a Capital One credit card on Nov. 16. Demand for the presale was significantly higher than expected. Many fans reported experiencing challenges such as being

continually kicked out of the waiting queue and then losing their spots.

Ticketmaster claims that "3.5 million people pre-registered for Taylor-SwiftTix Presale powered by Verified Fan, which is the largest registration in history."

The Ticketmaster website broke down on presale day, with Ticketmaster stating that "the staggering number of bot attacks as well as fans that didn't have codes drove unprecedented traffic on our site, resulting in 3.5 billion total system requests."

Ticketmaster has said that 2.4 million tickets have been sold to The Eras Tour. Those who didn't get the presale hoped for luck in the general sale, but on Nov. 17, Ticketmaster tweeted: "Due to extraordinarily high demands on ticketing systems and insufficient remaining ticket inventory to meet that demand, tomorrow's public onsale for Taylor Swift, the Eras Tour has been canceled." With no further explana-

tion from the company, fans were not pleased, and they began questioning Ticketmaster's ability to handle such a huge event.

In an interview with *CBC News*, industry writer Eriq Gardner stated, "If Taylor Swift stood up and said 'I want a better solution' Ticketmaster would take notice of this." Artists work with the company that sells the tickets to decide the number of tickets, the price, and how many are reserved for different ticket groups, such as presales. They also make the decision whether they will allow resales. While the contract between Swift and Ticketmaster is not publicly known, changes could have been made to Ticketmaster's system to benefit fans.

Some artists are taking the power they have with their concert tickets and using it to benefit their fans. Musician Ed Sheeran doesn't let his tickets be re-sold above "face value", which is the price that was originally set. When

10,000 tickets to his 2017 shows were resold at higher prices, he discredited the tickets and gave fans the option to buy them again, this time at face value.

Other artists have taken less drastic measures, such as requiring the buyer's name to be printed on the tickets, which then is matched to their identification.



INTERNATIONAL



MERIDITH KOHUT VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Do Not Travel to Haiti,” Government of Canada Advises

NEWS REPORT by Eloise Lee (8)

Canada posted a travel advisory against traveling to Haiti in early November. This was due to the varied threats posed by kidnappings, gang violence, and other criminal activity. This, along with the severe shortages of necessities such as fuel, food, and drinkable water, determined Haiti as unsafe for tourists and foreigners.

Recent violent protests in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince have affected the security of the nation, where roadblocks, barricades, and violent demonstrations can occur spontaneously, according to Travel Canada's webpage on Haiti. Reuters reported on a Sept. 13 protest, in which tire

fires, roadblocks and barricades, and stone throwing created a violent and volatile situation in the capital.

Gang violence and crime in urban centers like Port-au-Prince, has been escalating since 2020, including the occurrences of kidnapping. Travel Canada advises on their webpage that in the greater Port-au-Prince area that emergency and security services are limited, and criminal activity is prominent. Tourists and foreigners reportedly have a greater risk of victimization. Other regions like Pétion-Ville and Petit-Goâve have also been advised against due to recent gang-related crimes.

Human rights group Fondasyon Je Klere reports there are 150 gangs in Haiti. In 2019 there were 78 kidnappings, in 2020 that number rose to

234, according to the UN Integrated Office in Haiti. Reportedly, there was also a 20 per cent increase in killings between those years.

Travel Canada advises there are severe shortages of necessities such as fuel, food, and drinking water. Internet and telecommunications can also be limited.

Haiti never fully recovered from a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck the country in 2010, which affected three million people; about a third of Haiti's population. It left about one million people homeless. Then, in August last year, they were struck with another earthquake.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, according to the Borgen Project, with 2.5 million Haitians earning less than \$1.25 per day.

INFLATION IN TURKEY REACHES 24 YEAR HIGH

NEWS REPORT by Jhilian Yan-Klassen (8)

Turkey's annual inflation rose to a 24-year high of 85.51 per cent in October, slightly lower than forecast by Turkey's Inflation Research Group (ENAG), an independent inflation research group.

President Tayyip Erdogan has controversially refused to increase interest rates, claiming it would harm the economy. Last autumn, Erdogan told the central bank to cut its policy rate by 500 basis points. Inflation has increased since then and caused a cost-of-living crisis for nearly a year. Since August, the central bank has cut rates again by 350 points to 10.5 per cent.

When a central bank increases interest rates, the result is less spending, which lowers inflation. Lower interest rates encourage spending, which bolsters the economy but also contributes to rising inflation.

While the Turkish Statistical Institute reported 85.51 per cent inflation, ENAG estimated that the annual consumer price index (CPI) inflation was 176.0 per cent. Food prices are higher by 99 per cent since last year, while transportation prices have risen 117 per cent, and housing increased 85 per cent, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute.

Turkey's currency has devalued significantly in the past year. Last Septem-

ber, eight Turkish lira were worth one US dollar. By October, one US dollar was worth 19 lira.

Forecasts by the Turkey government predict that inflation will ease to 65 per cent by the end of the year, while a Reuters poll shows an end of year level of about 70 per cent. The legal minimum wage in Turkey has been doubled recently in response to inflation.

According to a survey by the Yöneylem Social Research Centre, over two thirds of the people in Turkey are struggling to pay for food and rent. Multiple finance ministers and heads of the central bank have been dismissed for “standing up to the president” about the issue.

Timothy Ash, a senior emerging markets strategist at BlueBay Asset Management, says President Erdogan is motivated by the upcoming Turkish general election in July 2023.

“These pro-growth policies might well win Erdogan the election, but they will boost import demand, undermine competitiveness, and surely massively boost the current account deficit,” he said in an email note to clients.

Despite the skyrocketing inflation, Erdogan is still aiming to achieve his goal of interest rates in the single digits.

“My biggest battle is against interest. My biggest enemy is interest. We lowered the interest rate to 12 per cent,” Erdogan said at an event in late September. “Is that enough? It is not enough. This needs to come down further.”



ADITYA PRADANA PUTRA /G20 MEDIA CENTER

NASA Launches Artemis I: First Step Towards Moon Base

NEWS REPORT by Vania Qiu (8)

NASA believes that they will be able to land humans on the Moon, once again, within this very decade.

In a step towards that goal, NASA launched Artemis I on Nov. 16, the first launch in NASA's new Artemis Program.

The uncrewed mission, first introduced as the Exploration Mission 1 (EM-1) in 2012, focused on moon exploration, with the program holding the eventual goal of landing humans onto the moon by 2025—for the first time since Apollo 17 in 1972.

Using the new Space Launch System (SLS)—a primary launch device of the Artemis moon landing mission—and the upgraded systems at Kennedy Space center, the Artemis launched from the NASA-operated complex, orbiting the moon before returning home.

Artemis I was the first planned flight of the SLS and the second uncrewed test flight of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle.

The debut of the SLS system serves as a massive breakthrough in the spacecraft industry as it has become the only spacecraft able to carry the Orion, a capsule within the rocket that will hold the crew in coming years, astronauts, and supplies in one go.

Howard Hu, the leader of the Orion programme, described the Nov. 16 launch as an “unbelievable feeling” and a “dream” to *BBC News*.

The rocket was first planned to

launch in 2016; however, it was later postponed to 2017. Following that, NASA delayed the launch another fifteen times. The most recent launch is the follow-up of two previous launch attempts—both aborted whilst in countdown.

Currently, the rocket's main goal is to collect sufficient data regarding conditions throughout the duration of the mission, accurately predicting the conditions astronauts may experience in the future.

One of the existing concerns for the Artemis missions is radiation exposure, which astronauts will encounter once they leave the Earth's magnetosphere. As a result, the spacecraft carried one mannequin and two torsos, outfitted with sensors in an attempt to measure the radiation.

The rocket is also in charge of taking photos of lunar sites, as well as the lava beds explored during the Apollo mission in 1972—of which it has since successfully done throughout the mission.

On Nov. 29, exactly halfway through the 25-day-long mission, the Artemis I broke the record for the furthest distance from Earth any human-rated spacecraft has reached: 268,563 miles, or 432,210 kilometers.

The rocket reached the end of its mission on Dec. 11, with the Orion capsule splashing down into the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of California. US Navy ships recovered the fallen rocket.

Artemis I was designed to provide a foundation for space exploration. Its successor, the Artemis II, expected to



launch in May of 2024, will send astronauts around the moon and back. In 2025 or 2026, the Artemis III is expected to land astronauts on the moon—near the lunar south pole—with the aid of SpaceX's Starship vehicle.

According to NASA, the Artemis missions aim to land the first woman and person of colour on the Moon, further explore the moon's surface, and build the fundamentals of a possible crewed Mars mission.

“It's the first step we're taking to long-term deep space exploration, for not just the United States but for the world,” said Hu.



NASA

INTERNATIONAL

FTX COLLAPSES, SAM BANKMAN-FRIED ARRESTED BY AUTHORITIES

NEWS REPORT by *Justin Chuk* (10)

Overnight, the FTX Exchange went from being the third-largest cryptocurrency exchange platform by volume, just behind Binance and Coinbase, to bankruptcy. As details emerge about this abrupt fall from grace, a picture has been painted of gross mismanagement by the company's CEO.

On Nov. 2, a leaked balance sheet for Alameda Research, FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried's trading firm, revealed that much of its reserves were backed by FTT, its own native currency, instead of the US dollar. According to a CoinDesk report, Alameda Research held more of the tokens than what was traded on the market, implying its stake would be difficult to liquidate at current prices. However, it was found that Binance also owned a large portion of FTT.

On Nov. 6, Binance CEO Zhao, through a tweet on Twitter, announced that Binance would exit all of their FTT holdings after the CoinDesk report came to light - setting off a crypto bank run on FTX.

The Nov. 6 tweet sent FTX crashing from around \$24 USD per share to a trading price of less than three dollars. After FTX had stopped paying its customers and asked for a bailout from Binance, claiming that it was facing a 'significant liquidity crunch', Zhao announced his FTX takeover plan on Nov. 8. However, just a day later, Binance would back out from the deal after a 'due diligence' revealed issues in FTX's financial situation were beyond remedy.

In the following days, FTX scrambled for rescue funds while being slapped with an investigation from US regulators. Almost every major crypto-

currency also faced a price downturn following the events and the fall of Alameda Research.

FTX filed for bankruptcy on Nov. 11 and Sam Bankman-Fried resigned as CEO. After Bankman-Fried moved \$10 billion USD of customer funds from FTX to Alameda Research, around \$1.2 billion USD had vanished. FTX stated that it is investigating "unauthorised transactions" after blockchain analytics firm Elliptic said \$473 million USD in assets were "moved out of FTX wallets in suspicious circumstances early this

morning."

According to a Reuters report, Bankman-Fried had created a 'backdoor' to the exchange's compliance and bookkeeping system. The 'backdoor' was built using custom-made software. It allowed Mr. Bankman-Fried to execute commands that could change the company's financial records without alerting other employees in its legal and finance departments. The backdoor permitted Bankman-Fried to also withhold modified records from external auditors.



JABIN BOTSFORD
VIA GETTY IMAGES

10 Months into the Invasion of Ukraine



ANDRIY ANDRIYENKO VIA
GLOBAL NEWS

NEWS REPORT by *Dora Yuan* (8) and *Miggie Wei* (8)

Almost ten months into the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with winter approaching, Ukraine is finally gaining back some ground.

As of early December, over 7.8 million Ukrainians have fled to neighbouring countries, including Poland, Hungary, and Romania. The casualties are heavy on both sides, but most notably, the UN reports over 6,500 killed civilians, although the actual number may be much higher.

Ukraine's most significant victory over the past couple of weeks is gaining back Kherson, a southern Ukrainian city, on Nov. 11. Prior to this, Russia had been facing issues with mobilization and had trouble with strong resistance from Ukraine, despite capturing the city's headquarters on Mar. 2. Therefore on Nov. 9, Russia ordered an official retreat. Two days later, Ukraine took back control over the city.

The Kremlin stated on Nov. 11 that its forces retreated from Kherson, moving to the Dnipro River. US officials believe their decision to move out was due to the winter, as the soldiers would be cut from supplies. The snow and low temperature would keep Russians from mounting attacks, considering that Russian troops are inadequately equipped.

"It's getting really muddy, which makes it hard to do large-scale offensives," Colin H. Kahl, the American under secretary of defense for policy, told *The New York Times*. Senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Seth Jones said Ukrainians seemed like they would continue their sabotage and subversion attacks on Russian lines, as reported by *The Times*.

Ukrainian troops destroyed all bridges into Kherson so Russia would have difficulty supplying their mostly untrained soldiers sent from Moscow. Biden administration officials believe it is crucial for Ukraine to renovate their defensive and offensive supply while the military advances are slowed down.

On Nov 15, Russia fired 85 missiles into multiple cities across Ukraine. This was the biggest wave of missiles Russia had fired since the start of the war. As a result, many people were left without power and heating, shortly before Ukraine's temperature started dropping into the negatives. Ukraine counts at least 23 casualties due to the attacks.

The same day, Poland reported that two alleged Russian-made missiles landed within the country's border, near Ukraine. It resulted in two casualties.

The country met hours later for a meeting with the Group of Twenty, a bloc of the world's 20 largest economies dedicated to addressing economic and political concerns. During the meeting, Biden revealed that he had seen evidence disproving Poland's accusation that the missiles came from Russia. "It is unlikely in the lines of the trajectory that [the missiles] was fired from Russia," he noted.

Because Ukraine uses Russian-made missiles as a part of their air defense system, at first many believed the explosion was caused by one of Russia's missiles. Russia claims their missiles were definitely not close enough to reach the Polish border. The Russian defence military stated that the missile was "unequivocally identified by Russian defence industry specialists as elements of an anti-aircraft guided missile of the S-300 air defence system of the Ukrainian air force". Many representatives and leaders at the G20 meeting agreed that Russia's launching of 85 missiles triggered Ukraine's defence system.

Canada stated that they would be monitoring this issue. "It would be imprudent for me to comment on them at this point," stated Canada's National Defense Minister, Anita Anand. "I am in close touch with our Polish allies, and we are monitoring the situation very closely."

In response, the United States announced on Nov. 23 that they would send \$400 million worth of tanks, armor, planes, boats, and other military equipment to Ukraine. This amounts to a total of \$19.7 billion worth of aid to Ukraine from the United States since the beginning of the war. President Biden stated that aid to Ukraine will continue.

On the same day, Russia once again launched a flood of at least 70 missiles across Ukrainian cities, 51 of which Ukraine's air defense system shot down. However, the remaining missiles knocked the power out of many more civilian areas, as well as forced several of Ukraine's biggest nuclear power plants to shut down.

On Nov. 29, at the NATO meeting of foreign ministers, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg reaffirmed NATO's support for Ukraine. On top of pledging alliance, he promised Ukraine that it would one day become a member of NATO. "President Putin cannot deny sovereign nations to make their own sovereign decisions that are not a threat to Russia," he stated ahead of the meeting.

"We are all paying a price for Russia's war against Ukraine," he told other NATO members. "But the price we pay is in money, while the price Ukrainians pay is a price paid in blood."

Little Impact Made on Reducing Emissions at COP27



JASPREET KINDRA/OCHA

NEWS REPORT by *Zoe von Dehn* (8)

From Nov. 6 to Nov. 20, 190 countries gathered at the Conference of Parties for its 27th year. Around 35,000 representatives negotiated climate goals in the coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. They spent two weeks working towards the Loss and Damage fund, but no progress was made to reduce fossil fuels.

This is the seventh year since COP21, when the Paris Agreement was signed. The aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius. Researchers from the US Climate Center stated that Earth is on track to reach the 1.5 C mark as early as 2033 if no action is taken. The Conference of Parties was made for countries to work towards their goal of stabilizing the temperature.

"Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing. Global temperatures keep rising. And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate

chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator," said the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, to the attendees of COP27.

The biggest breakthrough at COP27 was an agreement to establish a Loss and Damage fund. This is for countries least responsible for climate change who are most severely impacted by it. Billions of people, especially those in the southern hemisphere, struggle with the harshest aspects of climate change, including floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, and loss of life. This fund will help the countries recover from any climate related event that they had no control over. The money will also be used to help these countries transition from using fossil fuels, and over to sustainable energy.

Developing nations aren't required to supply the fund. In addition, the EU and China have not yet agreed to add to the fund. The EU argued that China, which has the world's second largest economy should have to contribute to

the fund, along with other newly larger economies such as Saudi Arabia. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), from 1992, classifies China and others as developing countries, meaning they don't have to contribute.

The vice-president of the European Commission stated at COP27, "[We have to] take account of the economic situation of countries in 2022, not 1992."

Phasing out coal, oil, and gas was avoided at the conference, and 600 fossil fuel lobbyists were at COP27, being a 25 per cent increase from previous years, according to *Corporate Knights*, a green media and research group. Canada brought a handful of representatives from oil and gas companies.

Many people were disappointed with the action made at COP27.

"Friends, I said in Glasgow that the pulse of 1.5 degrees was weak. Unfortunately, it remains on life support." COP26 president Alok Sharma said at the close of COP27.

INTERNATIONAL

First Protestors Sentenced to Death in Iran

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh* (9)

Since the death of Masha Amini, a 22-year-old woman who died in the custody of Iran's morality police on Sept. 16, protests have been sweeping Iran and around the world.

The protests have spread to major cities all over the world, including Los Angeles, Vancouver, Paris, Tokyo, and São Paulo.

The Islamic Republic first came to power as a result of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, after the Islamist cleric Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran's authoritarian monarch and assumed power.

A series of new laws were then introduced based on Islamic and civil law. "Insulting the prophet," apostasy, same-sex relations, adultery, drinking alcohol, and certain non-violent drug-related offenses are all punishable by death under Iranian law. Hijabs are mandatory for women, with Mahsa Amini being arrested due to wearing hers incorrectly.

The Guidance Patrol, known commonly as the "morality police", were first established in 2005 with the goal of ensuring that all Iranian citizens, specifically women, abided by the strict dress code. The Iranian government has put it in law that if a person is seen contradicting the dress code by the morality police, they will either be given a warning notice, or taken to education centers or a police station to be detained and taught how to properly conform to the dress code.

In Masha Amini's case, she was taken to a police station, where she fell into a coma. After that, she was brought to a hospital where she stayed



GETTY IMAGES VIA CNN

for three days before her death.

Iran International, an Iranian news outlet, reported that there was an eyewitness who said Masha Amini "told her in a detention room that an officer had hit her on the head." Doctors also told Iran International that "all medical signs pointed to severe blows to Mahsa's head that fractured her skull, leading to a coma, and that they could not do anything to save her."

Due to the protests, the Iranian government has banned the Internet in many places, including Tehran and Kurdistan, making online sites such as Instagram, Whatsapp, Youtube, and many more inaccessible, unless one uses an illegal virtual private network, or VPN. This has caused a great deal of misinformation to start circulating in Iran, as citizens do not have access to the outside world through the Inter-

net.

However, misinformation is not just a problem in Iran. With so much news circulating about these protests, many rumors are spreading at an alarming rate. One example of this was when many believed that the Iran government had sentenced 15,000 arrested protesters to the death penalty, when this was in fact an unsubstantiated claim that was later proven false. Even Prime Minister Justin Trudeau himself falsely stated in a now deleted tweet on Nov. 15, "Canada Denounces the Iranian regime's barbaric decision to impose the death penalty on nearly 15,000 protesters."

So far, one man named Moshen Shakari has been executed for allegedly blocking a road in Tehran and injuring a Basij soldier with a knife, who later needed stitches for his wounds. As

divulged by Aljazeera News, five people have also been sentenced to death for allegedly killing Basij soldiers while protesting. 11 of the other protesters involved in the same incident were given lengthy prison sentences.

According to the Human Rights Activists News Agency, 18,100 protesters have been arrested since the beginning of the uproar, including lawyers, journalists, teachers, students, and civil rights activists. An article posted on the Iran Human Rights website on Nov. 29 also claims that "at least 448 people including 60 children and 29 women have been killed by security forces in the ongoing nationwide protests."

The Iranian government has not officially said much about the protests publicly. However, the National Public Radio did confirm in an article that Iranian general Amir Ali Hajizadeh has

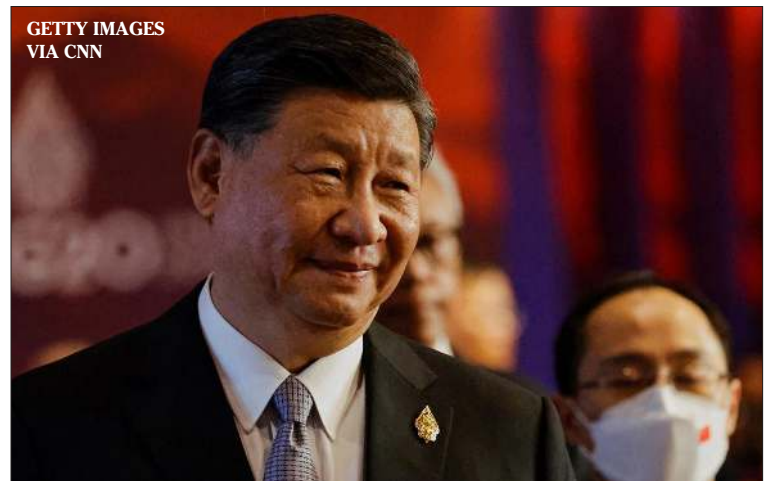
finally admitted after two months of silence from the Iranian government that 300 deaths have been caused by chaos due to the nationwide protests. This senior officer was also said to have claimed that Iran's morality police were going to be abolished, however, no other parties have confirmed this.

During the FIFA World Cup, the Iranian soccer team refused to sing their national anthem and instead stayed silent in protest. The players of Iran's national soccer team could possibly face legal consequences at the hands of the Iranian government for doing so.

On Nov. 28, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice also declared the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to be a terrorist group "by association". As Justice Cory Gilmore inscribed in her ruling, "I agree with the applicant that the IRGC cannot be seen to be other than a terrorist organization".

Moreover, ever since Monday, Dec. 5, thousands of Iranians have gone on a widespread strike, with the goal of toppling the Iranian Regime. Storefronts and streets have been abandoned, and government officials are now going to various shops dressed in plainclothes and arresting anyone who is filming the strikes and walkouts.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the third day of the nationwide strike, Iranian protesters gathered around the Meydood Azadi – meaning "freedom" – tower square at night, one of the most iconic structures in Iran. Even while being shot at by officials, and with the Internet shut down, people still protested through the night, chanting statements such as, "Death to Iran!" and "This is the end!" according to a TikTok video made by Goldie Ghamari, a Iranian-Canadian MPP for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.



20TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

NEWS REPORT by *Max von Dehn* (11)

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) held their 20th National Congress in October, from the 16th to the 22nd. The Congress meets every five years, historically being the venue to announce changes in CCP leadership, modify the party's constitution, and lay out any major policy directions for the country.

This year's conference brought forth two major changes to the CCP constitution, which have all but cemented President Xi Jinping as the permanent leader of the country.

As reported by *Reuters*, the first of these major constitutional reforms are the "Two Establishes", which makes Xi the "core" leader of the party, and also entails that his ideas are the principles to guide the future of China. The "Two Safeguards", the second major constitutional addition, protects Xi's place within

the party, further placing him at the center of China's politics for years to come.

In a speech given by President Xi during the congress, other constitutional additions were outlined, including making political loyalty necessary in the military, continued opposition of Taiwan's independence, and mandating the education of the party's history for all members.

Besides the constitutional changes, the conference saw Xi elected to a record third consecutive term as party

leader after previously abolishing the two-term limit in 2018.

China's leaders for the next five years were also announced. The CCP's

Li Qiang is expected to take over as premier once Li Keqiang retires

main leadership body, the Central Committee, was the first group to be formed during the National Congress.

After the Central Committee, the

new Politburo, which contains 25 of the highest ranking members of the party, was formed. For the first time in more than two decades, not a single woman was named to the Politburo.

However, the biggest shakeup in the CCP's politics came from the most powerful group: the Politburo Standing Committee (PSC). The committee is composed of five to 11 members, with the current version featuring seven members. Xi heads the PSC, with Li Qiang, the Shanghai Communist Party chief, being one of three new members.

All members of the new PSC are strong supporters of Xi, with Li Qiang expected to take over as premier once Li Keqiang, the current premier, retires, according to *Reuters*.

INTERNATIONAL

2022 Album Reviews: Tsunami of Mediocrity



Scan to listen
on Spotify



REVIEW by Nigel Goto (11) & Max von Dehn (11)

With 2022 drawing to a close, it's finally time to look at the albums that came out this year and see how they stand. The tsunami of mediocrity is upon us, though 2022 was by no means devoid of great music. This year saw the release of several highly anticipated albums, as well as lesser-known successes. Each of these albums show an artist in transition or who decided to change their sound. For each album, we've provided one song that, while it may not be the most popular, you should give a listen.



Score: 8/10

**Dawn FM - The Weeknd:
One Song: "Out of Time"**

Dawn FM sees The Weeknd's Abel Tesfaye dramatically changing his style from the alternative R&B on *After Hours* into a rich late-night synth-pop. Taking place on the fictional Dawn FM radio, hosted by Jim Carrey, Abel embarks through self discovery, and fights the purgatory of helplessness. Although a large shift musically from his previous works, *Dawn FM* is very much an extension of Abel's sound.

One part of the album that fails to land is the features, which include lackluster Tyler, The Creator and Lil Wayne performances. However, they aren't a complete miss, with the interlude "A Tale by Quincy", which features producer Quincy Jones describing his childhood and how the lack of a normal one deeply hurt his future relationships. In many ways, the feature is a microcosm of *Dawn FM*, which deals with Abel's relationships, and oftentimes their failures. Of course, there is also Jim Carrey, who guides the album towards the Dawn. Aptly concluded in the track "Phantom Regret by Jim", Carrey lays home the core themes of regret in his closing poem. *Dawn FM* represents a turning point in The Weeknd's music, with what comes in the morning a mystery.

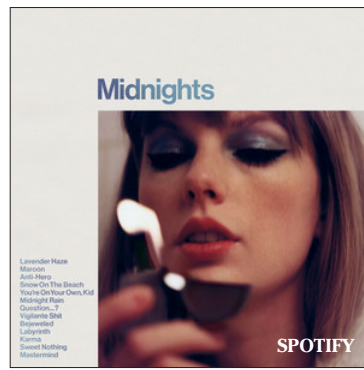


Score: 7/10

**Ants From Up There - Black Country, New Road:
One Song: "The Place Where He Inserted The Blade"**

UK band Black Country, New Road continues to innovate with their uniquely independent approach to rock with *Ants From Up There*. Following up their explosive debut, *Ants From Up There* breaks down the barriers of rock even further. With Black Country, New Road's impressive musicianship shone on tracks like "The Place He Inserted the Blade" and "Concorde".

Throughout the album, the band explores their soundscapes in lengthy tracks, creating long build-ups within songs like "Haldern" and "Snow Globes". However, the impressive instrumentals are further elevated by the drama that vocalist Isaac Wood brings to the tracks, like his performances on songs like "Haldern" and "Good Will Hunting". This, unfortunately, is the last time we will hear his singing, since news of Issac stepping down from the band came out alongside the album's release. However, the band now has put out a truly unique and impactful record that celebrates and commemorates Issac's journey.



Score: 6/10

**Midnights - Taylor Swift:
One Song: "Labyrinth"**

To mark Taylor Swift's tenth studio LP, Swift shifted her sound back to explore a more pop-centric sound. While changing styles to a more subdued sound, *Midnights* was still met with commercial success, despite its blandness.

With *Midnights*, Swift heavily relies on her songwriting. Unfortunately, her expansive expertise has yielded varied results.

Swift shows impressive growth, presenting a more mature take on her life. This variation on her unique perspective works incredibly well with the themes and topics of the album and is paired perfectly with the subdued instrumentals of producer Jack Antonoff. This especially shows on lowkey songs like "Snow On The Beach", "Midnight Rain", and "You're On Your Own, Kid".

However, the more mature Swift is often forgotten. On tracks like "Vigilante Sh*t", "Anti-Hero", and "Question...?", she contrasts her maturity with poorly written lyrics that feel more in place in her more abrasive pop phase of 2017. "Bejeweled" demonstrates this well, with premature lines like: "Don't put me in the basement / When I want the penthouse of your heart" and "When I walk in the room / I can still make the whole room shimmer." In conclusion, *Midnights* was mid.



Score: 8/10

**Ice, Death, Planets, Lungs, Mushrooms and Lava - King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard
One Song: "Iron Lung"**

Ice, Death, Planets, Lungs, Mushrooms and Lava is the 21st studio LP from Australian psych-rock band King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard. Not only is it their 21st album in only 12 years, but it was one of three released this October, as part of "Gizztober". King Gizzard hasn't just been extremely prolific with their releases, they have also created an extremely diverse discography, moving from psych-rock, to jazz-rock, to microtonal music, and even to synth-pop.

Ice, Death, Planets, Lungs, Mushrooms and Lava continues to expand King Gizzard's repertoire, being a move into a far more jam inspired rock. The album is built around the seven Greek modes of music, with one song for each mode. Due to the jammy nature, the album spins from jazz-rock, with the implementation of saxophone on tracks such as "Iron Lung"; on to metal, like in the track "Magma", in which deep guitars drown out the vocals. The lead single "Ice V" uses flutes, electric keyboards, and saxophone to develop a funk-psych sound unlike anything the band has put out so far. When it comes to King Gizzard, *Ice, Death, Planets, Lungs, Mushrooms and Lava* is certainly a highlight.



Score: 8/10

**Caprisongs Mixtape - Fka Twigs:
One Song: "oh my love"**

Over the past decade, FKA Twigs has stretched the boundaries of art pop in numerous ways, becoming respected for her artistic creativity. From the glitchy electronic sounds of "LP1" to the orchestral vocal displays of "Magdalene", she hasn't stopped pushing boundaries, despite her lengthy struggles with mental health.

Fortunately, struggles in mental health now seem to be a thing of the past for FKA Twigs. In *Caprisongs*, the focus on growth is extremely notable, with all 17 songs and interludes feeling very lighthearted. The intro track "ride the dragon" gets the mixtape started on an extremely fun note, which then transitions into unapologetically hard-hitting songs like "honda" and "oh my love". Throughout these songs lie plenty of clips of lighthearted conversations between Twigs and others that tie into the themes of growth and spiritualism. Twigs constantly refers back to these, like with "thank you song", where Twigs thanks her supporters for helping her through struggles.



Score: 9/10

**Hellfire - Black Midi:
One Song: "Sugar/Tzu"**

Hellfire is the third full-length studio LP from British avant-rock outfit Black Midi, following their 2021 release *Cavalcade*. *Hellfire* is a breakneck journey. Its insanity is clear from the first track "Hellfire", in which the lead singer, Geordie Greep, details human fragility and futility backdropped over heavy drums and heavily marching piano. The album also features Cameron Picton, Black Midi's bassist, with vocals on the tracks "Still" and "Eat Men Eat". Compared to the harsh, chaotic nature of Greep's vocals, Picton brings a more melodic voice, delivering a surprisingly tender performance on "Still". It's impossible not to mention the third member of the band, Morgan Simpson, who provides unmatched drumming moments, such as on the track "Welcome to Hell".

The album touches on war and conscription, drunken pirates, boxing, and regret. Buried in the chaos is delicate precision. The track "The Defence" is a Frank Sinatra-inspired uptempo swing song, and amongst the noise walls of "The Race is About to Begin" is carefully precise math rock. Take a little insanity into your day, and try *Hellfire*.



Score: 7/10

**Gemini Rights - Steve Lacy:
One Song: "Buttons"**

Steve Lacy isn't entirely new to the music scene, with prior well-known EPs, singles, and albums dating back to 2017. However, this new album is certainly a step up in many ways. The listener's experience is the central focus of this LP, with a luscious sunny atmosphere to get lost in.

Throughout the album, the production supports the atmosphere, always bringing Steve Lacy's signature R&B vibe to the songs. The twangy guitars on songs like "Helmet" and "Give You The World" bring the atmosphere, while punchy drums on songs like "Bad Habit" and "Buttons" bring hard beats that maintain Steve's vocals.

To complement his lighthearted instrumentals, Steve keeps his singing playful. Unfortunately, while his unique vocals bring bliss to the album, it ultimately fills songs with some lackluster sections. His understated and weaker vocals on songs like "Sunshine" and "Amber" take some of the excitement away from otherwise great songs. The naive lyricism throughout the album can sometimes take away the experience, as is painfully demonstrated on "Cody Freestyle". Fortunately, the album still creates an enjoyable experience that displays Steve Lacy's talent and potential.



Score: 8/10

**Raw Data Feel - Everything Everything:
One Song: "My Computer"**

Raw Data Feel is a return to form for Everything Everything, following mediocre releases. The album starts off with the quintessential electronic-pop song, "Teletype", which both demonstrates in striking lead vocals from Jonathan Higgs, and the band's affinity for melding electronic music with art pop. Most of the album follows the electronic groove set by the intro, with songs such as "Cut UP!" and "HEX", both of which show the band's more abstract approach to the pop formula. Yet, at the end of the album, Everything Everything leaves a moment of peace with the tracks "Born Under A Meteor" and "Software Greatman", that serenely close out the album.

The band has been far from traditional in their song writing, constantly using abstractions within their lyrics. In "Raw Data Feel", they upped the ante, writing parts of songs with AI. This bold approach led to some strange lyrics, such as the infamous "I'll have a coke / I'll have a Pepsi now / You are afraid / That you're a pizza boy" from the track "Pizza Boy". As odd as it is, it adds to the feeling of the techno-apocalypse that underlines the album.



Score: 8/10

**Melt My Eyez, See Your Future - Denzel Curry:
One Song: "X-Wing"**

Throughout his lengthy career, Denzel Curry has become a prominent contributor to the rap scene. He is always expanding upon the genre with his unique ideas, as seen on albums "TA1300" and "UNLOCKED".

Melt My Eyez, See Your Future is in many ways a complete change of pace from Denzel. Instead of quick, attacking production, the album takes a far more introspective approach. It takes inspiration from jazz-rap and even psych elements. The track "The Last" opens with reverb-heavy synths that Denzel cuts through.

Denzel gives windows into his mind, such as again on "The Last", where he muses "...watchin' people dyin' / Got me bein' honest with my savior". *Melt My Eyez's* stripped back sound is a solid addition to his discography.

OPINION

Roe v. Wade: We Were Warned, and We Ignored It.

GETTY IMAGES
VIA BBC

OPINION by Bianca Takenaka
(11)

There is a substantial quantity of Americans who do not view the fetus as a human child until the umbilical cord is cut, and what's more, there are others who believe that contraceptives unfairly influence nature. Abortion access is currently one of the most emotionally charged political minefields in the United States, which gained a larger spotlight after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* abortion rights ruling by the US Supreme Court in June 2022.

With this ruling, the Supreme

Court abolished a constitutional right involving the most fundamental individual liberty: the autonomy to make decisions involving your own body. In fact, abortion has become illegal in 13 states and more may soon follow. Even though we expected this outcome, this ruling shook the nation.

This devastating result is the apotheosis of decades-long efforts by right-wing forces, including anti-abortionists, to reinvent the court into a counterrevolutionary wall. Along with the aid and attendance of the Senate under Mitch McConnell and former president Donald Trump, they were victorious.

Leading up to the ruling in June,

there still existed a chance of *Roe v. Wade* being held even though it was a slim one considering the current state of the Supreme Court with majority being prominent Republican anti-abortionist justices. It's possible that American people's voices mattered at this critical moment for human rights, but many simply decided to "take a break" from their civil rights activism and focused on another case that was unquestionably more significant: *Depp v. Heard*.

Depp v. Heard was a trial which followed the defamation allegations between divorced A-list actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, and took place

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EPA VIA BBC

around the same time as *Roe v. Wade*. According to a media monitoring platform, *NewsWhip*, the *Depp v. Heard* trial received more than three times more attention than abortion related topics (on average 508 and 141 social media interactions each between Apr. 4 and May. 6, 2022, respectively).

Which is more significant? The personal lives of two people whom some of us enjoy watching on the big screen, or women's rights? Based on the data, the American population decided to draw the short end of the stick when it came to picking relevant news.

You could have joyfully rewatched a celebrity trial after it was over on Tik-

Tok or whatever platform that pleases you to get your daily dose of Hollywood scandals, but you can't joyfully overturn a Supreme Court decision after the fact and reverse a regression of human rights.

If the data and my opinion doesn't persuade you, then perhaps another celebrity will.

Billie Eilish weighed in on this debate in a song released as a part of her *Guitar Songs* EP, which was released on Jul. 21, 2022, a month after the closing of both *Roe v. Wade* and *Depp v. Heard*.

"The internet's gone wild watching movie stars on trial, while they're overturning *Roe v. Wade*," is a lyric in the third stanza of her song, *TV*.

Eilish perfectly describes the predicament of American society today: Out of control gossip junkies who are blinded by futile news.

Depp v. Heard followers may justify their obsession over the trial as an opportunity to advocate for women's rights (if they're in support of Amber Heard) or anti-abuse movement. They may be right and there could be something positive even in this case, but there surely must be a better, more meaningful way to go about it.

Hopefully, or should I rather ask earnestly, the next time a Hollywood gossip trial interferes the timeline of a potential overturning of a historical civil rights case, society would take a deep breath and think twice (or how many ever times it takes for people to think straight) on what is the current event that they should truly be engrossed in. America got it wrong this time, but should we expect anything different the next time? I sure hope so.

Why Are There So Many Swifties?

OPINION by Katja Radovic-Jonsson
(11)

Taylor Swift is one of the most popular musical artists in the world. For over a decade, her music has been consistently chart-topping, making it quite literally impossible to avoid listening to her music. Whether it be on your friends' Instagram Stories, all over Spotify, or even in the grocery store, Taylor Swift's voice can be heard everywhere, and her popularity has only grown over the years.

As someone who is neither a true Swiftie nor an avid hater, I couldn't help but notice how increasingly common Taylor Swift-related discussion has become over the years, especially since her pandemic-release album *folklore*. It feels like everyone I know is suddenly a fan of hers, even if they never mentioned liking her music before.

So I have decided to embark on a journey. By consulting my brain, statistics, and opinionated people on the Internet, I am going to answer the ever-burning question: why are there so many Swifties?

Let's begin with some stats. A report by Audiense in early 2022 found that 40 per cent of Taylor Swift's listeners are aged 18 to 24, the vast majority of which are located in the US. The report also found that Swift's audience is most likely to use social media platforms like Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and Twitter.

And how does Swift capitalize on this knowledge? She caters to these demographics. For example, she promoted the release of *Red (Taylor's Version)* by collaborating with Starbucks, a brand commonly associated with Millennials and Generation Z. In August 2021, just before her re-release of *Red*, she also created a TikTok account to cater towards the younger demographic. Not to mention "All Too Well: The Short Film", which featured popular young actors Sadie Sink and Dylan O'Brien.

Am I implying that Swift's recent success is calculated? Yes. Does that mean, however, that the sudden increase in her popularity was entirely planned? Probably not. There must be some external circumstances that factor into the recent Swiftie boom.

For one, the songs on *folklore* and *evermore*—albeit not my favourite—were simply revolutionary in terms of Swift's lyricism and style. While Swift's previous songs featured (undeniably cliché) lyrics about love and heartbreak, her pandemic-release albums told stories that many people found comfort in, especially during such trying times. To accompany the more melancholy picture her lyrics painted, she explored the genres of folk and alternative music,

"folklore & evermore were the beginning of a new era for Swift"

helping her draw in fans that had never previously enjoyed her music. On top of all that, she released two full-length albums in a year. It was the beginning of a new era for Swift; one in which people started taking her music more seriously.

This display of lyrical virtuosity also contributed to an improvement in Taylor Swift's general public image. Throughout the 2010s, Swift was known for her robust romantic history, and often caught herself in the middle of tabloid drama (think Kanye West, Katy Perry, and Calvin Harris). The media portrayed her as an irresponsible serial dater, and ridiculed her for her catchy pop music. I remember that growing up, liking a Taylor Swift song felt like a guilty pleasure of sorts.

But of course, much has changed since the days of Taylor's mid-2010s music. Rather than joking about her romantic life, the media now commends her for

JOHN SHEARER
VIA BILLBOARD

TWITTER



REPUBLIC RECORDS

her talent, hard work, and tenacity. But what's changed since then other than the lyricism of her songs? You guessed it. The re-releases of her albums.

At this point, anyone who hasn't been living under a rock is at least somewhat familiar with Taylor's album re-releases. There's a very long-winded story to this, but in short, Taylor doesn't actually own any of her original music from any of her albums released before *Lover* in 2019, so she's re-releasing all of them under her own name so that the money earned from her listeners doesn't go to Scooter Braun (the bad guy).

Swift's perseverance and 'girlbossery' (that's the technical term) has

earned her some respect and recognition in the general public. In light of the mistreatment Taylor has received in the past from both the media and her own record label, people have realized that she's not just a talented artist, but also a successful and resilient businesswoman. Interestingly enough, since the majority of her listeners are Millennials and Gen Z—many of whom take a lot of interest in 'girlbossing' and fighting the patriarchy—it's likely that Taylor's new image as a strong, independent woman makes her even more successful.

Another important point to mention is that with all this new talk about Taylor, her music, and her re-releases, she's be-

come, well, popular. And naturally, people begin to bandwagon. When a sports team is winning, everyone wants to cheer for them. Taylor Swift is winning right now, so everyone loves her, even if they didn't care much for her before.

And with that, we've reached the answer to our question. This is Taylor's most successful era yet, and in the span of two years she has managed to draw in loads of new fans by working hard, persevering, and knowing her audience. And while it's certainly fun to joke about Taylor's fans from time to time, you've got to admit that they're onto something. Because wow, *that girl can do a lot*.

HAMBERGER

SATIRICAL REVIEW by Noah Yu (12)

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Imagine you're participating in a Secret Santa, but haven't the slightest clue what your selected somebody enjoys. Or maybe you just like receiving presents and couldn't be bothered to get anybody else anything. Or perhaps you simply forgot to buy a gift for a close friend because you're so quirky and forgetful. In any case, you're a terrible person because it reveals your true character and how little you appreciate others in your life. You are incapable of loving anybody except yourself, and nobody loves you either. But don't worry, you can change that! Show your peers that you at least acknowledge them by giving them any of these last-minute but thoughtful ideas.



DEWALT VIA AMAZON

DEWALT DCD771C2 20V Max Li-Ion Cordless Drill

If your gift recipient is handy-dandy, they will undoubtedly enjoy the DEWALT DCD771C2 20V Max Li-Ion Cordless Drill. The DEWALT DCD771C2 20V Max Li-Ion Cordless Drill is, as its name suggests, is lithium-battery operated and cordless, making it powerful, portable, and simple to use. The DEWALT DCD771C2 20V Max Li-Ion Cordless Drill's handle is lovely, and its grip is pleasing to the touch. The DEWALT DCD771C2 20V Max Li-Ion Cordless Drill's two speeds (0-450 and 1500 RPM) provide variety in its drilling styles. No drill will ever compare to the DEWALT DCD771C2 20V Max Li-Ion Cordless Drill.

Mints

Does your recipient's breath stink? Here's a subtle way to fix that.



LONDON DRUGS



QR Code to a Rick Roll

Why waste this perfect pranking opportunity? Go ahead and Rick Roll your recipient! This classic maneuver will be well-admired by the right person.



Pre-Workout
Yeah buddy. Lightweight baby.

AMAZON

Sesame Street Vitamin D Gummies

A gift like Sesame Street's Vitamin D Gummies tells your recipient you care about their health. These gummies come in three yummy flavours - mixed berry, peach, and strawberry. From experience, I can testify that although the flavours are difficult to differentiate, their combined tastes are unmatched. Furthermore, the gummies' mascot, Elmo, promotes kindness and humanity toward society, making Sesame Street the perfect brand to support.



WEBBER NATURALS

Endangered Species Meat

This year, give a special someone the unique opportunity to say they've eaten an endangered species! Elephants, orangutans, and giant pandas are among the wide variety of animals you may choose from. If our world's climate state keeps declining, this small window of opportunity will certainly not last long, making this an exclusive gift! This one-of-a-kind bragging right will be greatly appreciated by your recipient.



GETTY IMAGES VIA PINTEREST

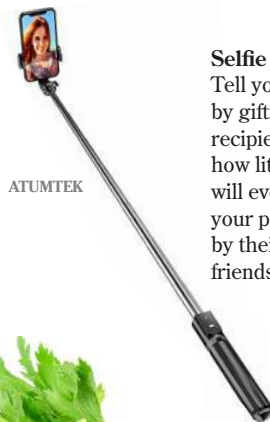
"Elmo thinks it's important to be kind because if you're kind to somebody, then they'll be kind to somebody, and it goes on and on and on." - Elmo

Politician

Is your recipient dissatisfied with our society's current political and economic state? Does your recipient dislike laws? Hire a politician to make an appearance for them! It won't accomplish anything but you should still do it.



CARDBOARD PEOPLE VIA AMAZON



ATUMTEK

Selfie

Tell your recipient "there is no greater gift than me" by gifting them a nice picture of your face. Your recipient may be initially taken aback and offended by how little effort you contributed to their present, but will eventually realize that there is no greater gift than your presence. Someday, they will frame your selfie by their bedside to be reminded daily of the gift of friendship you offered.



GOODFOOD

Celery Stick

This is a pristine gift item with many uses.

If All Else Fails...
Gift your recipient a pleasant card with the promise of a gift in the near future. Blame your tardiness on the incompetence of the postal service. Ideally, they'll eventually forget about it, and you won't have to get them anything.

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Each row and column must have an equal number of X's and O's. No more than two of the same symbol can touch. No two rows or columns are the same. (retrieved from puzzle-binairo.com)

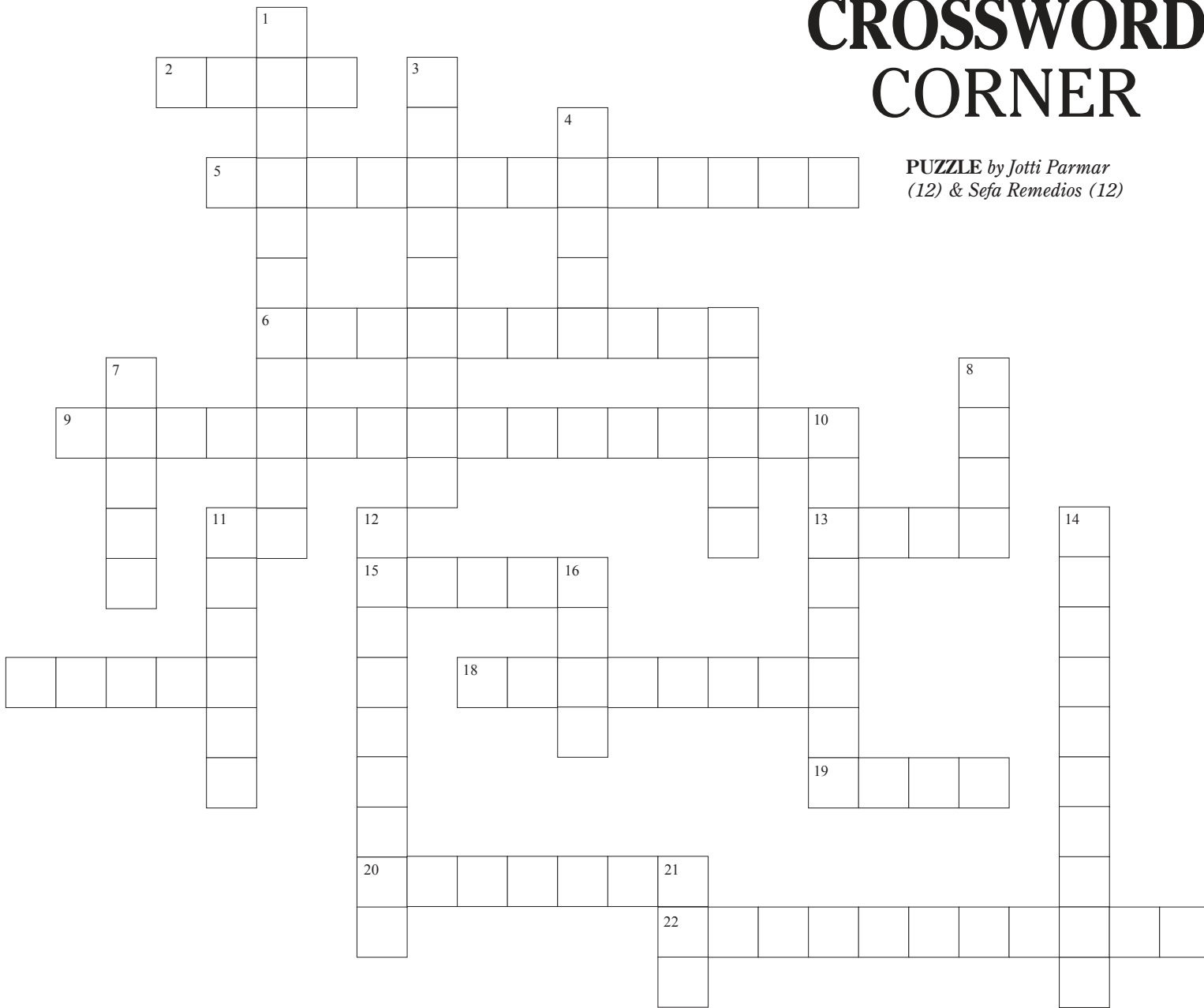
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					3			
4	7	3	1					6
8		1		2			4	
				1				7
				5	2	6		
			7	8		9		

Fill each row, column, and box (3x3) with the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in any given row, column or box. (retrieved from sudoku.com)

HAMBERGER

CROSSWORD CORNER

PUZZLE by Jotti Parmar (12) & Sefa Remedios (12)



Across

- 2. Person with pants on fire
- 5. Eric Hamber's school colours
- 6. He's got a beard that's long and white
- 9. Who's "got gadgets and gizmos aplenty"?
- 11. Scary clown movie
- 13. Pig noise
- 15. Flat, round bread served with various toppings
- 17. Shipping centre of the cell
- 18. Animal portrayed in the Firefox logo
- 19. Sixty minute period
- 20. "Reduce, reuse, ___!"
- 22. Type of clock that is freestanding and has a pendulum

Down

- 1. In the Midnights of 1989, this artist's Reputation turned Fearless
- 3. The plant Jack climbed down as he was chased by a giant
- 4. Google's formal messaging system
- 7. Number of water fountains at Hamber that have a sensor
- 8. Mixture of red and white
- 10. Food delivery service
- 11. When you aren't outside
- 12. Director of Jaws movie
- 14. What essays are separated into
- 16. Car brand with four interlocked circles
- 21. "What came first? The chicken or the ___?"

ASK THE NEST

Q: HELP!! I'm lowkey in love with someone I know, and I know she's infatuated with one of our mutual friends (A). Our mutual friend (A) really likes yet another of our mutual friends (B). That mutual friend (B) actually likes me. WHAT DO I DO??

PS: Maybe I should mention that we all go to candlelit dinners together that are kinda romantic coded. Our mutual friend (C) knows all of it and calls us dumb but they still come to the dinners. What's up with that??

PPS: C is everyone's mutual ex. PPPS: yesterday, I received five(???) bouquets of flowers at my door? and an empty box of Walmart chocolate.

PPPPS: The reason I like A is because she makes tea in the microwave alongside the instant noodles <3

PPPPPS: I bought a hardcover book for A, but it was intercepted by the descendant of a WWI carrier pigeon who had been trained since birth. I watched it through my binoculars (I got them from my on-call ornithologist) and watched as the pigeon brought my beautiful hardcover book to B's house ugh).

-Eggsistential Crisis

A: Dear eggsistential crisis, That's sad. Try not being in love with them. Or chocolate. You can always run away to Paraguay. Start a new life. Commit tax fraud and rot away in a Mexican prison, then finally come back to Canada, only to find that Vancouver doesn't exist. It never existed. It never will. It's all in your head. Wake up. Wake up. Wake up.

-The Nest

Q: How do I feel less worried about not being able to keep in contact with my current friends as everyone moves to post-secondary?

-Easily Attached

A: Talk to your friends about this! Making them aware of your worries means they can reassure you and it will bring you all closer together. And remember to take advantage of the tech age we live in! Your friends are only a quick text or facetime away-even if you aren't spending 6 hours together, a small message saying hi never fails to brighten up somebody's day. But keep in mind that while your high school friends are valuable, don't close yourself off from new people and experiences in post-secondary! Sometimes being social is hard, but you never know where a lifelong friendship could come from.

-The Nest



COMIC by Aubrey Brandt (8)



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

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