

The Griffins' Nest

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Students, Teachers Speak Out about ChatGPT

NEWS REPORT by Austin Witter (11) & Hinson Chan (11)

The Microsoft-backed company OpenAI has been a rising star in the artificial intelligence landscape, making headlines around the world with their service ChatGPT, a text-based interface where users can interact with a version of the GPT-3 language model developed by the company.

These large artificial intelligence systems are trained on a vast amount of text; GPT-3 was trained on 45 terabytes of data, including data from Common-Crawl (which searches and logs the web), books in the public domain, and Wikipedia. Based on this data, these systems learn to generate new text, such as short responses to questions, poems, essays, and short stories.

Language models such as GPT split a given text into tokens; the AI attempts to predict the next token, using the previous tokens as context. This method of training is known as "generative pre-training", hence the name GPT, a "Generative Pre-trained Transformer". GPT is thus capable of attempting to complete tasks it was not exposed to while training.

However, AI models have also incited concerns on the validity of its information; ChatGPT often opts to provide incorrect assumptions instead of explaining its shortcomings. While the ChatGPT model does have safeguards against biased language, users have noticed that it may produce racist or homophobic text at times as reported by *The New York Times*, almost certainly a result of being trained on the Internet.

Because of its ability to generate coherent, convincingly human-like text responses to essentially any question, ChatGPT and other language models have wide applicability in schools. The use of GPT-based language models to complete schoolwork is a point of increased discussion amongst many educators, who have voiced concerns about students asking AI to do their work for them and passing it off as their own.

Despite ChatGPT's growing popularity, not everyone at Hamber is using it. Many of the students and teachers The Nest interviewed use it rarely, if at all.

Daniel Brandão (11) notes that AI models can be helpful for programming. "Whenever I get an error or I need to make something that already exists, I use it to create said code, or fix said code, so that I don't have to do it by myself," he said. A grade 12 student, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, disclosed that they use it for "documents that involve English topics, or about anything with English in it."

Neither **Mr. D. Mugford** (English) nor **Mr. N. Norcross** (English and Social Studies) have used ChatGPT or other text generative AI. "I first only really heard about it coming out maybe six months ago," Mr. Mugford told *The Nest*, revealing that he "was quite alarmed by it."

Mr. R. Arkileitian (Computer Science) recalled asking ChatGPT to write some code for him. "It's still in its infancy, but [...] I have no words to describe it. I was quite impressed by it." He also described asking the AI to improve specific parts of its output. One of ChatGPT's essential features is the ability to take feedback and improve or elaborate on its response. "It's not necessarily a one-shot deal," said Mr. Arkileitian. "You're having a conversation."

Students were mostly in agreement that asking AI to write your entire essay for you is problematic, but they said it shouldn't be totally shunned as a possible educational resource.

"For example, creating ideas or researching a topic in my opinion is fine," explained Brandão, "but using it



Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, developer of ChatGPT, speaks at a press conference

to write an essay on said topic, I don't think is correct." Vahla Reinhardt (10) remarked that "if you use it word for word, I feel like that would be cheating for sure."

"I wouldn't say it's outright academically dishonest," said **Sonith Salice** (10), who uses ChatGPT "as a source to understand material better." The difference, to Salice, is whether you're copying and pasting or using it as a secondary source. "If you just type something and then copy and paste it, then yeah that's academically dishonest, but if you just it to think [of] a different point of view or to articulate your answers better, I don't think there's anything wrong with it. As long as it's not pure plagiarism, I think it's fine."

According to the anonymous grade 12 student, using ChatGPT for schoolwork isn't cheating. They contended that "it's considered a tool [...] something that helps students better enhance their knowledge about writing."

"I think that ChatGPT doesn't really pose a new issue that wasn't already out there," remarked Mr. Norcross, citing the Internet, translation programs, and tutors as other ways students can submit work that is not their own. "There's already things like Grammarly out there that improve student writing [...] at what point is it not the student writing anymore?" he mused, adding that "when I was young, tutors were a pretty rare thing to hire, and now it seems like

plagiarism has recently become a major issue

far more students are using [them]." Mr. Norcross says he had previously adapted to this by marking students mostly for their in-class work, with only 20 per cent based on take-home assignments. "ChatGPT isn't [...] revolutionary in the sense that it's going to change my teaching," he explained.

Mr. Mugford also drew parallels with tutors, describing troubles "dealing with who's writing it" due to tutor involvement. He said that he already focused less on homework to adapt to the tutor situation, but places even more focus on in-class work now. "We meet five days a week now; [...] that should be enough time to get it done in class." Mr. Mugford said he might still assign some homework, like essays or other longer pieces, but "it's probably not going to count for a whole bunch if I'm not sure where it comes from."

"If an assignment goes out that door, the students are working on it out-

side the classroom, you can't observe it," remarked Mr. Norcross. "Now, I just think [ChatGPT] intensifies the same problem." He maintains that "at the end of the day, I'm not assessing an AI. I can't give a mark for an AI, otherwise everyone's going to get As. I have to assess the student's ability."

Both English teachers, however, expressed deeper worries about the future of their subject. "What are we saying as a society?" reflected Mr. Mugford on the use of text generative AI. "The bottom line is, are we simply saying it's not important to know how to write, and express ourselves through writing? And that scares me."

Mr. Norcross views it as "a bit sad", elaborating that "in English class you want to encourage critical thinking and creativity," which is less emphasized "if you're just relying on these devices."

Salice voiced similar considerations. "There has to be a balance between using an AI-generated source of information and using your own head, because if we all just use AI, then we have our work cut out for us," he contended. "It's not learning anymore, the whole point of school is to apply your skills and your intellectual abilities, and using an AI too much is definitely not a good thing."

ChatGPT is free to use for now, but OpenAI plans to monetize it in the future. Exactly how this will work has not yet been revealed. "There are some students here who don't even have access to a computer," recalled Mr. Mugford, "so are we adding just another barrier where we have the haves and the have nots [...] there could be an imbalance there [as to] who has access to it, so I say we level the playing field and don't bring it into the classroom at all."

"The companies that are behind it all, they're not spending billions just so that it can be a free tool." Mr. Arkileitian remarked. "I think people will pay for this service, because it's so powerful."

There is also the question, as with many new technologies, of its effect on employment. "Is it going to take away jobs? What happens to journalists, what happens to people who write advertising?" Mr. Mugford commented. Mr. Arkileitian, however, was more optimistic, commenting that "robots can take away jobs of certain people, and they have, [...] but at the same time I think it also creates other types of jobs and other types of opportunities. So I don't think it's a net loss. I think if you look at the whole picture there are opportunities that are being created by this as well as opportunities that are lost."

Students also seem aware of potential changes in the job market due to AI. Reinhardt recounted hearing teachers "joke about it taking their jobs". Sam Alt-

man, the CEO of OpenAI, notes, "Writing a really great prompt for a chatbot persona is an amazingly high-leverage skill and an early example of programming in a little bit of natural language", and postulates that "prompt engineer" could be an upcoming career.

Data labeling, ethics, and auditing are also expected to be popular, as criticisms about ChatGPT's biases arise. "Responsible AI is becoming one of the biggest tracks in AI research," postulates Osman Ramadan, an AI researcher. "There are actually titles appearing like 'responsible AI researcher,' and there are companies now that are main-

ly focused on how we remove bias from these models." Students and teachers were asked if they thought there should be a school policy around generative AI usage. "I think it's harmless if you're just asking a question for homework or whatever, but I think there should be a policy in place for using it to submit real assignments," said **Vaughn Gamble** (9). Mr. Norcross stated that "it comes down to teacher autonomy," proposing that teachers "set their own policies in their own classrooms."

Brandão raised concerns about how the school could monitor AI usage, "since nowadays AI-generated text is so closely associated with human that it's difficult to differentiate between them." Mr. Arkileitian shared the same sentiment, saying that as the technology improves "I do not think you [will be able to] tell the difference between a human and an AI." Reinhardt doesn't think the school should attempt to put a policy in place. "Even if they were to try, would it really be that effective?" she wondered.

Many school districts in the US have already taken action against the technology, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, Seattle Public Schools, and New York Public Schools.

"Due to concerns about negative impacts on student learning, and concerns regarding the safety and accuracy of content, access to ChatGPT is restricted on New York City Public Schools", quoted Jenna Lyle, the deputy press secretary of the NYC Department of Education. "While the tool may be able to provide quick and easy answers to questions, it does not build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and lifelong success."

Hamber's One Act Plays

NEWS REPORT by Makena We (9)

A One Act Play festival will be taking place in Hamber's Drama studio for one night only on Mar. 7 at 7 PM. Created by **Saraya Edwards** (12) and **Sarah Rubidge** (12) in December 2022, the one act plays have been written, directed, and performed by students.

One act plays are usually short performances, lasting between 20-30 minutes in length.

Students of all grades and skill levels came to audition for the four plays: *Soiree*, *A Soulmate's Myth*, *The Legend of Sir Brian*, and *A Trip to McDonalds*. Rehearsals started in early February and are running all the way until opening night just before Spring break.

Rubidge started the one act plays because they wanted to create a theatre extracurricular activity for this year, due to the absence of **Mr. P. Beharry** (Drama), the usual organizer of theatre productions at Hamber. They wanted to "involve people around the school and create a community around theatre [in Hamber]" and just generally have some fun.

The development of the plays requires a lot of organization, whether that be sound and lighting, communication, or finding rehearsal spaces. **Sam Amado** (12) noted that "sometimes teachers aren't available for us to use their rooms after school and during lunch. So, we've had to run around and check with other teachers and just find places where we

can do our rehearsals". They have had rehearsals in the drama studio, classrooms, and even the cafeteria.

The one act plays were not part of Hamber's theatre and drama department. They were designed to involve and interest students who don't typically participate in theatre. Aspiring student-actors were encouraged to join the one act plays, as less pressured and smaller student-led performances are a great place to experiment with their talents.

Coco McCullagh (10), an actor in "A Soulmate's Myth", was a little nervous during auditions. "I was really worried that I wouldn't get a role, and that I'd be competing with other really good people". Despite never having performed, they landed a spot.

Rubidge initially worried about the lack of interest in the plays, but since then, over 50 people have become actively involved in the production. "On such a large scale, [this] needs a lot of people to dedicate and help it succeed," they said. "I cannot be the only one driving it... It's been nice to see everyone so enthusiastic about it."

For everyone involved, time is of the essence; actors and directors alike are feeling quite stressed, but also excited. McCullagh said they were nervous as there wasn't a lot of time, but it was "honestly really fun" and Amado rates it an "overall good experience, and despite the setbacks, it's been a really good adventure."



STEPHEN KOSAR

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

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Hamber's Basketball Teams Place Second and Third during Midtown



VERONICA MIRANDA

NEWS REPORT by *Reya Khanna (11)*

Hamber's 12th annual basketball tournament, Midtown Showdown, occurred over three days from Jan. 19-21.

Eric Hamber's Senior Girls and Boys basketball teams, in addition to seven boys and seven girls teams across the Lower Mainland, played in the tournament. With 16 teams participating in total, the number of teams participating doubled compared to last year.

Hamber's Senior Girls placed second in a tough final game with a score of 43 to 73, while A. R. MacNeill Secondary from Richmond won first place for the girls in the tournament. Hamber's boys' team placed third, beating Carson Graham Secondary from North Vancouver with a score of 74 to 63. The boys' championship team was West Vancouver Secondary, who beat Seycove Secondary from North Vancouver in the final, 94 to 80.

Hamber players had a wonderful experience playing in the tournament and bonding with their teammates and other players. "It was one of the best experiences in high school that I have ever had," shared **Mary DeLeon (11)**. "Being there and having all the fans cheering you on is really a feeling I can't compare to anything," noted **Alejandro Diaz-Henderson (11)**.

The boys played West Van—a team ranked 8th in the province, in the semi-finals of Midtown. They lost 99 to 49, which resulted in Hamber not advancing to the finals. "[West Van] was a very strong team and played really well together, and they were more organized than we were and more skilled all around. Having to face up against them and compete with them was probably the biggest challenge of Midtown," explained **Diaz-Henderson**. He continued, "We may not have been the best team, but we really got along and I had so much fun this year."

The players felt pressure in representing Hamber. **Janelle Sobredo (12)** stated, "I was playing, not just for myself, but for my whole school and my whole team and my coaches." However, the players still had a great time in their representation of Hamber. "Having the school watching you was very overwhelming at first, but as the days went by and the games progressed, it was definitely more fun than anything else," added **DeLeon**.

Ms. J. Polukoshko (Athletics), coach of the girls' team, remarked, "My team is so fabulous and wonderful and kind to each other [...] They are outstanding." When asked if there were any difficulties in coaching the team, she continued, "The word 'difficulty' doesn't



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come into my mind with my team."

Many Hamber players recalled watching the Midtown Showdown in their grade 8 year, so they found it surreal to be playing on the court. **DeLeon** stated, "I remember that in grade 8, I was watching it [the tournament], and I saw the girls playing, and was like 'Wow, that's what I want to do. That is where I want to be in a few years.'"

Sobredo agreed, saying, "I was that grade 8 watching them, and now I get to be one of them. That is a huge honour, and that is the reason I never stopped playing basketball."

Midtown Showdown has been influential to younger grades. **Charlie Cassels (12)** said, "It felt great to play in the tournament, knowing that I'm inspiring younger grades to play basketball the same way Carter Oxley and Tristan Bannister did for me."

The atmosphere of the tournament was incredibly enjoyable for the players, and the game was fun for those in the crowd watching. **Cindy Si (11)** remarked, "It was exhilarating and so exciting."

For the players, the fans were a crucial part of their fantastic experience of being on the court. "The best part of Midtown Showdown was the atmosphere. Being able to have the school come out to support you even when you're losing is a great feeling," commented **Cassels**.

Similarly, **Micah Andaya (12)** said, "I think the most rewarding part is having people there watch us play and cheer us on. It was just nice having that audience watching us play and having everyone see all the work we put into our practices and games."

Mr. I. Sehmbi (Athletics) noted, "This [year] resembles more of what our traditional Midtown Showdown would look like—crowds were back, no masks for the most part, full attendance—so that was great. We had a great cheer team involved and it seems like every year we are adding something so it was a bit of a splash of old and a little

bit of new. Each one is so different, comparing this to our first one, our first one wasn't even half of what this one was."

While on the team, the players have created fond memories with each other as they created strong bonds. **Andaya** reminisced about their tournament in Victoria, and said, "Ms. P. [Ms. Polukoshko] really emphasized taking this time together to bond, so we were tasked with creating nicknames and handshakes with each other. I remember at night we all sat around and ate dinner in one of the rooms. Ms. P. was doing room checks for curfew and everyone hid in the bathroom and under the beds because we didn't want to get caught. It was a funny moment and Ms. P. let it slide because at least we were spending time together. We really grew closer together and became more of a family at the end of it."

The relationship between the grade 11s and grade 12s on the girls' team was incredibly strong, which resulted in the team being very emotional after their final game. **DeLeon** recalled, "On Saturday, the final day of the tournament, we were going against MacNeill, which is such a good team, and we were fighting for first place. Towards the end of that game, in the fourth quarter, all the seniors went out, and I told all the grade 11s on the bench to cheer 'Let's go seniors' [...] and I started getting choked up."

DeLeon continued, saying, "I didn't know how to feel because we aren't going to see them again, we aren't going to play with them again next year, and it was just a sad moment and I got really emotional. In the locker room, after we debriefed and cheered, I just started to bawl my eyes out because it was one of the best experiences I'd ever had in high school."

Cassels remarked, "Throughout the years, I've become closer with guys I wouldn't expect to become friends with. This team has made my high school basketball experience an amazing one." The bond and relationship that the boys' team has formed is very strong and has



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greatly contributed to their ability to play together. "Throughout the whole season, we became more confident in playing and trusting each other," mentioned **Diaz-Henderson**.

During the halftime show on the second day, **Owen Nicholson (12)** proposed to **Lucy Soper (12)**. **Sehmbi** recalled, "There was a moment on the second day when the promposal happened. The band was playing and the cheer team was going, and I just felt like it was one of those great high school moments. There was one moment when I thought, 'Wow, this is really cool that we were able to pull this off.'"

The planning of the "promposal" was spontaneous and only occurred two days before the promposal. **Nicholson** said, "I was super nervous when I walked out, but when I saw her, all of my nerves just melted away and it turned all into just joy and happiness."

The work behind the scenes that gets put into Midtown is an integral part of having a tournament. **Andaya** found the hardest part of Midtown to be organizing everything.

"As a Leadership 12 student and a Scorekeeping [Club] executive, I was so heavily involved with the behind-the-scenes work and planning process for Midtown Showdown. I was in the gym from dawn till dusk scorekeeping, creating posts for Instagram, and playing games. I think balancing the work I put into the tournament and having fun with it was a major struggle for me."

DeLeon said, "There's so much effort behind the scenes that really made the tournament happen and it was really special to see." **Ms. Polukoshko's** most rewarding moment was "seeing the school so excited and seeing people cheering and supporting." She added, "Seeing my players get excited and nervous for the event, as well as all of the hard work the tournament committee put into putting it together come to fruition is very satisfying. There are a lot of pieces at play, but when it all comes together, it's so outstanding."

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

The Griff Re-Opens (Briefly)

NEWS REPORT by Sara Maya Budhiraja (10)

The Griff, Eric Hamber's quintessential school store, made its long awaited return after months of extensive planning. Shut down in 2020, The Griff had been shuttered for nearly three years. Student executives had been faced with a barrage of restrictions on food as well as new health and safety guidelines that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, however, some of these restrictions eased, and the Griff came back to Hamber with a two-week pop-up shop at the kiosk that ran three days a week, from Jan. 16 to 27.

The pop-up shop sold seven products, including stationery, Griffin branded card holders, and snacks. An online survey released by the Griff for Hamber students that allowed students to advocate for the products they most wanted to see sold at the Griff this year. The Griff sold products from a kiosk outside the school office and with a trolley in their mobile "Griff on the Go" format.

"Our biggest difficulties this year were finding products that fit the BC food guidelines, and then acquiring them to be sold. [...] There were a lot of people we had to go through to get

approval, and that was a very long process," revealed the Griff's Operations Manager, **Priya Mann** (12). "I learned a lot in my role this year, as there were a lot of different things we had to face in terms of constraints and restrictions."

The Griff will not return this year, but Marketing Head **Gemma Holland** (12) explained that the goal of the pop-up shop in January was to pave the way for the full return of the Griff in coming school years. "Our plan became to do a two-week pop-up because we thought that would be the most feasible. We want this to be a way to find some new roots for the Griff, so people can work towards opening it for the entire year."

Even though the Griff hasn't made a full comeback yet, both Holland and Mann are satisfied with how things turned out in 2023. "It was cool to have the feeling you were creating something," said Holland. "The Griff was such a staple for the Hamber community when I first came to Hamber in Grade 8, and it was unfortunately stopped due to COVID. It's been great trying to replicate that in the best way we could."

Mann shared a similar sentiment, and was also content with how the year played out for the Griff. "It was a pretty positive experience, and I learned a lot from it," she said



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Cheer Club Debuts at Midtown Showdown

NEWS REPORT by River Cheng (8)

Hamber's cheer team put on their first ever performance at the 12th annual Midtown Showdown. Armed with chic uniforms and enthusiasm, they performed cheers paired with cartwheels and lifts through all of Midtown's halftime games.

Before their performance, they faced some challenges starting their team. "We had some trouble getting it going," said co-captain **Lucy Price** (12). The cheer team's original club sponsor went on maternity leave, and they had difficulty finding a new sponsor. "Everything started a month later than we wanted it to start."

The cheer team's other co-captain, **Lucy Soper** (12), said they faced difficulty finding dedicated people. "We had some people showing up then not showing up [...] definitely commitment is a big issue."

Despite these challenges, the team made it up with extra practices and hard work. The cheer team was originally going to have one or two practices a week, but ended up practicing much more than they expected. **Justine Antifaev** (10) commented, "With Midtown, we were practicing pretty much every single day for the last two weeks." The team learned five different cheers and rehearsed them every practice.

When asked about why she wanted to captain Hamber's cheer team,

Price answered, "I feel like cheer had a negative persona". She talked about how she and Soper wanted to make it a positive experience for everyone. She also commented on how less cheering and excitement had been going on at the latest Hamber events compared to prior years, and how she and Soper wanted to turn it into more of an experience for everyone to get together and cheer. "Looking back at the photos and seeing everyone be so happy [...] seeing the smiles on everyone's faces, it was nice to see everyone having fun," said Soper.

"I love how enthusiastic we are. It puts people in the school spirit and excites them to come to games," said **Dala'A Kanan** (10). She hopes that the cheer team will be permanent and that they'll be able to learn flips and other tricks.

"Everyone was so happy and upbeat," commented **Payten Durham** (10). "When we first started screaming, we thought we were going to be quiet, and we were pretty loud."

Despite these obstacles, the dance received praise from many students who were in attendance, and exceeded many students' low expectations.

"I found the energy was really up there, especially during specific songs. And as a slightly introverted guy, I find that when the energy is high, my energy also goes up. And so that makes it a lot easier to dance and what not," **Miles Young** (11) told *The Nest*.

"Honestly, I didn't set my expectations very high," he admitted. "There were a lot more people than I thought there would be. The food and drinks are alright. The main attraction really is the dancing and the music."

The dance brought out many different people from across the student body. **Teresa Deruchie** (10), a dance attendee, was pleasantly surprised by the event. "I'm not really a dance person, I don't like to dance. I honestly don't know why I came," she explained on the night of the dance. "So I was

expecting to be bored the entire night, but I'm not. This has been really fun."

The dance did, however, receive some criticism and constructive feedback. "The effort is there. I feel like some of the people here are definitely not going that hard, which is kind of sad," said **Mila Geisel** (10). "For next time, I'd want the energy to be a little bit higher, maybe for the advertising for the dance. There could be people who go into the crowd to specifically hype it up," she added.

Overall, the student body's review of the dance was overwhelmingly positive and the turnout surpassed the expectations some StuCo members had. "I'm very proud of the student council; we really pulled it together. It actually went really well and the student body had great energy," Chang concluded.

Hamber's Valentine's Day grams also returned this year. The grams were ordered by students beforehand, and then prepared and

assembled by members of Grad Committee. The grams were distributed to the receiving students during their classes on Valentine's day.

The committee offered three different variations of grams this year, each involving chocolate and a card, with the option to add on a fresh rose or chocolate rose and teddy bear. The grams cost between three to seven dollars.

All of the money raised by Grad Committee is put towards funding the prom, including the rent for booking the venue, the photo booth, and other services. This is the last of a series of events organized by the grad committee to support this initiative. "We've already done all of our other fundraisers. So that would include the grad hoodies, and grad karaoke," **Emily Webb** (12), the Grad Chair, explained.

"We received over 200 orders from students, so I was really happy with how many people bought the Valentine's day grams," Webb told *The Nest*.



SHAAN SANDHU



TERESA CHEN

LOVE IS IN THE AIR: HAMBER'S VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

NEWS REPORT by Teagan Nichol (10)

To celebrate the romantic holiday, Valentine-themed events and fundraisers have been hosted at Hamber over the past few weeks.

Most notable is Cupid's Court. The Valentine's day dance, organized by student council (StuCo) was held in the cafeteria on Feb. 9. The dance featured many amenities, from a concession, to a DJ, to a Valentine's-day-themed polaroid photo booth.

According to **Wilson Liang** (12), one of the council's co-presidents, the dance has been a focus and priority for StuCo throughout the year. StuCo members, with the assistance of the club's teacher sponsors, were in charge of organizing the dance. They worked with administration to find security guards, teacher volunteers, and a DJ. They also collaborated with Service club to decorate the cafeteria and clean up afterwards. However, during this process, they encountered a few obstacles.

"The DJ was a really big hurdle." **Ayana Chang** (12), StuCo's social event coordinator, revealed. "We had one DJ, but that fell through. So the DJ that we had was super last minute." The DJ was Mark Guilaran, a Hamber alumni and a director of Skyline Productions Inc., an event production service.

The council had also hoped for the school's newly reopened store, the Griff, to be present at the dance to provide the refreshments. "We wanted to have the Griff there to sell

food, and they said no. They said no very close to the dance, I'm pretty sure they didn't say no until the week of. So that was an issue." Chang said.

The Chief Operating Officer of the Griff, **Priya Mann** (12), stated in response that the meeting in which StuCo explained to Griff members what they wanted to do was set two days before the dance. "This was not enough notice for us to prepare, which was the big reason why we said no."

Mann added that StuCo members asked individual Griff members in the prior week, but they would reply that they "were most likely to say no" because they "didn't have the necessary support".

StuCo was able to secure the needed refreshments before the dance happened. "We'll be offering the chips and drinks in vending machines as light refreshments," Liang said. "Just because those have already been pre-approved, so we don't have to go through the whole approval process on food and drinks."

The executive members of StuCo and the teacher sponsors also had to coordinate security guards and teacher volunteers for the dance. Per policy, the dance had to have a one teacher per 30 student ratio at all points in time. In addition to teacher supervision, the administration requested that there be security guards present at this year's dance.

"[Security is for] if anything breaks out, or if anything goes down," Liang explained. "The teachers volunteer their time, but it's not really their job to manage those types of situations, so that's why we contacted the security firm."

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

FORMER PRINCIPAL AT BRITANNIA ACCUSED OF STEALING DONATIONS

NEWS REPORT by Cynthia Zhu (9)

The former principal of an elementary school in Vancouver is being sued for stealing more than \$170,000 in school funds, much of which was intended to help students' families in need.

Tricia Rooney, also known as Tricia Low, the ex-principal of Britannia Elementary School, is facing charges from the Vancouver School Board.

According to the VSB's claim, Rooney had been writing and cashing in cheques made out to herself, using the school board credit card for personal purchases and to pay personal creditors, taking funds raised through events for herself, and cancelling events to keep the refunds.

Approximately 200 students are enrolled at Britannia Elementary School. About half the student body is Indigenous and many students' families have trouble paying for food and clothing.

Rooney would take gift cards donated with the intent of helping families in need for her personal use.

In September 2019, a "routine budgetary report" showed a significant deficit, according to the claim. Rooney said that this was due to a delay in receiving a provincial grant, but provided no documentation to support this.

Eventually, in January 2020, the VSB launched a formal investigation, which uncovered more of Rooney's wrongdoings. This investigation revealed Rooney's unlawful actions dating back to at least December 2017, a little after she had become principal of the school.

The claim continues to mention Rooney's lack of financial reports and lies about the revenue earned from fundraising activities and donations to the school, "with the objective of concealing the wrongful acts".

The VSB seeks the \$170,451.37 it alleges Rooney took, as well as special damages, punitive and exemplary damages, and court costs.

Staff and Students Share Concerns Regarding Semester System



TERESA CHEN

NEWS REPORT by Reya Khanna (11)

Many teachers and students are not in favour of the continuation of the semester system, instead favouring the linear system. The semester system is set to continue in all VSB secondary schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

Some Hamber students have had trouble with the semester system. "[The semester system] is confusing, and it is not a good way of handling classes," said Gus Pollard (8). He elaborated on his greatest difficulty being "boredom, because classes are every day for a bunch of months."

Many teachers have expressed concerns about the semester system, of which include the impact on the pacing and timing, the continuity of subjects, and the ability to form connections.

Mr. D. Lee (Science) explained the difference in the pacing of the semester system. He explained that it can

be hard for students to catch up on any missed classwork, because course content is condensed into a smaller period of time.

"I feel like overall, [it] is trending more positively towards [the] linear system, because it's just easier for students to catch back up if they've fallen behind. I think for those students it's much more beneficial," Mr. Lee added.

In the physical education classes, the timing of the semester system can cause a lack of equal opportunity based on the weather differences. Attempting to balance classes has been difficult.

"It's different than when you're teaching in a classroom; the content tends to be the same," Mr. I. Sehmbi (Physical Education) told *The Nest*. "For us, in terms of opportunities, [they are] a little bit more weather dependent."

Ms. B. Panesar (English) noted the importance of building connections with students, and how the semester system can make that challenging.

"The year allows teachers to build

strong relationships with students. I really like to get to know my students, and that takes time."

However, Mr. Sehmbi saw semesters as beneficial to forming relationships, because of the frequency of classes. "[When] you can see the same kids repetitively, you [can] see change over time," he said. "I feel like over five months, you get to see kids being active all the time, [and] you get to make really strong relationships with kids."

Although they have concerns, many teachers expressed that they can see both sides of the debate. "I see pros and cons in both. I think it's great [that] the kids have the ability to focus on three courses, and I think that's great for their personal learning. A lot of kids really enjoy that." Mr. Sehmbi commented. Mr. Lee had similar thoughts.

Some expressed a more critical viewpoint. Ms. Panesar added, "Please, can someone tell the Vancouver School Board that they have made a mistake and they need to change the system to the linear."



BEN NELMS/CBC

BRITANNIA ELEMENTARY

Best Restaurants in the Hamber Neighbourhood

NEWS REPORT by Helena Flach (8) and Maggie Perreault (8)

Hungry? Within Hamber's community, there is an endless amount of places to eat! In our diverse and growing neighbourhood, you can enjoy cuisine from around the world. Here is our list of the must visit restaurants near Hamber.

Las Tortas

This family owned restaurant is located at 17th Ave. and Cambie St. If you're in the mood for authentic Mexican food, this is the place to be. They are best known for their delicious torta sandwiches, but they also serve tacos, burritos, quesadillas, many different soft drinks—including the beloved Jarritos—and much more. We recommend the pork tacos.

Joon's Kitchen

This step into upscale Korean and Japanese cuisine is one not to skip. It is located in Fairview, at 15th Ave. and Oak St. This restaurant has a contemporary atmosphere, with a unique take on Korean and Japanese cuisine.

Maruhachi Gaiden

This intimate and casual ramen shack is located at 13th Ave. and Main St. They have a small menu focused on ramen and other delicious Japanese appetizers. You will always be warmly

greeted by the kind staff, and the delectable food. The pork in the soups is extremely tender, the soy sauce soaked egg bursts with flavour, and the broth grips onto the noodles, making every bite flavourful.

Tap & Barrel

Located a bit further from Hamber in the heart of Olympic Village, this pub/restaurant serves filling dishes in a rustic atmosphere. Their food items include classic bar food such as burgers, fries, poutine, and chicken wings. There are also many unique dishes to try. While enjoying your food, you will also be able to enjoy the views of downtown Vancouver and the mountains. Although there is often a long line to get in, many say that it is worth it.

Dutch Wooden Shoe Cafe

Located at 17th Ave. and Cambie St, the Wooden Shoe is a popular, well-loved Dutch breakfast and brunch cafe. It has a family-friendly atmosphere with a retro interior and decorations. They offer a mix of both savoury and sweet breakfasts, so no matter what you want, they will always have something to match your cravings. If you are wanting a filling breakfast, this is the place to go. The service is always amazing, and the staff are kind to everyone. We would recommend the Pannenkoek with strawberry topping, as well as their classic breakfast options.



ORIANA SHAMOUN VIA GOOGLE IMAGES



YAKESHI ISHIMOTO VIA GOOGLE IMAGES

COMPASSION CLUB & PROJECT POVERTY: BAGS OF HOPE

NEWS REPORT by Allison Lee (11)

Eric Hamber's Compassion Club and Project Poverty recently collaborated on Bags of Hope, an initiative to fill reusable drawstring bags with essentials to donate to the Downtown Eastside Women's Center, a safe space for women and children that provides nutrition, support and necessities.

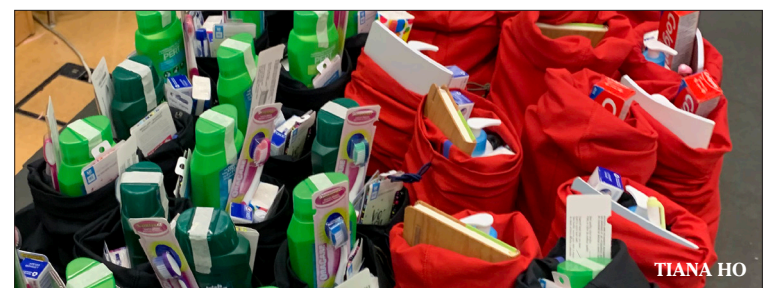
"Our main focus was on giving back [during] the holiday season, and [to] provide essentials during a harsh winter time," said Tiana Ho (12), the co-president of Compassion Club and the vice president of Project Poverty. "It replaced our shoebox project," Ho noted. Compassion Club's shoebox project repurposed members' shoeboxes and filled them with goods to donate, essentially turning the shoeboxes into care packages.

However, Compassion Club had found the shoeboxes inconvenient for donees. "They'd probably end up getting worn down and thrown out anyway," Ho explained. Luckily, Ms. N. Ho (Textiles), Compassion Club's teacher sponsor, had received a shipment of pant legs from Arcteryx and suggested that the club partner with Seams of Love, Hamber's sewing club, to create reusable drawstring bags.

The process to create and fill these bags involved many students from different clubs and volunteers. Seams of Love sewed the bags while Compassion Club and Project Poverty worked to pull drawstrings through them. They also met with volunteers to evenly distribute donated items into these bags. "We had socks, notebooks, pens, kleenex, highlighters, scarves, toothpaste, lotion, shampoos, and conditioners," listed Nicholas Mann (11),



COMPASSION CLUB



TIANA HO

Project Poverty's president.

The executive team worked hard to collect donations from the students at Hamber. "We [collected] donations over the lunch breaks over the span of one week, and we had volunteers going around the halls spreading awareness for the cause and asking for donations," Ho explained. "We also had a station in the atrium where people could come and drop off donations as well."

"Our main focus this year is collaborating with a bunch of different clubs

from Hamber," said Arianna Tham (11), the treasurer of Project Poverty and social media manager of Compassion Club. She explained that Compassion Club and Project Poverty shared many executives. "It was better that we had more hands because we ended up making more to donate," Mann added.

Overall, Bags of Hope was highly successful. "It beat what we had anticipated, it almost doubled what we did last year, and it's something that we can continue [for] future years," expressed Mann.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

THE REBIRTH OF FILM PHOTOGRAPHY

NEWS REPORT by *Katja Radovic-Jonsson* (11)

For a long time in the history of photography, film cameras were the default device for taking photographs. After the popularization of the digital camera, the usage of film began to decline. Now, with the invention of the smartphone, most people have access to a high-resolution camera in their pocket, rendering film cameras essentially obsolete.

Despite this, film photography has maintained a niche community who still use the technology, and in recent years, the medium has experienced a resurgence in popularity, especially among the Gen Z population.

For many of those who have developed an interest in analog photography, part of the appeal comes from the element of surprise involved with it.

"It feels more intimate and it just adds dimension and fun to taking photos," **Eloise Ramslie** (10) explained. "Because you can't see your photos [right away], you get excited to get them developed and remember what you took."

Ramslie, who has been using disposable cameras since 2019, began her journey of analog photography at summer camp. "You're not allowed phones at summer camp, so one of the most special things about camp is getting your film developed afterwards," she said.

This element of surprise applies especially to those who develop their own photos in a darkroom. "The magic of watching your photo reveal itself in the

darkroom is a real labour of love," **Ms. K. Best** (Fine Arts) described. "What you put into it is what you get out of it."

Ms. T. Florian (Fine Arts) agreed. "The process and how hands-on it is and how relaxing it is. It's kind of meditative, and in this culture of pressure and stress it's just a really nice release."

For some students, such as **Adian Ma** (12), the unique experience of film was the entire reason they started doing photography. Ma has been collecting analog cameras for over a year now, and has learned to appreciate the complexities that come with them.

"A lot of analog cameras have these weird quirks," he said. "For example, the Hasselblad 500C/M is supposed to be operated from the left hand, and with

#filmphotography on Instagram alone has over 38 million posts

my Leica, due to its viewfinder magnification, I can keep both eyes open [while shooting]."

With more and more young people catching onto the analog trend, film photography has also seen an increase in popularity on social media. The hashtag #filmphotography on Instagram alone has over 38 million posts. But why now?

"I think it might just be the aesthetic of it. Lots of things come back [in style], like flared leggings and what-not," explained **Lucy Samudio** (9).



TEAGAN NICHOL



ADELAIDE GUAN



ADELAIDE GUAN

"One person starts doing it, it's trendy, it's cute, and then everyone else starts doing it."

Ms. Best shared a similar sentiment. "There's a bit of a swing right now, where we're seeing a lot of '90s fashion, and I think a part of that swing is going back to more of an analog process in art," she said. "I think it's tied into why people are listening to records, when you could just turn on Spotify. It's

that interest and desire for the original."

With large retailers noticing and taking advantage of the trend, even more people have become interested in the art of film photography, said Ms. Florian. "We've got these big-name brands promoting film again, so naturally, culture is going to pick it up."

Regardless of this analog renaissance, many students will continue to stick to their digital cameras. **Bianca**

Takenaka (11), who loves the film aesthetic but is concerned about the cost-effectiveness of pursuing the craft, instead uses photo-editing software to recreate the analog look on her digital photos.

On the other hand, **Samudio** prefers digital photography because it's what she's used to. "Film has a different outcome [than digital], and digital is just what I grew up with."

Second Hand Clothing Stores in Vancouver

NEWS REPORT by *Bryony Prior* (9)

For many people, fashion is an important part of their identity. It's a way for them to express themselves - their personality, their interests, their taste. However, many clothing items, especially the ones deemed affordable for teenagers like H&M, Shein, and Zara, are produced so cheaply, quickly, and in such mass quantities, that they have become infamously known and referred to as "fast fashion."

The constant release of new fashion at cheap prices, and the quick turnover of 'microtrends' are prevalent issues surrounding the fashion world. The leader of the sustainable fashion course at Falmouth University, Tom Crisp, told *VICE News*, "The trends prey on our insecurities about the way we look and feel," he said, "encouraging us to consume more in order to stay on trend."

Many people are unaware that the environmental impact of fast fashion on our planet is comparable with that of the oil and airlines industries, with the UN estimating the fashion industry is responsible for 2 to 8 per cent of global CO2 emissions.

Fast fashion isn't only bad for the planet. Many of the materials and dyes used to create this clothing are harmful to humans, too, and can be linked to multiple types of cancer and respiratory illnesses. According to *Earthday.org*,

can be subjected to physical abuse, extremely low pay, and long working hours.

If you love fashion, but don't want to support the fast-fashion industry, an easy way to reduce your environmental impact is by shopping second-hand. Not only is buying second-hand or pre-loved clothing better for the environment; it's also a huge money saver.

I've highlighted four second-hand clothing stores within five kilometres of Hamber. Whether you're an experienced or rookie thrifter, there's bound to be something new to learn. Who knows? Maybe you'll find your new favourite store.

Value Village - 2354 Granville St.

Whether your style is comfy, grunge, minimalist, or anything, really, Value Village is sure to have a piece for you. While on a visit to this store, I spoke to one of the managers at Value Village, Alpha.

"Value Village is partnered with a non-profit organisation, such as Big Brothers. That non-profit organisation collects all the [clothing] donations, and in turn, what they do is they sell (them) to us," Alpha explained. "This way, the non-profit organisation has consistent funding, and we have a consistent supply of clothing. Value Village is a for-profit company partnered with a non-profit organisation."

Even the clothes that don't sell are saved from the landfill. Instead, they



PAULA HLAVACEK VIA GOOGLE IMAGES

amazing deal when compared to retail prices.

Front & Company - 3772 Main St.

Front & Company is a well-known and loved thrift/consignment store located on Main Street that has been up and running since 1993. They offer a wide variety of clothes, ranging from luxury to everyday casual, as well as their own line of accessories.

Unlike places like Value Village, who will take almost any clothing donations, Front & Company, as well as Turnabout and The Main Exchange, are more selective in what they take to sell. These stores make sure that the clothes they are getting are going to sell. In turn, the donor gets to keep some of the profit earned from their clothes, so by consigning clothing you don't want to wear anymore, you can actually make a profit yourself!

Turnabout - 2929 Main St.

Turnabout offers clothes on the more extravagant end of the fashion spectrum, providing great deals on second-hand pieces from luxury brands like Gucci and Chanel. Though this may mean their prices are a little more expensive than some other stores, what they offer is more than worth your money. They also sell many clothes from more affordable brands, such as Aritzia, and are sure to have something to fit your look.

Turnabout has been around for 43 years, and was founded by Vancouverite Joy Mauro in 1978. Since then, Turnabout has expanded, and now has five locations all across Vancouver.

The Main Exchange - 3728 Main St.

While this store may be smaller than some of the other ones men-

tioned in this article, that doesn't make it any less special. The Main Exchange specialises in "current women's styles from contemporary and popular brands", according to their website.

The Main Exchange has a selection of mostly women's clothing, varying in brand and style, and has a nice, bright atmosphere. It's also a few doors down from The Front and Company, which makes for easy comparison shopping.

Thrift store shopping is not only good for our planet, but good for your wallet as well. We can all do our part in helping to reduce our environmental impact, and for some, it may be as simple as shopping pre-loved. While what you're looking for may not always be guaranteed, it makes it extra special when you do find that fashion treasure!

while what you're looking for may not always be guaranteed, it makes it extra special when you do find that fashion treasure

everything from the flame retardants used in clothing to the PFASs used to waterproof can cause skin irritation and are probable carcinogens. Additionally, the working conditions of the factories where these clothes are produced are usually extremely poor. Workers

are donated in bulk to developing countries, where they are then sold or distributed to people in need.

Value Village also has some of the lowest prices in terms of second-hand shopping. Most of their basic clothing items were marked for under \$15.00, an

Best Skateparks Around Vancouver

REVIEW by Evan Couch (12)

As the weather improves, we are bound to see more skateboarders, both beginner and experienced, around the city. Where are they going? With so many skateparks around, where should they go? There are a variety of skateparks in the Greater Vancouver Area - here are both my opinions and those of other teenage skateboarders of Vancouver skateparks.

Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant Skateboard Park is my local skatepark and where I first started to skateboard. Although the park is small, the vibe is great especially when other skaters are there. Mount Pleasant is a good place to skate as a beginner.

"The features at Mount Pleasant are sticky. The quarter pipe is too big for the park," said **Owen Tam** (11). According to **Karim Elrfaey** (11), the skatepark is kind of small. "Once, I was going fast up a ramp and flipped over it because there was no flatground at the top."

Elrfaey also pointed out that the park is easy for beginners, because the features are not big. Tam agreed; he learned to skateboard at Mount Pleasant as it is close to his house.

"It's got some basic ledges, rails, and ramps," Tam said. "It's not super busy. It can get busy, but it's a chill park."

Tam and Elrfaey both said that the skatepark is an ideal place to meet people. They pointed out that the bench inside the skatepark is where skaters can relax together.

Finally, Elrfaey expressed his disdain for all of the children who ride the skatepark on scooters. "Especially at Mount Pleasant, the scooter kids are so annoying," he pointed out.

Their opinions are different from mine as I love Mount Pleasant. The atmosphere, obstacles and people are great. The skatepark is worth a visit for you to decide this for yourself.

Quilchena

Quilchena Skateboard Park, known as Quils in the skateboarding community, is the main skatepark on the west side of Vancouver. There are different sized features all over the park that people of all abilities skate. The skatepark can be very hot as it is in the direct sun. Quilchena is a good option for all kinds of skaters.

I interviewed **Leighton Wesenberg** (10) from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School to get another perspective of the skatepark. "The ledges are a good height. They are not massive and they grind well," he said. "There are some good ramps but one of them is weird, it's steep and not a lot



CITY OF VANCOUVER



RICHARD ZUSSMAN/CBC



CBC

of people use it".

He has been to Quilchena many times, and the smaller ledges have helped him progress to larger ones. "Overall, I would say that Quilchena is one of the least sketchy skateparks", shared Wesenberg. "Sometimes at Quilchena there's some odd dudes, but other than that it's pretty good to socialize at. There's little kids, a playground nearby, it's just a really chill place." He also told me that the ground at Quilchena is not as smooth as other skateparks. "It hurts if you fall", he said.

Quilchena is not my favourite skatepark because I do not like the atmosphere, but it is fun to ride with friends.

Plaza

The Plaza Skateboard Park (commonly known as Plaza) is placed right below the Dunsmuir Viaduct on Union and Quebec Streets. Plaza is one of the largest skateparks in the city and one of the few skateparks in Vancouver focused on the street style of skateboarding, which includes ledges, rails, drops and stair sets. The ground on the park is noticeably smooth and slick. This can be both good and bad. It is harder for your wheels to grip the ground when landing tricks, but can be helpful as you will slide on the ground when you fall, rather than slamming into it.

Plaza is a sketchy skatepark initially, but it becomes more comfortable the more you skate it. I sometimes

need to avoid beer cans, urine, or syringes. As a beginner, Plaza is intimidating and harder to skate. Once you advance as a skater, it is a very good skatepark.

"The features at Plaza are very good", declared **Jamie Kim** (11). "It's very street skating oriented. There are a lot more ledges than ramps, which I prefer." Jamie says there is a large community of higher skilled skaters at Plaza. Many professional skateboarders skate there. "You skate with better people, you become better yourself", Kim shared. "Plaza is very good as a social place. There is a big community."

Cohen Milisavljevic (11) agrees that there is a large community of proficient skaters at Plaza, most of whom are nice. "Some people are really good and some people are not so good, but still there is that community," said Milisavljevic. "It's in a good area because it's right next to downtown and the train stations. It's a Vancouver icon."

Plaza is definitely worth a visit, even just to watch some very good skaters ride the skatepark.

UBC

The UBC Skate Park is a park for all ages and abilities on campus at the University of British Columbia. It is best for beginners to go earlier in the day, when the park is emptier. The skatepark is quite big and has good ramps, rails, ledges and a nice stair set. This skatepark is a great place to skate at on sunny and cold days, since there

are lots of warm restaurants and cafes to go to. I have met many skateboarders of all ages at the UBC Skate Park. It is a great place to socialize if you are outgoing.

"I think the features at the skatepark are great, but it's missing some more ramps. It has lots of rails and ledges but there is only a small bowl and that's about it. I've skated there a lot and I think I've improved a lot there because they have beginner friendly features. It's good for all levels," shared **Dinu Spataru** (9). He added that he believes that the park should have more beginner friendly ramps for skateboarders to practice tricks on. Ramps like these have helped his own skate progression in the last couple of years.

Courts

The Courts Skateboard Park is a do it yourself (DIY) skateboard park located in the tennis courts of Britannia Secondary School. The ground is rough, but the ramps are smooth. The Courts attract a wide variety of skaters, and people from across the Lower Mainland come to skate it. I have always had a blast skating at The Courts. It has an addictive rough feeling. **Otto Alcock** (9) thinks "the features at The Courts are okay. They're pretty small mostly. They're kind of slippery, but I like how they skate." When asked about the social scene at The Courts, he stated that "there's a big community at The Courts, and there's a lot of people there to skate with. There is a good and nice

vibe there. There's a lot of conversation going on and music playing, compared to other parks that are just silent a lot of the time."

Kensington

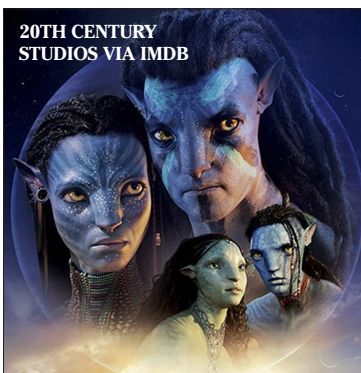
Kensington Skatepark is one of the most popular skateparks in East Vancouver. A main attraction of the skatepark is the gigantic bowl in the middle. The deep end of the bowl sits at nine and a half feet deep. There are some beginner features in the park, but most of it is taken up by the bowl.

Milisavljevic shared that most of the skatepark is transition focused, meaning it has more ramps than rails or ledges. He also pointed out that there is an obvious way to skate the park, which is around the bowl. There are small ramps that Milisavljevic learned his tricks on and large ones that he currently practices on.

When asked about how the park impacted Milisavljevic's skateboarding progression he stated that "because the park is so transition focused [he] tend[s] to do a lot of transition tricks." He also shared that "the social aspect of Kensington is really good. [He has] been skating there for five years and it's good if you're younger or older. There is always a community there for older people. You always feel like you have someone at the park. I think that you should come to Kenny [Kensington] to see the bowl and try to skate it. There is graffiti but it is insanely fun."



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS VIA IMDB



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS VIA IMDB

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER

REVIEW by Jamie Sinclair (12)

Avatar: The Way of Water hit the theaters on Dec. 16, 2022. The long awaited sequel to the highest grossing movie of all time, featured gorgeous animation and spectacular voice actors.

Sally Choi (12) saw the movie in 3D, and shared, "It gave a more lively experience to the audience, and it actually felt like [she] was in the movie because of the 3D effects."

If you haven't seen the movie yet, but still plan on it, I suggest settling in for the long haul. *Avatar: The Way of Water* is over three hours long! The movie makes use of a lot of its time to showcase the new scenery and impressive design, but the real plot takes place in bursts of action and dialogue. The entire movie is stunning visually, but there are certainly some parts where you can run to the bathroom and not miss much.

Of all the new characters in Avatar

2, the fan favorite is Kiri, the daughter of Grace Augustine's Avatar, who was adopted into the Sully family. Fun fact: the actress who played Grace in the first movie, is the same actress playing her teenage daughter in the sequel! Sigourney Weaver, age 73, plays both characters.

the movie is stunning visually, but the plot moves slowly

Avatar: The Way of Water easily stole the title as the highest grossing film of 2022. It grossed \$2.2 billion USD worldwide at the box office, surpassing its runner up, *Top Gun: Maverick* by approximately \$700 million USD, according to IMDb. Thirteen years after the original, James Cameron has once again pulled audiences back to the theaters.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE



EVAN COUCH

Hamber's Concert & Pep Bands Prepare for Upcoming Spring Events

NEWS REPORT by River Cheng (8)

Hamber's band will be performing a variety of concerts and shows this spring, including shows at Hamber events, concerts outside of school, and a department showcase. *The Nest* interviewed Mr. N. Francis (Music), to get information on all the upcoming events.

"Our pep band, which is sort of like the school spirit band, will be playing for events like Midtown Showdown and clubs' days," said Mr. Francis. "Our symphonic band and wind ensemble have a concert on March 9th at the Canadian Memorial United, which is an all Japanese event called A Postcard From Japan, so we're really excited about that."

The Eric Hamber Music Department Showcase occurred on Mar. 2, which featured jazz bands, strings, and choir performances. It took place in the Hamber auditorium. The last event will be the wind ensemble going on tour on

the last six days of spring break from Mar. 21 to 26, in Toronto and Montreal, for their annual Spring Tour.

To prepare for these events, band groups practise multiple times a week. The symphonic band is a semester course, so they practise every day, whereas all of the other bands run off the timetable and practise all year.

Practices can be in the mornings, or go all the way until five in the evenings. "It's a bunch of extra time. But for the people who are committed to the music and the time, it's worth it," Mr. Francis commented.

"I am excited to fully showcase my abilities," Saige Adams (11) shared. "The March 2nd concert will be my first time playing both guitar and drums in a school band performance at Hamber."

Adams will be performing in both the Eric Hamber Music Showcase, as well as A Postcard From Japan.

The expected turnout for these shows is rather large. A Postcard From Japan expects an audience of about 150 people, and the Eric Hamber Music

Showcase expects a turnout of around 200 people.

This is a huge improvement from a couple of years ago, when COVID-19 was dictating a lot of the shows and practice times.

"During the first round of shutdowns, you couldn't have a band at all," said Mr. Francis. Since the band couldn't function online, all of their shows and the trip to New Orleans that was planned that year were all cancelled.

"Having things back, like our concerts at full capacity, like our trips, all the things we could do getting together [...] that's been really, really great," he explained. "It's been really good for us and helped us recover and rebuild from all the disruption."

With all these concerts and shows, the band is going to be very busy this spring. "I highly encourage anyone to come experience a Hamber band concert. Every band has something to offer, and music is best experienced firsthand," said Adams.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS, FOUR MONTHS IN

NEWS REPORT by Cara Rudolph (9) & Chloé Mayor Moure (9)

As Hamberites enter March, recently assigned New Year resolutions are either just getting started, already in place, or have since been altered entirely. Some of Hamber's staff and students have a variety of ambitious resolutions, while others avoid the notion entirely.

Many people are focusing on their mental and physical health. Rebecca Tobin (10) stated that by recording her emotions on a Google chart daily, she planned on improving her mental health. However, this resolution was discontinued, as Tobin stopped keeping track in January.

Tony Chow (9) shared that by altering his sleep schedule and eating breakfast before school, he intends on gaining more energy throughout the day. He hopes this will improve his mental and physical performance, as well as his attitude at school and sport practices.

"I bought these lights, that in the morning they flash. I also have a loud alarm," Chow said, all of which he uses to wake up earlier.

Similarly, Mr. P. Scaglione (Social Studies) states that by modifying his sugar intake and continuing to take long walks, he plans on losing 15 pounds by the end of the year.

He emphasized that his level of exercise was not the issue. "I exercise a lot. I think I average 15-20,000 steps per day." Rather, the issue for him was his intake of sweets. "I have a sweet tooth", he revealed.

In addition, Mr. Scaglione is aiming to get his boating license.

"It's somewhat fairly easy," he explained. "My wife and I have an interest

in boating recently, and maybe in the future getting a boat ourselves, and doing some travelling with the boat on the B.C. coast or the Mediterranean."

Some resolutions are art and creativity based. Sam Amado's (12) "current biggest resolution is to complete the first issue of [her] upcoming comic series, 'Demi Diabie.'" She plans on accomplishing this by utilizing one of the many courses Eric Hamber offers. Currently taking Visual Arts 12, she is given the opportunity to complete self-directed studies. By applying resources Hamber provides as well as frequently illustrating during her own time, Amado hopes to complete her comic series by May.

Other Hamber community members have chosen educational and learning focused resolutions. Ms. R. Cooper (Social Studies & Languages) is learning how to read letters and words of the x̣ᵐəθḳəỵəm Musqueam language, hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əḥ. Eventually, she plans on having enough knowledge to read street signs and words often seen around the city, more specifically in UBC.

"I am going to study one letter at a time and learn some words I see on a regular basis to start," she explains. As a way to involve her French students in her learning, Ms. Cooper makes connections between similar sounds in French and hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əḥ.

Not everyone agrees with the concept of New Year resolutions and the sometimes unattainable or unrealistic expectations that come with them. For instance, Kelly Lau (11) explains that in her case, "most of the time, it ends up with [her] setting arbitrary rules and insurmountable time commitments, and then kicking [herself] when [she] fizzles out by February."

Hamber Podcast: CSPN, Interview with Cailen Yiu

NEWS REPORT by Adelaide Guan (10)

Have you ever been scrolling through YouTube, looking for something entertaining with which to pass your time? Or maybe you have been an avid follower of all things Hamber, whether it be the athletic department's Instagram or the yearbook's TikTok. Whether you are simply bored of mainstream media, or are a #GriffinsNation fanatic, this podcast is for you. Or, well, at least it's worth a quick watch.

The Griffins' Nest presents a Q&A with Hamber's very own Cailen Yiu (12): the creator, producer, director, cameraman, editor, and host of CSPN.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Where did you get the idea to start a Hamber Podcast?

Actually, it happened because it was the end of Statistics. I didn't have anything to do, so I was like "okay, we'll go downstairs and throw on some camping chairs and talk about random stuff." I was doing this first for Midtown Showdown, and then after that, I just had the camera. I decided to turn it on, get some people on the podcast that I thought were interesting, and had fun.

What is the main goal of CSPN?

I think everybody likes to feel special. I think everybody likes to feel like they're valued and that their stories are important. That's what I hope to reach with CSPN; talk to people, and get a little bit into their personal life. Maybe one day they can be like "Oh, I was on this thing, and it was cool."

Walk us through the process of making an episode.

First, I record the episode, which is 20 to 25 minutes long, depending on the episode. After that, I go on my laptop and sync the audio to the visual and

put in a title screen. I don't edit it after that, so if you watch a CSPN episode, it's actually just one very long clip with no cuts. Basically, all I do is add the title text and pick a funny photo. It takes about an hour.

How do you come up with video ideas?

In the first episode, we talked about McDonald's new items. We talked about McDonald's waffle fries and spicy nuggets. Recently, I've been coming into a common trend: talking about the upcoming Valentine's Day. I talk about relationships and confirm the rumours. Are they true? Things like that are what I like to do on the podcast.

Do you have any experience with this podcasting?

No, I'm just a guy who knows how to press a button on a camera and turn the focus ring on it. I mean, anyone can really do it. I run Hamber Highlights too, so I have that experience. But other than that, nothing I do is that special. I'm just having a good time, that's it.

Have you faced any complications with CSPN?

I actually had a lot of people wanting to be on the podcast, and it was kind of hard to decide who I really wanted to be there. There have been some episodes that had to be cut, because I just didn't feel like they lived up to it. That was the most difficult part; the editing is pretty simple.

What do you see for CSPN's future?

CSPN is trying to branch out. I know that episodes are quite long (20 to 25 minutes). My viewer retention is only five minutes, so if there is a video, people have probably only watched a quarter of it. I've been trying to start 'CSPN On the Road' on Instagram, in which we do short-form interviews (maybe one or two minutes). I'm trying



CAILEN YIU VIA YOUTUBE

to do that so people can get some quickly digestible content. That's what the future for CSPN is looking like right now.

Finally, the one big question: what does CSPN stand for?

CSPN stands for 'Cailen Student Production Network'. Yes, that's what it was. That's what I found on Google the other day.

A message from Cailen to readers:

Follow me on all the CSPN platforms: @CSPN604 on YouTube, @CSPN604 on Instagram.

If you ever want to be on the podcast— if you're in a younger grade, if you're in a different audience that you don't think is getting enough representation, or if you have a cool story you want to talk about— I'm always down. Just hit me up, and we'll see what happens.



CAILEN YIU VIA YOUTUBE

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

The Next Stage of the MCU: Phase 5

NEWS REPORT by Mia Boguslavsky (11)

The end of 2022 has also marked the end of another era: the Marvel Cinematic Universe's Phase Four.

The MCU is broken up into phases; groups of movies and television series that are released within two to four years of each other. Each phase serves as a greater overall story, with projects often continuing a central storyline.

Phase Four, which began on Jan. 15, 2021, was kicked off with the release of the television hit *WandaVision*, and ran its course all the way to Nov. 25, 2022, when *Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special* aired on Disney+. Phase Four achieved several box office successes, such as *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Several new characters were introduced, establishing a new wave of younger superheroes; Kate Bishop, America Chavez, Yelena Belova, Shang-Chi, Riri Williams, Kamala Khan, Moon Knight, and more.

With so many new characters to develop and explore, Phase Five will not be lacking in plotlines and epic stories. There are plans to feature 12 movies and television series, all to be released between February of 2023 and mid-2024. The exact dates for later projects are not yet confirmed. With Marvel being famous for keeping details of production and spoilers under tight security, it is impossible to know what will happen in the projects that are being released later in the phase. The main focus for now is on media that will hit the screens within this year. Without further ado, let's look into the upcoming Phase Five movies and TV shows that we can expect from Marvel Studios in 2023:



DISNEY VIA FORBES

Antman and the Wasp: Quantumania (Feb. 17, 2023)

To kick off Phase Five, Scott Lang and Hope Van Dyne continue their adventures as Antman and the Wasp. Hank Pym and Janet Van Dyne, Hope's parents, join the couple and their daughter, Cassie, on an unexpected trip into the Quantum Realm. They will have to face off against a villain named Kang the Conqueror, and risk the safety of all those who reside in the Quantum Realm.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (May 5, 2023)

The Guardians of the Galaxy are getting used to their new life on Knowhere, when their lives are turned upside down by pieces from Rocket's past. Peter Quill, still recovering from

the loss of Gamora, will lead his team on a dangerous mission once again. Should this mission not be a success, the consequences are as lethal as the end of the Guardians of the Galaxy.

Secret Invasion (Jun. 28, 2023)

Starring Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury and Ben Mendelsohn as the Skrull, Talos, Secret Invasion follows some of the shapeshifting Skrulls who have been on Earth for years. This will be the first look into what they have been up to since Captain Marvel in 2019.

Loki Season 2 (Summer 2023)

A continuation of season one, season two will continue to follow Loki as he navigates time and new dimensions. Loki finds himself trapped in a new timeline, and it is theorised that this

will somehow connect to Marvel's multiverse theory.

The Marvels (Jul. 28, 2023)

The Marvels film will follow Captain Marvel, Monica Rambeau, and Ms. Marvel, as a sequel of Captain Marvel (2019). Carol Danvers (Captain Marvel), has taken her revenge on the Supreme Intelligence, but as her work leads to an unusual wormhole connected to a Kree insurgent, she must team up with Ms. Marvel and Monica Rambeau to neutralise the threat.

Ironheart (late 2023)

Ironheart will follow the adventures of Riri Williams, who was first introduced in *Wakanda Forever* (2022). As was seen in the movie, Riri Williams has developed her own Iron Man

suit using homemade Starktech in an abandoned car garage, leading fans to believe that as in the comics, Riri will step in to fill the spot of the new Iron Man on the Avengers team. Not much is known about the plot of the show, but it is highly theorised that there will be appearances of other young Avengers.

Agatha: Coven of Chaos (Winter 2023)

With this show's plot also being kept tightly under wraps, the only guaranteed detail is that it will be led by the titular character Agatha, who was first introduced in *WandaVision* (2021). Leaning into the theoretical possibilities of the show based on the comics, it is possible that audiences will be introduced to more witches and learn where they came from.

HAMBER'S FAVOURITE FRAGRANCES

NEWS REPORT by Olivia Gowans Hoar (9), Lucy Samudio (9) & Natalie Kosar (9)

Contrary to stereotypical beliefs about teenagers smelling bad, students at Eric Hamber have cultivated a scent that is enjoyable to themselves and those around them. Many Hamberites use their perfumes as a way to define themselves.

"I think it's kind of nice to wear perfume, because then people associate you with a certain scent," said Mila Geisel (10). "It's cute that they can be reminded of you when they smell that."

In the human mind, smells are deeply associated with memories, whether positive or negative. Humans gravitate towards wearing fragranced products with scents that evoke these positive feelings from a positive memory. According to the American Psychological Association, previous experiences have an important impact on how odours are experienced.

There are many fragrance products worn around Hamber. One in particular is especially popular at the moment, due to the help of social media. Popularized through the "Basic Aussie Girl" style trending on TikTok, Sol De Janeiro Hair and Body Mists were frequently mentioned amongst Hamberites. With its extensive collection of products, Sol De Janeiro has managed to fit the preferences of many students at Hamber.

Kalina Kostic (9) wears the Sol De Janeiro 40 Body Spray daily. "It smells like vanilla, but then there's an after-scent of a fruity thing, like a plum."

Although many people like Sol De Janeiro 40, Kostic has found a way to make the scent unique to her. "I go in with the vanilla one from Anthropologie, and then sometimes the Billie Eilish one as well, and then to top it all off,

the Sol De Janeiro 40. [It's the] cherry on top."

While Sol De Janeiro is extremely popular, it is not the only favourite fragrance at Hamber. Ms. S. Lemmon's (LLC) preferred fragrance is, "Byredo

humans deeply associate smells with different memories

Oud Immortel Eau De Parfum. [...] I loved it enough to go spend a small fortune on it."

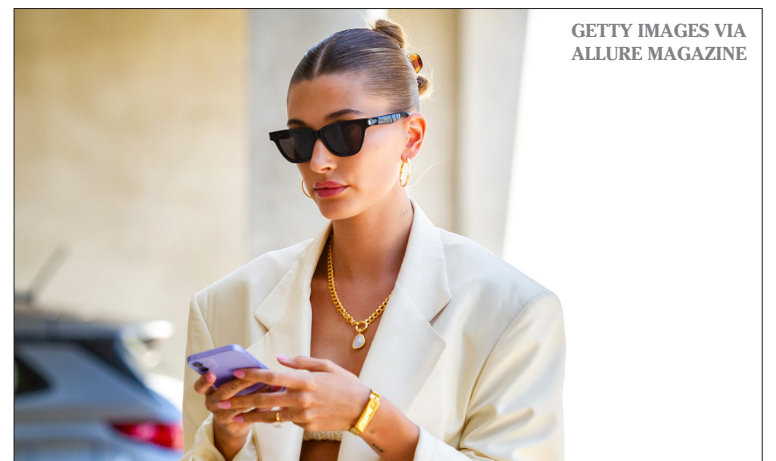
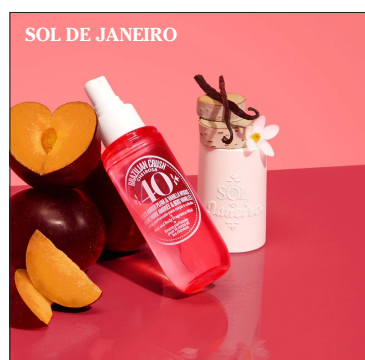
Ms. Lemmon first smelt this on Mr. P. Scaglione (Social Studies) and

was intrigued enough to buy it for herself.

"I've worn a lot of different scents in my life and this is the one. I think I've probably fallen in love with the smell," Ms. Lemmon said.

Lily Chipperfield (9), links her friend closely with her friend's signature scent, the Replica Beach Walk perfume. "I spray it all over myself and then I feel like I'm being hugged by her all day."

Students and staff at Hamber agree that being associated with a smell that they feel defines them "is a good way to add character," said Kostic. Associating good smells with specific people creates a positive connection between that smell and how others see them.



GETTY IMAGES VIA ALLURE MAGAZINE

Best and Worst Fashion Trends of 2022

REVIEW by Tiffany Adams (9)

Fashion is a part of our everyday lives. It doesn't matter if you follow the latest fashion or not, fashion is everywhere. Down to the way you style your hair and what shoes you have, you cannot escape fashion. Last year was a big year for fashion, so here are the best and worst fashion trends of 2022.

Nike Tech – Nike Tech is by far one of the worst and most unnecessary fashion trends to ever exist. For those who don't know what Nike Tech is, it is a tracksuit manufactured by Nike. I would understand wearing Nike Tech if you are using it for fitness purposes, but wearing it out and about is something I don't. You can find better inexpensive options for a sweatsuit like the Nike Sportswear Club Fleece that won't make you look like a stock photo robber.

Clean Girl Aesthetic – One of the more controversial fashion trends of 2022. You do not need to dress like you have a job interview everyday for school. Clean girl aesthetic also took from BIPOC communities and made it into a non-inclusive fashion trend.

Overall, the clean girl aesthetic was just weird. It advertised that if you weren't getting up at 5 AM and doing ab workouts while wearing Lululemon, you weren't aesthetic. Definitely leave this trend in 2022. In 2023, fashion trends should include everyone, regardless of race, body type and gender.

Being Sustainable – Honestly, bringing back thrifting and repurposing clothes was a power move. Not only are you saving money by thrifting, but you are also purchasing items that will last you longer. Thrifting gives clothes a second chance at being worn again instead of ending up in a landfill. Support small businesses, and don't shop from fast fashion places such as Shein. Sustainability is fashionable.

Knitwear – Knitwear was also a really good trend that saw its way back to social media in 2022, through the influence of celebrities like Beabadoobee with the iconic crochet cat beanie. Crocheting is such a good thing to know how to do if you don't want to spend hundreds of dollars on a sweater. Hopefully, things like crocheting your own accessories and clothes will continue to trend into the years to come.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

The Top 10 VSB Earners of the 2021-2022 School Year



NEWS REPORT by Jeffrey Chan (10)

The Vancouver School Board (VSB) released their Statement of Financial Information for 2021/2022, detailing among other things, the individual remuneration of workers above \$75,000. Below are the salaries of the top 10 earners in VSB:

10. John Dawson, Director of Edu Plan Student Info - \$181,256
Kicking off this list in the six figures, John Dawson, the Director of Educational Plan Student Info, made a profit of \$181,256 this financial year, a \$20,000 raise from last year's salary.

9. Peter Nuij, Associate Superintendent - \$190,676
One of five associate superintendents, Nuij has yet to break the 200,000 dollar mark, with a salary of \$190,676. Formerly the Director of Human Resources, he is now the Associate Superintendent of Employee Services, overseeing the hiring processes of potential staff and the logistics of the current staff.

8. Shehzad Somji, Assistant Secretary Treasurer - \$207,152
Making \$17,000 more than the former, Shehzad Somji secures the eighth spot with a salary of \$207,152. As Assistant Secretary Treasurer, Somji is part of the team that manages the finances of the

VSB, alongside John David Green, Marlene Phillips, and others.

7. Janson Ho, Project Office Director - \$220,548
Once again, another management position. Noticing a trend yet? Janson Ho, having worked the position of the Director of the Project Office at the VSB for eight years, compiled a remuneration of \$220,548 this fiscal year.

6. Pedro Da Silva, Associate Superintendent - \$225,340
The second Associate Superintendent, Pedro Da Silva's income for the year 2021-2022 is \$225,340. He formerly worked as a Director of Instruction during

the financial year 2018-2019, with a salary that was half of his current one.

5. Carmen Batista, Associate Superintendent - \$230,160
Another one of the Associate Superintendents, Carmen Batista has held this position for eight years, and her salary has been steadily increasing, peaking at \$230,160 this year. Not only does she work at the VSB, but she also works as the Director of Human Resources and Labour Relations in the BC School Trustees Association.

4. Robert Schindel, Associate Superintendent - \$231,798
Three Associate Superintendents in a row! Before he became one of the Associate Superintendents, Robert Schindel worked as a Director of Instruction, the same position Da Silva held in 2018-2019. After becoming an Associate Superintendent, similarly to Batista, his salary has been steadily increasing, also rising this year to \$231,798.

3. Jocelyn Langlois, Associate Superintendent - \$231,953
All five associate superintendents made this list; the highest-earning one breaking into the top three. However, the difference in remunerations of the last three individuals is less than 2,000 dollars—with only a \$155 discrepancy.

2. David Nelson, Deputy Superintendent - \$236,593
It is no surprise that the deputy superintendent achieves the second-place position, clocking in with a salary of \$236,593. With 8 years of experience working at the VSB, he has been making over \$200,000

since 2018.

2 (Honourary). Suzanne Hoffman, Former Superintendent - \$148,202 (2021-2022), \$276,397 (2018-2019)
Suzanne Hoffman joined the BC School Trustees Association at the beginning of 2021 as the Chief Executive Officer, replacing Mike Roberts, who is retiring from the position. Her duties as superintendent have therefore been relieved. Regardless, she still brought in \$148,202 in 2021/2022, still a significant drop from when she actually held the position; her peak income was in 2018-2019, at \$276,397. Now, Hoffman has been replaced by new superintendent Helen McGregor, whose salary started at \$133,144, which does not crack the top ten.

1. John David Green, Secretary Treasurer - \$282,502
If the superintendent does not have the highest income under the VSB, then who does? That title goes to John David Green, the Secretary Treasurer. His wide breadth of responsibilities include the overseeing of various divisions within the VSB, the recording of committee meetings, maintenance of records and the VSB website, and others. All that has earned him a salary of \$282,505.

The aforementioned individuals all work in positions of leadership and/or management. The highest-earning teachers hover around the \$110,000 range, with the highest-earning principals around the \$150,000 range. Gill Kalwant of Killarney Secondary was the highest paid principal, clocking in at \$155,913 for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

ARE HAMBERITES CURRENTLY BEING RESTRICTED?

OPINION by Ellis Jackson (12)

Every year, a plethora of student events occur. Student council and grad committee organizes the vast majority of them, ranging from holiday markets to Valentine's grams, while a wide array of clubs runs the rest.

In the first full year post-pandemic, I wanted to examine the state of student-run activities and consider if students are being well-supported by the school. It seems that this year, more so than in past years, students have been restrained in what they can accomplish. I interviewed four people from different perspectives - a teacher; Eric Hamber's principal, Ms. M. Jensen (Administration); a member of Student Council; and a member of the school store, the Griff.

The teacher I spoke with - who requested to remain anonymous - commented that there are a "multitude of reasons" why fewer events may be happening this year. They remarked that events, as well as larger projects such as field trips, are more "onerous" to plan. A more significant factor they proposed was the semester system - "Teachers have a lot less time now, because of the semester system," - and planning anything, whether it be an event with a club or a field trip with a class, is increasingly difficult.

The semester system has proven to be a particularly sore point with some teachers. "When are you supposed to plan anything?", one teacher remarked, especially in regards to teachers without a prep block. "A lot of teachers can barely breathe," they said, commenting that for many teachers, there simply is no longer time to assist in planning extracurricular and other more recreational activities around the school. Furthermore, "a lot [of teachers] are looking at not being full-time," due to the semester system. However, this creates

the problem of teachers attempting to create additional time to manage their classes and in the process taking a pay cut, they explained. As well, part-time teachers are "less likely to be involved in school stuff."

The semester system, preferred by 67 per cent of students but only 27 per cent of teachers according to the Vancouver School Board's survey, seems to be inhibiting the enjoyment of both students and teachers. With less time and more work each day, teachers are disincentivized from supporting the students' extracurricular endeavours and planning special events. As teachers move into part-time capacities, they become further disconnected from student life in the school.

When it came to field trips, they stated that an added difficulty arose when "you're always hitting the same class." When a teacher wants to take a class out for a field trip, and they have to miss a class, it will most likely always be the same ones.

I also had the opportunity to interview Ms. Jensen, who was able to provide some clarity as to the planning process for student-led events in the school community. She explained that the planning process begins with her, with a representative of one of Eric Hamber's more than 50 clubs "start[ing] with me." She said the specific planning process changes "depending on what it is the students are interested in." Some of the considerations that go into planning and approving events include scheduling concerns and the existence of other planned events. "The reason that it would start with me is that I can help from that practical standpoint so that we're not having a collision," she explained.

She also explained that when it came to events of a more political tone, "the staff who are working with students [...] are ensuring that [the event]... is something that is [sic] very



well-supported." She continued to explain that sensitivity issues, considerations of different perspectives, and the advice of multicultural liaisons also plays a factor.

She declined to comment on the impact of the semester system on student events.

I spoke to a member of Student Council, who mentioned that "there have been a lot of difficulties [with Student Council], especially with admin," explaining that "we weren't able to do certain events that we had done [...] in previous years," specifying Valentine's Day matchmakers and Canley Cup as examples. The StuCo member clarified that they did not know the reason for these prohibitions, but "that it seems to only be a problem this year, and only at Hamber," and that they would "like to know why."

However, they remarked that the relationship between administration and StuCo was not always difficult, and that "there are members of admin that we communicate way more directly to and way more often with," compared to

others who were "more distant."

They commented that they felt Student Council had been "disappointed" and that StuCo often is not given a reason as to why events could not occur. They said "we have to think of alternatives, but usually these alternatives [...] don't work as well."

The final source was a member of the Griff, Eric Hamber's school store. "The design for the Griff this year [...] was more about getting it started up again," they said, when asked about the rationale behind operating for two weeks. "They [teachers and administration] wanted it to be more of a pop-up event," they commented, but the decision was made "definitely not [by] the Griff members."

"[The control] was extremely tight," they said on the oversight by the administration of the Griff. "We had a lot of trial and error when proposing products," they explained, "that were rejected by admin," primarily due to food restrictions from the district level. They related that the Griff team expended a great deal of effort in "finding

products that would work."

A possible explanation for the administration's reluctance to permit certain events could be a fear of litigation. A fear of offending someone or a group of people politically, concerns over safety due to food, or worries over injuries are all factors that may play a role in the possible restrictions placed upon student activities. A counterpoint to this is the historical record when it comes to these events. In past years, many events akin to some of the ones no longer permitted went smoothly and did not result in litigation. However, a potential lawsuit could result in the school and district becoming mired in legal fees and lengthy courtroom disputes that could cause greater harm in the long term.

This combines with the semester system to create a perfect storm - the district and administration are concerned about possible litigation, while the teachers are overwhelmed with work due to the lost prep block. This storm is a significant cause for student activities this year to be fewer in comparison to prior years.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

Winter Weather Suspends Holiday Travel

NEWS REPORT by Ruby Ellermann (10)

Extreme weather caused a wave of flight cancellations at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) on Dec. 20 last year. According to airline tracking website Flightaware, that Tuesday was met with 200 flight cancellations and 67 delayed flights.

Cancellations resulted from the 25 cm of snow that blanketed parts of western B.C. overnight, along with cold Arctic winds and a low pressure system from the Pacific Ocean, Environment Canada stated.

Airport staff were put to work, clearing airfields and aircrafts in an attempt to get flights running. Despite their efforts, Duncan Dee, former chief operating officer for Air Canada warned that the chances of travellers reaching their destinations in time were very slim.

Throughout the holiday season, WestJet cancelled 1,640 flights, and Sunwing cancelled all flights from Vancouver between Dec. 22 and 25.

Air Canada spokesperson Peter Fitzpatrick explained that the cancellation of flights stretched beyond Vancouver. "An aircraft can be scheduled to fly from Toronto to Calgary to Vancouver and then to a southern destination in one day," he said. "But if it is held up by weather anywhere, then it is late for its next flights."

According to Canadian regulations, in the case of weather cancellations, anyone who isn't placed on a flight within two days of their initial booking meets the criteria for a refund within 30 days. Alternatively, travel vouchers can also be provided. The regulations, which came into effect Sep. 8, build on federal rules from 2019.

Airlines are also required to provide updates for all passengers every 30 minutes until new flight plans are arranged.

In addition, airlines are obligated to provide food and drinks during waiting times. However, some activists have accused airlines of not complying with regulations. "We have clear evidence now that the airlines failed to provide passengers with food and beverages in reasonable quantities, even though doing so would have been possible, this



is a contravention of the law," revealed Canadian passenger rights advocate Gabor Lukacs.

Passengers had reported being stuck at the airport, overnight stays sleeping on baggage, and waiting on the tarmac for up to 12 hours. Sunwing alone received 7,000 requests for refunds or compensation.

Nakita Rees and Tom Wilson of Cambridge, Ontario struggled for four months to receive lost luggage. Although they detailed the location of their bags, the airport labelled it as lost.

Dee expressed that the problem was that YVR's system cannot yet handle the use of air tracking technology, as was the case with Rees and Wilson.

"That's something where airline processes have not caught up to the technology that's available," he said. "No airline in the world has the ability right now to accept information from travellers," he explained to CBC.

On Jan. 10, two independent firms were hired by YVR, KPMG and the Arup Group, to discuss an action plan for future weather disturbances. YVR

has also opened a public engagement program for feedback and improvements.

Dee expressed that, "there's obviously a need for better infrastructure, better resources for airports ... to make them more resilient to these weather events." Sunwing president Len Corrado agreed, claiming that there was a need for more de-icing fluid. However, Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO of the Vancouver Airport Authority insisted that at no point was there a shortage of de-icing fluid, and that airports had the equipment and resources to satisfy passenger needs. As well, Vrooman announced that YVR had plenty of food and beverages, but was never asked to provide these resources to passengers waiting on tarmacs.

"I think most people understand that weather disrupts, but what they need is information to make an informed decision," Vrooman explained. "Should I hang out at the airport and wait, or should I go home because the flight is not delayed, it's actually cancelled, and it's not going to fly?"



City Council Votes to Shut Down Renter Office

NEWS REPORT by Gina Hallensleben (11)

Vancouver's city council, composed of an ABC majority, made its decision in mid-January to permanently close the Vancouver renter office.

The renter office provided resources, referrals, and information on tenants rights, including answering questions, providing information on city policies and permits, and referring renters to other organizations that can help.

The decision to shut down the office was made by amendments put forward by ABC councillor Lenny Zhou, who questioned the city's role in renters rights and the efficiency of the office. When the council voted, all eight ABC councillors voted in favor of the closure, with councillors Pete Fry and Adrianna Carr of the Green Party, and Christine Boyle from OneCity Vancouver voting against.

Since the renter office opened in 2018, it has cost the city about \$1.8 million in taxpayer dollars. Shutting it down will leave the work mainly to non-profit organizations and the provincial government.

Councillor Zhou has argued that the city should not be responsible for renter

issues as issues like these fall under provincial jurisdiction and city officials do not have the extensive knowledge and experience needed to properly help tenants. The city has, however, put forward a six month transition plan in closing the office and approving \$750,000 in grants for non-profit rental organizations. These grants will be paid for through the empty homes tax. The city has also provided the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre (TRAC) with office space, so that the organization can work towards establishing their own renter resource centre to replace the city's office.

Those opposed to this decision are still concerned with the impact of the closure, afraid that it will hurt the most vulnerable renters and that a patchwork network of resources will cause these renters to be left behind.

According to an article by *City News*, shutting down the renter office could have the most impact on older tenants who have lived in their place for a long time, renters whose first language isn't English, and other newcomers and

low-income renters. These renters are most at risk because it is challenging for them to move and find a new suitable place at a certain budget level. This gives landlords power, which could potentially be abused through renovations and demovictions, if the tenant is unprotected and unaware of their rights.

Pete Fry, a Green Party councillor opposed to the closure, stated that the decision "...shows that ABC Vancouver dismisses tenants rights out of hand."

The Vancouver renter office was originally created when there was an extreme increase in illegal renovations, rental units being converted to short-term rentals, and landlords failing to maintain safe and honourable upkeep or defying and scamming fixed tenancy agreements. Now, renters are still facing these extreme challenges as vacancy rates sit around one per cent, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Vancouver is once again deemed the most expensive city to rent in Canada, according to a report by *Rentals.ca*.

Gino Odjick, Canuck and Local Legend Dies at 53

NEWS REPORT by Jhilian Yan-Klassen (8)

Former Vancouver Canucks player and legend, Wayne "Gino" Odjick passed away on Jan. 15 from a heart attack.

Odjick was a role model to many First Nations peoples, as he kept trying through the struggles of being an Indigenous hockey player, and inspired youth to receive a good education.

In 2014, he was diagnosed with a rare disease called amyloidosis, which is caused by the amyloid protein pooling up in the organs. After his initial diagnosis, Odjick wrote a public letter to the Canucks and the fans informing everyone about his disease. The letter stated that he originally thought that he would have a few more years to live, but the doctors told him he had closer

to a few months or weeks.

Odjick played 12 seasons in the NHL, with the Philadelphia Flyers, Montreal Canadiens, Vancouver Canucks, and New York Islanders. In his 605 NHL games, Odjick had 64 goals along with 73 assists. Odjick also had 2,127 penalty minutes, the most in the Canucks' history.

Odjick was born in an Algonquin reserve just outside of Maniwaki, a town in Quebec, on Sept. 7, 1970.

When Odjick had an assist or goal, the fans would often cheer, "Gino, Gino". In his letter to his fans, Odjick wrote, "Your 'Gino, Gino' cheers were my favourite. I wish I could hear them again. You have been amazing." He also wrote, "In my heart, I will always be a Canuck and I have always had a special relationship here with the fans."



PREMIER DAVID EBY'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

NEWS REPORT by Ellis Jackson (12)

A hundred days have passed since David Eby became BC's 37th premier on Nov. 18 last year.

Eby was sworn in at the Musqueam Community Centre in Vancouver, a departure from the previous tradition of being sworn in at Government House in Victoria, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor.

In speech upon being elected party leader, Eby promised swift action on healthcare, housing, and public safety, stating "In my first hundred days as leader, this is what you will see from our government as priorities," outlining "...the issue of housing," for middle-class British Columbians, "significant initiatives" on healthcare, and "significant initiatives around public safety."

At his swearing-in ceremony, Eby announced a pair of measures to address BC's cost-of-living crisis, including a BC Hydro rebate of \$100 and an "affordability credit" of up to \$41 per child and \$164 per adult.

On Nov. 21, Premier Eby announced a series of housing measures in the form of the Housing Supply Act, expanding on work he had done as BC's housing minister during the Horgan government. The proposed legislation would limit age-based strata restrictions and abolish rental restrictions, while giving the province the power to set housing targets for municipalities and enforce compliance with provincial goals.

The premier also announced the Safer Communities Action Plan that would create new coordinated response teams for repeat offenders, mental health crisis teams, 10 Indigenous justice centres, expanded addictions care at St. Paul's Hospital, and seizing luxury goods from organized criminals. The plan was praised by Kory Wilson of the BC First Nations Justice Council, who stated that "[the new policies] are going to help."

However, these new measures were criticized by some in the opposition, such as now-former BC Liberal MLA Elenore Sturko of Surrey South, who

remarked, "Not that some of these are not great ideas, but my disappointment lies in the fact that this opposition, police agencies, Urban Mayors Caucus, and people right across the province have been asking for some of these measures," and that to announce only after being sworn in was "disgusting" to her.

In a press conference in early February alongside Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim, Eby announced an additional \$2.8 billion towards police and mental health services in Vancouver, which comes on the heels of \$16 million already devoted to hiring police officers and mental health workers.

Much of Eby's hundred days have been focused on distributing BC's approximately \$5 billion surplus. The government announced a \$1 billion infrastructure fund, titled the "Growing Communities Fund," which would invest in all of BC's 188 municipal governments in the form of one-time grants, focused on community amenities and services such as parks, water treatment, and recreation facilities. The fund is aimed to work in tandem with the Housing Supply Act to prepare BC communities for new housing construction, according to the BC government's press release on the subject. A further \$100 million was dedicated to emergency preparedness in BC municipalities.

Surrey mayor Brenda Locke praised the investments, remarking that they will ensure "the quality of life in Surrey is not only maintained, but improved." Vancouver Sun columnist Vaughn Palmer was less favourable, criticizing the government's plan to "spend their way through the coming economic storms."

A new payment mechanism for family doctors came into force in February that would pay doctors based on the number of patients they see daily and the complexity of the health issues treated, which would see family doctors' pay go from an average of \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Eby succeeded former premier John Horgan, who resigned after five years in office due to health concerns after treatment for cancer last year. Horgan was the first NDP premier in BC history to serve two consecutive terms and the first to win re-election.

CANADA

Alberta to “Just Transition” From Oil to Clean Energy



LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA CBC

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh* (9)

The federal government has long since promised for a “just transition” of Alberta, with the goal to transition Albertan oil and gas workers over to clean energy jobs.

The long-awaited interim plans for clean energy in Alberta and the entirety of Canada were finally released on Feb. 23. The plans had been rebranded as the “Sustainable Jobs Plans”, instead of

the original “Just Transition Plans”, due to backlash faced by the term.

The interim plans cover the government’s transitional phase from 2023 to 2025, and will help drive towards the first official Sustainable Jobs Plan, to be released in 2025, and then once every five years, according to its webpage. The interim plan has 10 key action areas, which include the creation of a governmental office for sustainable jobs, increasing funding for skill development, and the introduction of a new job stream under the Union Training

and Innovation Program.

The phrase “just transition” first came out of the 2015 Paris Agreement discussions, meaning to make the transition for workers from nonrenewable energy to clean energy as smooth and harmless as possible.

Yet, as Alberta Environment Minister Sonya Savage told *CBC*, “The problem with the just transition, it’s a polarizing term [...] It means phasing out fossil fuels immediately, keeping it in the ground.”

The Sustainable Jobs Plan gave

an outline of the federal government’s approach to transitioning over to clean energy in Canada from 2023-2025. The plan also explained the current progress towards net-zero that has been made, and the steps that need to be taken in the time ahead.

The term “sustainable jobs” was defined in the plans as, “more appropriate in the Canadian context given that a future powered by low-carbon energy rep-

resents a generational economic opportunity for every region of this country.” However, Alberta’s Premier, Danielle Smith, dislikes the new plans. In a statement released in response to the Sustainable Job Plans, she remarked, “I am puzzled by the federal government’s [plans] [...] and will be in contact with the federal government in the coming weeks to discuss a number of issues identified in it.”

She also revealed that Alberta had not given any approval for the plans nor

“The Royal Bank of Canada estimates the net-zero transition could create up to 400,000 new jobs in Canada by the end of this decade alone.”

resents a generational economic opportunity for every region of this country.”

According to a news release from the Canadian government about the Sustainable Job Plans, “The Royal Bank of Canada estimates the net-zero transition could create up to 400,000 new jobs in Canada by the end of this decade alone.”

Jonathan Wilkinson, the Minister of Natural Resources, said in the same news release, “Canada has what it takes to become the clean energy and technology supplier of choice in a net-zero world.”

been included in their development, and that “This kind of dysfunctional communication by the federal government with our province cannot continue if Canada is to have any chance of achieving its 2050 emissions reduction targets.”

After indicating a few more problems with the plans, she ended her statement by reassuring Albertans that the Alberta government “stands ready to use every tool at its disposal to oppose any unconstitutional interference or economic attack on our province by Ottawa.”

Experts Weigh In on Canadian Economic Recession Fears

NEWS REPORT by *Salena Sharma* (9)

As inflation and interest rates remain high in Canada, many economists and financial analysts are warning Canadians of an economic recession that is bound to happen sometime this year.

The Governor of the Bank of Canada, Tiff Macklem, shared before the House of Commons finance committee that the potential recession is “not going to feel great. But it is not going to feel what people think of when you say the word recession.”

An economic recession is a provisional period of time when the economic activity of a country declines. During this time, a country faces declines in wages and incomes, decreases in international trade and higher unemployment rates.

Economists aren’t able to predict the exact time of occurrence of a recession. According to the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), most economists use indicators like inflation rates, mortgage rates, and other variables to estimate when a recession will occur.

Randall Bartlett, senior director of Canadian economics at Desjardins, told *Global News* that human behaviour can hasten the arrival of a recession. When households and businesses are expecting a recession, they can change their spending and investment habits, which can turn the recession into a self-fulfilling prophecy.

One of the causes of economic recessions is the high inflation rates of a country. The Bank of Canada defines inflation as a continuous increase in prices over time. According to *Forbes*, high inflation rates can cause businesses to increase their prices for commodities and reduce production.

Currently, the inflation rate in Canada is 6.32 per cent, significantly higher than the target goal of 2 per cent, according to the Bank of Canada. Since economic disruptions like the rise of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, Canada’s exports, such as oil, have fallen. These factors, alongside the pressures of global inflation, have increased the cost of producing and exporting these commodities. In addition, companies need to pay more for employment.

Trying to lower inflation rates in Canada, the Bank of Canada has raised interest rates eight times since March 2022. In a press conference on Jan. 25 this year, the central bank announced that they are increasing interest rates to 4.5 per cent from 4.25 per cent. This 0.25 per cent increase is the “fastest rise in a generation,” according to an opinion piece by *The Globe and Mail*.

Officially, the interest rate the Bank of Canada is increasing is called the overnight rate. When financial institutions such as banks need to balance out their debts overnight, they borrow money from each other. The overnight rate is the interest rate that banks charge each other for these loans.

Raising interest rates helps lower

“the economy remains overheated and clearly in excess demand”

inflation rates in an economy in many ways. According to a statement from the Bank of Canada, higher interest rates make borrowing money through loans more expensive, allowing more Canadians to save and prevent excessive spending. As a result, companies and organizations either increase their prices slowly or lower them in the hope of encouraging demand. In response to people spending less, the cost of these commodities will decline.

Canadians across the country should acquaint themselves with these inflated costs as most financial analysts are predicting that the worst is yet to come before things get better. Mark Carney, former governor of the Bank of Canada, stated in an interview with *BNN Bloomberg* that interest rates are unlikely to decrease anytime soon due to high inflation rates.

In January, Canada’s inflation rate dropped down to 5.9 per cent, lower than the 6.2 per cent economists were predicting, according to *CBC*. This decline won’t lower interest rates in Canada as food prices in the country are contin-



DAVID KAWAI/BLOOMBERG VIA CBC

uing to rise.

The Bank of Canada is projecting to bring down CPI inflation to three per cent by the middle of 2023 and two per cent in 2024.

CPI inflation, abbreviated from Consumer Price Index, depicts the changes in costs Canadian consumers encounter according to Statistics Canada. A fixed basket of goods (including components such as shelter and food prices) and services are compared over time to measure price changes.

According to Statistics Canada, the annual average CPI (excluding energy) grew 5.7 per cent in 2022 analogized to 2.4 per cent in 2021. Everyday commodities Canadians use was significantly impacted in 2022: transportation increased by 10.6 per cent, food increased by 8.9 per cent and shelter grew by 6.9 per cent.

“In Canada, the economy remains overheated and clearly in excess demand,” Macklem commented in the press conference. Macklem explained that if inflation rates continue to rise this year, the Bank will raise interest rates even more.

According to the *The Globe and Mail*, raising interest rates may lower inflation rates, but it also increases the risk of a recession. Higher interest rates make borrowing money more expensive, which could lead to fewer people engaging in this level of economic activity, according to the Bank of Canada.

Less engagement in economic activity through borrowing and spending money, can be a factor in the causation of a recession.

Unemployment rates skyrocket during recessions, and it was expected that this factor would hit Canada hard, but data suggested otherwise. In January, employment for most full-time workers rose to 150,000 (0.8 per cent) since December 2022, according to Statistics Canada. Canada has been on a streak of increasing its employment rates since September 2022. Since then, Canada increased its employment rates to approximately 1.7 per cent. The increase in January boosted the employment rate of people aged 15 and older to 62.5 per cent. This rate was last recorded in April and May 2019.

Bank of Montreal (BMO) Capital Markets chief economist, Doug Porter, shared with *Yahoo Finance*, “the job market is one of the last elements of an economy to turn, when things are slowing down. That is, the unemployment rate is a bit of a lagging indicator.”

As reported by *Global News*, BMO “revised its call for a recession” as statistics published by Statistics Canada showed that a recession may be looming, but not as soon as most economists had anticipated.

“The reality is, I think labour markets are going to do quite well through this [challenging period of negative

growth],” said Pedro Antunes, chief economist at the Conference Board of Canada, in a news report by *The Toronto Star*.

Other economists, such as Mark Carney, view this data differently. He warns Canadians that the economy still has momentum, but it’s misleading. Despite the decrease in unemployment rates and the actions that the Bank of Canada is taking, he said, the economy is indeed heading toward a recession.

Carney’s warning is showing signs of accuracy as one of the largest components impacted by an economic recession is beginning to be affected: the housing market. According to statistics from *The Canadian Real Estate Association*, the Home Price Index (HPI) declined 12.6 per cent in January compared to the previous year. Most would think this is a positive outcome, however, a decline in housing prices while interest rates are high produces higher mortgage rates, according to a statement from BMO.

In this case, there is a substantial proportion of a Canadian’s mortgage allocated toward interest and less going toward principal. The process of paying back a mortgage balance will take longer than anticipated as amortization periods may increase. This can decrease demand in housing markets as most buyers can’t afford mortgages, which contributes to recessionary conditions.

EDITORIAL

VSB TRUSTEES: UNDERSTAND STUDENT ISSUES

EDITORIAL

The municipal election last October saw the reconstruction of the Vancouver Board of Education. Since then, there have been visible changes in the policy direction of the Board, many of which involve the trustees' incognizance towards the needs of students and teachers.

The Editorial Board has observed several incidents during Board meetings that display inexperience in Board administration, politics and education. For example, trustees have not accepted questions after delegations. On other occasions, trustees have also neglected to take advice after delegations. This has led to uninformed decision-making in impactful places.

One example of such uninformed decisions was the reinstatement of the SLO program into Vancouver schools on Nov. 28. The Board heard from organizations and the public over four days, but voted on the motion less than a week after the forums closed. Students and teachers were not consulted in this process, and naturally, the Board received backlash for their decision.

Many issues with the direction of the board

comes from the background and qualifications of trustees.

Some of the trustees on the Board cite completion of secondary school at a Vancouver public school or parenthood as a qualification for being a trustee. Although personal experience with the school system can be an asset, it should not be the only criteria to be a competent School Board trustee. If going through Vancouver's education system were the only necessity, then thousands of other former students would also be strong candidates for the role of a trustee.

Although two board members have completed or are pursuing a Master's of Education, only one actually worked as a teacher. The rest of the trustees bring in experience from fields like biology, information technology, business, social policy, and accounting. These fields, although valuable, do not give the perspectives gained through experience in education and education administration.

Additionally, only four trustees have served on the board before this term, and only three were incumbents. These four are the only board members that have experience in government, creating a disparity of governmental experience on a board that already has limited experience in education.

The VSB Trustees need to proactively seek out and listen to the needs of students and teachers before considering the advice of external sources. Tunnel vision never leads to good outcomes in public bodies.

It is especially important for the board to seek out student voices and experience-based learning because of a considerable lack of experience in the field of education. Lacking experience in education does not have to be an issue, if the trustees are willing to learn and listen.

This board has more than three years of their term ahead of them, and many decisions to be made. Those decisions can be informed, considerate, and according to the needs of students and staff, not politics. However, those decisions can also be made with haste and political motives, and without well-sourced, plentiful community feedback and full contemplation. It is up to the trustees to decide the future of students and staff in Vancouver schools.

The Editorial Board calls upon the VSB trustees to recognize that as students, we are the demographic most familiar with the issues relating to our schooling. We ask that trustees take the time to fully take students' opinions into consideration when making the decisions that will impact students the most.

BILL-22 HAS TO GO

EDITORIAL

Last year, the provincial government passed Bill-22. The purpose of the bill was to bring into force several amendments to the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA), one of which was introducing a \$10 application fee for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

A healthy democracy is dependent on free and transparent information. As citizens, we all have a right to access information about public bodies, and this information is the foundation of the media. The main way of acquiring information that hasn't been posted freely online is through FOIs. Journalists rely on FOIs as a source, and they provide evidence for private citizens, interest groups, and researchers.

Adam Olsen, Green Party MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, introduced Bill M 204 to the legislature on Feb. 8 to amend the FOIPPA to repeal the authority of the Premier to enact FOI applicant fees. MLA Olsen was a member of the special committee to review the access application fee over its first six months; the review was released in January 2023.

He stated in the introduction, "The act before us today aims to improve access to information. It sets out to remove the application

fee for freedom-of-information requests. These amendments are in line with the sharp criticism from the B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner, Michael McEvoy, who strongly indicated that the \$10 fee to access information was not in the interest of the public."

A significant finding of the review was that with the fee, requests from journalists and media groups decreased in number, implying that the fee creates a barrier. The review found that in comparison from the year before, after the fee was implemented, applications from media fell by 80 per cent.

Information Access Operations collected \$15,360 in FOI applicant fees between Nov. 30, 2021 and May 30, 2022.

As student journalists, Bill-22 seriously impeded our ability to obtain information through FOIs, and in a recently released review by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the fee also negatively affected the amount of FOIs filed in general. As discussed in an editorial by the Volume 11 Editorial Board on Bill-22, the fee creates a barrier to entry for public information that should be easily accessible.

Many Indigenous community leaders have expressed concerns over the specific barriers it creates for their marginalized communities. In a Nov. 2021 open letter to former Premier Horgan and current Minister of Citizens

Services, Lisa Beare, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs states that application fees "disproportionately harm First Nations requesters since they experience higher levels of poverty and often lack resource capacity." The letter goes on to say that the "characterization of the new fee as 'modest' displays astounding ignorance and insensitivity since legal processes of redress for historical losses require First Nations to make multiple formal requests for records from various public bodies in order to obtain evidence."

"It is nonsensical that a government publicly committed to reconciliation, transparency, and accountability would impose further financial hardships on First Nations who require access to provincial government records to substantiate claims of government wrongdoing", the letter states.

Adam Olsen's bill will be a win for access to information, and a win for many many cash-strapped organizations who otherwise might be unable to afford the application fee.

For the reasons of its barriers to Indigenous communities, journalists, researchers, and interest groups, The Editorial Board supports the recommendations of Information and Privacy Commissioner McEvoy, and believes that it should be upheld through MLA Olsen's Bill M 204.

SPECIAL REPORT

STAFF AND STUDENTS DECRY DECISION TO KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN DURING SNOW

SPECIAL REPORT by the
Editorial Board

*Disclaimer: Mr. A. Wightman is the
teacher sponsor of The Griffins' Nest*

Hamber's staff and students have opposed the Vancouver School Board's decision to keep schools open last Tuesday, despite many having severe difficulties arriving at school on time with the heavy snowfall.

The 6 A.M. announcement declaring schools open came in the midst of a heavy snowfall, starting overnight and continuing throughout the day. The VSB also stated that school buses for swing sites and programs are not running, schools would still be open.

Neighbouring school districts of West Vancouver and North Vancouver, as well as many independent schools in the region – including Vancouver College, just 1.2 km away from Hamber – called a snow day.

Bus routes such as the R4, 41, 33, and 25 were temporarily suspended, and due to the continuous snowfall, many roads had not been plowed.

Many students expressed difficulties getting to school. **Kait Steinhoff** (8) said, "I almost slipped multiple times." **Amira Heran** (8) described her car ride to school, saying, "The car was slipping and we almost hit the curb. [...] We got stuck a few times." Heran added, "I don't think they should've had the schools open. It's just way too dangerous for anyone to get anywhere, and half the school is not even here today."

When **Caskey McFerrin** (11) woke up Tuesday morning, he saw "about half a foot" of snow. "I have a friend whose dad is a bus driver," he said. "[He] called my friend and said to not take the buses, because the bus drivers got told to just pull over and stop driving."

When asked whether he thought today should have been a snow day, he replied, "One hundred percent." McFerrin noted that "[his] first class of the day had a third of the students."

Teacher candidate **Mr. D. Wang** confirmed the low attendance numbers early this morning. "I am very surprised that we had the number of students that we had today," he said. By the end of class, twenty of his twenty five students had arrived. He added that "over half the class saw an accident today on the road."

Mr. A. Wightman (Social Studies), frustrated with the purported negligence of the VSB, wrote a letter to the school board addressing his concerns. "I witnessed buses [sic] on the side of the road, cars along Grandview Highway, Knight, and 41st were engaged in fender benders, stopped," he wrote. "When I got to class, the school walk-



ways and roads had not been cleared, making accessibility dangerous." He concluded by stating his opinion that schools should have been closed today for safety reasons.

While many experienced difficulties, some found their routines weren't severely impacted. **Mr. A. Stevens** (Science) said, "It wasn't too bad. Slower than usual, because I had to walk through the snow." He did consider that his experience wasn't universal, adding, "I know for my colleagues it was probably much worse, especially those who had to drive."

Ms. M. Poon (English) underwent significant difficulties in order to arrive at school. "I debated whether to drive or not, but I thought it was okay." Partway through her commute, she heard on the radio that a car had spun out at Knight St and 41st Ave, causing the area to be backed up.

Fed up with the traffic, she eventually gave up and decided to take the bus, ditching her car. While waiting for the R4, "a guy [came] walking from the direction we were going and he [said], 'Oh, it's all blocked up down there.'" Ms. Poon then decided to try another bus and walked about ten blocks to get to the stop.

"I stood there for about an hour," she said. A bus driver eventually came by and told everyone waiting that their bus was stuck far down the road. At this point, Ms. Poon had met another woman at the stop going in a similar direction. "We decided hey, let's take a taxi together." While waiting for the taxi, the woman at the bus stop called her supervisor, who decided to pick them up.

"One of the Hamber grade 12 students was actually at the bus stop too," Ms. Poon said, and in the end, four essential strangers – Ms. Poon, the Hamber student, the woman, and the woman's colleague – travelled together.

"I got [to school] a little after 10. [A snow day] would have been nice," she said. Overall, Ms. Poon's journey took three hours.

Other teachers faced difficulties traveling long distances. "I come from the South Surrey/White Rock area," said **Mr. C. Smith** (Counselling). "It was actually worse here than at my house [...] the worst place was the roundabout right at the front of the school," he said, referring to the intersection at Willow Street and 37th Ave. When asked how long his commute usually was, he replied, "35, 40 minutes on average, I'd say. Today it was about an hour and twenty."

Starting around 9:45 AM, service returned to various bus routes. The R4, 41, 33, and 25 all resumed service, albeit too late for students trying to get to school. This did, however, solve concerns from students and staff about leaving school.

"I don't even know how I'm getting back home," said Mr. Wang earlier this morning, in regards to the uncertainty of bus service returning.

In an email to *The Nest*, the VSB stated that "many factors are taken into consideration when deciding to open or close schools during inclement weather", listing road conditions, weather conditions, and the needs of students and their families as examples. They added that they also "liaise with neighbouring Metro Vancouver school districts such as Richmond and Burnaby to ensure [their] decision is aligned."

The statement continued: "We respect families' choice to send, or not to send, their kids to school when considering weather conditions [...] We know many families can't make other arrangements for their child(ren), especially on short notice as a result of unpredictable weather changes. For many students, in addition to being a space where learning takes place, school is the only opportunity for them to get access to a much-needed meal."

They additionally listed warmer temperatures, forecast of the snow stopping, and "recognizing the need for schools to stay open for students without other means of care" as reasoning for keeping schools open.

CANADA

INDIGENOUS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT REACHED WITH CANADA

NEWS REPORT by Ella Pendlington (10)

The federal government and 325 representative plaintiffs from various Indigenous bands have recently settled a lawsuit over residential schools for \$2.8 billion. Known as the Indigenous Class Action Settlement, the lawsuit preceding it has been litigated since 2012.

Originally brought forth by former BC Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson and Band Councilor Garry Feschuck, the lawsuit consisted of the combined Band reparations claim, known as the Band class, and the residential school day scholars claim. Day scholars were Indigenous survivors who only attended residential schools during the day, and were not a part of the historic 2006 residential schools settlement.

In 2021, part of the lawsuit was settled when the Canadian government agreed to give compensation to all residential school survivors and their descendants. The Indigenous class action lawsuit builds off of the 2012 lawsuit and covers what was not resolved.

The residential school system forced Indigenous children away from their homes, and their way of life. They were no longer allowed to speak their language, visit their families, or practice any of their traditions. The goal of this settlement is to acknowledge residential schools as a vital part of Canadian history.

"Ten days before trial was to start, Canada offered to settle," stated Gottfriedson at a press conference in Vancouver on Jan. 21. "Today, we are representing 325 Indigenous nations across Canada to develop a settlement plan to allow nations to work toward the four pillars."

The four main pillars of the residential school settlement agreement are: Revitalization of language, revitalization of culture, wellness for people, and heritage commemoration.

"While settlements like those announced today do not make up for the past, what they can do is address the collective harm caused by Canada's past," said Crown Indigenous Relations Officer Marc Miller while announcing the

settlement at a conference in Vancouver.

According to Miller, the \$2.8 billion will be put in a trust fund and will operate for 20 years. If the government approves the settlement, it will run independent of the federal government.

How the Indigenous nations choose to use the settlement money is up to them, stated Peter Grant, lawyer and class counsel for the plaintiffs. "They are expected to report back to the non-profit board regularly, but there are no strict requirements for how the funds should be used."

Approval for the Indigenous class action settlement will be decided by the court, who will consider the settlement and decide whether it is sensible and fair.



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA THE TYEE

Zeller's Reopening: The Canadian Comeback of the Decade



MONIKA JASKOLKA VIA RETAIL INSIDER

NEWS REPORT by Mackenzie Chung (10)

"Where the lowest price is the law" was the slogan that Zellers promised to uphold for Canadians. Maintaining reasonable prices for the average consumer was a decision appreciated by customers across the country, so when the news broke of the popular retail chain's eventual shutdown in 2013, it was received with dismay. It's been ten years since the announcement of the doors of Zellers closing, and in an equal shock as its shutdown, news of Zellers reopening came in January with some novel and shocking changes.

The plans for its reinstatement include 25 stores across seven provinces within the country. Two locations will be built within the Metro Vancouver area, one in Guildford Town Centre in Surrey and the other located in Pacific Centre in downtown Vancouver.

So after losing their footing in a financial situation, and almost 10 years of silence on the topic of Zellers from

its owner, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), why is it coming back now?

According to an HBC press release, their decision to bring back the chain was influenced mainly by the goal to provide customers with a sense of nostalgia for the once beloved store, with the expectations that Canadians would embrace the chain known for endorsing discounts in a time where due to COVID-19 and record breaking inflation, the cost of living has grown significantly.

In the press release, one major change to the brand identity was made. The physical restaurants in Zellers that Canadians once loved will not be returning, and instead food trucks will be installed to try and appeal to the nostalgic value that the company is aiming to achieve. An online poll released by HBC was held to garner the public's interest in what previous menu items they'd like to see return.

The eventual menu released currently consists of five different items, after the previously mentioned vote's "heated race", as described by HBC. The items that made the cut are as

follows: The Big Z Burger, the hot chicken sandwich, grilled cheese, chicken fingers, and fries with gravy. HBC claimed the food was meant to reflect "fan favorites" served previously at Zellers locations. The food trucks are planned to be installed at several different Hudson's Bay locations, but when these installations are taking place will not be released until a later date.

Founded in 1931 in London, Ontario, before being purchased by HBC in 1978, the Zellers chain predominantly existed as a retail store selling a variety of goods from groceries, to appliances, and even fast food, with several locations featuring their own 1950s style diner. These restaurants served as convenient places for consumers to eat, but could also be rented out for events like children's parties, equipped with retro vinyl boots, jukeboxes, and checkered floors.

The Zellers chain peaked in the 1990s, at one point having 350 stores across the country. Multiple factors contributed to its eventual shut down, including the overwhelming competition from Walmart. In 2011, the American retail chain Target bought out 125 Zellers locations from the HBC, leaving the parent company with only 64 remaining stores.

The American company was looking to expand into its neighbouring country after seeing the success from other retail stores like Walmart, and even Zellers themselves. The success for Target in Canada seemed to be inevitable, however, after only two years of operation and around \$2 billion in net losses, the Target locations within Canada would eventually be phased out of existence.

In 2012, Tiffany Bourré, an HBC company spokesperson, told *CTV News* that HBC decided that "continuing to operate the Zellers banner in its current form was not viable, particularly given the geographic footprint of the remaining locations." As a result, in March 2013 a majority of Zeller stores began to close their doors to the public, although the last two Ontario locations were not officially shut down until January 2020.

The End Is Not in Sight: More Unmarked Graves Found

NEWS REPORT by Evin Jaaf (8)

Since the first unmarked graves were found at the former Kamloops Residential School in May 2021, more than 1,800 unmarked graves have been found across Canada. The Canadian government has been working with many Indigenous groups such as the Tk'emlúps to Secwépemc in Kamloops, the Texelcemc Williams Lake First Nation, Anishinabewaki people in Ontario, and the Michif people in Kenora, Ontario to search residential school sites. By late January 2023, more than 2,000 potential graves had been found across Canada.

Sixty-six 'reflections' from ground-penetrating radar (GPR) indicate the potential burials of children attending the St. Joseph's Mission residential school near Williams Lake, BC, after the discovery of 93 possible unmarked graves were made a year prior. These searches only show 34 of the 782 hectares associated with the former school's site, most likely meaning more graves or reflections are to be found.

Williams Lake First Nation Chief Willie Stellars emphasized at a news conference on Jan. 25 that this is only the work done to date. The site will be scanned again and exhumed in future, with the hopes of granting the mourning nations closure.

Farther east, around 2,000 anomalies were detected using ground-penetrating radar, likely more unmarked graves of children attending a school in Lebret, Saskatchewan, according to the *Toronto Star*. This shocking discovery was matched with the finding of a child's jawbone from over 100 years ago. Another 171 likely graves were found in Kenora, Ontario, *The Star* reported.

Out on Vancouver Island, a total of 17 new unmarked graves were found. It was confirmed that at least 67 students passed away attending the Port Alberni residential school, more than double the 29 confirmed deaths on the Truth and Reconciliation Memorial Register.

Interviews with survivors aided in finding the newest graves that have been uncovered, and will continue to take place in the near future with survivors willing to share their stories and experiences. More scans using radar are also to be done in future to aid in the search.

The Canadian government has responded by releasing an agreement, showing that they'll be supervising the International Commission on Missing

in 2023, more than 2000 potential graves have been found

Persons (ICMP), an organization based out of The Hague, to help provide Indigenous groups with options for unmarked burials.

The aim of the project is to keep Indigenous voices involved in the discussion of what happens with the burials and to continue reconciling what has happened.

"The families of the missing are central to addressing the issue of missing children and unmarked burials," said ICMP Director-General Kathryne Bombenger in a Feb. 17 press release with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. "Their needs, knowledge and views must lead the way."



WILLIAMS LAKE FIRST NATION



VILLAGE OF LEBRET/FACEBOOK VIA THE TORONTO STAR

INTERNATIONAL

Transgender Rights Reforms in Scotland Blocked by British Veto

NEWS REPORT by Austin Witter (11)

Dec. 22 of last year saw the passing of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill in the Scottish Parliament, which would streamline the process for trans people to change their legally recognised gender. The legislation was blocked by the United Kingdom Parliament this January, reigniting discussion about Scottish devolution and the distribution of power between the British and Scottish governments.

The Scottish Parliament was established in 1998 after a referendum and with it various powers were transferred to it from the UK Government. This process is known as devolution, the redistribution of power towards lower levels of government. Proponents of devolution assert that it better represents the people of Scotland. As devolution involves the division of responsibilities between the UK and Scottish Governments, it is inherently a collaborative endeavor in which both parties have input. The Scottish Government now has power over devolved matters such as healthcare, agriculture, and education, and the UK Government presides over reserved matters, including energy, immigration, and employment.

A UK Secretary of State retains the power to veto Scottish bills that adversely affect UK legislation under section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998. This is the first time since devolution began that this power has been exerted.

In his statement to the House of Commons on Jan. 17 preventing the bill from proceeding to Royal Assent, UK Secretary of State for Scotland Alistair Jack acknowledged the lack of precedent. "The power can only be exercised on specific grounds—and the fact that this is the first time it has been necessary to exercise the power in almost twenty-five years of devolution emphasizes that it is not a power to be used lightly," he said.

The blocked legislation would alter the legal process to obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate, or GRC. It lowers the minimum age from 18 to 16 and reduces the minimum amount of time since transition to apply from two years to three months (plus a three-month "reflection period" as a part of the process). Medical records proving that the applicant was diagnosed with gender dysphoria would no longer be required. The Bill also devolves the issuing of GRCs by transferring responsibility to oversee applications from a UK organization to a Scottish one.

The UK Government opposed the Gender Recognition Reform Bill on the grounds that it interfered with British legislation, specifically the Equality Act 2010. The statement by Jack asserted that the bill would have "adverse effects [...] on the operation of single-sex clubs, associations and schools, and protections such as equal pay." A further policy statement laid out myriad perceived difficulties the Bill would cause, among them an "uncertainty or unawareness of pupils' transgender status" at single-sex schools, which could, according to Jack, lead to "schools [not having] the information they need to assess safeguarding risks, including how best to support transgender pupils."

Trans rights organizations in the UK support the proposed reforms. "We are saddened that the Prime Minister has decided to block the implementation of the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill, through an order under Section 35 of the Scotland Act, for the first time in the history of devolution." Read a statement by Stonewall, an LGBTQ+ rights organization based in the UK. "This is a piece of legislation that simply seeks to make the process for legally recognising a trans man or trans women's gender more respectful and straightforward." Furthermore, Stonewall contended that the Bill "does not interact with [the] Equality Act 2010 – clarified by successful amendments from a Scottish Labour MSP"



First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon was a staunch supporter of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, and she became the face of the legislation to the Scottish public. As a member of the Scottish National Party (SNP), she also campaigned for Scottish independence. The UK Parliament stepping in to block the legislation was a dual assault on her politics. However, as the debate over the bill wore on, Sturgeon began to poll lower in Scotland, exacerbated by controversy over a situation in which a trans woman prisoner convicted of raping two women before her transition was sent to a women's prison. Despite a lack of strict relevance to the reforms, this strongly polarized the discourse over transgender rights in Scotland.

On Feb. 15 Sturgeon announced her intent to resign in a reversal of her previous stated plans. She cited fatigue as well as an increasingly toxic political environment.

Previously Sturgeon had vowed to contest Jack's decision in court. She would have had to prove that the Equality Act 2010 is not adversely affected by the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. She explained in an interview with the BBC that the court case would be defending "the institution of the Scottish Parliament and the ability of MSPs, democratically elected, to legislate in areas of our competence. In short, we'll be defending Scottish democracy."

The future of the reforms is now unknown. It is unclear whether her

successor (to be chosen by the SNP) will continue to back the gender reform legislation or not. The *BBC* posited in a recent article on Sturgeon's resignation that whoever replaces her "could choose to quietly shelve the plan to take legal action," though they acknowledged that this was speculation.

If a newly appointed First Minister were to support Sturgeon's GRC reform legislation, they would have to withstand the blistering criticism Sturgeon faced promoting it. A few SNP members have put themselves forward to replace Sturgeon, including Ash Regan, who resigned from community safety minister in protest against the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, Kate Forbes, who is a member of the deeply conservative Free Church of Scotland, and Humza Yousaf, who shares Sturgeon's views on transgender rights and passed a controversial bill against hate crime in 2021.

The UK's veto is mostly supported, or at least tolerated, by Scottish voters. In a recent poll by Lord Ashcroft, a businessman and pollster, over half of respondents said the UK Government was "within its rights" to block the legislation. Whether this speaks more to an opposition to the legislation specifically or a broader acquiescence to the UK influencing Scottish politics remains to be seen.

The UK Equality and Human Rights Commission has largely opposed the changes to the GRC process. In a letter to the Minister for Women and Equalities,

Kishwer Falkner, the EHRC chairwoman raised numerous concerns about the legislation. One criticism took issue with the proposed removal of the requirement to provide medical records. The letter disputes the merits of "extending the ability to change legal sex from a defined group with a recognised medical condition, who have demonstrated their commitment and ability to live in their acquired gender, to a wider group," questioning the choice to transition without medical evidence. Jack offered a similar opinion, stating that "these amendments remove any requirement for third party verification or evidence from the process."

Reem Alsaem, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, argued in a November 2022 letter opposing the legislation that "such proposals would potentially open the door for violent males who identify as men to abuse the process of acquiring a gender certificate and the rights that are associated with it." A poll of approximately a thousand Scots conducted by YouGov on a commission from The Times showed overall opposition to the reforms. 60 per cent of respondents opposed removal of the medical record requirement while 20 per cent were in support, with the remaining undecided. 59 per cent opposed the change in timeline from two years to six months, with 21 per cent in support. 66 per cent opposed the change in age requirement from 18 to 16, again with 21 per cent in support.

DEATH TOLL IN TURKISH AND SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE HITS 50,000

NEWS REPORT by Ellis Jackson (12)

On Feb. 3, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Turkey and northern Syria, succeeded by a second earthquake of 7.5-magnitude in the following hours. The tremors were the deadliest quakes in Turkey since an earthquake in ancient Antioch in 526 and the deadliest in Syria since an 1822 earthquake in Aleppo. By Feb. 28, the death toll had surpassed 50,000 in the two nations.

The earthquakes devastated Turkey and Syria's provinces along the Mediterranean coast. The quakes are estimated by the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation to have inflicted €80 billion in damages.

According to the Turkish government some 3,450 buildings had collapsed within two days of the disaster, while by Feb. 26, over 150,000 buildings had collapsed. A lack of seismic reinforcement and poor construction standards were at least partly to blame, according to *CBS*, and the Turkish government later arrested over 200 people for poor building construction.

According to *CNN*, the Turkish government would often provide exemptions from safety standards in exchange for fees. These exemptions - called "construction amnesties" - were also used to protect older structures and allowed them to not be brought up to code.

Multiple foreign governments

and organizations, including India, the European Union, the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Israel, dispatched teams and humanitarian assistance. US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan remarked that the US was "ready to provide any and all needed assistance" to Turkey.

Many collapsed buildings are still being excavated for potential victims, and over the past month many casualties were found long after the event itself.

Aid has been able to make it through to the affected people despite the often cool diplomatic situation in the region, with Syria receiving aid

through diplomatic backchannels from Israel and from the traditionally-hostile Bahrain. Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu stated that an aid request had been relayed unofficially "by a diplomatic official," though Israel's public broadcaster later claimed that Russia had relayed the request to the Israeli government.

According to Turkish vice president Fuat Oktay, over one million refugees are living in tent encampments where the temperature can go to -9 C, while the Syrian representative at the UN High Commission for Refugees reported that "as many as 5.3 million people in Syria may have been left homeless by the earthquake."



The M&M "Spokescandies" Controversy, Explained

NEWS REPORT by Elle Glen (9)

The cult-classic candy, M&M's, has found itself in the middle of a culture war; with the root cause being their mascot rebranding.

The iconic "Spokescandies" got a makeover in January of 2022 in hopes of promoting inclusivity. These changes included the Orange M&M embracing his anxiety to add to his existing Gen Z appeal, and the Green M&M replacing her heeled boots with sneakers, all a part of an initiative to make the mascots fit a "more dynamic, progressive world" according to an announcement made by Mars, the maker of the M&M. The purple M&M was introduced for an International Women's Day themed candy bar.

"Woke M&M's have returned," announced Fox News host Tucker Carlson. "The green M&M... is now a lesbian maybe? And there is also a plus-sized, obese purple M&M."

The majority of the backlash was focused on the green M&M's change in footwear, as it was interpreted as "the death of the Sexy Green M&M." With people concerned about this, one online petition titled "keep the green M&M sexy" has garnered over 21,000 signatures.

After this controversy, Mars announced that the "Spokescandies," would be replaced as M&M's mascot by comedian and actress Maya Rudolph. The company stated on Twitter that, "In the last year, we've made

some changes to our beloved spokescandies. We weren't sure if anyone would even notice. And we definitely didn't think it would break the internet. But now we get it— even a candy's shoes can be polarizing."

The statement, however, was not unanimously accepted. "Congratulations on finding the weakest possible response to the dumbest manufactured outrage campaign," shared Rob Sheridan, an American graphic design influencer, on Twitter. "Maya Rudolph is lovely, but let's be honest: What [they're] announcing here is that [their] real spokesperson is Tucker Carlson."

Despite the addition of Maya Rudolph, a representative of Mars told *The New York Times* that the "Spokescandies" definitely aren't gone and will remain "at the heart of the brand." This sudden change in direction raised questions on whether or not the removal of the mascots was all a publicity stunt leading up to the short advertisement that appeared in *The Super Bowl*. By the end of the Super Bowl, it was official: the M&M Spokescandies are back. In a mock press-conference shared on Twitter, the purple M&M expressed that "[she's] glad to be back, because this is what [she] was made for."



INTERNATIONAL

Brazilian Capital Stormed by Thousands of Protestors

NEWS REPORT by Zak Tucker (8)

Approximately 4,000 protestors occupied Brazil's Congress, Presidential Palace and Supreme Court in what's widely considered the democratic nation's worst-ever episode of political violence.

Organised through social media and inspired by far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro's claims of widespread voter fraud, the thousands that amassed Jan. 8 were fighting to overturn the recent election results that saw Bolsonaro's opponent, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known simply as Lula, win by 1.8 per cent.

Bolsonaro has held a seat in Congress since 1991, before being elected President in 2018, promising to address corruption and tackle crime.

Concerns about the former president's views on democracy have arisen. "I am in favour of a dictatorship [...] We will never resolve serious national problems with this irresponsible democracy," he said in 1992. Brazil was controlled by a military dictatorship from 1964 to 1985.

Lula was declared the winner of the election, with 50.9 per cent of the vote, on Oct. 30. He was previously elected President from 2003 to 2010. He was sentenced to nine years in prison on charges of corruption in 2017. His sentence was later reduced to 18 months.

Bolsonaro has remained largely silent and not conceded to losing the election. He left Brazil two days before Lula's inauguration, an event outgoing presidents normally attend.

Throughout the country, camps of Bolsonaro supporters had gone up around military facilities. The protestors sought an intervention from soldiers to reinstate Bolsonaro as President.

While many of these camps were dismantled, in Brasília, the capital, a camp located just 8 km from Brazil's Congress, Presidential Palace and Supreme Court remained.

BBC News reported that through social media, code words were used to invite people to a "party" in the capital over the weekend of Jan. 7 and 8. Free transportation was also promised.

The weekend saw roughly 4,000 Bolsonaro supporters, calling themselves *Bolsonaristas*, gather at the camp near the Forte Caxias army headquarters and the Military Command of the Plateau. Despite Lula voicing concern, police choose not to remove the camp.

An eight-kilometre peaceful march to Brazil's Three Powers Plaza, or Praca dos Tres Powers, which Congress, the Palace and the Court border, was planned for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8.

More pro-Bolsonaro protests were already underway on the path of the march on the large lawns of Esplanada avenue, nearby the Plaza.

Just before 3 p.m., the crowd reached police barricades preventing access to Three Powers Plaza. Video posted to social media and verified by the *BBC* show only a single line of waist-high metal barriers stopping them. Police were sparsely spaced along the barriers and lacked the necessary personnel. They were quickly overwhelmed by protestors.

"There were so many people [...] and the barricades [outside Congress] had been torn down and destroyed," journalist George Marques, told *The Guardian*. "[T]he police were no longer there and the ramp leading to Congress was completely overrun."

"I'm still trying to process what I saw [...] It was like scenes from a war. They were unimaginable scenes of destruction and savagery. Never in my 12 years covering politics in Brasília did I think I'd witness acts of such violent depredation [...] I didn't know if someone was going to get shot," he said.

But protestors disagree. "It was a peaceful protest. None of us are terrorists – nothing of the sort. [...] The idea was to get rid of Lula [...] He's a corrupt thief," Carla Coutinho da Rosa said in an interview with *The Guardian* the day after.

William Sarott, another protester, told *The Guardian* left-wing actors aided by the "rotten media" were responsible



for the violence in an attempt to shine a negative spotlight on right-wing activists. He didn't provide any evidence.

"We need to re-establish order after this fraudulent election. I'm here for history, for my daughters," Lima, a protester, told *AFP News*.

Protesters then permeated the entire campus, including the roof of the Congress building. They even forced a police officer off his horse and attacked him outside Congress, videos posted online show.

In the Presidential Palace, the site of Lula's inauguration seven days earlier, rioters ransacked the offices of Lula's close adviser and former defence and foreign minister Celso Amorim, first lady Rosângela Lula da Silva, and his official photographer Ricardo Stuckert, among others, according to *The Guardian*. The camera Stuckert used to document Lula's election campaign was stolen.

"The feeling I have is that we are going to have to really fight so that our children are able to live in a country without violence," Stuckert said.

Videos and photos posted to social media show protestors occupying the insides of buildings, with, in some cases, no security presence and "trashing offices, smashing windows and doors, flipping furniture, and tossing computers and printers to the ground," according to *BBC News*. In the Senate chamber, protestors jumped on seats and slid down benches. Precious artwork, including portraits of former presidents, was also destroyed.

"The value of what was destroyed is incalculable because of the history it represents," Rogério Carvalho, Director of Curatorship of the Presidential Palace, told *BBC*.

Upon the request of Brasília's governor at the time, Ibaneis Rocha, Lula eventually invoked emergency measures and called in the National Guard.

Using water cannons and stun grenades, security forces cleared out most protestors by 5:30 P.M.. Large crowds remained in the Plaza for another hour. "Absolute control" over the capital was then regained by the government, foreign minister Mauro Vieira declared.

More than 1,800 arrests have since been made in connection to the protests.

While Bolsonaro lost, the political climate he embodied in Brazil, seems to live on.

In the recent election, *The Guardian* reports, right-wing parties made further seat gains in Congress, building on already high representation from 2018.

"We need to be really vigilant. We can't just think it was something that happened and is over and that's it," stated Amorim in an interview with *The Guardian*.

"Brazilian democracy has been unquestionably tarnished and is at risk," agreed Mauro Paulino, a commentator on *Globo News*.

Lula claimed that the protestors' goal was to stage a coup, where security forces would intervene, and Bolsonaro would regain power. Evidence found in the wardrobe Bolsonaro's former justice minister and security chief of Brasília during the protests, Anderson Torres, details a plan where Bolsonaro would reinstate himself as President by taking control of the Superior Electoral Court.

Torres was arrested upon return from the US, where he claims to have been vacationing during the protests. He has rejected all accusations of wrongdoing.

Strong Bolsonaro support in security forces has been accredited to such massive security failures.

"You will see in the images that they [police officers] are guiding people on the walk to Praca dos Tres Powers," said Lula.

Two *BBC* verified videos depict police laughing and taking photos while protestors walk up a ramp and Congress.

Another *BBC* verified video shows protestors passing through a larger stairwell as police guard a smaller hallway to the side. An officer waves and gives the protestors the thumbs up, who then applaud. The officers appear to belong to the Policia Legislativa, a federal force responsible for protecting Congress.

Amorim said he's concerned over how the Presidential Guard Battalion couldn't keep these protestors away from the Palace, unlike other protests.

"It's as if this was allowed to happen. This is very serious," he told *The Guardian* on Jan. 9.

Furthermore, Rocha failed to take necessary steps to prevent the riots and throughout them, he was "painfully silent," said Justice Alexandre de Moraes, as reported by *BBC*. He is being investigated by the Supreme Court and was forced to take leave from his position for 90 days.

Lula says he is sure that "people in the armed forces" allowed the protests to take place and participated in collusion. He's working to rid the military of far-right Bolsonaro supporters. He has fired the head of the army, Gen. Julio Cesar de Arruda, as well as "several dozen" security personnel from his detail, according to Aljazeera, without providing any reasoning.

"We are going to find out who the financiers of these vandals who went to Brasília are and they will all pay with the force of law," he promised. Police have found and confiscated some 40 buses used to transport protestors.

"...this was engineered by people with economic and political power," Sônia Guajajara, the head of Brazil's newly created ministry for Indigenous peoples, told *The Guardian*.

An inquiry is investigating the protests, including Bolsonaro's role. His lawyer rejected the accusations of wrongdoing, saying Bolsonaro is a "defender of democracy".

Meanwhile, since Dec. 30, two days before Lula's inauguration, Bolsonaro has been living in the home of a retired ultimate fighting champion south of Orlando, as reported by *TIME Magazine*.

Felipe Alexandre, a lawyer for Bolsonaro, said in an email statement that his client is merely in the US on vacation. "He would like to take some time off, clear his head and enjoy being a tourist in the United States for a few months before deciding what his next step will be," he said.

Those next steps may be limited, though. Six investigations are underway into the alleged provocation of his supporters and baseless claims of voter fraud. They may disqualify him from becoming president again and result in prosecution.

"For god in heaven, I will never go to prison!" he proclaimed to followers last year.

Bolsonaro travelled to the US on a 30-day A-1 visa, a type given to foreign leaders and diplomats, as reported by the *Financial Times*. At the beginning of February, he applied for a 6-month tourist visa, according to *TIME*. It's unclear what the result of that request was, however, he remains in the US.

Due to Bolsonaro's role in the protests, Democratic lawmakers have called on President Biden to revoke his visa. A Feb. 10 letter signed by nearly 50 US House members, demands Biden "reassess [Bolsonaro's] status in the country to ascertain whether there is a legal basis for his stay and revoke any such diplomatic visa he may hold."

Others have drawn the link between Bolsonaro, nicknamed "Trump of the Tropics" by some, and his proximity to former US President Donald Trump, who lives just a few hours away in Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

"Just as Bolsonaro is a cheap imitation of Trump, this was a cheap imitation of the [US] Capitol [invasion on 6 January 2021]," says Amorim.

Following the Jan. 6 attack, David Nemer, a Brazilian professor of media studies at the University of Virginia and an expert on disinformation, predicted something similar would happen in Brazil in an interview, he told *The Guardian*.

"The reason why I was saying that was because the same sort of narrative that was flowing around social media in the US, it was also flowing in WhatsApp and Telegram groups that I'd monitor and that I researched [in Brazil]."

"The core of the Bolsonaro government was formed largely by individuals who were inspired and disseminated here in Brazil the concepts produced by the American far-right," added Michel Prado, an independent analyst who studies Brazil's far-right, in an interview with *TIME*.

The two former Presidents and their inner circles also have close ties through Bolsonaro's son, Eduardo. He was in Washington on the day of the January 6 attack.

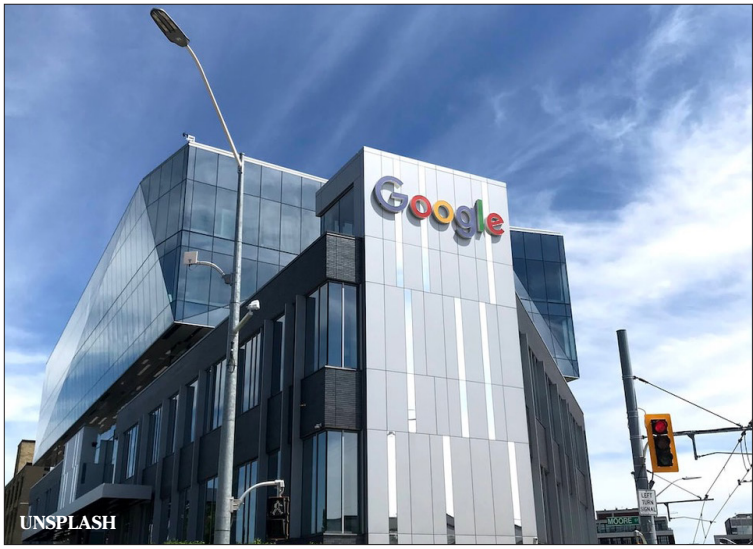
He has visited Mar-a-Lago multiple times, meeting Trump, Trump Jr., and Jared Kushner.

Bolsonaro himself appeared Feb. 3 at Turning Point USA, a major right-wing event at the Trump golf course in Miami.

The entire situation has sparked international outcry from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as well as heads of state from Chile, Columbia, France, Germany, Mexico, Turkey, the UK, and the US, condemning the violence and voicing support for Lula. President Joe Biden called the events an "assault on democracy and the peaceful transfer of power in Brazil."



INTERNATIONAL



Tech Sector Lays Off Over 200,000 Workers

NEWS REPORT by *Andre Chen (10) & Arabella Mew (10)*

Exponential growth and capitalization on the latest demands have been the norm in the tech sector for the past decade. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and substantially increased the amount of people working from home, major tech companies like Amazon and Meta all launched extensive hiring campaigns, doubling their employees in a matter of months to keep up with the new demand. However, following late 2022, the tech sector announced mass layoffs, with more than 200,000 tech jobs lost over the past year.

To break down the numbers, *Fortune Magazine* reports that the 200,000 tech jobs lost include 18,000 from Amazon, 12,000 from Alphabet,

11,000 from Meta, 10,000 from Microsoft, 8,000 from Salesforce, 4,000 from Twitter, and more from Tesla, Netflix, Robinhood, Snap, Coinbase, and Spotify. It is also important to realize that these figures do not even include downstream layoffs from industries like manufacturing or advertisement that are impacted by the tech sector's layoffs.

In November 2022, Meta was the first major tech company to announce substantial layoffs—around 13 per cent of their workforce. “I want to take accountability for these decisions and for how we got here,” stated Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg in early November on the Meta website. “I know this is tough for everyone, and I’m especially sorry to those impacted.”

Zuckerberg was referring to his decision to rapidly increase the size of

his team at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He recalled that there was an “outsized revenue growth” due to a “surge in e-commerce,” and predicted that there would be a “permanent acceleration that would continue even after the pandemic ended.” Recent reports of Meta’s revenue, however, have shown a downturn in profits due to both a reduction in e-commerce and rising interest rates in response to inflation.

Following Meta’s announcement, many other major tech companies followed suit. Amazon initiated its first round of layoffs in November, announcing that 10,000 workers could be cut because of an “unusual and uncertain macroeconomic environment.” And in early January, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy wrote, “Today, I wanted to share the outcome of these further reviews... we plan to eliminate just over 18,000 roles”.

Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai stated a similar reason on Google’s website that “Over the past few years [they’ve] seen periods of dramatic growth, and to match and fuel that growth, [they] hired for a different economic reality than the one we face today.”

Spotify’s CEO Daniel Ek released a statement on the Spotify website saying that “efficiency takes on greater importance,” in a “challenging economic environment”, and admitted that he was “too ambitious in investing ahead.”

Each of the major tech companies have given extraordinarily similar reasoning for their layoffs, blaming the post-pandemic era, mistakes in over-hiring, and high inflation rates. While these factors certainly played a substantial part in their decision, many experts suspect that there are other unspoken reasons as none of them are remotely near bankruptcy.

One theory is that these tech layoffs have more to do with investors re-

thinking their investment evaluations than companies’ bottom lines. Michael Cusumano, the associate dean of MIT’s Sloan School of Management, said to *Forbes Magazine* that when sales are increasing 20 to 30 per cent annually, nobody cares about profits, but as we are not in a growth phase, investors are more cautious.

Another theory is that in a time where a potential recession threatens the profits of the tech industry, companies are given the choice between either selling more products and raising prices, or reducing its expenses and laying off workers—the option that many major tech companies have

as of March 2022, over 8.9 million jobs were supported by the tech sector

gone with, as reported by *Fortune Magazine*.

Some also argue that the mass layoffs are not simply an unavoidable consequence of the changing economy, but rather because CEOs too are human, navigating this time of uncertainty by copying others. Business professor Jeffrey Pfeffer put it this way to *Stanford News*: “Was there a bubble in valuations? Absolutely. Did Meta over-hire? Probably. But is that why they are laying people off? Of course not [...] These companies are all making money. They are doing it because other companies are doing it.”

At first, the mass layoffs in the tech sector seems worrying; the technology sector contributes \$1.9 trillion USD to the \$24 trillion USD GDP, according to the US International Trade Administration. However, the layoffs are not a sign of a regression, rather, as mentioned above, a response to the

surplus of hiring that occurred within many major tech companies in the beginning of the pandemic.

An analysis of data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics published by the Computing Technology Industry Association showed that, as of March 2022, there were 8.9 million jobs supported by the tech sector. With 8.9 million American jobs in the tech sector and over 158 million American jobs as of the beginning of 2023 according to Statista, the 200,000 layoffs only reflect a reduction in just over two per cent of the jobs in the American tech sector, and just over 0.12 per cent of total American jobs.

Although layoffs are often quite devastating to the recipient, due to the widespread applications of tech in other industries, workers can typically find another job quickly. According to a study conducted in October 2022 by ZipRecruiter, 95 per cent of tech workers find another job within six months of being laid off.

23-year-old Wen Huber, a videographer laid off in late July by a tech startup, reported to the *Wall Street Journal* that he was “surprised at how quickly [he] was able to secure an offer for a job,” despite the “influx of competition with a lot of people also being laid off.”

The success of laid off tech workers in finding another job, according to Julia Pollak, chief economist at ZipRecruiter, can be attributed to tech workers being “the most sought-after workers with the most in-demand skills.” Paired with the record amount of job openings in early 2022, most workers had no problem finding another job in either the tech industry, or other industries.

Major tech companies are also giving out severance packages to those included in the mass layoffs. Meta and Microsoft, for example, are both paying 16 weeks worth of base salary, providing family health insurance for six months, and more.

NASA’s & Boeing’s Greener Aircraft

NEWS REPORT by *Salena Sharma (9)*

NASA has collaborated with Boeing to build the Sustainable Flight Demonstrator (SFD), a single-aisle aircraft designed to fly commercially in the early 2030s. NASA claims that the SFD will use 30 per cent less carbon fuel than other aircraft.

In a press conference on Jan. 18, NASA announced its aeronautics partnership with Boeing. This project aims to assist both agencies with their upcoming technology development goals in the aviation sector. Deputy Administrator of NASA, Pamela Melroy, shared at the conference, “Aviation is one of the most difficult industries to decarbonize, and we’re very excited to be working on the hardest problems.”

According to a statement released by NASA, the wings of the aircraft reduce carbon emissions released from the plane. Long, narrow wings, called the Transonic Truss-Braced Wing (TTBW), are connected to the aircraft by diagonal struts that stabilize them. Less drag will be produced due to the design of the plane, minimizing fuel burn. The wing design of the SFD is not original, according to Aviation Week. In the 1950s, France’s Hurel-Dubois used it for a series of propeller-driven aircrafts.

Mike Sinnett, vice president and general manager for product development at Boeing Commercial Airplanes, shared with Aviation Week that the span of the TTBW is 50 per cent less than commercial single-aisle aircraft. The design of the wing is expected to reduce 10 per cent of fuel consumption, which could reduce the mass and cost of the plane.

Countries like the US have made goals to reach net-zero aviation carbon emissions by mid-century, and this aircraft will aid in accomplishing that goal. According to a statement from

NASA, it is estimated that more than 620 megatons of fuel will be required for air traffic in 2050. This fuel consumption will generate approximately 2,000 megatons of carbon dioxide emissions. In response to this, the U.S. administration released its Aviation Climate Action Plan, which aims to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The VS-1 and VS-2 are potential models of the SFD aircraft Boeing envisions making. The VS-1 can seat 130-160 passengers and the VS-2 can seat 180-210 passengers and has larger wings and engines than the VS-1.

NASA and Boeing started work on the TTBW in 2008. Seven wind tunnel tests were conducted as part of

flying for civilians will be more affordable and sustainable

the Subsonic Ultra-Green Aircraft Research (SUGAR) program. Through these tests, both organizations determined the structural design of the SFD.

NASA is committing \$425 million through a funded space act agreement. An estimated \$725 million will be contributed by Boeing and its industry partners. According to a statement released by Boeing, they have already spent \$110 million on phases of sustainable aircraft research. Despite the \$110 million already spent on the TTBW development, Sinnett believes Boeing is “optimistic” about the design based on the scale of industry investment.

The first test flight of the SFD will take place in 2028. When asked why this will take place so late, Robert Pearce, Associate Administrator at NASA, commented at the press



conference that there is a great deal of planning and budgeting that needs to be done for this project. If all goes well with the test of the SFD in 2028, Boeing expects this plane to be seen more commercially. Boeing’s chief technology officer, Todd Citron, estimates that demand for the SFD will increase by 40,000 planes between 2035 and 2050.

NASA’s SFD project manager,

Brent Cobleigh, remarked at the press conference that Boeing’s industry team would be provided with technical experts and test facilities by NASA. In addition to owning the demonstrator, setting the program schedule, and covering overruns, the Boeing team will be responsible for covering expenses.

The program will provide more jobs, specifically aimed at laid-off

workers at technology companies. The CEO of Boeing, Dave Calhoun, shared with *BNN Bloomberg* that Boeing will be taking advantage of the laid-off workers of technology companies like Amazon to increase their “ranks of skilled workers.”

Neither NASA nor Boeing has released the cost of one SFD aircraft, but they state that it will be cheaper than most commercial planes.

INTERNATIONAL

It's Awards Season Again: A Recap of the First Shows

NEWS REPORT by Izzy Jang (11)

In the first three months of the year, major entertainment awards occur. Here is a recap of the 2023 Award Show season:

The 65th Annual Grammy Awards

The 65th Annual Grammy Awards happened this year on Feb. 5. The Grammys are awards presented to recognize achievements made in the music industry. For each category, recordings and music videos are submitted to be evaluated by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS), who then pick nominees, the winners being announced on live television.

An estimated 12.4 million people tuned in to watch the awards, a huge rise from the 8.9 million that tuned in to watch in 2022. With artists like Lizzo, Bad Bunny, Sam Smith, Kim Petras, Adele and Harry Styles performing the awards ceremony, many fans just wanted to watch their favourite songs be played.

This year was a milestone for the Hip Hop community and included a tribute for the 50 years of the genre. Many artists who have contributed to the genre, like LL Cool J, Grandmaster and the Furious Five, Ice-T, Busta Rhymes, Lil Uzi Vert, Queen Latifah, and Missy Elliott performed a huge mashup of songs in a performance with 33 different artists.

With artists like Kendrick Lamar, ABBA, and Adele releasing their first albums in over five years, and in ABBA's case, many decades, fans hoped for their comebacks to come bearing the award of Album of the Year. But in the end, *Harry's House*, which topped charts globally, won the prestigious award. *Harry's House* also won Best Pop Vocal Album, which meant it won both categories it was nominated for.

Many songs that have reached streams in the billions on Spotify were in contention to win Record of the Year. Lizzo's record, *About Damn Time*, won the award and became the fourth addition to Lizzo's Grammy collection. *About Damn Time* was also nominated along with many other hits for Song of the Year, but Bonnie Raitt's song Just Like That won the award. Samara Joy, whose debut album released in 2021, won the Grammy for Best New Artist, her name joining the likes of Olivia Rodrigo, Billie Eilish, John Legend and Mariah Carey.

In more specific performance and media categories, Adele won Best Pop Solo Performance for Easy on Me, Sam Smith and Kim Petras won Best Pop Duo/Group Performance for *Unholy* and Taylor Swift won the title of Best Music Video for *All Too Well: The Short Film*. For genre-specific albums, Beyoncé won Best Dance/Electronic Music Album for *Renaissance*, Kendrick Lamar won the Grammy for Best Rap Album for *Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers*, and Bad Bunny won Best Música Urbana Album for *Un Verano Sin Ti*.

Beyoncé took home four of her nine nominations and broke the record for the most Grammy wins in history, beating George Solti with her 32 Grammy Awards. Beyoncé along with Maverick

City Music received the most awards during the night with four each, and artists Brandi Carille, Kirk Franklin, Kendrick Lamar and Bonnie Raitt won three awards each. Beyoncé was not the only one who made history at the Grammys, as Kim Petras won Best Pop Duo/Group Collaboration and became the first transgender woman to receive a Grammy in the category.

The next Grammys will take place in early 2024, and though many albums, including chart-topping album *Midnights* by Taylor Swift didn't qualify for this year's Grammys, next year's Grammys are sure to come by with many big winners.

The 80th Golden Globes Awards

The 80th Golden Globe Awards happened this year on Jan. 10. Presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), many submissions for nominations are screened by the HFPA and then nominees are chosen, with the winners being announced on live television.

Avatar: The Way of Water, *The Banshees of Inisherin*, *Top Gun: Maverick*, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, *Elvis*, and *The Fabelmans* were some of the films that were in contention to win Best Picture in their respective categories.

Names like Hugh Jackman, Cate Blanchett, Austin Butler, Viola Davis, Michelle Williams, Margot Robbie, Michelle Yeoh and Colin Farrell were in contention to win Best Actor/Actress. Cate Blanchett and Austin Butler won the award for Best Actor in Motion Picture for *Tár* and *Elvis*, respectively.

For the Television category of the awards, *Better Call Saul*, *The Crown*, *House of the Dragon*, *The Bear*, *Wednesday*, and *Abbott Elementary* were in contention to win Best Television Series.

Some names competing for the title of Best Performance by an Actor/Actress in a Television Series include Kevin Costner, Bob Odenkirk, Zendaya, Emma D'Arcy, Jenna Ortega, Selena Gomez, Donald Glover, Steve Martin and Jeremy Allen White. Kevin Costner and Zendaya won for the Best Performance by an Actor/Actress in a Television Series—*Drama for Yellowstone* and *Euphoria*, respectively.

The films with the most nominations were *The Banshees of Inisherin* with eight and *Everything Everywhere All at Once* with six. The television series with the most nominations were *Abbott Elementary* with five nominations and many other series tying with four nominations, including *The Crown*, *Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, *Only Murders in the Building*, *Pam & Tommy*, and *The White Lotus*.

The Banshees of Inisherin won three awards—the most out of all films—Best Picture - Musical/Comedy, Best Screenplay - Motion Picture, Best Actor in Musical/Comedy for Colin Farrell. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* tied with *The Fabelmans* with two awards each. Best Actress in Musical/Comedy and Best Supporting Actor went to Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan respectively for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, while *The Fabelmans* won the

EARL GIBSON III/SHUTTERSTOCK
VIA US WEEKLY



award for Best Picture - Drama and Best Director - Motion Picture for Steven Spielberg.

In television, *Abbott Elementary* took home the most wins with three and *The White Lotus* came second with two awards. *Abbott Elementary* won Best Television Series in Musical/Comedy, as well as Best Performance by a Supporting Actor and Best Performance by an Actor/Actress in a Television Series - Musical/Comedy for James Williams and Quinta Brunson respectively. *The White Lotus* took home Best Limited Series and Best Supporting Actress - Television Limited Series for Jennifer Coolidge.

The 28th Critics' Choice Awards

The 28th Critics' Choice Awards happened this year on Jan. 15. The Critics' Choice Awards honours the achievements of filmmaking and television. The awards are presented by the American-Canadian Critics Choice Association who pick the nominees for which the winners are broadcast live.

Some of the film contenders for Best Picture were *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, *Avatar: The Way of Water*, *The*

Banshees of Inisherin, *Elvis*, *The Fabelmans*, and *Top Gun: Maverick*. The winner for this category was *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, whose directors, Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinart also won the title of Best Director for the movie. They also won for Best Original Screenplay.

The Best Actor/Actress award also had many contenders but Cate Blanchett took the award for Best Actress again for her performance in *Tár* and Brendan Fraser took the award for Best Actor for his performance in *The Whale*. Best Supporting Actor/Actress was won again by Ke Huy Quan and Angela Bassett in their respective roles in *Everything Everywhere All at Once* and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*.

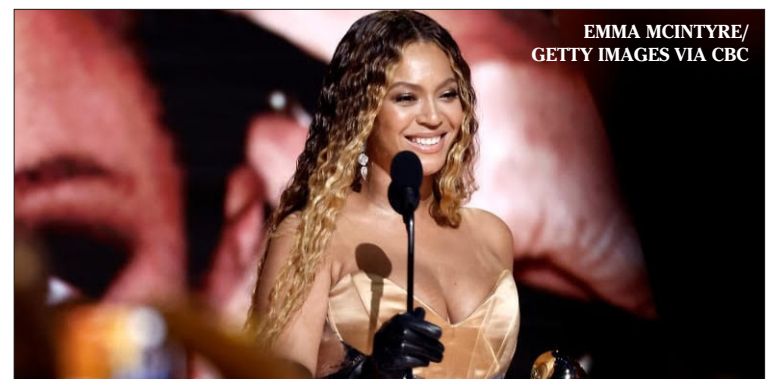
For television, *Better Call Saul* won in the category for Best Drama Series, beating series like *Euphoria*, *The Crown*, *House of the Dragon*, and *Yellowstone*. *Abbott Elementary* won for Best Comedy Series beating *Barry*, *The Bear*, *Hacks*, and *Reboot*. Best Actor/Actress in a Drama Series went to Bob Odenkirk and Zendaya for their roles in *Better Call Saul* and *Euphoria*, respectively. Best Supporting Actor/Actress in a Drama

Series went to Giancarlo Esposito for *Better Call Saul* and Jennifer Collidge for *The White Lotus*. Best Actor/Actress in a Comedy Series went to Jeremy Allen for *The Bear* and Jean Smart for *Hacks*. Best Supporting Actor/Actress was won by Henry Winkler for his role in *Barry* and also to Sheryl Lee Ralph for her role in *Abbott Elementary*.

The most awards of the night went to *Everything Everywhere All at Once* which won five awards in the film category, and *Better Call Saul* which won three awards in the television category.

Everything Everywhere All at Once had the most nominations of the night, with 14 in the film category, and *Abbott Elementary* had six in the television category.

There are still more big awards shows that are set to take place in the next few months. For film, television and theatre, the Oscars will take place on Mar. 12, the Tony Awards will take place on Jun. 11, and the Emmy awards will take place sometime in September. For music, the Kids Choice Awards are set to take place on Mar. 4 and the American Music Awards will take place in November.



Left: Michelle Yeoh and Stephanie Hsu on the red carpet of the Critics Choice Awards

Right: Beyoncé accepts her 32nd Grammy Award

INTERNATIONAL

Andrew Tate's Detention Extended in Romania



YOUTUBE VIA BUSINESS INSIDER

NEWS REPORT by Andre Chen (10)

With his promotion of controversial ideas and extravagant lifestyles amassing billions of views and followers across various social media platforms, Andrew Tate's popularity has skyrocketed within the last two years. However, the 'Top G' was arrested recently due to allegations of sexual assault and human trafficking, and has been sitting in a Romanian jail cell since the end of December 2022. Following a court proceeding in late February, Tate's sentence has been extended for the third time, by another 30 days—until the 27th of March.

From the very beginning of his rise to popularity in 2016, Tate's career started with controversy. After a video of him hitting a woman with a belt surfaced, he was kicked out of the reality show *Big Brother*. Shortly after, Tate responded on Twitter by attaching a picture of him and the woman smiling, stating that they were "acting out a roleplay," and that he would "never hit a woman."

Tate would continue to gain popularity by racking up controversy on social media platforms. He was banned from Twitter in 2017, one year past the *Big Brother* incident, after claiming that women should "bear some responsibility" as victims of sexual assault. Though Twitter's ban was eventually lifted five years later in 2022, he remains banned for similar reasons on popular platforms such as TikTok, Youtube, Instagram, and Facebook.

However, Tate's content is still prevalent across said platforms as a result of his dedicated fanbase creating hundreds of accounts that repost clips of him.

Robert Lawson, associate professor in sociolinguistics at Birmingham City University, stated in the *Today, Explained* podcast that "Someone like Tate tries to normalize misogyny. He makes it seem socially acceptable," and that "he has really traditional and, to my mind, outdated views about what a relationship should look like, and what the role of men and women in those relationships should be."

In early 2022, the Romanian Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) suspected that Tate had a part in a human trafficking group responsible for harassing six individuals that they had been investigating.

DIICOT launched the first set of raids on his houses in Romania in April 2022 after receiving information that he was holding two women against their will. However, the raids proved to be inconclusive, and Tate was not arrested.

The second set of raids took place on Dec. 30, 2022, and led to a 24-hour detention period for Andrew Tate,

his brother Tristan Tate, as well as two other suspects, after guns and stacks of money were found in his residence.

There was speculation on social media that, in his video response on Twitter to a statement made by Greta Thunberg, pizza boxes belonging to a local Romanian pizza chain tipped off Tate's location to DIICOT. This was denied by DIICOT spokesperson Ramona Bolla, stating that "it was a hard job gathering all the evidence" that led to Tate's arrest.

On the next day, a 30-day extension of his detention requested by the prosecutor was approved in a Romanian court.

Despite the four suspects appealing this sentence in court on Jan. 11, the judge deemed it necessary for them to remain in detention. "The possibility of them evading investigations cannot be ignored," explained the judge in a court document, reasoning that they could "leave Romania and settle in countries that do not allow extradition."

Tate's legal team made their statement on Jan. 7. "I will point out from the beginning, that even up to the present moment, the criminal investigation file has not been made available to us to ensure the effective defense of our clients," said Eugen Vidineac, one of Tate's lawyers, to the *Gandul*, an online Romanian newspaper. Vidineac continued that the legal team, after working "day and night trying to piece together the [allegations]," could not find "a single piece of evidence, apart from the victim's statement, that leads to the idea that a crime of rape was committed."

On Jan. 20, Tate, as well as the other three suspects, received an additional 30-day extension to their detention. Though they also appealed this verdict, the judge denied their appeal, explaining that the defendants were particularly dangerous, and that they had the means to identify victims "with an increased vulnerability, in search of better life opportunities."

In a press conference held on Feb. 1, Tina Glandian, a US lawyer from Tate's legal team, said the ruling was a "violation of international human rights and the due process of law." She stated that the legal team made "extensive legal arguments" in court earlier, "pointing out the lack of evidence against the Tate brothers," and hopes the court "do the right thing and let the Tate brothers out of custody."

On the 21st of February, Tate received another 30-day extension to his sentence after the approval of another request by the prosecutor for additional time on the investigation, making a total of three extensions. His lawyers said in a video interview with *Censored Men Newsletter* right after the trial that the persecutors, still, "have not come forward with any new evidence" after the previous two extensions.



The European Union is Forcing Apple to Change their Charging Ports by 2024

NEWS REPORT by Suhani Dosanjh (9)

Apple Inc. is being mandated by the European Union to change the lighting port charger connectors on their iPhones to the USB-C type, by Dec. 28, 2024. This USB-C charging port is already used by Android, in addition to Apple's laptops and their iPads.

On Oct. 4 last year, the EU parliament voted on new legislation to use one universal charger, the USB-C, for all small and medium-sized devices, such as phones, cameras, game consoles, smartwatches, and other implements.

"We all have at least three mobile phone chargers at home. Looking for the right charger, either at home or at work, can be quite annoying," said Minister for Industry and Trade Jozef Sikela. "On top of this, these chargers amount to 11,000 tonnes of e-waste every year. Having a charger that fits multiple devices will save money and time and also helps us reduce electronic waste."

And other countries may soon follow in the EU's footsteps. For example, India is currently planning to make the USB-C their universal smartphone charger. As Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told the *Press Trust of India*, "In the last meeting, a broad consensus had emerged among stakeholders on the adoption of USB Type-C as a charging port for, smartphones, tablets, laptops etc."

India has the current largest population in the world, over a billion people, and a loss of their electronic sales could be significant, even to a large company such as Apple.

The Canadian Government currently does not have any plans to input a universal charger standard in Canada. In an article by the *Toronto Star*, Tim Silk, an associate professor of marketing at the University of British Colum-



bia, said that he does not believe Canada is a big enough country to have any impact on tech companies. If it was just Canada opting for a universal charger, big tech companies would simply cut their losses and take their business elsewhere.

Yet, if the United States took the reins of the effort, or the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement came together to put down regulations on the USB-C type charger, then Silk claimed it could be successful.

An article in *Bloomberg* claimed that Apple was originally angry at the USB-C charger proposal from the EU; worried that it would be worse for their customers, environmentally, and would reduce innovation. Yet, in May, even before the EU had provisionally passed the USB-C law in June 2022, Apple was already testing out USB-C type chargers for their iPhones, *Bloomberg* reports.

Finally, on Oct. 26, 2022, Greg Joswiak, Senior Vice President of World-

wide Marketing at Apple Inc, joined a *Wall Street Journal* Tech Live to discuss the new EU regulations. When asked if Apple was switching to USB-C chargers, he admitted that, "Obviously we'll have to comply."

Apple's early anger at the EU's plans does not come as a surprise for many, as losing the lighting port means losing money from their usual lighting port cable sales and accessories. In addition, Apple's MFi program, or Made for iPhone/iPad/iPod, which consists of a broad range of accessories both wireless and wired, will need to be remodeled to fit the new EU laws.

Ming Chi-Kuo, an exceptionally reliable Apple analyst according to Apple Insider, tweeted on May 11, 2022, that "My latest survey indicates that 2H23 new iPhone will abandon Lightning port and switch to USB-C port." The 2H23 iPhone is another way to refer to the iPhone 15, which will be released in September 2023.

INTERNATIONAL

China's Population Declines, First Time in 60 Years

NEWS REPORT by Kaeli Siu
Narlin (8)

China's population has declined for the first time since the Great Chinese Famine in 1961. The National Bureau of Statistics in China reported a decrease of 850,000 people, making their population 1.41 billion people, in 2022. This decline may suggest India has surpassed China as the most populous nation. The United Nations had predicted this overtake to occur in 2023, however, they predicted China's population to be 1.43 billion in 2022 and India's to be 1.41 billion.

According to UN population forecasts, China's population could fall to less than 800 million people by 2100.

China's economy has already been struggling, much due to COVID-19 and housing prices, and the shrinking workforce may continue to hurt it. This could cause a ripple effect on the world as a whole.

The Director of the Indo-Pacific Development Centre at the Lowy Institute, Roland Rajah told *The Guardian*, "The key thing is the declining birthrate. This means China will have fewer workers in the future and that will reduce how big we expect China's economy to ultimately be in the future, other things being equal." He continues, "The ability of the Chinese economy to be the engine of global growth that it has been in the past looks increasingly in question."

In 1980, China's government introduced the one-child policy. This policy was an attempt to control China's rapid population growth, but due to the favour of male children, many Chinese parents had abortions or committed infanticide. This led to a gender imbalance, and as *Reuters* reported in 2022, there are 690 million females to 722 million males in

China.

The gender imbalance greatly impacted the birth rate. According to the World Bank, China's birth rate was at 2.74 per woman in 1980 but decreased to 1.16 by 2021.

In a report published by YuWa Population Research Institute, the average cost of raising a child in 2019 was \$76,629 USD, which was 6.9 times the GDP per capita. This makes it more expensive to raise a child in China than it is in Japan or the USA.

Reuters reported that in an attempt to stimulate the birth rate, local governments have offered housing subsidies, longer maternity leave, and tax deductions associated with having children.

The large number of Chinese emigrants also contributes to China's population decline, with 0.1 migrants leaving the country for every 1000 people, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration. COVID-19 has also lessened these numbers, with *The Economist* estimating between 1.4 and 2.4 million excess deaths in December alone.

To add to the demographics crisis, China's population is aging, with the number of people over 60 reaching 28 per cent last year.



TINGSHU WANG/REUTERS
VIA ALJAZEERA

POLITICIANS CALL FOR U.S. TIKTOK BAN

NEWS REPORT by Evin Jaaf (8)
& Jhilian Yan-Klassen (8)

Some American politicians are calling for a nationwide ban on the social media app TikTok. ByteDance, a Chinese company and the owner of TikTok, has already been banned from certain devices by the US Congress in December last year, to help minimize security risks. TikTok and ByteDance have been facing calls for bans from critics for almost three years now, out of fear that China may use the app to steal data from Americans on the platform.

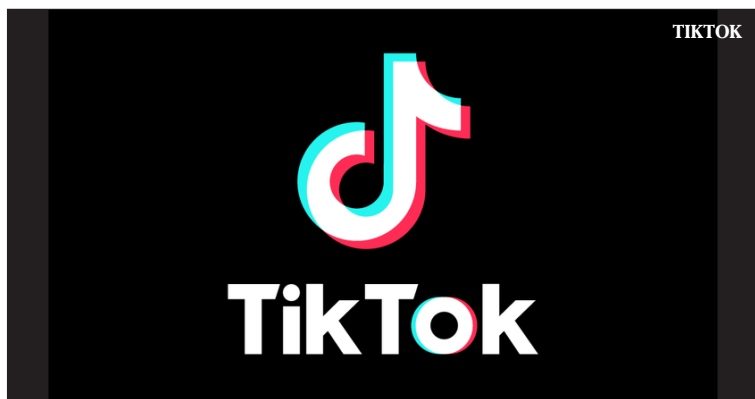
The US government has had suspicions about TikTok for a few years. Former US President Donald Trump attempted to ban the app in 2020, but was unsuccessful, being rescinded by US President Joe Biden in June 2021. In 2022, *Forbes* reported that ByteDance employees were accessing the user information of American TikTok users, which led to bipartisan efforts skyrocketing to regulate its limits.

Senator Michael Bennet, a Democrat, urged Apple and Google to remove the app from their stores in a letter sent early February, due to the possibility of user data being stored

in China. However, it is currently still available to users, although in some cases, such as for people in certain state universities and government positions, the ban has been approved.

The US Office of Management and Budget's director, along with other offices, have been given two months to find a standard procedure for employees to erase TikTok from their government owned devices. The White House, Homeland Security, and other departments' employees have already banned TikTok from their government owned devices and are encouraged to remove the app from their personal devices as well. The House of Representatives' chief administrator, Catherine Szipindor, told lawmakers and staff to remove it for security reasons, according to *The Guardian*.

Indonesia has temporarily banned TikTok, according to *The Guardian*, while India has banned over 50 Chinese apps including TikTok. Some other countries have attempted to make national bans. However, they have not lasted more than a few months. The US government is trying harder to deal with security risks from China in the past few years by adding more and more Chinese companies to a blacklist.



CONTROVERSY OVER RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE OLYMPICS

NEWS REPORT by Sophia
Jeon (10)

With next year's Paris Olympics on the horizon, the International Olympic Committee has recently announced that Russian and Belarusian athletes will be allowed to compete. Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, Russia and its ally Belarus remained almost completely frozen out of international sporting events.

Many people, including Ukraine's sports minister Vadym Guttsait, believe that the participation of Russia and Belarus defies what sports stand for, according to *The New York Times*. Although the modern Olympic movement was formulated to be outside the realm of politics and to use sport as a unifier, the invasion of Ukraine has led to more politicization of the Olympics, with Russian athletes being the crux of the issue.

"Now we see an undisguised desire to destroy the peace of international sports ... to make sport a means of pressure to resolve political issues", said Matysin, the president of the International University Sports Federation.

In response to the tension, the IOC stated that the Olympics is a "unifying mission" where "the government cannot decide which athletes can participate." That "no athletes should be prevented from competing just because of their passport."

The committee has guaranteed a

peaceful summer game by establishing "neutral athletes" —meaning competitors without their flag, anthem, or other national signifiers. Additionally, the IOC plans to keep Russians and Belarusians under strict conditions that include rigorous supervision and constant neutrality towards the war. While the ultimate goal of the IOC is to punish the countries and not the athletes, the international community has many mixed feelings about this decision.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy commented that "athletes from Russia should have no place at the Olympic Games in Paris." He cited attacks on Ukraine, the deaths of civilians, and the destruction of infrastructure.

Ukraine, Poland, the Baltic states, and Nordic countries have expressed their disapproval of the 2024 Summer Olympics and demand changes. The Estonian prime minister, Kaja Kallas has released a statement threatening a boycott if the IOC continues with their plan, saying that "the people will understand why this is necessary."

As a reply towards the pressure, the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, expressed that sport "should not be politicized" and insinuated that even at times of war, athletes should be able to participate in their sport and be permitted at major events, including the Paris Games.

So far, no response has been made by Russian or Belarusian officials.



PAUL GILHAM/GETTY
IMAGES VIA NPR

People Are Eating Up Lab-Grown Meats



DAVID PARRY/PRESS
ASSOCIATION VIA NEW YORK TIMES

NEWS REPORT by Alexandra
Chow (11)

After years of development, lab-grown meat could be seen on consumers' plates in the near future. It appears healthier and more environmentally-friendly than traditional meat, and the rise of many new start-ups has made it more affordable and accessible.

Lab-grown meat is also known as cultured meat, cultivated meat, cell-based meat, and clean meat. Regardless of which name is used, they all refer to the process of growing meat in a laboratory setting using tissues taken from an animal.

The process of creating lab-grown meat begins by taking muscle tissue from an animal. "The animal will experience a momentary twinge of discomfort, not unlike the feeling of getting a routine blood test at the doctor's office", The Humane League, an animal welfare organization, states on their website. The muscle cells are then separated from the tissue and fed amino acids and carbohydrates, which help them grow. The cells naturally merge together, and are then grown into a strand. In the case of cells from a cow, they are layered to form a hamburger patty.

Since significantly less water and land are required, lab-growth meat uses fewer environmental resources. According to Hanna Tuomisto, an associate professor of Agricultural Sciences from Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, "cultured meat could potentially be produced with up to 96% lower greenhouse gas emissions, 45% less energy, 99% lower land use, and 96% lower water use than conventional meat."

The Humane League estimates that the number of cells harvested from one cow can produce the amount of meat that would traditionally require 440,000 cows.

Moreover, lab-grown meat can be healthier for humans, as explained by Grace Derocha, a member of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Scientists can control the amount of cholesterol and saturated fat in the meat, which reduces the risk of some heart diseases that are associated with eating meat. As well, scientists could potentially alter the nutritional content of the meat by adding heart-healthy fats. Since the meat is grown outside of the animal in a sterile and controlled environment, there are no growth hormones and fewer antibiotics used.

The first lab-grown patty, debuted in 2013, cost \$330,000 USD to create. The price has now dropped to \$9.80 per burger, according to *Forbes*. This

may be because lab-grown meat has received official approval by some countries in recent years.

In 2020, Singapore became the first country to allow cultured meat to be sold. Other countries have been following suit. Just last year, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began approving consultations for companies seeking to sell lab-grown meat. However, it will likely be a few years before coming to Canadian markets, with some suggesting that "the meat lobby is very strong, very powerful", and will try to put a damper on the industry, as Sylvain Charlebois, a professor of the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University says.

While hamburger patties were the first type of lab-grown meat, chicken nuggets have also been produced by a startup called Eat Just. Other types of meat, including duck and seafood, are still in the process of being created by various companies. The pet food market also has seen the emergence of lab grown meats. The company Bond Pet Food plans to create cultured chicken for pets.

The future for lab-grown meat remains unknown. Although the impact of creating meat without the slaughter of animals may cause a decline in the existing meat industry, the scale and cost-effectiveness required has yet to be seen.

INTERNATIONAL

Pro-Democracy Protests Break Out Around the World After Years of Democratic Backslide

ANALYSIS by Elle Glen (9)

In 2022, a global generation of youth living under oppression rose up and demanded their voices be heard. Their actions are inciting global change that will transform democracy and inspire leaders to enact more positive changes. After a period of democratic backsliding, democracy is regaining popularity among youth living in autocracy. The protests that have erupted in autocracies in the last year are clear indicators that the tide is beginning to turn. As Ira Wells of the *Globe and Mail* put it, "2022 might turn out to have been the twilight of Autocracy."

In 2021, the world experienced its lowest levels of democracy in thirty years, according to the Varieties of Democracy annual report, and during this decline, right-wing extremism caused severe instability and lack of transparency. US President Joe Biden continues to remark that "we know democracy is at risk," but autocrats have miscalculated and severely underestimated the oppressed. It is important to understand that democracy and autocracy exist in a shifting balance, and although democracy is revitalizing, many factors play into that which could change in the coming years.

In autocracies around the world, citizens are speaking truth to power, but in the last year, Russia, China and Iran saw the beginnings of revolutions being formed despite government pushback. The United States and Brazil both encountered extremism, which damaged its democracy, but set a precedent of holding autocratic enforcers accountable and learning from past mistakes.

Russia

Now, 32 years after the Soviet Union dissolved and 15 countries gained back their democratic freedom, Russia has evolved back into an authoritarian political system, with the majority of power concentrated in the hands of Vladimir Putin.

Denis Volkov from The Levada Centre, a Russian NGO that monitors polling, elaborated on his view of the Russian public in 2020 and explained that they were "witnessing a growing sense of apathy and distance from political engagement—even while doubts [were] mounting as to whether Putin ha[d] any attractive vision of change to offer Russian society." This apathy continues to fuel dictators, autocrats and extremists around the world.

This began to change in 2022, when Putin waged war on Ukraine in an attempt to annex the country like he had done in 2014 with Crimea. Putin heavily relied on the degree of unanimity he received from the population, and his weakness during the beginning of the war reverberated through the levels of bureaucracy as the economic decline caused by international sanctions loosened his grip on power. This display of weakness prompted many Russians to reevaluate the negative effects of dictatorship.

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the mobilization of its army, many members of the Russian public protested in hopes of prompting the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, the resignation of Vladimir Putin, and the release of anti-corruption figurehead Alexi Navalny.

This powerful backlash was met with extreme censorship by imposing fines and prison sentences. Russians were punished for insulting the government through acts of protest, sharing information on corruption and committing defamation on social media. As of December 2022, 18 journalists were actively imprisoned in Russia for sharing anti-war sentiment. "By denying the public any knowledge about protests and obstructing their monitoring, the Kremlin is seeking to eradicate any public expression of discontent," said Natalia Prilutskaya,



OZAN KOSE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES VIA CNBC

Amnesty International's Russia Researcher.

China

In recent years, China's authoritarian regime has become increasingly more repressive and has tightened its control over media, free speech, online autonomy, universities, and public associations. President Xi Jinping has amassed a considerable amount of power during his time in office, "to a degree not seen in China for decades." Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government had enforced severe restrictions, including abrupt and prolonged lockdowns, and made it increasingly more difficult to get life essentials like medical attention. Although the government was able to handle the spread of COVID-19, the freedom of its people was not put first. Many people were injured, malnourished or in extreme cases, died, due to the extreme limits. According to Human Rights Watch, "online videos showed police and COVID-19 control workers beating and dragging people who resisted COVID-19 restrictions."

In September 2022, a large fire broke out in an apartment building in Changsha killing at least ten people. According to an investigation from *The New Yorker*, rumors emerged that the rescue effort was hindered by President Xi Jinping's extreme restrictions.

Despite government denial, protests began to spread across the country as more people became aware of the regime's self-serving tendencies and sparked the largest opposition that China has seen since Tiananmen Square in 1989. The protests soon evolved into a new movement, with its main symbol an A4 blank piece of paper, to symbolize censorship and lack of government transparency. After living under a communist rule since 1949, people on the streets of Shanghai were seen chanting "Communist Party, step down, Xi Jinping, step down."

According to human rights lawyer Teng Biao, "the Blank Paper movement shows that even under the dictatorial regime's hi-tech surveillance, people still managed to stage nationwide protests. This will have a profound impact on China's democratic struggles in the future."

Iran

Since 1979, the Iranian people have lived under the Islamic Republic, in which life is overseen by a supreme religious leader. Under this rule, Iranian women are forced to wear a hijab in public to completely cover their hair. The "Morality Police" are a unit of the Iranian police who, in light of the recent protests have also been accused of using the arbitrary laws on clothing to target women. When a 22 year old woman, Mahsa Amini, died in the

custody of the Iranian morality police in September 2022, the beginning of a revolution was sparked. After being arrested for wearing her hijab improperly, it was reported by Reuters that she was supposedly being taken away to be "re-educated," but eye witnesses reported she was severely beaten by police. She fell into a coma at a hospital in Tehran and died days later. Although the government denounced any claims of police brutality resulting in her death, the coroner who examined her believes she died of severe blows to the head and upper body.

Once word of her death spread on social media, she became a symbol for the protests that originally started in her hometown, but have now spread around the globe. Mainly being led by women and youth, the movement whose slogan is "Women, Life, Freedom," calls for regime change, and is creating new and forceful opposition to the views of the supreme leader, Ali Khamenei's inner circle. Other goals of this movement are the elimination of the mandatory hijab laws, civil protection of women, and the end of the morality police and the prosecution of Mahsa Amini's killers.

Videos of schoolgirls burning their hijabs, removing pictures of the supreme leader and refusing to take part in religious ceremonies praising Ali Khamenei are circulating on social media.

"These young women and girls are facing a well-oiled system of political repression and violence and risking everything including their lives to make their voices heard," said Jasmin Ramsey, deputy director for the Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Gen Z girls have taken off their compulsory hijabs, stared the government straight in the eyes and said in more ways than one: 'We are not going to live under your thumb anymore.'"

The United States

The US has been facing political extremism over the past two years, leading to a divide in cultural norms. On January 6, 2021, ex-President Donald Trump incited insurrection at the US Capitol, in hopes of disrupting the confirmation of the 2020 election results. He was able to do this by spreading disinformation about election fraud and extremist sentiment, which was amplified by a white nationalist group, The Proud Boys, and the conspiracy theorists of Qanon. By mobilizing his supporters who had gathered for a rally, he was able to violently disrupt the electoral process.

Although Congress was able to reconvene hours later and certify the vote, Trump's false assertions about large-scale fraud continued to dominate the GOP, leading to inner party conflict and political marginalization, was threatened against Republicans who denounced Trump.

Former House member Adam Kinzinger, who defended democracy and held a major role in the investigation of the Capitol attack, said that the people involved needed to be held accountable because "there were decisions made prior in the oval office, in the political circles.. that led to a moment when half of the country, in essence, was convinced that an election was stolen." He also explained that "self-governance cannot survive if you convince people that their vote doesn't count because they're going to feel unrepresented."

On social media, Donald Trump is still actively cultivating support and spreading disinformation. "Do you throw the Presidential Election Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution," he said in a recent post on the social media site Truth Social.

The January 6 committee that is charged with investigating the attacks held their final hearing on Dec. 19 and referred Trump to the US Department of Justice for prosecution. After releasing their report three days later, they concluded that he alone was responsible for the havoc that transpired on Jan. 6. According to Kinzinger, this process of healing was crucial. "Democracies aren't defined by bad days, they are defined by how we come back from those bad days."

Brazil

Brazil, which has been a democracy since 1985, is still healing from a recent period of extremist violence. On Jan. 8, thousands of Brazilians stormed Brazil's Federal Building following the defeat of former President Jair Bolsonaro. The attack aimed to reinstate Bolsonaro and bring about a military-controlled change of government.

Incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva told the Brazilian people in his inauguration speech, "There are not two Brazils. We are one country, one great nation."

Despite the global shift towards democracy, many autocratic regimes are still stable, even if they are showing signs of weakening. In order to continue on this path towards global freedom, "elected leaders need to do a better job of addressing major challenges to show that democratic government delivers on its promised dividends," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch.



NG HAN GUAN/AP VIA HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH



GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA

INTERNATIONAL

US Congressman Lies About Everything



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES VIA VANITY FAIR

NEWS REPORT by Anthony Lu (11)

Freshman United States Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.) originally seemed to be a possible future star in the Republican Party (GOP). The son of Brazilian immigrants and the first openly gay Republican to win election to the House, he flipped a Democrat-held congressional district in an underwhelming year for Republicans. However, Santos' credibility has taken a major hit after media investigations revealed that he had lied about much of his past.

A month after Santos' election, on Dec. 19, *The New York Times* reported that their "review of public documents and court filings from the United States and Brazil, as well as various attempts to verify claims that Mr. Santos, 34, made on the campaign trail, call[ed] into question key parts of the résumé that he sold to voters."

The Times found that Baruch College, which Santos claimed to be a 2010 graduate of, had no record of his attendance. Furthermore, two Wall Street firms that Santos claimed to have worked at – Citigroup and Goldmans Sachs – had no record of his employment. And while Santos claimed that his animal rescue group, Friends of Pets United, was a tax-exempt organization, the Internal Revenue Service could find no record of any charity registered with that name.

The Times also found potential issues relating to the congressional financial disclosures of Santos' organization, the Devolder Organization. Santos had previously been inconsistent about the purpose of the organization, but his disclosure explained that the organization was a capital introduction consulting company that connected investors to investment funds. However, Santos did not disclose any such clients, which could be an issue if these clients exist, according to three election law experts.

In addition, Santos boasted ownership of 13 rental properties but did not disclose records of these properties. *The Times* could not find such records either.

On Dec. 21, *The Forward* reported that, contrary to his claim on his campaign website that his "grandparents fled Jewish persecution in Ukraine, settled in Belgium, and again fled persecution during WWII", Santos' grandparents were actually born in Brazil. *The Forward* also expressed doubts that Santos was Jewish.

On Dec. 22, *The Daily Beast* reported that although Santos had claimed that he was openly gay, he had been married to a woman from 2012 to 2019. He had not disclosed his divorce.

Additionally, despite his campaign biography mentioning that he had a husband, *The Daily Beast* found no New York record of a second marriage. Santos' supposed husband was also entirely absent on the campaign trail. And when Santos showed up to Washington, D.C. in January, he did not have a wedding ring on.

Santos' responses to these allegations were varied.

The same day that *The Times* article was published, Dec. 19, Santos' lawyer, Joseph Murray, released a statement accusing Santos' "enemies" at the *New York Times* [of] attempting to smear his good name with these defamatory allegations."

On Dec. 22, Santos tweeted: "To the people of #NY03 I have my story to tell and it will be told next week."

On Dec. 26, Santos confessed to embellishing his resume in multiple interviews. "My sins here are embellishing my resume. I'm sorry," Santos told the *New York Post*.

He admitted that he had "never worked directly" for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup and said that his lie was a "poor choice of words." His new story was that he was a vice president at Link Bridge. His role at the company

was to help build "capital introductions" between clients and investors. The two firms, he claimed, were "Limited Partnerships" (LPS) that Link Bridge had worked with.

Santos also confessed that he "didn't graduate from any institution of higher learning" and was "embarrassed and sorry" for claiming to have done so. "I own up to that ... We do stupid things in life," Santos told *The Post*.

As for Santos' claims of Jewish ancestry, Santos said: "I never claimed to be Jewish. I am Catholic. Because I learned my maternal family had a Jewish background I said I was 'Jew-ish.'"

Santos told *The Post* that while he has had a wife in the past, he was now married to a man, even though *The Daily Beast* found no record of such a marriage. "I dated women in the past. I married a woman. It's personal stuff," Santos said. "I'm very much gay. I'm OK with my sexuality. People

previously said that she was a survivor of the attacks and was in the South Tower of the World Trade Center at the time.

In its Dec. 19 article, *The Times* reported that Santos had unresolved charges for check fraud in Brazil stemming from a 2008 incident in which he stole a checkbook from a man his mother was taking care of. He then used a false name and spent over \$700 with it. In 2010, he admitted to the crime and was charged, but the charges are unresolved. However, Santos denied the crime in his Dec. 26 interview with *The Post*: "I am not a criminal here — not here or in Brazil or any jurisdiction in the world."

On Jan. 2, *The Times* reported that "Brazilian law enforcement authorities intend to revive fraud charges against" Santos, according to a spokeswoman for the office of the Rio de Janeiro prosecutor. The charges had been suspended because Santos'

"I never claimed to be Jewish. I am Catholic. Because I learned my maternal family had a Jewish background I said I was 'Jew-ish.'"

change," he explained.

Subsequent media investigations have further exposed a plethora of lies and controversies involving Santos.

Multiple outlets reported that a member of Santos' political team impersonated the chief of staff of Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy to raise campaign funds. Santos' lawyer refused to reveal whether Santos had been aware of this impersonation, according to *CNBC*.

As well, multiple outlets, including *ABC News* and *CNBC*, obtained immigration records proving that Santos' mother was not in the U.S. on the day of the 9/11 attacks. Santos had

whereabouts were unknown.

Furthermore, Santos' campaign has been accused by the Campaign Legal Center of using campaign funds for personal expenses and hiding the origins of \$705,000 Santos loaned to his own campaign. The Campaign Legal Center has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission.

A disabled veteran has also blamed Santos, in an interview with *NBC News*, for using his fake animal rescue group to take from the veteran thousands of dollars raised on GoFundMe intended to be used for life-saving surgery for the veteran's service dog. In response, Santos

tweeted: "Reports that I would let a dog die is shocking & insane."

News outlets, such as *Patch* and *CNN*, have found that Santos has been involved in many more lies and controversies, including his claim that he was once a journalist in Brazil, his claim that he had been a Broadway producer, and his friends' claim that Santos had stolen items from them before. These scandals have generated the opening of multiple investigations and widespread criticism from both Democrats and Republicans.

Democratic New York Attorney General Letitia James has opened an investigation into Santos.

Republican district attorney of Nassau County (a county that Santos represents) has also launched an investigation. In a statement, she declared that "no one is above the law and if a crime was committed in this county, we will prosecute it."

Many Democrats have pushed for Santos to resign. Rep. Ritchie Torres and Rep. Dan Goldman (both D-N.Y.) have also filed a complaint with the House Ethics Committee, claiming that Santos had not "file[d] timely, accurate and complete financial disclosure reports." Torres and Goldman have introduced the "Stopping Another Non-Truthful Office Seeker" – or "SANTOS" – Act.

On the Republican side of the aisle, Santos has been blacklisted from attending future Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) events, which he had previously attended. According to Matt Brooks, the CEO of the coalition, Santos "deceived us and misrepresented his heritage. In public comments and to us personally he previously claimed to be Jewish".

Republican officials in Nassau County held a news conference on Jan. 11. In the news conference, they called for Santos to resign. Very soon after, four House Republicans also called for Santos' resignation. Santos told reporters "I will not resign." He also tweeted: "I will NOT resign!"

Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (R-N.Y.), who represents a neighbouring district, was the first sitting House Republican to call on Santos to resign. In a statement, D'Esposito said that "[i]t has become clear that Congressman George Santos' many hurtful lies and mistruths surrounding his history have irreparably broken the trust of the residents he has sworn to serve." Since then, six more House Republicans have followed suit.

However, some Republicans – notably Republican leaders – have not criticized Santos as harshly.

In December, Speaker (then House Minority Leader) Kevin McCarthy declined to comment on Santos' scandals.

In January, McCarthy told reporters that while Santos had "a long way to go to earn trust" and that the House Ethics Committee should investigate, Santos was still part of the House GOP conference. "The voters of his district have elected him. He is seated. He is part of the Republican conference."

McCarthy claimed that Santos has a right to serve in Congress, and that he would move to punish Santos only if Santos was proven to have broken the law. He also drew comparisons to President Joe Biden, who he claimed had previously inflated his academic record. "[I]f I was to hold the standard if somebody lied, Joe Biden couldn't be president right now," McCarthy remarked.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA.) and House Majority Whip Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), the No. 2 and No. 3 House Republicans, agreed with McCarthy's assessment.

In addition, in a tweet, far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-G.A.) defended Santos, claiming that Democrats lied all the time. She tweeted that Democrats were only denouncing Santos because he was "the first openly gay Republican elected and they hate him for it."

On Jan. 12, in an interview on "Steve Bannon's War Room" with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL.), Santos said he would only resign if "142,000 people" asked him to. It is thought that he was referring to the total number of votes he received in his election last November.

HAMBERGER

SATIRICAL REVIEW by Noah Yu (12) & Julia Ling (12)

MAKING FRIENDS IN SEMESTER 2

So you have completed your first semester. Congratulations on your academic achievement! On the downside, all the friends you made in your previous classes are gone and you will never talk to them again. Alone and helpless, what do you do now?

DOs

The most important step to making friends is making yourself approachable.

1. Birds in the wild perform mating dances to make themselves appear confident and worthy of friendship. Particularly impressive moves include hopping, screeching, and tickling. If you'd like a more concrete guideline, try your Tiktok FYP.
2. Shouting a list of all your interests in a crowded room will show strangers what you're passionate about. The right people will be drawn toward your enticing vibes, but only if you're loud enough for everyone to hear you.
3. Like pets, humans are bribable through food. You can gain favour in strangers' eyes by throwing various grocerial gifts at them, such as grapefruits, arugula, and unwrapped sticks of butter. With the insane Vancouver inflation, people will appreciate the free groceries.
4. Enchant your friends by calling anything and everything "rizz." For example, one may say, "rizz rizz rizz rizz rizz rizz." Inserting "rizz" into clever puns such as "rizz-oto for dinner" is a tryhard move, and the objects of your affection will roll their eyes and kick you in the shins.
5. If in desperation, force a stranger to sign a friendship contract with you. This will show your victim that you are naturally willing to befriend.

If all else fails, refer to primary source examples of friend-making, such as in the My Little Pony TV series.

DON'Ts

Now that you've achieved your "friend," ensure they remain your friend by avoiding scenarios that may risk your relationship.

1. If you find yourself stuck in an emotional situation where your friend is crying, don't tell them to "suck it up buttercup." Although this is practical advice, people surprisingly don't respond well to comments like these.
2. On your friend's birthday, don't bother purchasing a gift. Is your gift of friendship not enough? Buying a present is a subtle indicator that your companionship is unworthy, and the only element holding your strained relationship together is your sucking up through meaningless material possessions. If you absolutely *must* gift them something material, try a roll of coins, preferably dimes, and flick them one by one at the person to the tune of "Happy Birthday".
3. Don't steal your friend's fingernails. You already have enough.
4. Don't use your friend's ear as a coin purse. Not only will this cause relational tension, but this may also endanger your friend's life. Bacterial infection from contamination may cause tetanus, or the coin may fall into the ear.



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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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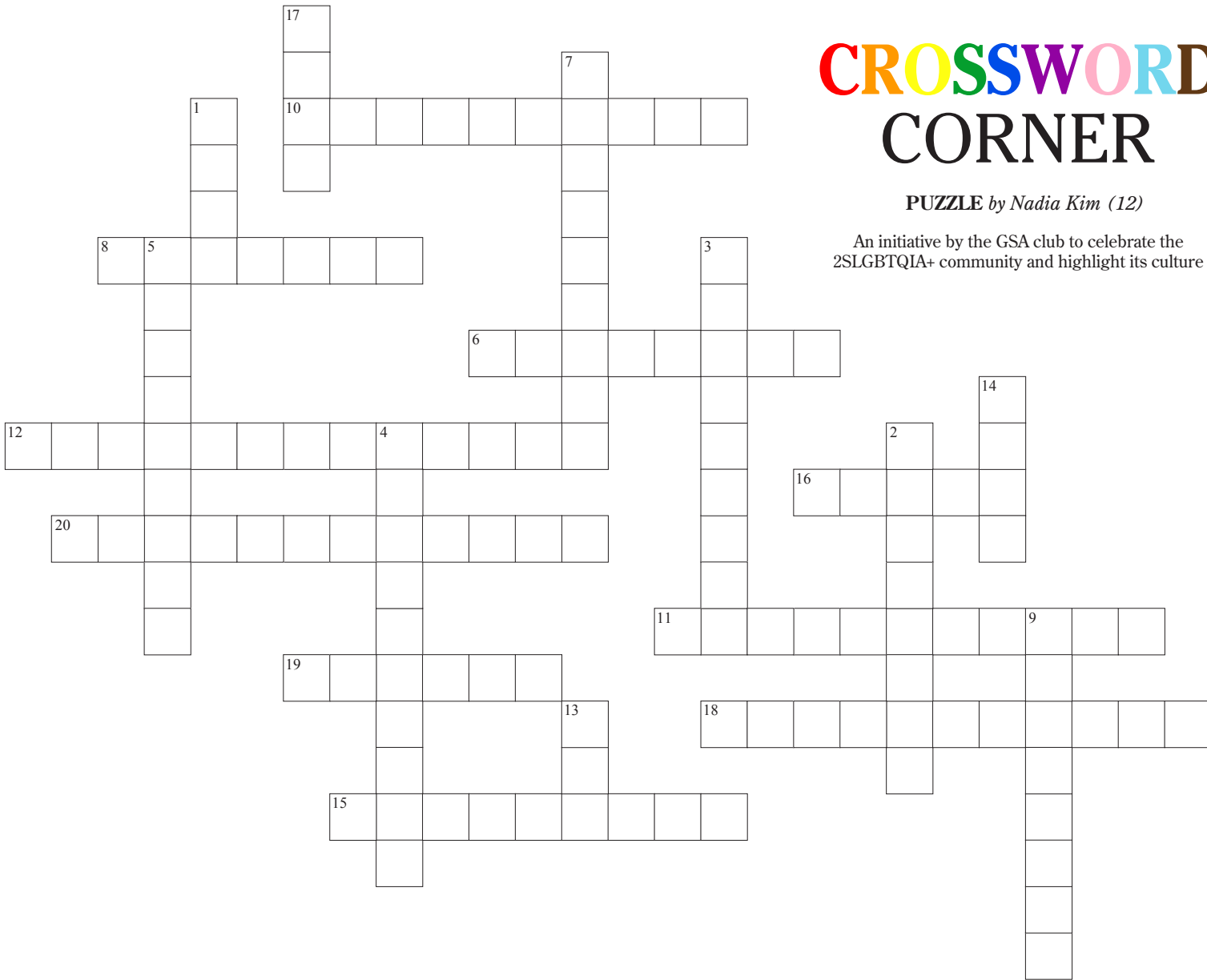
Fill each row, column, and box (3x3) with the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in any given row, column or box. (retrieved from sudoku.com)

HAMBERGER

CROSSWORD CORNER

PUZZLE by Nadia Kim (12)

An initiative by the GSA club to celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and highlight its culture



Across

- 6. A person born with reproductive anatomy that is not typically described as male or female.
- 8. Someone who experiences little to no sexual attraction.
- 10. Computer scientist and mathematician who cracked Nazi Germany's Enigma code.
- 11. Marsha P. Johnson was a self-identified drag queen and activist for gay and transgender rights who was a prominent figure in the 1969 uprisings. What did the "P" in her name stand for?
- 12. A relationship/partnership that shows commitment and intimacy extending beyond friendship but is not romantic.
- 15. A person whose gender identity corresponds with their sex at birth.
- 16. An umbrella term for those who identify as not heterosexual or cisgender that was derogatory but has since been reclaimed by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- 18. Transgender Day of _____ on November 20 honours those who lost their lives as a result of bigotry and violence.
- 19. A famous lyric poet from ancient Greece.
- 20. Originally a webcomic coming-of-age story turned TV show that remained in Netflix's top 10 for multiple weeks following its release on April 22, 2022.

Down

- 1. Same-sex marriage was legalized in Canada in 200__.
- 2. A person's name prior to gender transitioning.
- 3. The distress caused by a mismatch between a person's sex and gender identity is referred to as gender _____.
- 4. An umbrella term used within some Indigenous communities to describe sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity of a person with masculine and feminine spirit.
- 5. A police raid on _____ Inn, which served as a gay club, sparked a series of uprisings by the queer community from June 28, 1969 - July 3, 1969, in New York City.
- 7. Someone who experiences little to no romantic attraction.
- 9. May 17 is recognized as the _____ (acronym) to commemorate the World Health Organization recognizing homosexuality as a natural sexuality in 1990.
- 13. _____ sexuality refers to having sexual, romantic and/or emotional attraction to people regardless of their gender.
- 14. Lady Gaga sang "Baby, I was _____ this way"
- 17. A form of entertainment where performers dress to exaggerate gender signifiers, often femininity, which can be accompanied by lip-syncing.

ASK THE NEST

Q: I'm in grade 11 and so far have nothing to talk about on my post secondary applications. What do I do?

-Struggling Student

A: The quickest solution is to start getting involved in the community! Join clubs that sound interesting to you at Hamber, and talk to club leaders about potential leadership positions next year. Try seeking out volunteering opportunities in the community, like at the VPL or BC SPCA. Think about getting a job during the summer - that way you get experience and money! Consider your strengths and play to them. If you're a social and empathetic person, maybe apply to be a PC next year. Most of all, reflect on what's important to you. Most universities don't want to just know what you've done, but why - make sure everything you dedicate your time to is important to you.

-The Nest

Q: As someone who just came to this school for grade 10, I've had a hard time making friends, especially since people already have their own established friend groups. How do I make friends?

-New and Nervous

A: Did you read the article "How to make friends (and enemies) in semester two"? If so, disregard most of it. (The advice pertaining to not stealing fingernails, petting friends, or using ears as coin purses should be kept in mind. Always.) Though it sounds cliché, the best way to make friends is by being yourself and putting yourself out there. Go to the clubs that sound interesting to you; if you don't end up liking it, that's fine! Try and make friends in your classes. Find common topics you can chat with people about - for example, what goes first: the cereal or the milk? The Hamber community is very welcoming, and even if it may take you a little longer than you thought, you'll find a great group of friends here. Getting a job during the summer - that way you get experience and money!

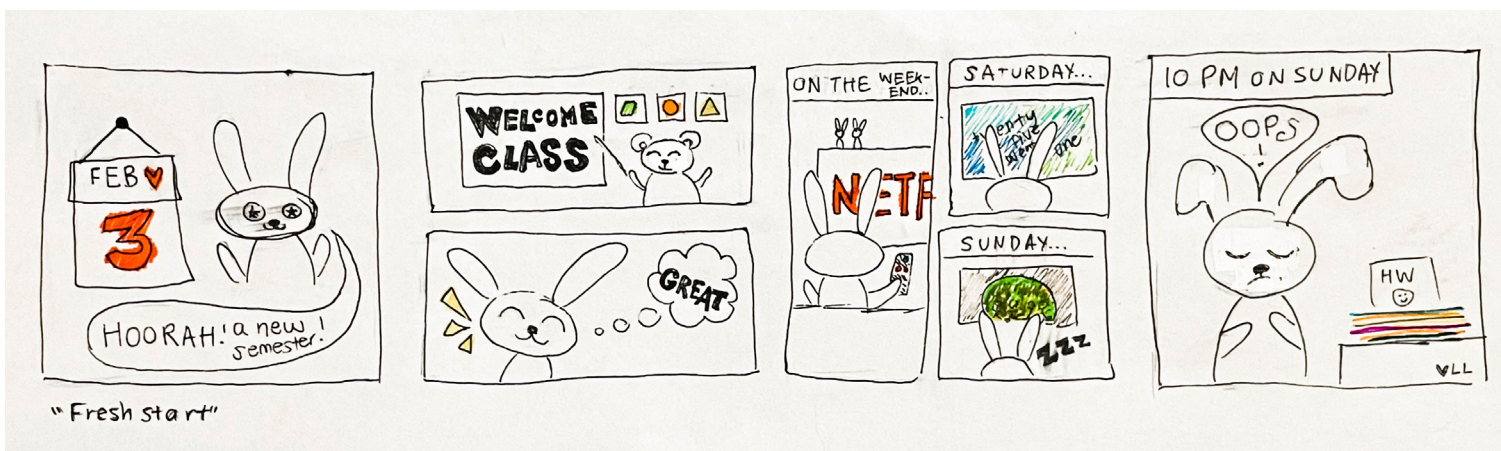
-The Nest

Q: How do I balance/organize my time, (to save my mental health) when I am set on achieving perfection and am willing to take as much time as it takes to do a task perfectly?

-Stressed Out

A: Dear Stressed Out, It's always important to remember to put yourself first, and learn that failure is a part of life. Don't expect 100% perfection for every little task! Try reconnecting with yourself once in a while. Make some cookies! Go on a nature walk. Talk with your friends. While you're working, if you start to feel overwhelmed, walk away from what you're doing and take a 5-10 minute break. Your work will still be there when you get back, and you'll be in a better mental headspace to deal with it.

-The Nest



COMIC by Lauren Lee (12)

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

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