

The Griffins' Nest

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Prom's Party and Price Go Through The Roof

NEWS REPORT by Simone Hamilton (12)

Hamber's 2023 Prom, Under the Stars, is scheduled for May 18. However, the price of tickets has left some grads and parents shocked. Tickets cost \$195 this year, an approximate 18 per cent uptake from Prom 2022 tickets, which cost \$165. Grad Committee sponsors are displeased by ticket prices as well, and attribute the cost to rising venue fees.

The cost of a ticket is also \$55 higher than indicated in the 2022-2023 Projected School Fees document, published on the Hamber website at the beginning of the year, where Prom tickets were cut at \$140, causing parent and PAC pushback. The projected Prom ticket price is also listed as \$25 less than last year's ticket price.

A Hamber parent of a grade 12 student, who wished to remain anonymous for privacy, stated that the Hamber PAC was unaware and shocked by the difference in cost of tickets compared with the projected price. They said, "I find that as a parent, [it is] kind of weird that none of the administration would think twice that an increase of \$50 would affect some families."

This parent also wondered whether families could be accommodated under the VSB Financial Hardship policy, because of their previous understanding of the policy, as explained to them during unrelated work with a VSB official. However, when they brought this up at the April PAC meeting, "Ms. Jensen had said that all grad activities are considered optional. They're elective, they're not official, [not] School Board mandated," and therefore families could not request financial help to the school for Prom tickets or grad ceremony fees.

Ms. M. Jensen (Administration) confirmed with the Nest that grad activities can not be covered specifically under the Financial Hardship policy as they are optional, extracurricular activities. This policy, Administrative Procedure 506, reads, "No student of school age will be denied an opportunity to participate in a course, class or program because of financial hardship."

According to the April PAC meeting minutes in the May, 9 newsletter, Ms. Jensen also mentioned how the school did not have any funds left from the one-time Student and Family Affordability grant from the provincial government. So those funds are unavailable to be used for Prom or grad ceremony assistance.

According to the January PAC meeting minutes in the Jan. 31 newsletter, and emphasized in the April meeting minutes, Ms. Jensen outlined that the Student and Family Affordability Fund was used in part to assist Hamber families in need, and the remainder was used to make this year's Grade 8 Camp free for students. The January meeting minutes also outline "general food distribution" and Compassion Club funding as other uses of the grant.

According to the parent, PAC still wanted "to help enable anybody who wants to go to their Prom, because even



ALANNA RUDOLPH



EXPEDIA



ALANNA RUDOLPH

Above: The Crystal Ballroom at the Pan Pacific Hotel during Prom 2022. Below: The Pan Pacific (Left) Tickets for Prom 2023, Under the Stars (Right)

though it is not a school official event, they felt like it was a life affirming event." They told the Nest that the PAC Chairs talked to Ms. Jensen about possible fundraising after the April meeting.

In the April PAC meeting minutes it is also stated that PAC has significant funds remaining in the gaming grant account, funds that are received through the provincial government's Community Gaming Grants program.

The Nest could not reach either of the PAC Chairs for comment. Ms. Jensen did not wish to divulge any meetings between her and specific Hamber parents, including the PAC chairs, out of respect of confidence. However, Ms. Jensen did confirm that PAC graciously wanted to help with the cost of Prom for families through possible fundraising.

Ms. T. Yip (Science) corroborated that there has been talk between the PAC and the school to assist with the cost of Prom tickets in the near future, however it is not confirmed what this assistance could look like. She also reiterated that the Hamber PAC pays in full for the Grad Breakfast later in the year.

Eric Hamber has partnered with Pan Pacific Vancouver as a Prom venue for several years. However, post-pandemic, Grad Committee sponsor **Ms. B. Panesar** (English) says that fees have jumped.

"[The Pan Pacific] is one of Vancouver's most eminent hotels, it is the downtown place, so their costs have skyrocketed after COVID."

Another Grad Committee sponsor, Ms. Yip commented, "They make you pay 18 per cent gratuity. You need to pay some sort of media levy fee, [an] area fee for this duration of time, [and a] security fee." According to Ms. Yip, these added fees, plus tax, made individual tickets over \$200 before Grad Committee subsidization.

The Grad Committee will not know the final price of Prom until the confirmed number of guests is available, according to Ms. Yip. "[The price] is for about minimum 250 guests," she said, and not meeting that number would result in even steeper ticket prices. However, she confirmed with the Nest after the ticket sales closed that ticket sales have exceeded the minimum guest count.

Ticket costs cover the Pan Pacific experience, which include food, sound and audio-visual equipment, security, school chaperones, and the backdrop of the Crystal Ballroom, the largest space in the hotel. According to the Grad Comm sponsors, everything else is paid for by fundraising. Ms. Panesar stated that "[Grad Committee] has been raising money for things like door prizes and the photo booths."

However, Ms. Yip commented that as of late, Grad Committee fundraising has not been as successful as it was in the past. She said, "The reason being is because there's a lot of things that we couldn't do," citing past fundraisers like car washes, pizza sales, and bubble tea sales as former subsidizers for Prom tickets. She commented that the scope of fundraising is limited and that "the only things [they] could typically do [is] the stuff that is in-house and that [is] not food related."

However, Grad Committee declined to comment on how much money was fundraised this year.

Grads acknowledged the expensive and inaccessible nature of Prom, but still view it as an unique 'high school' experience.

"It is way too expensive," a Prom attendee, **Naomi Klymenko** (12), told the Nest. Klymenko stated that she didn't think Prom was worth the price. "I'm personally just doing it because of the experience; because it's not like we're going to get multiple Proms," she concluded nevertheless.

"I feel like that's really inaccessible for people who wouldn't be able to pay that or don't come from higher middle class families," **Isidora Kostic** (12) said. Kostic also commented, "I think it's worth it because

it's one of those high school experiences that everyone looks forward to."

Some Grads also hoped for more subsidization of the ticket costs through Grad Committee fundraising. Klymenko explained, "I believe we should do a lot more to make it cheaper for more people. We should be allowed to do more fundraisers to make the price lower, because we shouldn't be depending only on the grad hoodies."

Grad Committee sponsors express their sympathy about rising costs, also understanding the social pressures that influence students' spending on Prom. "The price is quite expensive and I understand," Ms. Yip said. "In the past, it wasn't as expensive. Now it's been something that we have been worried about."

Ms. Panesar said, "It's expensive, and it's not just the actual cost that's expensive. You have to think about all the other pieces."

Traditionally, the Prom experience can include expensive new formal wear, professional hairstyling and makeup, limousine rentals, and even photography. With rising ticket prices, Grads are citing high numbers for their total expenditures on Prom.

Through an Instagram Story poll, the Nest has collected self-reported data on how much Hamber Grads are spending in total on Prom. The Nest verified 68 Grade 12 respondents, however cannot verify that these respondents are attending Prom, or that this poll was completed by the name associated with each account. In total, 16 responses were disregarded as the names associated with each account could not be directly linked to a Hamber Grad.

34 per cent of surveyed Grads reported that they will spend \$800 or more on Prom. 15 per cent cited they will spend between \$500 and \$800, and 38 per cent will be spending between \$200 and \$500. 13 per cent of respondents reported they would only be paying for the Prom ticket, spending \$195.

This leaves organizers wondering how to cut costs. Ms. Panesar said the idea of hosting the event at the school has been debated. "This is something that Ms. Jensen and I have definitely talked about, which is why don't we have the prom when we're in the new school, in the new school. That way, it would certainly take down some of the cost."

However, organizers and students worry that a change in venue may take away from the allure and uniqueness of the event. "For it to be in a gym, it's kind of not as special," Kostic commented on the idea. Ms. Panesar explains the disadvantages for students, "They won't get nice photographs right at the waterfront, in that location. They won't get a fancy ballroom with beautiful lights."

Other venues beside the new school have been explored, with little luck. According to Ms. Panesar, most of the downtown hotels charge similar fees for an event like Prom, and that alternate venues like the UBC Student Union building had not received good reviews from other schools.

Meet StuCo Members 2023

NEWS REPORT by Allison Lee (11)

Possible conflict of interest: Mackenzie Chung and Arabella Mew are Nest reporters

After an exciting campaigning and election process, Hamber's Student Council (StuCo) for 2023-2024 has been announced, and winning candidates are excited to take on the responsibility and represent the student's voices.

"I've always wanted to be on [Student Council] and this was my last year to do something, and I figured I want to be a leader, so Grad Chair was the best position," said **Nina Mazzucco** (11). Mazzucco is delighted to be working alongside Grad Committee members **Sidonie Lee** (11), **Ava Low** (11), **Kayla Szilagyi** (11), **Amy Tran** (11), and **Melissa Xie** (11) to host grad events, such as Prom and Grad Karaoke. "Especially since it's our last year,

I would like to be the one to organize a lot of these events," she added.

Several other elected members have ideas for what they want to accomplish. As next year's StuCo treasurer, **Daniel Choi** (10) expressed that he wanted to "satisfy a lot of club funding," starting with clubs that were not receiving any money. **Arianna Tham** (11), elected as next year's StuCo Social Coordinator, looks forward to bringing back events hosted by StuCo in the past and generating new ideas for events to make next year memorable for all students.

Kae Lin Whiton (10), elected as next year's Director of Communications (DOC), is excited about her new role. "I used to do PA in elementary and I found it really fun and I like to connect to my community in that way," she explained. "I thought if I ran for [DOC] this year I would get the same pleasure out of it."

Elected as next year's Vice President

is **Arabella Mew** (10), who explained that she would be working alongside the Co-Presidents in a leadership position and assisting with planning and organizing Student Council functions. "There's definitely a side to these Student Councils that aren't acknowledged as much, which is about the advocacy role you play, and I think my experience on the [Vancouver] District Student Council (VDSC) is going to be very beneficial," explained Mew.

Mackenzie Chung (10) echoed that statement, as she served as the VDSC Secretary for the 2022-2023 school year. Chung, who was elected as Secretary for next year's Student Council, revealed that both she and Mew had wanted to run for Secretary. "[We] didn't want to run for the same position, so we had to coordinate it so [we] weren't fighting each other," said Chung.

Co-Presidents **Sophia Keng** (11) and **Shahreen Chowdhury** (11) are already planning large-scale events at Hamber next year. "One thing that we're really focusing



KATJA RADOVIC-JONSSON

Newly elected Co-Presidents Sophia Keng (left) and Shahreen Chowdhury (right)

on is having less events that don't have a lot of engagement, and focusing on a lot of events that people want to see," Chowdhury stated, listing Hamber's Haunted House, a school dance, Canley Cup, and Carfreeival as the main events that will be hosted next year.

"Our goal is to get more students in-

involved in Student Council and [know] what we actually do," explained Keng, claiming that many Hamber students underestimate the amount of work that Student Council requires.

Both Co-Presidents look forward to creating a positive image for Hamber's Student Council next year.

The Griffins' Nest

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What Do Peer Counsellors Actually Do?

NEWS REPORT by Katja Radovic-Jonsson (11)

Hamber's Peer Counsellors (PCs), often recognizable by their bold purple T-shirts as they roam around the school, have become a familiar group to many in the school community. From organizing events to helping out in the classroom, this group of grade 12s has spent countless hours helping new students feel welcomed at Hamber.

"Every Tuesday, we learn the basics of counselling," said Peer Counsellor Sarah Rubidge (12) about PCs' early morning class, which starts at 7:30 a.m.. "We've covered things like helping people through grief, conflict resolution, and just helping people talk through their feelings," she said. "We also do things like role plays so we can practice these skills. So one of us will pretend to be someone with a problem or an issue, and then we will help talk them through it"

Students go to PCs for help for a multitude of reasons. "Anything, really. If they just want to talk to someone, [...] or if they have an actual issue with their class, or if their friends are having a big fight, they can come to a PC and we can help them," Rubidge stated.

So far, the PCs have hosted a multitude of events to help welcome the grade 8s and other new students, from a Christmas train chugging through the halls, to school tours, to a "PCs vs. grade 8s" sporting event.

"We did the PCs vs. grade 8s [event] a few months ago, and I think that was really helpful for the grade 8s, because [...] they were able to bond together and try to beat us, which was a lot of fun," recalled Rubidge.

Historically, one of the PCs' biggest responsibilities has been organizing an overnight camping trip at Camp Elphinstone on the Sunshine Coast for the grade 8s. There has not been a grade 8 Camp for the past few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year, the PCs have helped to organize a last-minute alternative to the traditional camping trip.

"We're still doing [Grade 8 Camp], but it's going to be a day camp," said Peer Counsellor Gabby Milot (12). The day camp, which will take place later this month in Chilliwack, is the main focus of the Peer Counsellors at the moment. As per tradition, the PCs are putting on a skit to be performed in front of the grade 8s at the camp.

Other projects that the PCs are currently working on include an introduction video for next year's incoming grade 8s, as well as a legacy project, which is yet to be unveiled.

Aside from large projects, the Peer Counsellors also help out in the school community on a day-to-day basis



PCs display their purple t-shirts



PCs competing in a tug of war competition against grade 8s

through grade 8 placement blocks.

"Basically, you get put into a PC block, which is a grade 8 class that's usually an elective. If they're having any issues in the class, you can bring them out and they can talk to you about whatever's going on," PC Micah Andaya (12) explained.

"You can also be given a buddy. Usually that's for if they need extra help in their academic courses," Andaya continued. "So you tutor them sometimes, and meet up with them and check in on them. You're supposed to be there and be a leader for the school."

The experience of being a Peer Counsellor is highly fulfilling. "I think a lot of people think it's just something for your resume or graduation, but it's really

a lot more than that. The things that you talk about with the kids and spending time with them is so magical," explained PC Brianna McGuire (12) "It's so important for them, and it just means a lot for me to be someone like that to them."

The impact that the PCs have made is certainly tangible. The PCs have been met with a lot of love from the students they have helped.

"I remember when I was done my class already, for my placement block, one of the girls that I used to have to sit with came up to me during Halloween and brought me candy, which was super sweet," Milot shared.

Andaya, who also coaches the Bantam Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams, told a similar story: "I remember Janelle

Sobredo (12) and I were playing one of our last Midtown games, and someone [on the Bantam team] was watching in the stands, and they'd send a chat in our Teams channel, [saying], 'So great seeing you guys there, I hope to be just like one of you guys.'"

Natalie Tam (12), whose placement block was during Semester 1 in the Learning Assistance/Life skills (LALS) class, found that after the semester ended, many of the students in the LALS class expressed disappointment that she was gone. "They approach me [...] and ask to go for a walk together, and ask me, 'why aren't you in our class anymore?'," she described. "Me being able to build that connection, and them wanting me to be there, is very meaningful to me."

The Return of Grade 8 Camp

NEWS REPORT by River Cheng (8)

Grade 8 Camp has returned after a two year hiatus. The camp will be held at Stillwood Camp on May 24, and will be attended by approximately 245 grade 8s, 23 Peer Counsellors, and 20 teachers.

Put on hold for the past few school years due to COVID-19, this year's grade 8 camp will differ in many ways from previous renditions of the outing.

The grade 8s will take buses to the Chilliwack area, near Cultus Lake, to get to Stillwood Camp. The ride will be "no more than just an hour, hour and a half" according to Mr. C. Smith (Counselling). The camp is not an overnight trip, but it does include lunch and dinner, and has a variety of activities such as high ropes, field games, ziplining, archery, laser tag, bubble soccer, arts and crafts, and more.

In the past, grade 8s have gone to Camp Elphinstone on the Sunshine Coast. This year, it was switched to Stillwood Camp to avoid the cost of ferry rides. "The camp used to be an over-

night trip, which I kind of wish it still was, [...] but kids had to pay too. This year, you don't have to pay." Mr. Smith said. He explained that this year, the camp is fully paid for through government funding.

"We've changed things a little bit [this year]", Mr. Smith said. Students used to be in the same groups for the whole trip, but now they will be with different people in their bus, activity, and eating groups. "We also have some time built in for kids to just hang out a little bit, because that's where kids meet each other and talk."

"One of the big things that's huge about our camp is it builds community," said Mr. Smith. He thinks of it as a "chance for the kids to get to know teachers better, the Peer Counsellors as well." In previous years, grade 8 camp was held in October and it helped everyone meet each other at the beginning of the year.

"I feel like I don't really know grade 8s outside the mini [school] super well yet, and I could get to know them better when I go," said Luke Savage-Catlin (8).

Many grade 8s commented about all the different activities they'll get to

try, such as bubble soccer and laser tag. Jacob Nishi (8) is most excited to do "things that [he doesn't] normally get to do." He explained, "My experience with past camps were good, so I'm hoping this one lives up to my expectations."

Other grade 8s are excited to be in a different environment during school. "Getting outdoors is just fun for me!"

said Maddy Tang (8). "I did do camp in grade 7 and it was fun, so I'm excited to try it again with new people."

"I like seeing the kids running around having a good time," said Mr. Smith. He hopes the grade 8s will be able to make connections and encourages them all to come to camp so they can attend "the most fun thing of the year."



Grade 8 camp in 2019, held at Camp Elphinstone

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

HAMBER'S FOOTBALL TEAM IS BACK IN THE GAME

NEWS REPORT by River Cheng (8)

Coached by **Mr. B. Gibson** (Physical Education), Hamber's grade 8 football team plans to be the first stage in re-establishing Hamber's football program, which has been on hiatus since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our hope is that this is a springboard to us restarting our teams in the fall," said Mr. Gibson. "Next year we'll be able to take these grade 8's, who will be grade 9's next year, along with some grade 10's, and have a junior varsity team." Mr. Gibson's goal is to eventually restart the varsity team as well, something he's been trying to do since the shutdowns.

The grade 8 football team practices three times a week, having games on different days. There will only be three games for the team this season, as the team started after spring break. The team usually works with contact, making sure they can safely enter and receive blows, as well as practising being in positions to see the game.

Most of the assistant coaches are Hamber alumni who've come to help with the team. "I've played on the football team for five years and loved every minute of it," commented Deniz Senoglu, an assistant coach and Hamber graduate of 2018. "When I heard there were options to help, and the team needed help, I was more than happy to give my time to give back to a program that helped me."

Another graduate, Callum Oxley, explained what the assistant coaches do. "We'll help run some of the drills, give pointers to the players [...] most of the time we're demonstrating things, giving the pointers that I received when I first started."

The players this year are excited to play their games and be with their team. "We're all really nice, and we all really want to win, and we're really competitive," said **Angus Hesby** (8).

He's excited to be able to do sports inside of Hamber. "I always wanted a more contact sport," stated **Nolan Wolf** (8). "When this opportunity opened up, I had to take it."

"This season, our goal is just to have a team on the field and have positive experiences," said Mr. Gibson. "I think that we've accomplished that so far." Mr. Gibson also hopes that the team will encourage more people to join football next season in the fall.



Grade 8 students train for their first game

Students Brace Themselves for AP Exams



NEWS REPORT by Julien Yuen (12)

This year, Hamber offered a selection of AP courses and exams in subject areas such as psychology, physics, statistics, and literature. Administered from May 1 to May 12, AP courses provide university level educational opportunities and credits for students who are looking to further their education before completing high school.

Mr. D. Mugford (English) teaches AP Literature and Composition. "Generally, we cover a modern and a classic play as well as a classic novel and a modern novel," he explained.

Ms. N. Mysuria (Mathematics) teaches two AP courses, Calculus and Statistics. "AP Calculus takes math to the next level, it's abstract, whereas AP Statistics is more applied and less focused on the computational part."

Teachers and students with AP courses have found challenges with the semester system. "If I had AP Lit and Composition 12 in semester two, that means we don't start until February 2nd and their exam is May 3rd [...] it just doesn't leave a lot of time," said Mr. Mugford. Mr. Mugford also believes that the semester system does

not help students synthesize the information they learn in class, as they have to come back the very next day and be ready to absorb new concepts.

Oscar Shi (12) has taken a variety of AP courses, including AP Calculus AB last year and AP Chemistry, AP Physics C, and AP Literature this year. Chemistry and Physics C were in the first semester, and he found the three month long gap between the end of the course and the AP exam very difficult.

"You don't really have time throughout all three of those months to be constantly keeping up your skills, because you have a whole other semester's worth of courses," he said. "I think that's still better than having an AP course in the second semester, [...] it's essentially two and a half months to learn a whole AP course."

"Last school year, I taught AP Calculus in semester two and only had around three months to cover the content, as the AP exam was in May," said Ms. Mysuria, who taught AP Calculus AB and AP Statistics this year during semester one. When it was held in semester two, Ms. Mysuria said, "I had to teach at a fast pace and students felt stressed as they did not have enough time to practice in order to master the

skill [...] The drawback is that students may not be as motivated to self-study for the exam in May once the semester ends."

"I took all of my APs in semester one," said **Jessica Tobin** (12), who is writing AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, and AP Physics C. When asked about her study plans, she said, "I plan to start early, so instead of starting maybe a week before, I've started almost half a month before [the exam]". She's hoping the early start will help "get that info back into my brain."

Kylan Sheppard (12), who wrote the AP Literature and Composition exam, would advise future AP students to "prepare yourself for an increased level of academic rigour. AP courses and exams are meant to stand on the same grounds as an introductory-level college course."

He also expressed that "following an accelerated path can be very beneficial for cultivating like-minded peers," even if students decide not to write the exam.

For students wishing to take AP courses and exams in the future, Ms. Mysuria advised students to "take AP Calculus or AP Statistics only if they plan to write the AP exam in May." Students should instead take regular Calculus 12 and Statistics 12 if they only want exposure to university-level math, as both courses cover most of the AP curriculum while no exam is written.

Mr. Mugford also advised students should only take AP courses if they're genuinely interested. For AP Literature specifically, students should be well-read and spend enough time thinking about what they read. "If you have that love or that passion for literature, that goes a long way," he said.

Shi said, "It's certainly very challenging and expensive. I think it can be a very enriching experience if you commit to it."

Tobin suggested that most AP courses do not fully cover their first-year university equivalents. "I probably would just do the course again in university, especially if those were fundamental courses," she said. "You should definitely consider if you're going to use the AP credits in post-secondary."

Student Council Pulls the Plug on Hamber Festival

NEWS REPORT by Stephen Kosar (12)

Despite Eric Hamber's Student Council's intention to run a festival at the end of this school year, the event has been scrapped, says Co-President **Wilson Liang** (12).

The planning for the event started in September, says Liang. "We started immediately in the hopes that we could do Carfreeenival."

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Hamber used to host "Carfreeenival" every two years in June, an event planned by Student Council that would see Willow Street closed off between 33rd and 37th avenues.

"It was like a great way for all the students to come together," says Liang. Liang was in grade 8 when Carfreeenival was last hosted.

Clubs would set up booths at the festival, providing food and activities for staff and students. One especially popular booth was the cotton candy booth, where lines stayed consistently long throughout the event. Food trucks providing snacks such as ice cream and fish and chips were also present.

Carfreeenival was last run in the 2018/19 school year, before going on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, Student Council was planning to run Carfreeenival for the first time post-pandemic, but was not able to due to time restrictions and complications regarding the construction of Hamber's seismically safe buildings. "It was a matter of timeline. We didn't start early enough," Liang stated.

One of the primary concerns for planning the festival this year was the construction of the new school. With the construction vehicles, closing off Willow street was not an option.

Additionally, Liang said that the school's administration told StuCo that they would not be able to call it Carfreeenival, so they rebranded the event as "Hamber Festival".

Student Council executives sat down with Hamber's Principal, Ms. M. Jensen around spring break, where Ms. Jensen said she was concerned about the number of moving parts that come with planning a festival.

Student Council sponsors told the StuCo executives that it would be best to postpone it for this year, and instead wait for a future year to do it.

Co-president Liang was concerned with postponing it, saying that he "[Wasn't] sure if it's actually gonna happen anymore... I have no idea if it's postponed or if this event is ever gonna take place again."



Students pose with a balloon arch



A student balloon twisting



Students came out in droves to enjoy the Spring Zing

VSB Board of Trustees Closes Its Doors To the Public



TERESA CHEN

The Vancouver School Board building

NEWS REPORT by Adelaide Guan (10)

On Apr. 3, former Vancouver School Board (VSB) Trustee Ruth Herman arrived at the VSB Education Centre with the intention of attending a Special Board/Committee of the Whole Meeting. She was faced with locked doors and was told the meeting could only be viewed online.

Herman hoped to learn more about the \$700 million draft budget for the 2023-24 school year. The meeting was set to be the first public display of the VSB's proposed draft budget.

"Usually at the board meetings they have the budget documents on paper, and I find it easier to follow," Herman told *The Tyee* in an interview.

Herman continued that VSB Deputy Superintendent David Nelson met her at the door, and cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for the restricted meeting.

"I just expressed my shock and outrage at the situation and then I left and went home," Herman told *CTV*. "And I missed some of the meeting actually because by the time I got home, the first twenty minutes were over."

"We need options for people to connect with the decision-making process," Trustee Jennifer Reddy said to *The Tyee*. "Not everyone connects in one way. Having opportunities to meet and connect with your elected officials, I think, is part of a robust, developing democracy."

Reddy acknowledged her own confusion on the matter, and begs the question: If she is confused as a two-term school trustee, where will that leave the public?

In a press release by *OneCity Vancouver* on Apr. 5, Reddy stated that "conducting what are supposed to be transparent

processes behind doors that are physically locked is inappropriate and anti-democratic," continuing that it is unacceptable that decisions with such significant implications for the district be made behind closed doors.

To close their statement, OneCity Vancouver called for the "VSB to unlock the doors and immediately reopen its meetings to the public."

Under sections 69.1 and 69.2 of the School Act, "meetings of the board are open to the public" and "if, in the opinion of the board, the public interest so requires, persons other than trustees may be excluded from a meeting."

VSB Board Chair Victoria Chung told *CTV* that during the pandemic, there were changes made in order to make meetings more accessible, and that she "want[s] to stress that [VSB] open board meetings are currently open to attendees both in-person and online."

The VSB calendar presents multiple types of meetings scheduled, such as special board meetings and committee meetings, but monthly board meetings are the only ones open to in-person public viewing.

VSB spokesperson Jiana Chow told *The Tyee* that in-person attendance of regular board meetings, including time for the public to ask the board questions, has not changed. She continued that Herman was not allowed access to the meeting on Apr. 3 because the board meeting dissolved into a committee of the whole meeting, which included representatives from stakeholder groups (such as teachers, administrators, and support staff).

Chow also mentioned that the public may comment on the draft budget at meetings on Apr. 19 or 26. These meetings also took place online, and speakers were to register in advance. "This actually improves the accessibility where you can join in virtually: you can join in during the time you're registered [to speak] or you can watch the entire meeting," she said.

When asked about the reasoning behind the closed-door meetings, Chair Chung told *CTV*, "As things change post-pandemic, that could potentially change but right now that's just the way it is." Chung described the monthly open board meetings as an "avenue for all of those to engage."



TERESA CHEN

SPY VERSUS SPY: A NEW HAMBER GRAD TRADITION?

NEWS REPORT by Sara Maya Budhiraja (10)

Most students are probably familiar with Eric Hamber's classic Grad events, like grad pancake breakfast after prom and GQ day. Recently however, a new senior tradition has emerged, filled with alliances, betrayal, and very strategic planning and execution.

Spy versus Spy, also known as "Gotcha" or "Senior Assassin", is a complex multiplayer game which involves grads attempting to get their "target" (another grad in the game) eliminated by spraying them with water. All players are vulnerable to attack, unless they are within certain safe zones like school, or at an organized event they are participating in.

"I think the game has brought people together, and it feels very elementary school, which is nice since we've all been so focussed on grades and university," shared Milo Lee-Philp (12).

The only other way to ensure your protection is to participate in weekly "safeties", which grant you immunity from being splashed. "My favourite safety was the watermelon week, which was the perfect balance of inconvenient and accessible, as we had to carry around a melon to stay safe," said Lee-Philp.

Over one hundred students in Hamber's class of 2023 signed up to play this year, and their achievements were logged and posted on the spy versus spy Instagram account, @spyvsy.ehss2023. Numbers

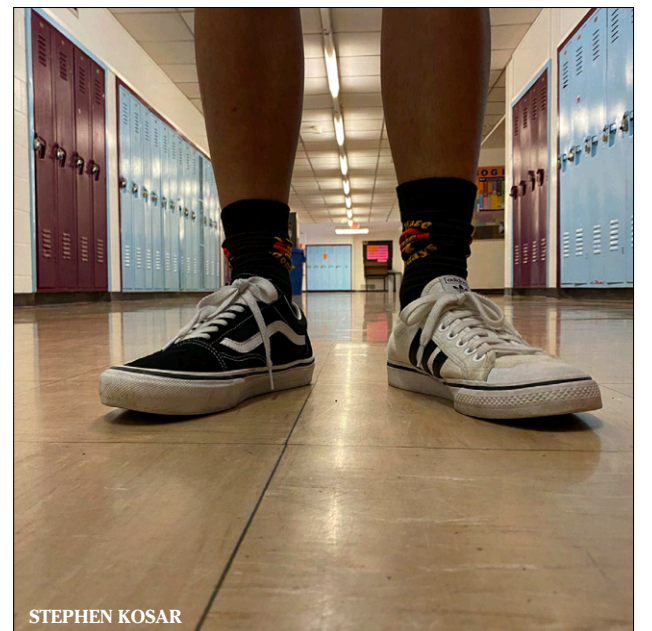
dwindled as the weeks went on, and those who were caught without the required "safeties", or on days where there weren't any at all, were sprayed, soaked, and eliminated.

Spy versus spy isn't only inspiring espionage in Hamber's graduating class. The game has taken hold across the city, popping up at Churchill, Tupper, Templeton, Byng and Vancouver Technical. But why are so many students playing? To enter in the game, participants must pay a \$5 fee. This goes towards a pool of prize money waiting for a winner who can evade their friends, classmates and newfound enemies and be the last grad standing.

Keeping track of all of the

school's participants, their targets, and eliminations was a large task, happily taken on by a few members of Hamber's class of 2023. "Our goal is to keep the game as fair, safe and respectful as possible," explained Janelle Sobredo (12), one of the students responsible for running the event this year.

"I've always wanted to run spy versus spy, because I think I'm a good middleman for everyone, and I know enough people to make sure that information is passed around to everybody," Sobredo revealed. "I think I would get out really quick if I was playing, because I'm kind of slow, and I wouldn't have the patience to carry around a safety!"



STEPHEN KOSAR

A student wears two different shoes as part of a weekly "safety"

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

Test Your Strength at Tea Club

NEWS REPORT by Jamie Sinclair (12)

Walk into a meeting of Tea club on Thursday at lunch, and you'll see one particular activity that isn't what people expect. Tea club is new to Hamber, only being founded last semester, but they've already gained quite a lot of attention because of another undertaking: arm wrestling.

"At first it was to gain traction at Clubs Day," explained Tea Club Co-President **Ellie Jin** (11). "But then one of our members, **Noah Yu** (12), decided that he likes to arm wrestle, and brought all his friends."

Starting on Clubs Day, when Tea Club raised heads with their arm wrestling challenges, it quickly became something the club was known for; tea and arm wrestling, hand in hand.

Tea Club secretary **Anahita Arora** (11) has confirmed that these matches don't factor into the club's official activities, but they're fun and helpful for drawing attention and gaining new members.

"We have a drawer [full of tea] in the back [of Mr. D. Lee (Science)'s room]. [Every week], we decide which one looks the best," described Jin when asked about how the club runs. She continued that she and other Co-President **Katie Hoo** (11) go out and buy the teas for meetings.

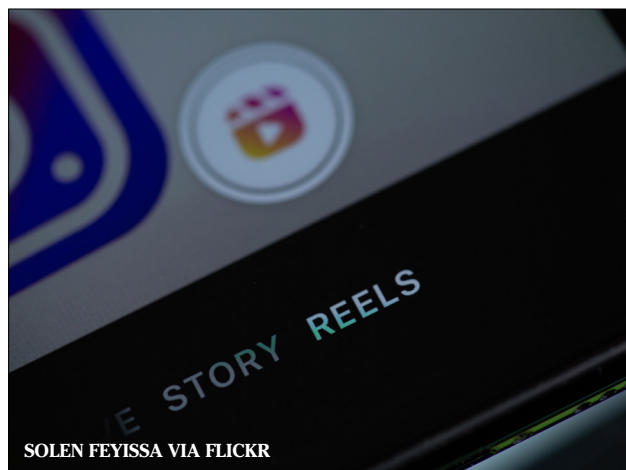
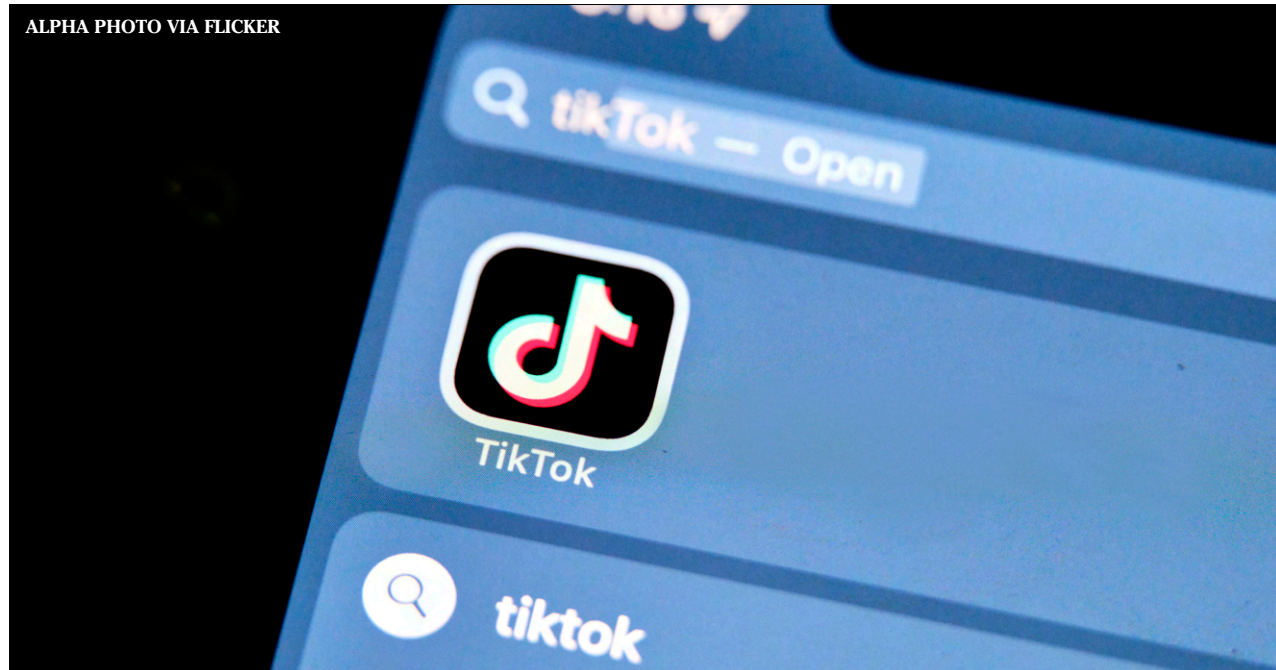
As a self-proclaimed "tea enjoyer", Tea Club member **Finley Craig** (11) has learned a lot about his tea preferences by participating. "I like the opportunity to try a new tea every week," Craig explained. He went on to describe his experience with a new type of orange tea. "I didn't really like that [tea]. That's [one thing] I've learned at Tea Club."

"I like the whole community aspect of getting together and all having the same tea," said Craig. He enjoys discussing different types of tea with fellow members and hearing others' thoughts on the tea of the week.

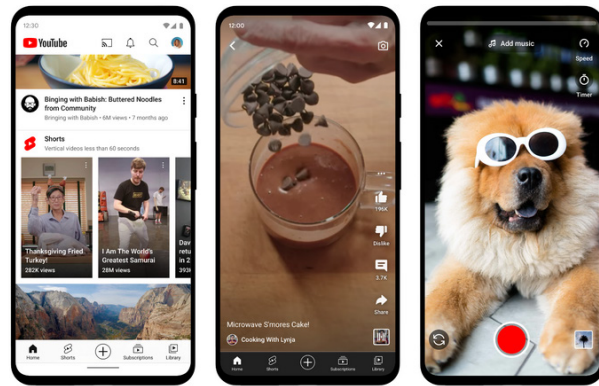
Jin encourages anyone interested in drinking tea to stop by Mr. Lee's room on Thursdays at lunch. However, there is one thing to note: "If you plan on coming, bring your own mug. Or else we'll kick you out."

ATTENTION SPANS HAVE SHORTENED WITH THE RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

ALPHA PHOTO VIA FLICKER



SOLENE FEYSSA VIA FLICKER



ALPHABET INC. VIA WALL STREET JOURNAL

Above: The popular short-form video app, TikTok. Below, Left: Instagram's short form video application: Reels. Below, Right: Youtube's short form video application: Youtube Shorts.

NEWS REPORT by Andre Chen (10) & John Xu (10)

Spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, the popularity of "short-form" videos has increased explosively across social media platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. Now, three years past their initial growth, experts are debating the effect of short-form videos on the attention spans of their biggest consumer: teenagers.

Short-form content emerged as a major force on the internet in 2013 with the rise of Vine, a social media platform that quickly became one of the fastest growing of its time.

In 2016, as Vine's popularity started to wane, a Chinese tech startup by the name of ByteDance launched a new

short-form video hosting service called TikTok, which was nearly identical to its Chinese counterpart "Douyin", but hosted on separate servers due to China's internet laws.

TikTok's popularity began to soar soon after its launch, and with the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, the app began to grow at an unprecedented rate, reaching almost 800 per cent of its size in 2018, according to *CNBC*. As lockdowns and social distancing measures became the new norm, people found that they needed to find a way to connect.

"People's mental immunity [were at a low], and [we saw] a spike in anxiety, depression and a fear or phobia of the unknown," explained clinical psychologist Dr. Prerna Kohli to *Vice Magazine*, "Which is

why people are turning to apps like TikTok, because it provides instant gratification, applause and appreciation."

TikTok was the most downloaded app on the app store in 2020 according to *Forbes*, with 850 million downloads. It reached one billion monthly users the next year. Since then, multiple social media platforms have adopted the short-form video format due to the success of TikTok.

For example, Meta's reduction in the size of their audience caused them to "chase where the buzz seems to be," creating features such as Instagram Reels, said Richard Lachman, associate professor at Toronto Metropolitan University's The Creative School, to the *CBC*.

These videos are often highly engaging, with view-

ers scrolling through multiple videos in quick succession.

"The way it becomes addictive - when things make us feel good - is the release of dopamine in the brain and you want more and more," explained Dr. Williams of Bangor University to *BBC News* when asked about the popularity of TikTok. "Because TikTok videos are short and sweet, they keep your attention going from one to another."

With short-form videos becoming a popular form of entertainment, consumers are concerned about their impact on attention spans. Yet, attention span is a nebulous concept, argues Dr. Gloria Mark, a professor of informatics at the University of California. It changes depending on how much effort the consumer puts into sustaining it. Since

watching short form videos is not a demanding task, viewers allow their attention to wander.

"In the last five, six years, we found [attention spans] to average about 47 seconds," she said in a 2023 interview with the APA. "Around 2012 we found it to be 75 seconds."

However, this drop in attention span has not been proven to be linked to shorter video lengths, and some experts attribute the popularity of short-form videos to the public's previously declining attention span. Mark claims, in the same interview, that researchers are not sure "if there is any causal connection [between] these two parallel trends," calling it a "chicken and egg question."

One of the key factors that makes scrolling apps like these so successful and potentially harmful is their algorithms. The viewer does not get the chance to pick which videos they want to watch; instead, the algorithm recommends videos actively in an endless feed. The algorithm does this based on the viewers interests and actions, such as how long they watch a video, the way they interact with it, and even things like location or device data, as stated by TikTok in 2020. The elimination of choices reduces the effort needed to stay on the app, and this creates a feedback loop that can lead to the consumer constantly seeking for instant gratification or the next dopamine hit, rather than engaging in deeper, more sustained forms of attention.

In a study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, researchers found that the constant desire for instant gratification can have negative effects on mental health, including increased stress, anxiety, lack of motivation, and even depression.

More importantly, this constant seeking of instant gratification can make individuals less likely to achieve long term goals; which requires patience and the ability to endure delayed gratification.

Experts are still debating over the effects these types of short form content may cause and more studies are needed to better understand the impact of short-form videos on attention spans and other abilities among its teenagers.

"It's embarrassing that we know so little about TikTok and its effects," said Philipp Lorenz-Spreen, a research scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, in an interview with *The Guardian*.

GSA Unveils New LGBTQ+ Mural

NEWS REPORT by Andre Chen (10)

The Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) is one of many clubs offered by Hamber, and is dedicated to providing a safe, positive place for LGBTQ+ students and allies to hang out. Recently, the GSA has been working on a mural next to the third floor staircase, and students passing by the colourful letters and flowing rainbow might be wondering about the purpose behind it.

The mural, the GSA's most recent initiative, represents the spectrum of LGBTQ+ identities throughout the world, intending to extend a place of comfort for Hamber's queer community.

"I hope that the mural will help LGBTQ+ people feel safe in the school," said GSA member **Chloe Tam** (10) when asked about the purpose of the mural. "It's also just

a beautiful piece of art that adds to the school's design."

Zoë Van Den Heuvel (12), another member of the GSA, explained that "each of the letters in the mural has a different colour code that corresponds with an LGBTQ+ flag."

The majority of the GSA contributed to the mural in some way, either through the planning or painting stages. "I think that it displays how many people are willing to help show solidarity," continued Van Den Heuvel.

Creating the mural was a relatively smooth process. "The approval was not the challenging part; it was finding a location and designing the mural. That took us multiple weeks," said Van Den Heuvel, who had helped design the mural.

Tam, who had helped in the planning and painting processes, also thought that the designing was the hardest part.

"Our original design had frogs and just a bunch of different things, so it's more simplified now," they said. "Painting it was really fun though. We would often meet at FIT time and just grab the buckets from the art room and get painting." Chloe hopes that the mural will spread awareness about the diversity of Hamber's LGBTQ+ population, and that it will encourage students to be welcoming.

Van Den Heuvel hopes that the mural will inspire more Hamberites to join the GSA. She encourages everyone to "check out the mural!"

Making murals is just one aspect of the GSA as a whole. For many members, GSA meetings are a place to socialize and make new friends.

"Sometimes we just talk," said Tam. "We also do events like the mural and button making."



Progress picture of GSA's new mural

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE CLEARED

NEWS REPORT by *Reya Khanna (11)*

After eight months of conflict between by-law officials, police, and locals on East Hastings Street in Vancouver, a coordinated operation to remove the long-standing camp there started on Apr. 5 and carried into the next day. The clearance was mandated by Mayor Ken Sim, in response to the city's police and fire chiefs' warnings about rising crime and high fire danger.

Vancouver city staff and police took aggressive measures to clear out the remaining tents on East Hastings Street after months of softer attempts to convince people to leave.

The police and city employees resumed their efforts to remove the last of the tents, temporary buildings, and a few returning inhabitants on the morning of Apr. 6. While outreach workers looked for shelter options for displaced homeless people, Vancouver Police Department officers blocked off East Hastings between Main Street and Gore Avenue to ensure safety and enforce the Streets and Traffic Bylaw.

City Manager Paul Mochrie, Vancouver Police Chief Adam Palmer, and Vancouver Fire Chief Karen Fry emphasized that the entrenched camp had resulted in increasing violence, more fires, and more dangerous situations that could no longer be tolerated. Fry cited in *The Globe and Mail* that there had been 16 fires since the beginning of 2023.

According to *The Globe and Mail*, Mayor Sim and City

Manager Mochrie have both acknowledged that there were not enough housing options for residents to move into, but insisted that the camp needed to be evicted because of safety concerns. Mochrie stated that there were likely not 100 shelter spaces available for the remaining homeless on Hastings, adding that some would have to continue to shelter outside.

Premier David Eby called the situation "very sad" and has admitted that resolving homelessness was not going to happen immediately.

In the Downtown Eastside, hundreds rely on shelters or live on the streets, and many are struggling with addiction and mental illness.

Most of the unhoused in

"some would have to continue to shelter outside"

Vancouver don't live on East Hastings but rather are spread out in the area. This includes a homeless camp in Crab Park, living quietly in bush areas around the city, in tents alongside streets in the Downtown Eastside, under overpasses and bridges, in parking garages, or in other parks avoiding attention by packing up their tents every morning.

Mochrie stated that the city had no plans for Crab Park because of a court ruling prohibiting the park board from evicting homeless people from the park if there is no suitable housing available for them.



Tent encampments along the street in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside neighbourhood

Vancouver City Council Votes to End Living Wage Policy

NEWS REPORT by *Salena Sharma (9)*

Vancouver City Council has decided to end the city's living wage certification policy after five years due to skyrocketing living costs. The policy mandates the city to pay its workers the hourly amount required to support a family of four. The decision was announced on Mar. 2; voting, however, occurred on Jan. 31 at a meeting held in camera.

A meeting held in camera means councillors cannot share what occurred or how their peers voted.

policy, the city is now paying wages based on a five-year moving average of the living wage.

French told *The Vancouver Sun* that a five-year moving average is based on the average of living wages since 2018. French explained that a full-time worker earning a living wage at 35 hours a week could make around \$43,825 in a year. With the five-year rolling average in place, the worker will now make \$38,038.

Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim commented at a news conference, "We're committed to making sure that the City of Vancouver is competitive in terms of wages, benefits and

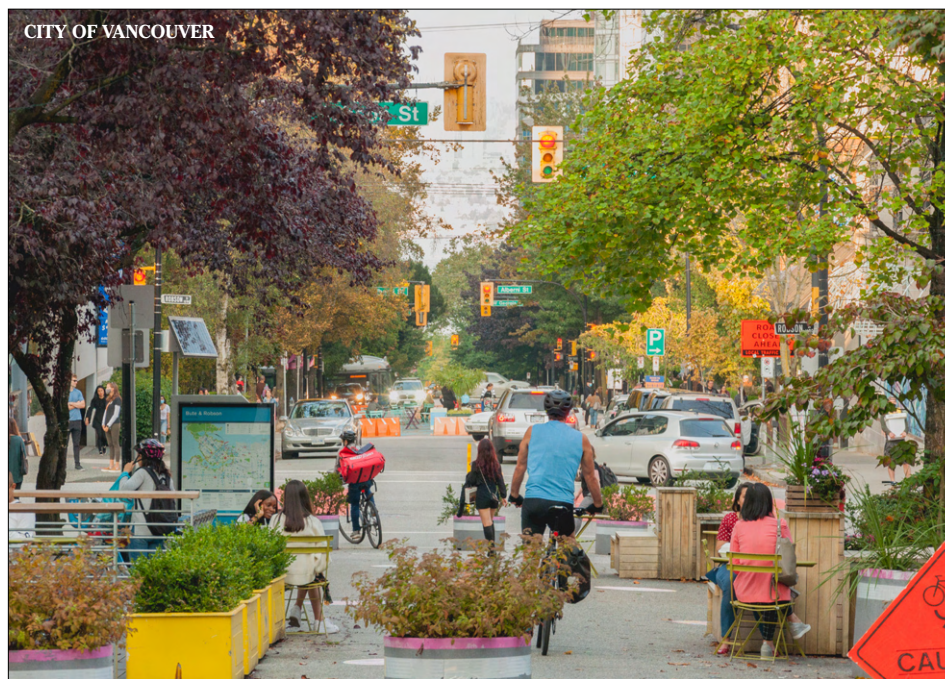
ing to reverse this change. The Hospital Employees Union (HEU) released a statement stating that councillors voting to change the living wage policy demonstrates that they are "out of touch with how inflation and rising costs play out in workers' day-to-day lives."

According to a statement released by Simon Fraser University (SFU), the Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU), representing around 3,500 support staff at SFU, has voted in favour of a strike to get the living wage policy back. TSSU shared on Twitter that they will refuse to work overtime, talk in tutorials to inform students about collective arguments, put stickers on papers saying, "marked by a member", and withhold grades.

In the same month that the policy was discarded, Vancouver's mayor and councillors were subjected to a 7.3 per cent raise. As a result of the raise, Vancouver's 10 councillors will earn \$98,585, which excludes expense allowances and compensation from Metro Vancouver. The mayor's pay will be \$199,143 this year compared to \$185,594 last year.

Former Vancouver councillor Jean Swanson finds it "disgusting" for a council to accept a pay raise while taking away wages for low-income people.

"They could have voted to reduce it, which we voted to do during COVID," Swanson told *The Vancouver Sun*. Swanson stated she gave away tens of thousands of dollars of her salary each year on the council between 2018 and 2022.



A bustling Vancouver street



Vancouver City Hall

"It gets more expensive to live in this city every day. We should be figuring out how to pay working people enough"

This year, Living Wages for Families Campaign (LWFC) BC set the wage at \$24.08 for Metro Vancouver, a 17 per cent increase from last year. The LWFC promotes government policies that help families afford basic necessities by encouraging employers to pay a living wage.

According to the LWFC website, they calculate a living wage based on food expenses, clothing, rental housing, childcare, transportation, and savings to cover illnesses or crises for a family with two parents and two children in Metro Vancouver.

With the cancellation of the

work environment. And so what we need to do is look at these things holistically, and it's our goal to be a best employer [...] and we will do everything we can to be a best employer."

CBC reports councillor Christine Boyle deemed this change unacceptable. "It gets more expensive to live in this city every day. We should be figuring out how to pay working people enough to live here, not making it harder and harder for them to make ends meet," she commented in a written statement to CBC. Both Green Party councillors voted to keep the policy. Many unions are attempt-

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE



BEN NELMS/CBC



MIKE ZIMMER/CBC



BEN NELMS/CBC



BEN NELMS/CBC

BC Minimum Wage Increases to \$16.75

NEWS REPORT by Justin Chuk (10)

British Columbia has recently announced that the minimum wage will be increased to \$16.75 per hour, a 7 per cent increase from the current rate of \$15.65 per hour. This change will come into effect on June 1, and is part of the government's ongoing efforts to address the current record-high inflation and income inequality in the province.

In a statement, Minister of Labour Harry Bains stated that keeping up with inflation is "a key step to prevent the lowest paid workers from falling behind."

This follows a 2.9 per cent increase in 2022, from \$15.20 to \$15.65. Prior to that, the minimum wage had been raised several times in recent years. However, despite these increases, the minimum wage has historically been lower than the living wage, which is the amount required to cover the basic expenses of a family

with two working parents and two children, according to Living Wages for Families BC.

The wage increase is expected to benefit approximately 150,000 workers in the province, however, business owners have raised concerns about the potential negative impacts. Some fear that the increase in wages will lead to higher labour costs, which will result in job losses or higher prices for consumers.

Anita Huberman, the CEO and President of the Surrey Board of Trade, has expressed her concern that the "substantial" increase in the minimum wage should have been discussed with the business community last year, especially given the other unprecedented increases in taxes and fees imposed by other levels of government.

"It is imperative that the BC government focus on reducing costs to businesses by committing to convening a commission to review taxes and red tape impacting businesses," Anita Huberman said in a statement.

Last Minute Ideas for Mother's Day

NEWS REPORT by Bryony Prior (8)

Perhaps getting mom a Mother's Day present got bumped down to the bottom of your to-do list, buried amongst countless other assignments and tests. Or maybe you simply don't know what to get for your mother—after all, planning the perfect Mother's Day gift is no easy feat.

Whatever state your Mother's Day planning is in, The Nest has a few ideas to kick-start a brilliant plan that your mother is sure to love.

Don't have the budget to go buy mum that designer handbag she's been eyeing for the past couple months? Never fear! Instead of blowing all your hard earned money on Louis Vuitton, why not make something handmade? A handmade gift is much more heartfelt than a store bought one, especially if it's made with time, care, and most importantly, love. Perhaps you could try your hand at something new, such as knitting, or pick up a past hobby that you haven't had as much time to do since starting high school. Even if the final outcome is a hole-infested sweater or a crumpled up piece of paper, your mum will appreciate your effort - or at least feel guilty about throwing it out.

Maybe you want to get mom something simple yet sweet. Something that shows

your appreciation and love for your mother, without being overly extravagant. If this is the case, then a nice, good quality card is the perfect idea for you. A card will allow you to really tell your mum how much you appreciate and love her—and maybe even tell her some things that you may be too embarrassed to say in person. A card is a great option for just about anyone. All you need is a piece of paper, a pen, and you're good to go!

If you're leaning more towards the experience side of presents, a nice lunch or relaxing picnic may be a good idea. A meal out will allow you to spend quality time with your mom, something that many students may not get to do that much due to homework loads and the extracurriculars that so many of us are enrolled in. Time is a valuable gift, and something that your mother is sure to appreciate! A little catch up could also be beneficial to you and your mom's relationship, and will allow you to strengthen the mother-child bond that is such an important part of growing up. As well, with the weather finally improving, a little time spent out in nature could do us all some good!

No matter what you decide to give your mom, whether it be a designer handbag or an origami crane, as long as it's gifted with love and appreciation, your mother is sure to be thankful.



Students hold signs outside VSB headquarters to protest the decision to move Ideal Mini School from its current building

THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR CHURCHILL'S IDEAL MINI

NEWS REPORT by Izzy Jang (11)

On Apr. 12, students and parents from Ideal Mini School received a letter from the Vancouver School Board (VSB) about the relocation of their students and faculty to Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School's campus in the following school year. In this letter procured by The Nest from an Ideal Mini student, the VSB stated that "due to limited space at Laurier Elementary, the District has decided to relocate the Ideal Mini program to Churchill Secondary" and that "the District has exhausted all other space options at Laurier."

This announcement was given 10 weeks before the end of the 2023-2024 school year. The VSB cited the move being made because of increased enrollment demand into Laurier Elementary, where there are "37 Laurier catchment students who have been placed at near-

by schools." The district wants to accommodate additional students at Laurier including waitlisted Kindergarten students by transferring the 125 Ideal Mini students into the main building of Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School.

Following this announcement, an emergency public delegation meeting was held on Apr. 26, where students, parents, and alumni protested the latest changes. During the meeting, Ideal Mini's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) chair, Jennifer Uegama, said that the VSB's decision came "without prior notice and without fair process."

Uegama criticized the VSB for the lack of notice and the lack of a plan to relocate the students and integrate them into the main school, which currently houses around 2000 students. The VSB had said that they "will collaborate with administrators to locate the program within Churchill building

in a way that maintains the cohesiveness of the learning community," but has not communicated with Ideal Mini staff, students, or parents any plans to do so.

Administrative Policy 381 of the VSB's Policy Handbook states that the district will prioritize student needs by "making informed decisions and engaging in open communication with rights holders and stakeholders."

In a response to a question from VSB trustee Jennifer Reddy about students being informed of the move, Uegama also shared that the letter given to Ideal Mini students was also given to the Churchill and Laurier communities. "Not only has the VSB not considered individual students, they didn't even consider individual schools." She stated.

The VSB has had contact with students in the program, holding a question period at Ideal Mini on Apr. 19. Leo Rob-

inson, a student of Ideal Mini, said in an Apr. 20 interview with *Vancouver Is Awesome* that during this question period he "didn't feel that much has been taken into consideration."

The VSB commented in their letter that "District staff will work to facilitate a transition by organizing meetings to answer questions, address any possible concerns, and facilitate tours of the new location" in the following weeks for Ideal Mini students.

In an emailed statement to *Vancouver Is Awesome*, the VSB responded to the student protests stating that "the relocation of a District choice program is an operational matter that does not require Board approval." This information would apply to other District choice programs as well, including some elementary school programs, though it is unclear through the VSB website if other mini school programs also apply to this label.



VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

Useful and Fun French Learning Resources



MICHAEL FERRE/THE ROLLING STONE

The Belgian musical artist, Stromae

REVIEW by Austin Witter (11)

Learning a second language requires constant exposure to it. In my experience, gradual absorption of material works better than forcing your brain to memorize grammar or vocabulary. With repeated encounters with the language, your subconscious begins to internalize correct grammar and vocabulary. This process requires the consumption of lots of content in a foreign language. Fortunately, with the advent of the Internet, there are vast numbers of resources available to learn languages, as French happens to be one of the most popular languages in the world to learn.

I've been learning French outside of school for a year or two now. The content I've found has not only helped me learn the language, but it's also entertaining in its own right. Most listening or reading materials presented in French classes are frankly boring, regardless of their difficulty. I find listening to authentic content that native speakers might actually consume much more rewarding.

French classes often prioritize total comprehension: understanding the meaning of every word so you can answer specific questions about the subject. This strikes me as both unrealistic and not very enjoyable. Sometimes it's nice to let the content flow past, absorb the basic meaning, and not worry too much about understanding every word.

Coffee Break French & La vérité éclate toujours

I'm a frequent listener of podcasts,

and hearing spoken French is an excellent way to improve your comprehension and pronunciation. There are really two types of French content: material intended for French learners and material intended for French speakers. The latter is usually more fun, but more difficult. This podcast is an example of the former. Coffee Break Languages is a sort of conglomerate that has created resources in various other languages, including Italian, German, Chinese, Swedish, English, Portuguese and Gaelic. From what I've listened to, their format usually involves introductions, some small talk from the hosts in the target language, which is informal and fun, a piece of audio to listen to, and then an explanation and review of that audio in English.

My favourite series they've done, technically separate from the original Coffee Break French podcast, is "La vérité éclate toujours", translated to English as The Truth Always Comes Out. It's a crime story involving car chases, stolen diamonds, the forging of documents, and a friend in a coma.

Recommended: La vérité éclate toujours (start with episode 1)

Gurky

One of the best things about learning a foreign language is that content which might be sort of mindless entertainment in your native language suddenly becomes educational. So it is with the YouTube channel Gurky, who reviews and experiments with food. His videos include such gems as "Mettre des ingrédients improbables dans un Sodastream", translated to English as Putting Unlikely Ingredients in a Sodastream, which is essentially self-ex-

planatory. The host generally uses fairly simple language and some nice vocabulary and expressions relating to food. The channel is also a great way to be exposed to the Québécois accent.

Recommended: Mettre des ingrédients improbables dans un Sodastream

Rereading your favourite English books

Reading French novels helps build vocabulary and increases your ability to intuitively tell whether something makes grammatical sense. Also, knowing the plot beforehand gives you additional context that often allows you to more easily infer the meaning of words that you aren't familiar with.

Audiobooks at the library

Our VPL system provides a selection of French audiobooks. I've listened to "Nos étoiles contraires", a translation of The Fault in Our Stars by John Green and "Le Hobbit", a translation of The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien so far. Nos étoiles contraires was notable for using more informal and less literary constructions, eschewing completely the passé simple tense. An audiobook is a larger commitment than a podcast or YouTube video, but it's more satisfying. Even audiobooks that I've started and never finished have been helpful. Basically any exposure to authentic content in your target language seems to be helpful, regardless of whether you see it through to the end.

Recommended: Nos étoiles contraires

Lupin

This Netflix series starring Omar Sy would be phenomenal in any language; learning French is a side benefit. I prefer using French subtitles or none at all; I find that English subtitles basically give your brain a free pass and don't encourage any sort of engagement with the language, since the comprehension is given to you with no required effort. Lupin: Part 3 is expected to release later in 2023.

Radio-Canada

The French language arm of the CBC has a YouTube channel with various clips covering local and international news. It's useful for picking up more topic-specific vocabulary, and effectively simulates a common situation one might come across in a French-speaking country — watching the news.

Recommended: Fermer le chemin Roxham, ça changerait quoi?

Stromae

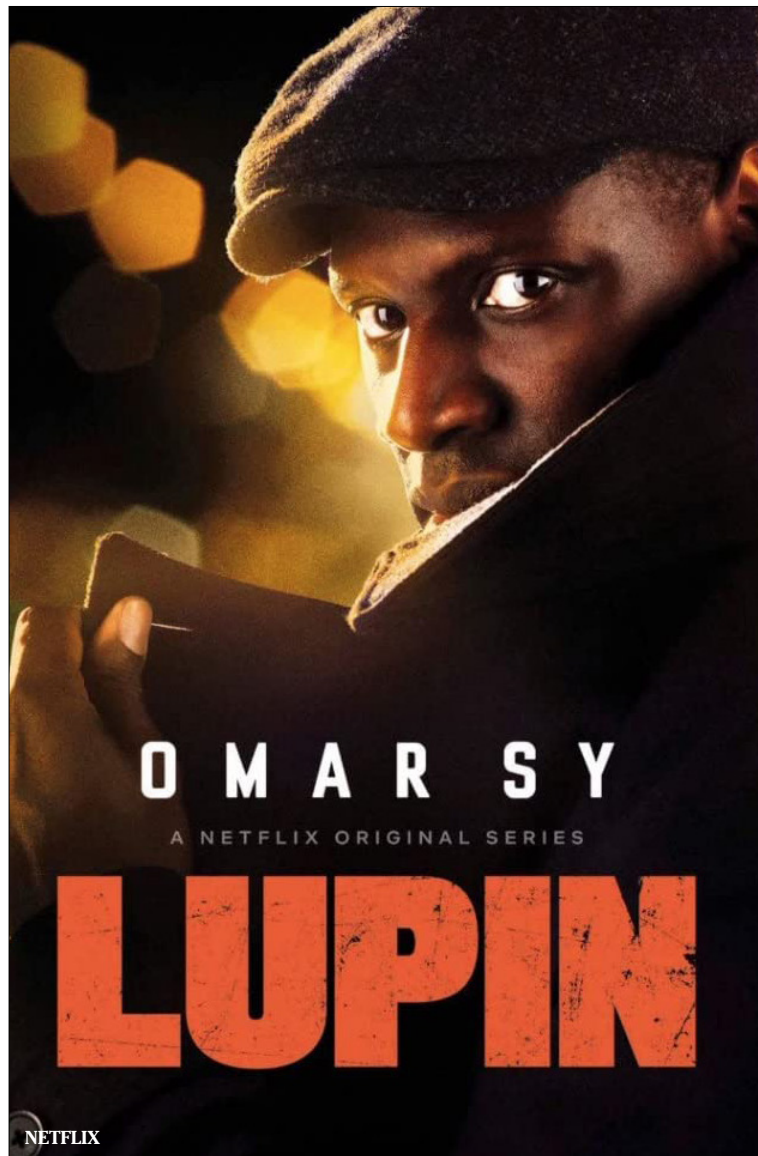
Stromae is a Belgian pop artist

who rose to fame with his single Alors on danse in 2009, which resurfaced recently as a TikTok phenomenon. Since then, his music has become a worldwide phenomenon. He has released three albums, of which 2013's Racine carrée was the most commercially successful; his most recent album, Multitude, was released in 2022. He is the recipient of various awards, including an MTV Award, performs to sold-out venues around the world, including prestigious spots such as Madison Square Garden in New York, and his music has been streamed around 6.5 billion times. His music is an enthralling mix of dance beats, Francophone rap, and worldwide influences such as Congolese music. Multitude included, among other things, the erhu from China, a Bulgarian vocal choir, a string quartet, a harpsichord, and the charango, a

string instrument from the Andes.

For French learners, however, the relevant aspect is the lyrics. Stromae sings and raps in a clear, comprehensible tone, and his lyrics are clever and affecting, usually covering more serious topics than American pop hits. He has sung about such topics as absent fathers, the working class, depression, social media, parenting, income inequality, colonialism, and cancer, all to catchy tunes and danceable rhythms. His lyrics are full of excellent vocabulary and help considerably with pronunciation. If you take away one recommendation from this list, let it be this one — listen to Stromae, whether you intend to learn French or not.

Recommended: La solassitude and Tous les mêmes (though really, all of his music)



Promotional poster for Netflix TV show, Lupin

What's the Deal with Public Funding for Private Schools?

ANALYSIS by Oliver Izen (11) & Max von Dehn (11)

In the 2022/23 school year, private schools, officially known as independent schools, were granted \$491 million in government funding, a \$17

million increase over the 2021/22 school year. Making up roughly 7 per cent of BC's total education budget, funding for independent schools has often been criticized. Adding to the scrutiny, only half the provinces in Canada fund these institutions.

Funding for independent schools is divided into multiple groupings, each having different requirements and funding amounts. The two most common groups are Group 1 and Group 2 schools, which make up the vast majority.

When most people think of independent schools, they think of "elite preparatory schools" which are part of Group 2. However, Group 2 also includes specialized learning and Indigenous schools. Altogether, they make up roughly 22 per cent of independent schools, and less than 13 per cent of the independent schools' budget for 2021, according to the Ministry of Education.

Group 1 schools are the most prevalent type of independent school, making up 64 per cent. In general, Group 1 schools are religiously affiliated, although there are specialized schools such as Fraser Academy which focuses on helping dyslexic students. In order to be classified as a Group 1 independent school, the school must meet multiple requirements. First, according to the BC government, the school must be run

by a non-profit authority which is fully up to date with their public records, and the teachers must be certified by the Teacher Regulation Branch. The school must also have at least half of its students be 'eligible students', meaning they are school age and their parents are citizens of BC. The most important factor is that the operational costs per-student must be the same or less than the cost-per-student of the local public school district. Any independent schools that exceed this per-student cost threshold while still satisfying all other criteria for Group 1 are then categorized into Group 2. It is through these groupings that funding is determined. Group 1 schools receive 50 per cent of the local public school amount per student, with Group 2 schools receiving only 35 per cent. It is important to note that this does not include some tax breaks such as property tax breaks that independent schools receive.

Only four other provinces besides BC fund independent schools in some fashion, which has led many to call for a halt to the province's funding. The BC Teachers' Federation has

been a vocal critic, saying that the government is "subsidizing private schools with public funds". Repeated polls have shown a similar opposition to funding these schools, with a poll from BHumanist showing roughly two-thirds of citizens are against it. The general argument for stopping the provincial funding often boils down to simply reclaiming the budget that is spent on independent schools and moving it to public projects.

An alternative perspective on independent school funding is, as proposed by Mark Milke from the Fraser Institute, a right-leaning think tank, that the Ministry is getting a discount on all students at independent schools. Each student costs either 35 or 50 per cent of their cost in the public school system. An issue with this thinking, however, is that not all these students would automatically be back in public schools if funding was cut, although this still does lend support to the funding of independent schools.

While not a clear cut issue, independent school costs are much lower than most people initially expect.



A building at Saint George's School, an all-boys Vancouver independent school

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

Super Mario Bros Movie Jumps Above Expectations

REVIEW by Nigel Goto (11), Oliver Izen (11), Max von Dehn (11)



Promotional release poster for the Super Mario Bros. Movie

When we stepped out of the theatre after watching the Mario Movie, we cried, for cinema would never be the same. "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" is a 2023 film by Illumination and Nintendo. Starring Christopher Micheal Pratt as Mario, with Jack Black pulling off a stellar performance as Bowser, and Anya Taylor-Joy as Princess Peach, the movie in no way lacks star-power.

Let us first start out with an acknowledgment: this movie isn't for everyone. The movie is not so much meant as an independent installment in the franchise as it is an accompaniment to the games. One may ask what this movie means for the lore of the Nintendo universe, and for that, we have no clear answer. Our best guess is that all Nintendo shows, such as the ever-influential Donkey Kong and Zelda shows, are all canon, including the part where shaving Donkey Kong's head removes his power.

One critique of the film so far has been that it lacks a "solid plot" and "real stakes", and to that we must respectfully disagree. Mario's character alone undergoes a massive transformation. He transitions from a confident plumber to a confident plumber who can also jump really high. This especially comes in handy during the final fight against Bowser, when Mario jumps very high.

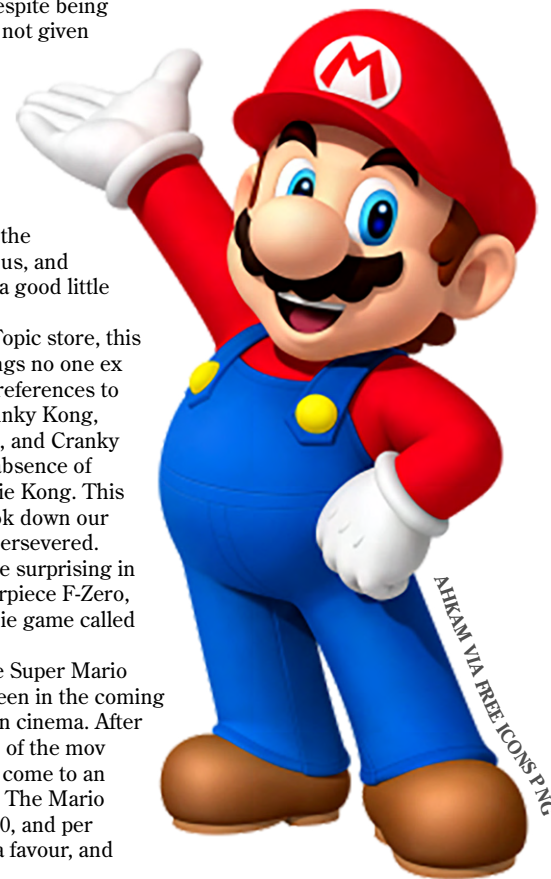
Despite heavy skepticism, Chris Pratt successfully voiced Mario and didn't detract from the story at all. By the end of the movie, we could not even differentiate between the two, as they fused into one sole person. Toad, played by Keegan-Michael Key, was also a standout acting performance. Key masterfully brings Toad's character to life, avoiding becoming the annoying

"pet character" through sheer force of charisma.

Unfortunately, Luigi, despite being voiced by Charlie Day, was not given the time of day by Nintendo. Luigi has always been the most under-represented character in the series, and we were quite disappointed to see that Nintendo did nothing to change this. It's the little things that stuck with us, and unfortunately, this was not a good little thing.

Just like a greasy Hot Topic store, this movie was packed with things no one expected. Not only are there references to Punch-Out!!, but also to Funky Kong, Chunky Kong, Diddy Kong, and Cranky Kong. Sadly, there was an absence of Lanky Kong, as well as Dixie Kong. This colossal letdown almost took down our rating to a 0; however, we persevered. This was partially due to the surprising inclusions of forgotten masterpiece F-Zero, as well as a little-known indie game called Super Smash Bros.

The true legacy of "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" will only be seen in the coming years, as we see its effect on cinema. After pondering the inner depths of the movie for many hours, we have come to an unconventional conclusion. The Mario Movie is the first ever 11/10, and perhaps the only. Do yourself a favour, and waste one and a half hours.



AHEM VIA FREE ICONS.PNG

FIVE COOKING YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO INSPIRE YOUR NEXT MEAL

REVIEW by Austin Witter (11)

KWOOWK

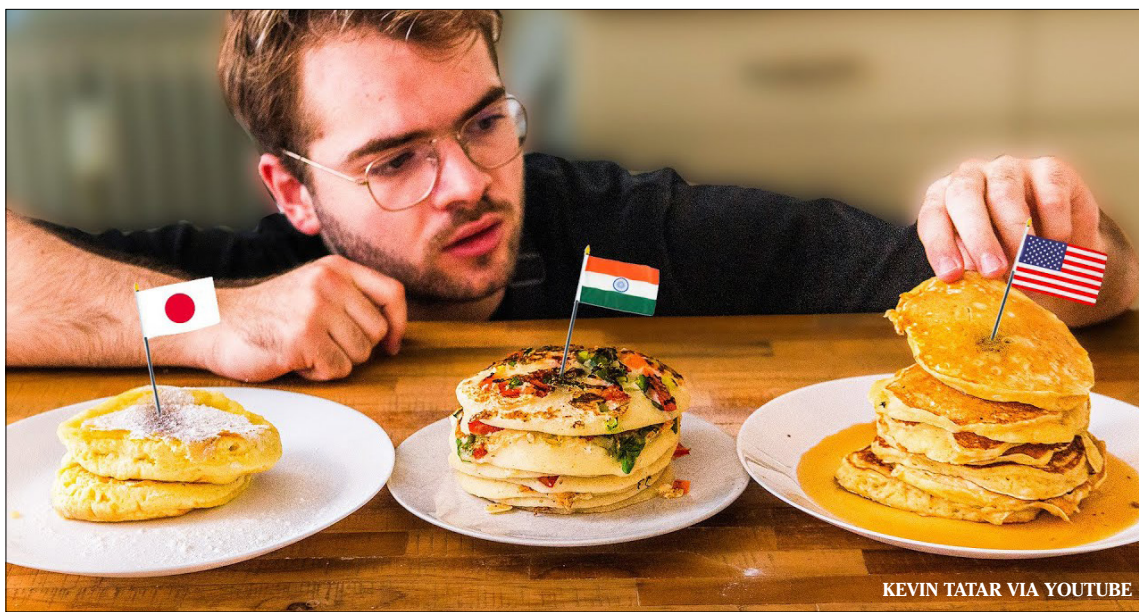
On KWOOWK, Kevin Tatar focuses on short videos explaining simple and affordable recipes often specifically designed for students. Tatar has also released multiple extended series of videos exploring breakfast around the world (the channel's most beloved staple), national dishes, and world Christmas meals, each of which he scores out of ten. The recipes are accessible, straightforward and adaptable. I find myself adopting various techniques and suggestions into other dishes.

Recommended: *7 Days of Breakfast Around The World*

NYT Cooking

The New York Times runs a subscription service, NYT Cooking, which provides access to countless recipes to peruse online. Many of those same recipes appear on their YouTube channel, where the chefs who have developed each recipe enter the studio to demonstrate their process, provide tips and visual guidance, and explain the recipe's backstory. I made Nigerian yam and plantain curry, which was super tasty. It was nice to have the video to follow along as I cooked.

Along with their usual recipe content, they also produce series such as Mystery Menu, where chefs Sohla and Ham collaborate to produce a meal in one hour, featuring an unusual mys-



KEVIN TATAR VIA YOUTUBE

Kevin Tatar displays breakfasts from around the globe on his YouTube channel, KWOOWK

tery ingredient such as pickles or lime Jell-O. Every holiday season they also release an astounding gingerbread house competition video.

Recommended: *Yewande Komolafe makes Nigerian Yam & Plantain Curry*

Claire Saffitz x Dessert Person
Saffitz is an expert baker who previously worked at the food magazine Bon Appétit before moving to NYT. She has released two cookbooks, and



in each video she breaks down a recipe from one of her books. Saffitz is a meticulous recipe developer who tries to make baking as clear and painless as possible. Each video is replete with tips for every eventuality, removing a lot of guesswork from the cooking process. This is especially helpful in baking, where small modifications can often drastically change the result. As someone who is often anxious while baking, knowing a bit more about the various ways a recipe can go wrong and how to avoid them is helpful.

Recommended: *Chocolate Chip Cookies (just incredible)*



CHEF VIVIEN VIA YOUTUBE

scribe the charisma of this man, despite all his videos being in Ukrainian, which I unfortunately cannot speak. (He does have three English-language videos on a separate channel, which are also worth checking out.) Regardless, the recipes he shares are delicious. Klopotenko created a documentary in 2020 called Borshch: The Secret Ingredient in which he explored Ukraine and its many varieties of borshch. "I will share my culinary life hacks and show you how to make food more exciting and diverse," he promises in his channel description. "Together we will cook dishes that can surprise the whole world," he says. "Shall we cook together?"

Recommended: *Lenten borshch from Polissya*



IEVGEN KLOPOTENKO

Recommended: *Traditional ratatouille recipe*

Ievgen Klopotenko

Last but not least, the ineffably charming Ukrainian chef Ievgen Klopotenko runs an eponymous channel where he cooks authentic Ukrainian cuisine as well as other miscellaneous food items. It's hard to adequately de-



DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yam and plantain curry, an adaptation of the West African dish asaro

EDITORIAL

THE VSB IS CLOSING THE DOOR ON DEMOCRACY

EDITORIAL

On April 3, former Vancouver School Board trustee Ruth Herman attempted to attend a VSB Committee of the Whole meeting in-person as a member of the public, but was told that she can only view Board meetings online.

This committee meeting was the first 'public' unveiling of the district's \$700 million draft budget for next school year.

The Editorial Board of the Nest condemns any and all unnecessary barring of any member of the public from Vancouver School Board meetings. This is simply aligning with sections 69 (1) and 69 (2) of The School Act and pillars of democracy. Even if meetings are available through Microsoft Teams, without logical reason, the VSB cannot and should not stop anyone from attending in-person if they wish.

Sections 69 (1) and 69 (2) of The School Act outline that meetings of school boards are open to the public, unless the board decides that in regard to public interest, people other than trustees must be excluded.

Although a public Teams meeting could be considered as 'open to the public', we argue that in post-pandemic conditions, to not offer in-person attendance does not

accommodate everyone and puts the power of commentary in the hands of the moderators.

As Trustee Jennifer Reddy told The Tyee, "Not everyone connects in one way. Having opportunities to meet and connect with your elected officials, I think, is part of a robust, developing democracy." Denying the public access to in-person board meetings is avoidance of accountability, not accessibility.

There are accessibility issues to only opening meetings in-person; however, there are still accessibility issues to only opening meetings online. And it begs the question, why can't Vancouver taxpayers have both?

It seems unreasonable to say that access requiring a computer and a strong internet connection is a flawless accessibility plan, especially since the board responds not only to Vancouver taxpayers and their staff, but to students as well – students who are children from ages 5 to 18.

Restrictions to board meetings began during COVID-19. In October 2020, the previous Board of Trustees voted to require speakers to sign up before attending meetings, shorten their speaking time from ten minutes to five, and require speakers to share their presentation with VSB staff beforehand.

In November 2021, during the pandemic, the same board passed a

motion to contain the public ability to address the board and committees to a singular monthly meeting reserved for public engagement. That amendment was made permanent in April 2022.

Herman's denial of entry follows a visible pattern of increasingly restricted public access to VSB board meetings. This is concerning – the board should be adding more access options, not taking them away.

The virtual meetings also create barriers for the media. Post-meeting interviews and the ability to observe the environment of the meeting are vital for many journalists. Former District PAC (DPAC) Chair Vik Khanna saw the virtual meeting as a barrier as well, stating in the OneCity media release after the April 4 incident, "Importantly, this also shuts media out of the room."

Another concern is the power of the moderator. During Teams meetings, moderators have the power to mute attendees, and even kick them off the meeting. As well, trustees are afforded the privilege of hiding behind a screen during their meetings. As people who serve the public, the trustees should be looking stakeholders in the eye when announcing decisions. After all, it is the stakeholders who are the most affected by the board's decisions.

CANADA

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES 2023 BUDGET

NEWS REPORT by Zak Tucker (8)

Amidst looming fears of a recession and slowing economic growth, this year's federal budget sees billions in new spending for healthcare, affordability, and the clean economy, while straying from key measures of fiscal responsibility and facing a mounting debt burden.

The Canadian Budget 2023, announced Mar. 28, details \$43 billion in net new spending over six years, along with \$21.5 billion over five years in savings from tax hikes, and reductions in internal spending. All this comes at a deficit of \$40.1 billion.

Topping out the new measures is a \$55 billion framework of new spending on the green economy. When combined with other programs encouraging the deployment of carbon capture and storage in last year's budget, the government plans to spend nearly \$83 billion through to the 2034/35 fiscal year.

These huge sums, mostly in the form of tax credits, come just months after US President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law, providing \$369 billion USD in funding for a clean economy.

Budget 2023 follows in bringing Canada up to speed with its allies in creating a green economy while divesting from authoritarian states like Russia and China, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland said in her budget presentation to the House of Commons.

The new climate measures include \$21 billion in spending over five years, with \$1.2 billion coming in this year's budget. So far, four investment tax credits have been announced, totalling nearly \$17 billion over five years.

Eligibility for these credits requires that businesses pay their employees wages comparable to the compensation awarded to unionized workers in the same profession. Pensions and benefits will also be factored in.

The government sees all this spending as a stepping stone to eventually spending \$100 billion on the clean economy yearly.

"In what is the most significant economic transformation since the Industrial Revolution, our friends and partners around the world, chiefly among them the United States, are investing heavily to build clean economies," said Freeland. "Canada must either meet this historic moment, the remarkable opportunity before us, or we will be left behind as the world's democracies build the clean economy of the 21st century."

Some climate activists are skeptical, though, about the new spending.

"Rather than finally delivering on the government's promise to end fossil fuel subsidies, this budget throws more fuel on the fire by funneling even more public dollars into false solutions that serve to prop up the fossil fuel industry. Carbon capture and hydrogen are great for greenwashing oil and gas, but they won't deliver meaningful emissions reductions," said Julia Levin, the Associate Director of National Climate at activist group Environmental Defence, in the organization's media release regarding the budget.

Keith Brooks, the programs director at the group, is concerned the credits include natural gas fired electricity, arguing such projects won't bring any significant carbon savings, since carbon capture systems, whose task would be made counter-productive if they emitted carbon themselves, don't use natural gas fired electricity.

"Budget 2023's investments in clean electricity are welcome and needed, though extending that support to abated natural gas fired power is a bad idea. There are no examples of natural gas power plants with carbon capture and storage – and the attempts that have been made for coal plants are abject failures."

More new spending comes in the budget as help for Canadians' inflation-strained finances, in the form of another one-time doubling of the GST tax credit, branded as a grocery rebate.



Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland in the House of Commons in Ottawa after announcing the 2023 federal budget

Reaching over 11 million lower-income households, the \$2.5 billion initiative will provide seniors with \$225, adults with \$234, and families with two children with \$467 in financial assistance.

More investments in lower-income families will come in the form of dental care. Budget 2023 earmarks \$13 billion for the program to be progressively expanded to reach all nine million Canadians with a household income of less than \$90,000 by 2025, more than doubling the \$6 billion in last year's budget.

The rollout began in December, covering 240,000 lower-income kids under the age of 12. Later this year, the program will be expanded to cover lower-income Canadians under the age of 18, people living with a disability and seniors.

An additional \$359.2 million over five years will target the toxic drugs crisis, targeting a safer supply of drugs, more safe consumption sites and better data on the crisis.

Indigenous children's timely access to healthcare will get a \$171 million boost, bolstering the government's commitment to Jordan's Principle, which guarantees that Indigenous children have access to government services without delay.

Budget 2023 will also see \$2.8 billion in compensation as part of the Gotfriedson Band Class settlement paid out to some 325 nations still reeling from the effects of residential schools.

It also proposes an Indigenous housing strategy starting in the 2024/25 fiscal year, valued at \$4 billion over seven years.

In the coming academic year, post-secondary students can expect to benefit from an additional \$814 million in federal funding put towards a 40 per cent increase in student grants and an increase in the student loan limit from the current \$210 a week to \$300 in the same time frame. In addition, the government looks to spend \$197.7 million in next year's budget to work with industry and post-secondary institutions in helping graduating students find work.

The federal government also announced it has negotiated a 27 per cent reduction in the interchange fees Mastercard and Visa charge businesses, saving small businesses \$1 billion over five years.

Canada's presence in space is also getting a boost. \$1.4 billion is being allocated to ensure the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) continues to participate in the International Space Station until 2030, along with \$76 million over eight years for the CSA to participate in developing Gateway, a space station set to orbit the moon and act as a jumping-off point for astronauts travelling to Mars. Canada is expected to contribute to Canadarm3.

Following recent allegations of Chinese government interference in federal elections, the budget aims to combat foreign meddling with \$49

million over three years in funding for the RCMP to tackle the problem and another \$13.5 million over five years to create a National Counter-Foreign Interference Office.

The budget also promises a new loan of \$2.4 billion to Ukraine through the International Monetary Fund. It aims to address the financial burden the country has suffered from the ongoing war and help in rebuilding widespread damage to critical infrastructure.

However, all these billions in new spending at a time of high inflation comes at a huge cost to the government and everyday Canadians.

To offset these costs, the government aims to save \$21.5 billion over five years. Over half of that sum will come from increased taxes primarily targeting corporations and the wealthy, accompanied by less internal government spending. This includes a \$7.1 billion plan cut to government travel and outsourcing, along with a further \$7 billion in other internal spending cuts over four years, followed by a continued annual \$2.4 billion reduction in internal spending in the years after.

Bea Bruske, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, voiced skepticism to *The Globe and Mail* that cuts to internal funding will be possible as public sector unions strike and demand higher wages.

These figures still leave billions in taxpayers' dollars unaccounted for, however. While Freeland promises the

budget will ensure Canada holds its place as the G7 nation with the least debt and lowest debt-to-GDP ratio, both key measures of fiscal responsibility are trending upwards.

The budget predicts a \$40.1 billion deficit this fiscal year, an increase from the \$30.6 billion predicted this past November in the Fall Economic Statement. Moreover, the Statement predicted a balanced budget in five years, while Budget 2023 predicts a \$14 billion deficit for the 2027/28 fiscal year. This compares with a total federal deficit of \$1.13 trillion, up from \$721 billion in the 2019/20 fiscal year.

Mostafa Askari, chief economist with the University of Ottawa's Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, thinks the figure will continue to grow. "My overall assessment is that the deficit is going to be higher than what they are showing," she said in an interview with *The Globe*.

The debt-to-GDP ratio will rise as well this fiscal year. Freeland has said a downward ratio is the government's key metric for evaluating its fiscal responsibility. It will increase to 43.5 per cent in the 2023/24 fiscal year, up from 42.4 per cent in the 2022/23 fiscal year. Budget 2023 predicts it will then begin a downward trend, reaching 39.9 per cent in the 2028/29 fiscal year.

Scotiabank economist Rebekah Young touts some of the strategic new spending, but explained to *The Globe* that she is concerned about some of the spending's long-term effects.

"It's the first budget in a long time that is really making a concerted effort on the growth front, but at the same time, it's reverting back to its past practices of spending a lot more in other areas," she said. "It's hard to argue that this is a budget of fiscal restraint in any sense."

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, too, is cornered about the spending in the budget, calling it a "full-frontal attack on the pay cheques of hard-working Canadians." He claimed the new spending is equal to \$4,200 for every household in Canada.

Budget 2023 will cause "more inflation, more taxes and more cost," he says. "There's no common sense for everyday people."

Conservatives will vote against the budget because it lacks three key measures. Poilievre says it won't ease inflation by "eliminating inflationary deficits and carbon taxes."

As well, he says the government failed to increase Canadians' incomes by cutting taxes and lacks measures to create affordable housing and build more homes, such as streamlining the process of acquiring building permits.

"We're going to be supporting the relief Canadians deserve and that we forced this government to deliver," said NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, to reporters on Mar. 28, confirming his party will vote for the budget, ensuring it has enough support in the House of Commons to pass.

He took responsibility for the expansion of dental care, calling it the "largest expansion of our health care system in a generation," and the grocery rebate.

In 2022, the Liberals and NDP signed a Supply-and-Confidence Agreement, in which the NDP guarantees their support to all of the government's financial measures, ensuring the government doesn't dissolve, in return for the Liberals advancing some of their key policy matters.

Singh called on the federal government to modify Employment Insurance and introduce more affordable housing programs, saying the NDP "wasn't satisfied" with the budget's stance on those measures.

The Budget Implementation Act, Bill C-47, has passed first reading and is expected to receive Royal Assent before parliament adjourns at the end of June.

Freeland, while acknowledging the pressures of mounting debts and a slowing economy, remains confident this budget will deliver for Canadians.

"At a challenging time in a challenging world, there is no better place to be than Canada."



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland enter the House of Commons to deliver the federal budget

CANADA

Nova Scotia Shooting: Turning The Tide Together

NEWS REPORT by *Andre Chen* (10)

Major reforms are needed in Canada's public safety systems, says the commission responsible for investigating the deadliest mass killing in Canadian history.

Known as the Mass Casualty Commission, the public body was formed after 22 people were shot to death at the hands of Gabriel Wortman in Nova Scotia in April 2020. The response of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) during the shooting was heavily criticized, and promoted a public inquest. Recently, the commission concluded their inquiry with the release of a final report that called for changes in emergency alert systems and the RCMP's planned responses to situations similar to this one.

Starting on Apr. 19, 2020, Wortman's killing spree lasted for a total of two days until he was killed by the RCMP. During his rampage, police confirmed that he wore "an authentic police uniform," and that he was driving a vehicle that was "identical in every way to a marked police car." RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki stated to *CBC* that "it wasn't actually an RCMP vehicle," and that they were still trying to figure out how the vehicle was created.

When the Mass Casualty Commission interviewed GCSurplus warehouse manager Max Liberatore, it was revealed that Wortman had bought a decommissioned RCMP Ford Taurus off of a 2019 auction. Though the vehicle was stripped of its RCMP decals at auction, according to the RCMP, Wortman was able to procure counterfeits through a sign shop in Nova Scotia. Additional accessories such as police light bars and radars were purchased through online shopping platforms



A memorial for mass shooting victims in Portapique, Nova Scotia

such as Amazon or Ebay, or through his friends.

Alongside concerns of police impersonation, the report from the commission expressed doubt about the efficiency and effectiveness of the RCMP's threat communication protocols. Despite the presence of an active shooter, only one alert was released by the RCMP in the form of a Twitter post in the first eight hours of the investigation.

Former national director of Australia's alert system Michael Hallows, who has spent decades working on emergency systems, criticized the RCMP for using Twitter as their main form of communication.

"The issue with social media is you have to be following, if it's Twitter, the right channel to get the official word and it can therefore leave a

lot of people out of the communication," said Hallows in his testimony to the Mass Casualty Commission, "I couldn't see it as being a primary alerting channel."

The Government of Canada issued an Order-in-Council that established the Mass Casualty Commission as a joint public inquiry investigating the 2020 Nova Scotia shooting. There were three commissioners assigned to the inquiry: former Nova Scotia Chief Justice Michael MacDonald, former police chief Leanne Fitch, and lawyer Dr. Kim Stanton.

The Commission was created not just to investigate the Nova Scotia shooting, but also to "provide meaningful recommendations to help keep communities safer." In a statement about their values, the commission declared that they are "independent of

any governments, institutions or other associations of individuals or groups."

On March 30 this year, the Mass Casualty Commission released their final report on the matter, titled "Turning the Tide Together," that addresses such issues in the Canadian public safety system. The preface establishes their focus on two objectives: prevention of violence and ensuring effective critical incident response.

The report included recommendations in many categories, with some notable specific examples including the prohibition of many semi-automatic firearms, the removal of the exception for personal possession of ceremonial police uniforms, and an in-depth, external, and independent review of the

RCMP, its approach to contract policing and work with contract part-

ners, and its approach to community relations. According to the *Toronto Star*, 75 of the 130 recommendations in the report involved the RCMP.

"The RCMP must finally undergo the fundamental change that many previous reports have called for," wrote the commissioners in the preface.

RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme responded by stating that the organization will "take the time to read and process the report" as advised, and that "the RCMP is committed to learning from this tragedy and moving forward as a stronger organization." He shared that the RCMP has already made "significant advancements in the use of public alerting," and that they "are grateful to the Commission for its guidance."

Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino released a statement in response to the report that supported its insights, saying that he is "committed to working together with different levels of government to review the report and address its recommendations." Mendicino pledges to "implement the reforms that are necessary and do [his] utmost to ensure this kind of tragedy never happens again."

As a result of the Mass Casualty Commission's final report, multiple reforms have already been made in Canada's public safety system; the RCMP released a statement on Apr. 5 detailing improvements in multiple aspects of its service. In response to criticism about its public communication, the RCMP adopted the Alert Ready, Canada's official emergency alerting system, and has implemented its usage in its Cadet Training Program. With Alert Ready being able to reach any device that can connect to an LTE network, there is a large improvement in terms of accessibility compared to using social media.

THE NHL AND ITS PRIDE NIGHTS CONTROVERSY

NEWS REPORT by *Mackenzie Chung* (10)

Over the last decade, the National Hockey League (NHL) has introduced a trend of having players adorn themed warm-up gear to show support for minorities across the globe. This has included Lunar New Year themed jerseys, or camouflaged gear supporting US and Canadian Armed Forces. Following this idea came the introduction of rainbow coloured warm-up jerseys for NHL "Pride Nights".

Since its introduction in 2013 with the Edmonton Oilers, Pride Nights within the NHL were created as a way to show support for the LGBTQ+ community. They also raise money for organizations such as the Twin Cities Queer Hockey Association and for the advocacy of queer resources in both sport and general well-being.

However, Pride Nights has recently struck particular controversy, as this season, several players within the league chose not to participate in the warmup activities or wear the specially designed gear. This included brothers Eric and Marc Staal, who cited their religious beliefs as reasoning for their decision.

In addition, three teams who had participated in the themed jerseys in previous years did not continue this season. Two of those three teams, the Minnesota Wild and the New York Rangers, originally held plans to sport the rainbow-coloured gear, but the reason for not doing so was not specifically disclosed.

In a press conference on Mar. 30, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman stated that "Some players choose to make choices that they're free to make." He added, "That doesn't mean

they don't respect other people and their beliefs and their lifestyles and who they are. It just means they don't want to endorse it by wearing uniforms that they are not comfortable wearing."

Hudson Taylor, founder of Athlete Ally, an organization that works with teams and leagues to push for LGBTQ+ inclusivity, commented in *The Globe and Mail* that it was "conspicuous" to see players and teams "roll back the ways in which they have historically shown support for and given visibility to the LGBTQ community."

The same article also mentioned the co-founder of the Twin Cities Queer Hockey Association, Bennett-Danek, and her thoughts when asked about the Minnesota Wild's team decisions to not wear the pride team jerseys.

"Yes, canceling wearing the jerseys was wrong, but they did not can-

cel any other part of Pride night and they continue to support our group, even today." She continued, "They are also handing over the Pride jerseys with signatures for auction to further help support our LGBTQIA community here in the Twin Cities. So, in our mind they have righted the wrong. They have promised us that Pride next year will not be canceled."

While the opinions on the validity of players using personal beliefs as reasoning against the warm-up attire vary greatly, context behind certain players' decisions goes beyond individual opinions.

In December 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law that expanded on the ban of LGBTQ+ "propaganda" within the country, thus making the act of showing content that aims to normalize LGBTQ+ existence illegal. This poses a threat for the 45 Russian players currently in the NHL,

accounting for 6.8 per cent of the NHL roster.

Players such as Ilya Lyubushkin and Andrei Kuzmenko, both of which did not participate in their respective teams' Pride Night warmups, have cited their Russian heritage as their reasoning. The majority of both players' families live in Russia, and both players still frequently visit the country. With tensions surrounding LGBTQ+ rights in Russia continuing to rise, the participation in Pride Nights would have been a cause for concern for the players upon reaching Russian borders.

Penalties and fines against anti-LGBTQ+ language or discrimination haven't happened in the NHL since 2017. However, since the uprising of players and teams choosing not to participate in Pride Night warmups, Bettman claimed in another news conference that the league would be "evaluating" in the off-season how Pride Nights would be handled in the future. Although the athletes not participating are a minority in the league, individual refusals are a distraction from "the substance of what our teams have been doing and stand for".



Players for the Buffalo Sabres on an NHL Pride Night

Grocery Rebate to Offset Inflation

NEWS REPORT by *Alexandra Chow* (11)

In response to the rising food costs, a one-time grocery rebate will be offered to "low- and modest-income Canadians and families", according to the Government of Canada's website.

This rebate came after January saw an 11 per cent increase in food prices, compared to the month before. In total, it will provide \$2.5 billion to support 11 million Canadians. Based on income, an individual can receive up to \$234, a couple with two children up to \$467, and seniors up to \$225.

One finance commentator, Pattie Lovett-Reid, said that the rebate for a family does not even offset half of the additional \$1,100 that groceries will cost compared to last year.

The rebate will be available through the goods and services tax (GST) credit system as a type of credit. This non-taxable credit helps offset the GST that Canadians must pay. Canadians should only need to file their taxes as usual to be checked for eligibility of receiving this rebate. Once eligible Canadians have received the rebate, it will not be checked to ensure the money has been spent specifically on groceries, according to a government source who informed *Global News*.

The rebate is one part of the the federal government's Budget 2023, which was presented to the House of Commons by Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland on Mar. 28.

With the new program, scammers may be attempting to offer Canadians the grocery rebate pretending to be the Government of Canada. The Communications Security Establishment, a government agency, has stated that "The Cyber Centre cautions Canadians to be aware and protect themselves from fraud and online scams, including phishing attempts."

INTERNATIONAL

How Banks Across the Globe Failed

NEWS REPORT by Salena Sharma (9)

On Mar. 10, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in the United States took control of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) after billions of dollars were withdrawn by depositors and the bank defaulted. As a result of this, a couple of days later, two other banks defaulted as well, creating negative consequences globally.

The FDIC was created by the US Congress to ensure that the country's financial system is stable and public confidence is maintained.

SVB is located in Santa Clara, California, but has branches in Canada, China, Germany, India, Israel, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. According to Wall Street Journal finance reporter Ben Eisen, "This is the second biggest bank failure that has ever happened in the United States."

In a regulatory filing on Mar. 8, SVB announced it sold a large number of securities at a loss of around \$1.8 billion to help it cover the decline in profits. After this, clients of the bank became cautious of this event and started withdrawing a lot of money from their accounts.

During the pandemic, Silicon Valley Bank's deposits skyrocketed and had more money in bonds as busi-

nesses began to deposit more money. That all collapsed as interest rates were raised. As interest rate prices rise, bond prices fall. Soon, SVB's bonds were worth \$17 billion less than their initial value. Adding on to this decline, the interest rates caused fewer deposits to be made in the bank, which led to the bank losing a great deal of money.

Two days after SVB defaulted, another American bank, Signature, was seized by regulators. The bank was seized, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, due to US regulators taking measures to ensure that depositors won't pull their money from other lenders.

A few days after the collapse of the two American-based banks, the Swiss bank Credit Suisse defaulted. According to the Washington Post, the bank's scandals caused it to lose billions of dollars in profits. Among its misconduct include a criminal conviction for allowing drug dealers to launder money in Bulgaria, a spying scandal involving a former employee and an executive, and a massive data leak. Shortly after that, the bank faced "unprecedented client outflows in late 2022."

Investing in banking assets and cutting costs helped the bank gain more wealthy clients at the beginning of 2023. However, in the aftermath of Silicon Valley Bank's collapse, investors were more cautious when choos-

ing their bank and avoided Credit Suisse.

Net losses of the bank prompted them to ask the Swiss National Bank, the central bank of the country, for a public statement of support. The central bank noted the economic decline should Credit Suisse collapse, so they offered to lend the bank 50 billion Swiss francs and buy back up to 3 billion francs of debt. Soon after, Credit Suisse was bought by UBS—a major rival—for around \$3.25 billion.

In the long term, the international bank collapses will only affect Canada in terms of trade. *CBC* reports that banks might not be open to lending as much money or investing in equity bonds. The growth of global and US gross domestic product will be affected as investing patterns could change. In turn, weaker GDP growth in the US will not be ideal for Canadian exports.

The crisis may also create an ease in Canadian inflation rates, states an opinion in *The Financial Post* by Steve Ambler and Jeremy Kronick. The article cites how the Bank of Canada has been taking stricter measures to bring the inflation rate down. And that fewer measures enforced by the Federal Reserve result in a slim difference between US rates and Canadian rates. A larger variance would pressure the Canadian dollar, and could have caused import prices and inflation to rise.

TRUMP FIGHTS 34 COUNTS OF FRAUD IN COURT



ANDREW KELLY/REUTERS

Trump appearing in court for his arraignment with his lawyer



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA PBS

Protestors outside of the Manhattan Criminal Courthouse



CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA GLOBE AND MAIL

Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), in a House GOP meeting



People gather outside Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) headquarters in Santa Clara, California



A woman walks past First Republic Bank

NEWS REPORT by Declan Chong (8)

Former US President and billionaire Donald Trump pled not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records on Apr. 4. The prosecutors stated that Trump had intentionally created business documents with inaccurate information, as a means of covering a story about his affair with pornographic actor Stormy Daniels during the 2016 US presidential election.

Trump surrendered to the Manhattan District Attorney's office on the afternoon of Apr. 4, after traveling from his residence in Florida to New York City. He was arraigned and then immediately returned to Florida. The next in-person hearing was set for Dec. 4, in New York City.

The case centers around a relationship that Daniels claims to have had with Donald Trump in 2006. In 2011, Daniels considered selling the story of the affair to the magazine *Life & Style* for \$15,000 as Trump began exploring a potential presidential bid. His lawyer, Michael Cohen, threatened to sue the magazine, and the story was never seen to the public.

As Trump's presidential campaign began in 2016, the National Enquir-

er bought the story. This was part of what is known as a "catch and kill" scheme, where the Enquirer would purchase, but not print, damaging stories related to Trump, according to *USA Today*.

The indictment is related to the late October 2016 \$130,000 hush money payment Trump's lawyer at the time, Michael Cohen, made to Daniels.

In April 2018, aboard Air Force One, Trump told a reporter he did not know where Cohen got the money. Rudy Giuliani, an attorney for Trump, claimed in a *Fox News* interview that Trump was informed that the payments were made to fund his presidential campaign.

Each of the 34 counts of falsifying business records have been charged as felonies, each carrying a maximum sentence of four years. Normally, falsifying business records is carried out as a misdemeanor. But, when the falsification is part of an attempt to commit a different crime, it can be prosecuted as a felony, according to *ABC News*.

According to an IPSOS poll after Trump was indicted, 45 per cent of Americans believe Trump should be charged with the crimes, while 32 per cent disapprove, and the other 23 per cent are on the fence.

INTERNATIONAL

FRANCE PROTESTS OVER RETIREMENT AGE

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh* (9)

A series of protests have been raging throughout France, garnering hundreds of thousands of protesters in opposition to the minimum retirement age being raised.

French President Emmanuel Macron signed a bill into law on Apr. 14 to raise the age to receive a state pension from 62 to 64 years old. Previously, Macron's government used Article 49.3, a special constitutional power, to implement this unpopular retirement pension plan. It allowed him to pass his pension bill through the lower house of Parliament, the National Assembly, without needing the National Assembly to vote in favour of it.

Ever since then, there has been continued civil unrest in France. Trade unions have stated that over a million protesters have fought against Macron and his political party's decision to bypass Parliament and raise the retirement age. The majority of protesters have acted peacefully, marching through the streets of French cities including Strasbourg, Toulouse, Lyon, Bordeaux, Marseille, and Paris.

However, there are other techniques that French protesters have used. According to *Le Monde*, waste disposal workers went on strike on Mar. 6, leaving trash to pile up in the streets and stink up cities. Along with that, protesters have been starting fires throughout France in places such as President Macron's favourite restaurant and the Bordeaux town hall, as reported by *BBC*. City News also revealed that 13 people were arrested earlier this month for dumping gas and electricity meters outside the Marseilles City Hall.

Even before Macron implemented Article 49.3, people were protesting against the pension reform plans. On Jan. 19, a week after Macron's political party announced their plans, the first organized demonstration against the decision occurred. Over a million people throughout France went on strike and marched down streets, blocking traffic, stopping trains, and disrupting schools. Since January, eight of the largest trade unions have been organizing protests, and student unions have joined in as well.

On Apr. 17, President Macron addressed the nation on

television for the first time since signing the pension reform bill. Macron acknowledged that, "anger has expressed itself, and it's an anger stemming from jobs that don't pay enough anymore," and "all this anger was expressed by many French people, and in the vast majority in a calm and respectful manner. No one and especially me can remain deaf to this demand for social justice, and for our democratic life to be overhauled."

During the televised press conference, Macron also revealed that he and his government had given themselves 100 days to come up with better improvements for France and its people to make up for the unwanted pension reform plans.

However, while Macron was addressing the nation, demonstrators throughout France cities were banging pots and pans in an effort to drown out the voice of President Macron.

A protester bashing a battered pan with a metal spoon told

"Macron isn't listening to us, so we're not going to listen to him"

The Guardian, "Macron isn't listening to us, so we're not going to listen to him. Not only are we not listening to him, we're symbolically drowning him out. Pots and pans are the tools of working people so it's entirely appropriate."

When President Macron first took office in 2017, he was quickly nicknamed the "president of the rich" by his political opponents for loosening labor laws and ending a wealth tax. These actions contributed to protests that went on during 2018 to 2020, such as the yellow vest protests, which fought for the rights and equality of the middle and lower class.

Union activists forced their way into the Paris Headquarters of a luxury goods company LVMH last month, on Apr. 13. They expressed that the French government should tax the rich instead of making French people work for longer in order to retire.

As Sud Rail union leader Fabien Villedieu told Reuters, "You're looking for money to finance pensions? Take it from the pockets of billionaires."

According to *France 24* and *The Guardian*, there was



Youth join mass protests across France over state pension bill

a May Day rally on May 1.

May Day, also called "International Workers Day" or Worker's Day, is a national holiday in many European countries that celebrates the historical impact and advancements that workers and the labour movement has made.

The rally was organized by trade unions across France that took a violent twist as the Worker Day protests turned

into an anti-government demonstration. Over 108 police were injured and 291 protesters were arrested in the chaos.

The interior ministry of France estimated there were 728,000 protesters involved in the May Day rallies, while labour unions such as France's CGT union believe it was higher, at 2.3 million nationwide. According to *France 24*, bus

stops and shop fronts in Paris were destroyed and vandalized with anti-police notions. While in Lyon, cars were set ablaze and shop windows were smashed in with bricks, and "Black bloc" anarchists threw projectiles at police. Protesters in Nantes gathered garbage bins and lit them on fire in front of the government building. To subdue demonstrators, officers threw tear

gas at them in multiple cities, such as Paris, Nantes, and Lyon.

On the day of the May Day protests, at 5:29 p.m., President Macron tweeted, "You get up early to feed us. You promote the know-how of our territories. You contribute to our sovereignty. On this May 1st, to all workers, thank you."

He did not say anything about the ongoing May Day protests.

Finland Becomes 31st NATO State

NEWS REPORT by *Daniel Choi* (11)

Finland became the 31st-member state of NATO, when it received approval from all 30 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on Apr. 4. Arranged by Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin, the announcement was made during a press conference on the morning of the agreement.

As reported by *CBS News*, the Nordic nations, including Finland, had not shown much interest in becoming involved with NATO until Russia invaded Ukraine. Finland had helped NATO for several years, but it was not officially aligned. However, the dangers of a non-official alliance soon showed its risks as the West refused to send troops for non-NATO member Ukraine to help it defend itself.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a May 2022 speech to a French Uni-

versity Sciences Po, "If Ukraine had been part of NATO before the war, there would have been no war." The imminent risk compelled Finland to join NATO, strengthening Western ties.

The role NATO plays on the world stage has been accentuated as the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its second year.

NATO has adopted a firm position in full support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territory, along with its internationally recognized borders, whilst Russia continues to invade them. This created great tensions between not only Russia, NATO, and Ukraine but also tensions between the two major powers in the world: Russia and the US.

The Finnish Parliament approved the treaty on Mar. 1 with a majority of 184 votes to 7. Traditional opposition to NATO membership in Finland has been from The Left Alliance Party, however, only six members out of the 16 elected voted against it. Support

from the Finnish population is overwhelming; according to *CBS*, 80 per cent support NATO membership, compared to the approximate 25 per cent support from the population before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Supporters maintained that the world would be much more secure with the help of NATO in this increasingly uncertain world. Sauli Niinistö, the President of Finland and supporter of NATO stated in *BBC News*, "Security and stability are those elements which we feel very strongly; if people can live in secure stable circumstances that's the basic element of happy life."

The Finnish entry into NATO is a historic move, as Finland has not aligned itself militarily since World War II. This agreement is serving as a model for Sweden, who applied to NATO in May 2022 along with Finland. Sweden's application is currently being blocked by Turkey and Hungary.

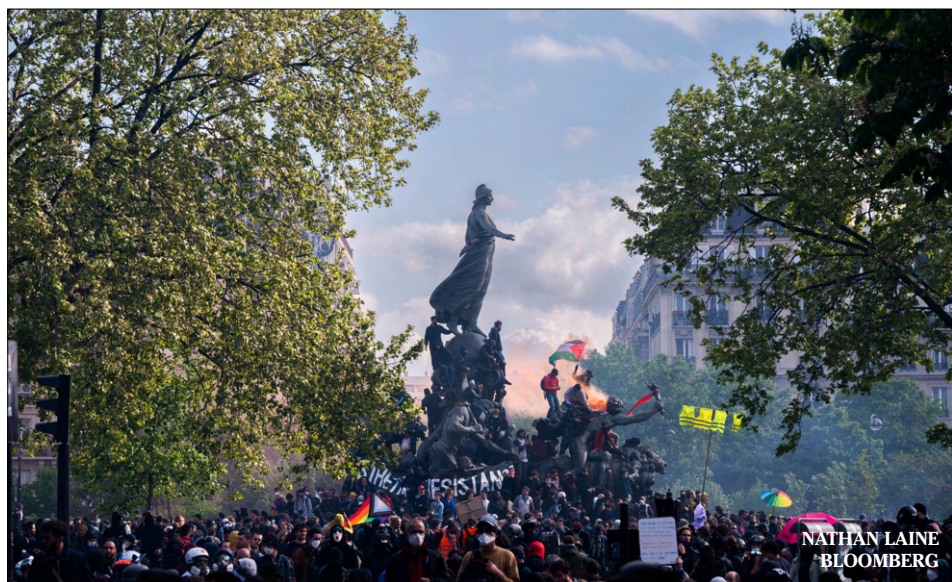


Finnish foreign minister, US secretary of state, and Secretary General of NATO welcome Finland to NATO



Finland's President Sauli Niinisto at NATO headquarters in Brussels

INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTOPHE
ENA AP VIA NBCNATHAN LAINE
BLOOMBERG

Protests in Paris on May Day

THOMAS SAMSON
AFP VIA LE MONDE

Police clash with protestors in Paris on April 13



Taylor Swift performing on stage



TICKET MASTER

Promotional poster for the Eras Tour

Taylor Swift Begins Her Eras Tour

NEWS REPORT by Dora
Yuan (8) & Kaitlyn Lee (8)

Five years is a long time since the internationally recognized singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has been on tour, but she is back under the spotlight. On Nov. 1, 2022, Swift announced her sixth world tour, the Eras Tour. An incredibly rare sight for an A-list celebrity, each show in the Eras Tour has a setlist of 44 songs and lasts over three hours. Its opening acts promise a great display of musical talent featuring other notable artists and bands including Gracie Abrams, Paramore, and Phoebe Bridgers.

The idea for the Eras Tour came after the pandemic cancelled any plans for Swift to go on tour for her four most recently released albums: "Lover", "Folklore", "Evermore", and "Midnights". Since her last tour Reputation in 2018, Swift has also re-released two albums following the 2019 masters controversy: "Fearless (Taylor's Version)" and "Red (Taylor's Version)". She has not toured for these three albums and two re-releases. The Reputation Stadium Tour consisted of 53 shows and lasted for approximately six months. To date, Reputation has been Swift's highest-grossing tour.

The Eras Tour does not focus on a specific album, but is instead split into ten parts called "Acts" that encompass Swift's entire career. Each Act of the show is about a specific album, with a different aesthetic and outfits. Acts are separated by scene changes, and highlights of the tour include Swift diving into the stage and seemingly swimming under it, reappearing with a different outfit to transition to her Midnights album.

Since the controversy with Ticketmaster in November—where the website crashed as millions of fans rushed to buy tickets—Swift has so far sold over two million tickets for the tour. High demand raised the

number of shows in the United States from 27 dates to 52, and international dates haven't been announced yet.

There is speculation as to whether the international leg of Swift's tour will include Canada, but Swift has not confirmed any international tour locations yet. According to the Taylor Swift website international locations and dates have yet to be decided, so Canadian fans are left hoping that Swift will come to Canada. In the meantime, Canadian Swifties have been playing a "dangerous game," caught between the tough decision of either waiting for a potential tour announcement in Canada or buying tickets for a US show.

The cities Swift has visited did much to honour her and her fans. Glendale, the city hosting the opening night of the Eras Tour, temporarily changed its name to Swift City for the duration of Swift's time there. Tampa, Florida, another stop in the tour, made Swift an honorary mayor temporarily. Other cities have also given Swift the keys to the city, temporarily renaming their city to honour Swift, renaming streets, or even naming her mayor.

The Eras Tour has proven to be record-breaking already; right from the first day of pre-sales, Swift broke the record for most tickets sold by an artist in a single day.

The Eras Tour is having a big impact on the music industry. Its critical reception has been overwhelmingly positive, with entertainment critics praising the elements of theatre in the tour. Chris Willman of Variety Magazine called the show a "three-hour, 44 song epic that leaves 'em wanting more'".

According to Pollstar, Swift's earnings from the whole tour could amount to over a billion dollars. If this projection holds, the Eras Tour would be the highest grossing tour in history.

With a career of 19 years and counting, Taylor Swift and her fans sure know how to make the whole place shimmer.

T-Rex Had Lips

NEWS REPORT by Mia
Boguslavsky (11)

When the formidable creature Tyrannosaurus rex is mentioned, the image that could come to mind is of a gigantic scaly lizard chasing Chris Pratt. In modern media, the vast majority of dinosaurs have been depicted as terrifying monsters with bony, hairless, and leathery bodies. However, modern studies have shown that that might not be the case.

The time that dinosaurs roamed the Earth was far before even the earliest forms of humans and many other modern animals. The only visual depiction of dinosaurs comes from bits and pieces of deceased dinosaurs which were preserved under just the right conditions in the form of fossils.

However, soft tissue such as fat, muscle, or skin is incapable of being fossilized, so all that is left to reconstruct the dinosaurs are skeletal models that disregard the missing tissues. This causes many possibilities to be missed when considering the appearances of the dinosaurs, such as the chance of them having lips.

Recent developments in the paleontological community include the theory that many dinosaurs, including the T-Rex, had lips. In the journal Science, researchers have recently shown that after examining a tooth that had been in the mouth of the tyrannosaur Daspletosaurus for 500 days, it showed minimal wearing. This is atypical of animals whose teeth's enamel is considered to be exposed.

This was consistent with other teeth of theropods, including that of a T-Rex. Co-author of the article and paleontologist at the University of Portsmouth Mark Witton said, "We've really put some new data on the table that I think makes it now pretty indefensible to have the goofy-looking theropods with their teeth hanging out."

The scientific community is working towards reworking the idea of what a dinosaur looks like to move to a more realistic model using the limited physical evidence available. However, some are not convinced. Thomas Carr, a vertebrate paleontologist at Carthage College doesn't find this study persuasive. In 2017, he and his colleagues published a study claiming that theropods such as the T-Rex had faces similar to crocodiles and that they were scaly and lipless.

For both sides of the argument, it is hard to tell which possibility is correct without definite evidence to corroborate the theories.

MARK P WITTON
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



INTERNATIONAL

Israeli Judicial Reforms Spark Mass Protests, Demonstrations

NEWS REPORT by Ruby Ellermann (10)

What is Happening in Israel?

Since January, hundreds of thousands of Israeli protestors have been taking to the street in opposition of a set of proposals from Israel's hard-right government.

These proposals would limit the power of Israel's Supreme Court and give the Knesset, Israel's parliament, the power to override decisions of the Supreme Court. With a simple majority vote in the Knesset, the decisions of the Supreme Court would be overruled.

For months protesters have called for the abolition of these proposals and for Netanyahu's resignation. Protesters include trade unions, youth groups, diplomats, business leaders, and soldiers. Members of the military have refused to report for duty, provoking concern over Israel's security.

On Mar. 26, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced his intention to fire Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, after he expressed opposition to the proposals. Despite Netanyahu reversing his decision to fire Gallant on Apr. 10, the move sparked further protests across the country. Airports, universities, and shopping centres closed due to the demonstrations.

Netanyahu placed the proposals on hold on Mar. 27 after the leader of the far-right Jewish Power party, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir agreed to postpone it. Ben-Gvir said he would agree to the delay "in exchange for Netanyahu's commitment that the legislation will be brought to the Knesset for approval in the next session." Prime Minister Netanyahu's decision is also reliant on far-right ministers in his cabinet, who have demanded for the reforms to be passed without alteration.

What is Fueling the Protests?
With these reforms, the Supreme Court would no longer be allowed to oversee Israel's Basic Laws, which act as its constitution.

Politicians would also have more of a say in appointing judges. Currently, judges are appointed by the Judicial Selection Committee, which is composed of the Minister of Justice, an additional cabinet minister, the President of the Supreme Court, two other justices of the Supreme Court, two Members of Knesset, and two representatives of the Israel Bar Association.

Seven out of the nine committee members need to support a vote for a member to be selected. However, the reforms would have the two members of the Israel Bar Association replaced with two "public representatives," meaning the majority of the committee would be made up of the sitting government.

Some argue that an override is beneficial because it represents the wants of the majority. While members of the Knesset are not directly selected by voters, they are represented by parties running in elections, and therefore still speak for Israel's citizens.

Currently, if the Knesset wants to enact laws that infringe on rights set out in the constitutional documents, including privacy or freedom of speech

or religion, it would be considered an unconstitutional law and may be questioned by the Supreme Court. In the past three decades, 20 such laws have been labelled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The judicial reforms would allow the Knesset to still pass these laws even if they are rejected by the Supreme Court.

Palestinian groups have also voiced concerns with the proposed reforms.

"The government's assault on the judiciary is driven by the same urge as the state's founders: to protect their power to privilege Jews over Palestinians.", Palestinian rights advocate Yousef Munayyer wrote in the +972 Magazine.

Why is the Government Opposed to the Judiciary?

Israel's government is currently a coalition made up of a collection of right-wing parties; Netanyahu's conservative Likud party, ultranationalist settlers, and the ultra-Orthodox. The coalition has claimed that Israel's judiciary is too left-leaning and eager to intervene in government decisions. Concern was also expressed that the Supreme Court would prioritise minority rights over national interest.

However, protesters claim that the overhaul is likely just another power move that will allow the government to act on extreme right interests.



ILAN ROSENBERG/REUTERS VIA THE GUARDIAN
Protestors demonstrate near Israeli Supreme Court

First Canadian to Orbit Moon Included Aboard Artemis II

NEWS REPORT by Aubrey Brandt (8)

Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen will be part of Artemis II, the first crewed mission to the moon since 1972. The upcoming mission will make Canada the second country to have an astronaut fly around the moon. François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry for Canada, made the announcement on Apr. 3.

The mission is planned for no earlier than Nov. 2024 and is set to launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It will land in the Pacific Ocean upon return to Earth.

"We are going back to the moon, and Canada is at the centre of this exciting journey. Thanks to our reputation as a trusted partner and longstanding collaboration with NASA, a Canadian astronaut will fly on this historic mission. On behalf of all Canadians, I want to congratulate Jeremy for being at the forefront of one of the most ambitious human endeavours ever undertaken. Canada's participation in the Artemis program will spur the creation of thousands of highly skilled jobs, boost innovation and be a source of national pride for years to come," expressed Champagne.

The NASA-led Artemis program, which includes contributions from the Canadian Space Agency, the European Space Agency, the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency, and several other organizations, is a program that builds the expertise for a lasting return to the moon. The program also lays an essential foundation for deep-space exploration to destinations such as Mars.

Much like the Apollo program, the Artemis program begins with missions around the moon before a mission that lands astronauts on the lunar surface.

For Artemis II, the crewed Orion spacecraft will travel a unique trajectory, which will circle Earth twice to gain enough speed to travel the long distance to the moon, known as "hybrid free return". Once the spacecraft reaches the

moon, it will then use the moon's gravity to slingshot around the far side and finally return to our planet. The Orion vessel and its crew will fly a maximum distance of approximately 10,000 km from the moon. Although the exact duration of the mission has not yet been confirmed, it has been estimated to take around ten days.

The Orion spacecraft is a new exploration vessel that will carry the Artemis missions to space. The vehicle is designed to be launched by NASA's SLS rocket. The spacecraft is composed of the Crew Module, where the crew will work and live, and the European Service Module, which will carry water, air, nitrogen, and propulsion and power systems. The Crew Module is designed to withstand the intense heat and physical forces during the vessel's re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

"Being part of the Artemis II crew is both exciting and humbling. I'm excited to leverage my experience, training, and knowledge to take on this challenging mission on behalf of Canada. I'm humbled by the incredible contributions and hard work of so many Canadians that have made this opportunity a reality. I am proud and honoured to represent my country on this historic mission," shared Jeremy Hansen.

The other crew members of Artemis II include NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch.

The four astronauts embarking on this mission will confirm that all of the vessel's systems operate properly as designed with people aboard the spacecraft. Artemis II will open the door for future lunar surface missions, including Artemis III.

The Artemis program will make history by sending the first woman and person of colour to the moon, and the first astronauts to explore the lunar South Pole.

On Artemis III, the crew will take pictures and videos on the moon, survey geology, take samples, and gather other data. The mission is planned to launch in 2025.

Tech Leaders Warn Against Unregulated AI in Open Letter, Citing "Profound Risks to Humanity"



CARINA JOHANSEN/NTB VIA REUTERS

Elon Musk calls for pause on AI development

NEWS REPORT by Elle Glen (9)

An open letter published on Mar. 2 by the Future of Life Institute signed by tech leaders like Twitter and Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak calls on "all AI [developers] to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4."

Currently, the letter has 27,565 reviewed signatures, but there are over 30,000 signees left to be vetted by the institute before they are displayed alongside the letter on their website. This letter was prompted by the sudden rise of AI that has caught many in the production, education and technology industries off guard.

By calling for a temporary pause to rapid AI development, they hope to give tech companies more time to test the software without the need to produce for a rapidly growing industry. This period of development would allow for tests to be conducted on the ethical capabilities and biases of each AI system.

Elon Musk, who has publicly described artificial intelligence as "humanity's biggest existential threat", is an external advisor on the board of the Future of Life Institute, which published the letter. Similarly, current president and co-founder of the Future of Life Institute Max Tegmark believes that "the future of human civilization very well may be at stake over this very question of the role of artificial intelligence in our society."

Although the letter acknowledges that AI is a new field that will bring "a profound change in the history of life on Earth," it shares the belief that "powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable."

Stuart Russel, Professor of Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley, who signed the open letter, weighs the impact of artificial intelligence: "Humanity has much to gain from AI, but also everything to lose."

This call to action has been criticized by the creator of ChatGPT and CEO of OpenAI Sam Altman, who told the Wall Street Journal that the letter was "In some sense... preaching to the choir. We have, I think, been talking about these issues

the loudest, with the most intensity, for the longest."

According to Cisco's 2022 Consumer Privacy report, consumers feel in the dark due to the lack of transparency in this new field. The report found that approximately two-thirds of participants wished for opt-out options and more accountability from AI software and AI developers.

Gary Marcus, psychology professor and founder of machine learning company Geometric Intelligence, who also signed the open letter, supports the idea that AI companies need to become more transparent. "We have a perfect storm of corporate irresponsibility, widespread adoption, lack of regulation and a huge number of unknowns," he told the New York Times in an interview. Altman has said that OpenAI spent six months training and conducting safety tests on GPT-4 and as of the end of March, has yet to start training GPT-5.

According to an interview with CBS News, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, believes that artificial intelligence is "a new race in the most important software category." After partnering with OpenAI to create an updated version of the Bing search engine, which includes a feature like ChatGPT that can provide in-depth explanations and further chats, Microsoft is hoping the partnership will allow them to "guide the industry toward more responsible outcomes."

An article from the Harvard Business Review asks, "Should we require—and can we even expect—AI to explain its decisions?" Since ChatGPT launched, it has produced a number of instances of harmful and unethical content. These include the creation of a works cited that

contained forged citations and links, and the false accusation of sexual harassment against a law professor, citing a made-up *Washington Post* article.

As explored by the open letter, AI can't understand its actions and will remain unable to without proper training. Despite its role as an education and language tool, ChatGPT continues to disseminate misinformation to its global audience of over 100 million users. The letter asks if letting "machines flood our information channels with propaganda and untruth" is unethical and concludes that this cannot go unchecked.

However, some experts believe this letter doesn't cover current problems and contributes to "AI Hype," instead of developing viable solutions.

Emily Bender, a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Washington, claimed in a tweet on Mar. 28 that the letter misinterprets her research, which pointed out that "this head-long rush to ever larger language models without considering risks was a bad thing." She tweeted that the letter was "just dripping with #Aihype," but mentioned there were a few points she did agree with.

Arvind Narayanan, an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Princeton told *VICE News* that the open letter was taking away from addressing the real harms associated with AI, and mainly expressed long-term concerns rather than current problems. He believes these concerns intentionally "divert attention from present harms-including very real information security and safety risks," which he tweeted a week after the letter's release.

OPINION

Birth Control Free in BC: What now?



ACCESS BC VIA
SAANICH NEWS

Different types of birth control that are covered in BC

OP-ED by Marissa Lear (Alumna)

On April 1, British Columbia became the first province to make prescription birth control free. This includes oral hormone pills, subdermal injections and implants, IUDs, and plan B. Not all forms of contraception are covered, such as vaginal rings and transdermal patches, but the province is looking to expand coverage in the future. Prescription contraception is free for men as well.

While vasectomies have been covered by Medical Service Plans for quite some time, condoms are not yet covered. Birth control is not available over the counter either. Thankfully, youth clinics offer free condoms as well as prescriptions for birth control to increase accessibility. While this was a huge accomplishment for BC and made many citizens proud to call our province home, the change opens a larger discussion around contraception, the economical side of it all, the imbalanced responsibility placed on women, the latency of this coverage in the first place, and the question mark around what the government plans next in the area of sexual health.

Women have been prescribed birth control since the 1950's, but are just now receiving free access to it. This means that for the past 70 years, safe sex has been a commodity only for those able to pay the several-hundred-dollar oral pills' cost per year. While condoms have been given out for free for years in schools and clinics, the same attention was not given to birth control directed at women. Why is this? One would think the action of making certain hormonal birth control free would have been done ages ago if messaging around the responsibility of contraception is predominantly focused on women. This socially accepted messaging is not fair, as sex safety is an equal responsibility between partners, and yet it becomes the woman's financial burden simply because she drew the unlucky card of having a uterus.

There are other forms of male birth control being tested despite many young men hesitating to take the pills due to possible side effects – despite research showing a lack thereof. However, when it came to prescribing hormonal birth control to women, side effects such as depression, vomiting, extreme bleeding, and a plethora of other symptoms,

were seen as more than okay. Why are these side effects normalized in women, while asking men to take a non-hormonal pill seems like a daunting task? By looking solely at the contraception options, it is easy to mistake the onus of birth control being placed on females.

As a young woman, I would like to see our government use the positive feedback from the recent birth control coverage to not only expand what is included but focus on correcting the entire narrative established around birth control. I am anxious to see what happens next. Will menstrual products be included?

There are conversations around including free menstrual products in workspaces of federally regulated industries, but as of right now, one in three Canadians struggles to afford these products. Some could argue that sex is a choice, yet the funding dedicated to safe sex greatly outweighs the funding allotted to menstrual health. There should never

be a financial barrier to an involuntary human function. We look at conditions in developing countries and gasp at how a flushable toilet is a privilege there, but we willingly turn a blind eye when period poverty exists underneath our noses. It is hypocrisy at its finest.

There is much more work to be done in the industry of sexual health and our government's part in eliminating financial barriers associated with it. This should not be something reserved for the wealthy, but a right for every person.

British Columbia was the first province in Canada to cover prescription contraception, and I certainly hope it is not the last. I would like to believe that these changes will not end with birth control and extend to other areas of sexual health like menstrual products and better education while continuing to discover a wider variety of options for male contraception. All we can do is continue advocating for the right to accessible birth control and voice the need for these actions.



SHUTTERSHOCK VIA
THE DAILY HIVE

Birth control pills

Dear BCSS: Don't Cancel High School Gymnastics

OPINION by Alanna Rudolph (12)

I have been in gymnastics for over a decade of my life, most of which was recreational through community programs. Two years ago, I started competing in high school gymnastics. Because Hamber doesn't have appropriate training facilities or coaches, I train outside of school with athletes from other schools, and we each represent our respective schools at competitions.

BC School Sports (BCSS) has raised a motion to remove gymnastics as a high school sport, citing operational costs and relatively small numbers of participating athletes. One line of reasoning is that gymnastics has become more of a community-based sport, rather than a school-based sport.

One of the most valuable lessons I've gained through gymnastics is valuing and appreciating my own achievements. I've never been a naturally talented athlete, and my experiences with past sports were often negative because of the competitive pressure. I used to struggle with a lot of comparison and self-esteem issues in sports, and I stopped playing any sports for some time because of it.

The supportive team I found in gymnastics helped me with that. We're all at different levels and have different goals, but we cheer each other on, encourage each other through disappointments, and celebrate our successes. This has been one of the most compassionate and rewarding communities I've been a part of.

This past year, I was the captain for the team I trained with. I also injured myself mid-season and was unable to compete at zone championships, and therefore couldn't qualify for provincial championships. Despite this, I was still there to cheer on my teammates.

85 per cent of BC high school gymnasts identify as female, according to a report by the BC School Sports Gymnastics Sport Advisory Committee. A 2020 study by Canadian Women and Sport found that one in three girls drop out of sports by their late teens, compared to one in ten boys.

Physical activity is associated with better physical, mental, and emotional health. Our school system should be doing the utmost to promote equality and well-being for all its students. There is a duty of care owed to us as students for school-based systems to promote higher participation in beneficial activities, especially for marginalized and underrepresented groups. Ultimately, it is an equality issue when majority-female sports are not supported and not recognized as valuable by an organization that is meant to be supporting us.

The motion claims that the sport will be able to continue in the community, even if it is not a school sport. The idea that this is feasible and possible for all athletes is a privileged viewpoint. For many students, sports are most accessible through schools. Community-based training and competitions can be a lot more expensive, and it's unfair to assume students will still be able to participate without the support of schools.

All sports, not just gymnastics, have some sort of operational cost associated with them. Does that stop us from having volleyball, basketball, or soccer teams? Of course not. Sports are an opportunity and a service to students that our educational system provides for us. We must understand that activities enrich students' experiences and participation in them is invaluable. It's inequitable to not provide equal opportunity and access to all sports for students.

One final point that I find critical is that the school system recognizes women's gymnastics and men's gymnastics as distinctive sports, and not simply segregated by gender. Each involves different events as well as a different code and scoring system. What this means is that in school competitions, boys can compete in girls' gymnastics and girls can compete in boys' gymnastics. This isn't necessarily possible in community based competitions. I have teammates who choose to compete in the opposite gender's gymnastics despite not identifying as such because that sport is more enjoyable, enriching, and suitable for them. Again, this is an opportunity that allows greater access and equity that may be lost should the motion pass.

BCSS Legislative Assembly Members will vote on the motion at the Annual General Meeting held May 12-13.

OPINION

Does Vancouver have the electric vehicle charging infrastructure to keep up with rapid demand?

OPINION by Elle Glen (9)

As the largest consumer of electric vehicles in North America, British Columbia had around 80,000 electric vehicles in 2022. This number should keep increasing due to raging gas prices and inflation.

Seen as a way to save money long-term, “an electric vehicle can save 80 per cent in gas expenses over a year, and about \$100 a month in maintenance costs compared with a gas-powered vehicle,” according to BC Hydro. With current rebates being offered, those considering buying or leasing an electric vehicle can save up to \$4,000 at the provincial level and \$5,000 at the federal level.

According to StatCan, 13.6 per cent of all newly registered vehicles in 2022 were electric. Including electric hybrids, the percentage of vehicles requiring electric charging is 23.5 per cent. Compared to previous years, BC saw an increase of 6757 electric vehicles from 2021 to 2022. As a national leader in electric vehicle consumption, the municipal and provincial governments are setting a poor example on electric vehicle charging infrastructure. By offering rebates and tax deductions, the government is incentivizing consumers to buy electric vehicles, without having provided the proper infrastructure to meet demand. How is this lack of insight affecting current and future electric vehicle owners in Vancouver?

Leslie Ng, a sustainability specialist for the City of Vancouver, offers insight

on the barriers surrounding electric vehicle public charging. “Increasing EV infrastructure is costly and challenging. Getting electrical service to a location [...] often requires upgrades to services to ensure there is sufficient capacity [which] requires coordination with BC Hydro. Increasing electric infrastructure is something that government, private sector, car manufacturers and utilities need to all work together on to support the adoption of electric vehicles.”

A report published by the City of Vancouver in 2016 set large goals for the future of electric vehicles, promising that by 2050, 100 per cent of all transportation in Vancouver will be renewable. By prioritizing electric transportation, the city is encouraging this sudden demand in electric vehicles, but the lack of infrastructure has made it hard for many consumers to justify a purchase. Although most electric vehicles come with a level one charger, these take 30 to 50 hours to charge an electric vehicle from empty according to BC Hydro, leaving many Vancouverites dependent on public level 2 and 3 charging stations, which are most commonly found in parking lots, gas stations and malls. In comparison, a level 2 charger fully charges an electric vehicle from empty in four to ten hours. Currently, there are only 430 level 2 chargers in Vancouver, as recorded by ChargeHub. Level 3 or DC fast chargers can charge to 90 per cent in 45 minutes, but are expensive to install and upkeep, resulting in vastly fewer Level 3 chargers, despite their efficiency.

A survey from Pollution Probe, a



CITY OF VANCOUVER

Electric vehicle charging ports in a parking garage

Canadian NGO focused on environmental activism, polled 1,600 electric vehicle owners from across Canada and found participants overwhelmingly agreed there was an inadequate amount of DC fast public charging stations, as well as charging stations in general. A majority of respondents also agreed that the purchase of a future electric vehicle would be affected by public charging availability.

Vancouver Electric Vehicles Association (VEVA) member Bruce Stout points out in an email that “[many] EV owners charge at home so [the province] doesn’t need more stations,” but the majority of those who charge at home live in single family housing. According to the Canadian 2021 census, only 14.7 per cent of housing in Vancouver is single family housing. Lack of public charging heavily affects those in urban areas, who live in apartments or multiplexes. These EV owners are most affected because approval from stratas and apartment communities is needed to install a charging unit. This leaves many relying on public charging, which has proven to be unreliable.

A longtime Vancouver resident and

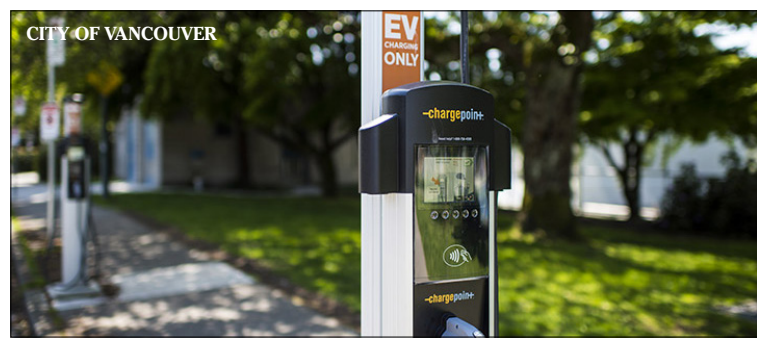
electric vehicle owner of three years, who requested anonymity for privacy reasons, expressed their dissatisfaction with public charging. “I wholeheartedly support the conversion to EV’s, however I don’t have a dedicated charger at home, and have found it very frustrating. My strata didn’t approve of me putting in a charger when I got my EV, so have had to rely on public charging.” Being called “garage orphans”, as they have no private space to install a charger, many of these EV owners fear running out of charge or being stranded.

Being from a family that owns an electric vehicle, I have experienced this deficit firsthand. I have witnessed one of the most popular level 3 chargers in the city, found outside City Hall, sat broken for almost a month multiple times within the last year, leaving one of the 53 DC fast chargers in Vancouver, including UBC, Burnaby and North Vancouver, unavailable. Although this number may seem large, 53 fast chargers serving a population of 80,000 electric vehicle owners, around 8,000 of which rely on public charging, is a dismal number.

An action plan from the City of Vancouver on improving the general

Electric Vehicle “ecosystem” highlighted three main goals: Accessibility, Affordability and Economic Opportunity. Currently, the City of Vancouver is making changes to meet these goals, two of which: accessibility and economic opportunity, are desperately needed in order to support further infrastructure growth. As of May 2022, only 2 out of the 66 gas stations in Vancouver had electric vehicle stations, according to CTV News.

However, due to recent municipal law changes, a gas station or commercial parking lot over 60 spots in 2025, will pay \$10,000 in licensing fees if they do not supply EV charging stations. Currently, those fees are around \$243. The provincial government recently passed legislation reducing the rate of approval for electric vehicle charging from 75 per cent to 51 per cent, making it easier for EV stations to be installed in condominiums and stratas. By doing this, the city is expanding the amount of EV charging stations in different neighborhoods and in urban areas, which will alleviate current strain on existing public chargers. The city will also be installing nine new DC fast chargers in the coming year.



A public electric charging port

Lamborghini's New Poster Child, the Revuelto

OPINION by Justin Chuk (10)

Lamborghini is a brand that needs no introduction. The Italian automaker has been producing some of the most iconic supercars for over half a century. The latest addition to the Lamborghini lineup is the Revuelto, the poster child that has already taken the automotive world by storm.

The design of the Revuelto embodies Lamborghini's ethos of push-

ing boundaries and breaking new ground. It manages to pay homage to the classic Lamborghini aesthetics while incorporating avant-garde futurism elements that break free from the traditional constraints of automotive styling - resulting in a breathtaking fusion of the old and the new. The inclined shoulder lines and chopped rear ends, hallmarks of Lamborghini DNA, are present in the Revuelto's silhouette, creating a sense of continuity with past generations. However, the Revuelto's sculpted bone lines give it an ultramodern look that sets

it apart from its predecessors. The sharp, angular lines of the Revuelto's body create a sense of dauntingness even when the car is stationary, really showcasing the power and performance that lies within. Every inch of the car's exterior is designed with aerodynamics in mind, from the sleek hood to the floating blades on the rear fender. The most iconic feature from the rear of the Revuelto are the hexagonal exhaust pipes, which are positioned high-up on the fascia, right in between the

cattle, carbon fibre, and geometrical accents that add to the overall sense of luxury and sophistication.

The Revuelto rivals the best in terms of performance, as reported by Mark Ewing in Forbes Magazine; its 0-100 km/h 2.5 second sprint time rivals those of the Bugatti Chiron and the Porsche Taycan Turbo S electric hyper-sedan.

The hybrid powertrain of the Revuelto, which produces a total of 1015 CV, uses a state-of-the-art transverse dual clutch e-gearbox and 3 high-density electric motors, along with a new 12-cylinder internal combustion engine. Hybridization is utilised to enhance performance to an unparalleled degree.

Under the hood, the Revuelto is powered by a 6.5-liter V12 engine that produces 825 horsepower and 725 Nm of torque. The engine is mated to a 8-speed automatic transmission that can be controlled via paddle shifters mounted on the steering wheel. The car's powertrain is capable of a top speed of 350 km/h.

The Revuelto is a testament to Lamborghini's unwavering commitment to excellence. By blending tradition with innovation, it has set a new apex for what a modern supercar should aspire to be. Whether parked in a showroom or speeding down a racetrack, the Revuelto is sure to turn heads and inspire awe in all who see it.



EVO



LAMBORGHINI

The Revuelto is the latest evolution for Lamborghini's product design

ing boundaries and breaking new ground. It manages to pay homage to the classic Lamborghini aesthetics while incorporating avant-garde futurism elements that break free from the traditional constraints of automotive styling - resulting in a breathtaking fusion of the old and the new. The inclined shoulder lines and chopped rear ends, hallmarks of Lamborghini DNA, are present in the Revuelto's silhouette, creating a sense of continuity with past generations. However, the Revuelto's sculpted bone lines give it an ultramodern look that sets

Y-shaped tail lights. The car's bold, aggressive stance is accentuated by its wide track and low, ground-hugging profile, giving it a sense of purpose and intent that is unmatched.

The interior of the Revuelto is a feast for the senses, being both ostentatious and advanced. The driver-centric design places all the essential controls within easy reach, while the clear intent of minimalism creates an uncluttered, almost cockpit-like feel. The materials used throughout the cabin are of the highest quality, with fine leather sourced from Swiss range

HAMBERGER

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

HOW TO RECOVER FROM EXAMS: IN HONOUR OF AP SEASON

Have you recently been experiencing symptoms of PTSD? Firstly, don't self-diagnose because that's a quirky and try-hard thing to do. Rather than attention-seeking, provided are a few simple ways to reduce, reuse, recycle, and relax to relieve yourself of any remaining restlessness.

LAUGHING

Google said this, so it must be a trustworthy method to destress. Based on personal experience, one may experience humour in the following ways:

In the event that Canadian geese have turned English Bay into their own personalized sewer, witness giant, mutated crabs fight to the death Godzilla vs. King Kong style.

Stuff a hoodie and sweatpants with fabric and tie them together. Pretend it is sentient and share your best jokes with it. You can even name it!

EXERCISING

Various forms of exercise, such as yoga, biking, and dancing are supposed to be soothing. Healthy body, healthy mind, am I right? But nothing beats a good ol' workout at the gym. If you ever feel out of place and don't know what to do, provided are a few simple exercises you can do anywhere.

Squat

Squatting is possible with or without additional weights. Start standing with your feet shoulder-width apart. As you bend into a sitting position, keep your back straight. Finally, collapse, curl into a ball, and cry because nobody likes hitting legs.

Bench press

Locate and claim a bench. As you approach said bench, hold your hands in front of you extended with your fingers apart, and push them into the bench. You are now bench pressing.

Chin-up

Look up.

Pull-up

Engage in some questionable parkour. After becoming paralyzed from the waist down, make your way to the nearest Superstore for some Huggies™ Little Mover Pull-Ups. To reach this top-shelf, top-quality, top-hat item, use your brittle arms to drag yourself up the shelves.

Shop Lift

After grinding in the gym for an entire anime training arc, go to a shop of your choice and tear its foundations from the ground. Slip under it and bench press it. Assert dominance by maintaining eye contact with the hapless people waiting for the bus across the street. After benching the shop, swipe something and run. Cardio, baby!*

**Disclaimer: The Griffins' Nest does not condone shoplifting. Please do not commit any crimes.*

SELF-CARE

I've seen it on beauty subreddits at 3am, you've seen it in '90s magazines at your local dentist. Ever since the dawn of time (circa. 1953), Big Healthy has been pushing "self-care." Here are some of the highest-rated tips and tricks to do when you're sad, lonely, and burnt out.

Face Mask

A combination of Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop™ and the pandemic motif (see, English teachers? I did learn things!), this easy life hack requires only two ingredients. First, mix some generic GOOPGLOW cream in your ear (a handy dish). Then, liberally smear it on the inside of a traditional blue face mask. In a pinch, a reusable cloth one will do, but the mesh won't. Lastly, plaster this Goopy glory onto your face. Surely you won't be stressed about your exams anymore!

QUALITY TIME WITH FRIENDS

Do you have friends? Great! Here are some of the perfectest activities to do as a group.

Play Virtual Reality Crossy Road

Is your nearest traffic light five blocks away? Fear not! With the power of the Physics Olympics team and the Robotics team working together, you can get a custom-built virtual reality headset set specifically for Crossy Road. Now, despite you not even crossing the road, you can pretend you did.

Window Shop

Go to your nearest Home Depot. Observe the windows as a group, grading style, size, and clarity of the glass. Test the durability with a sledgehammer from the Tools Department.

EXPLORING HOBBIES

What better way to chillax than exploring a new hobby? If you're stuck and can't think of things to do, here are some unique activities you will soon find yourself addicted to!

Levitating

Levitating is the trendy new hobby for you! Find an empty field and simply float in the air. Make sure you're at an altitude high enough so everybody can see and hype you up!

Litigation

Investments and stocks are boring. Why not spice up your moneymaking skills? Suing is especially recommended if you're a salty loner. You'll be a millionaire in no time!

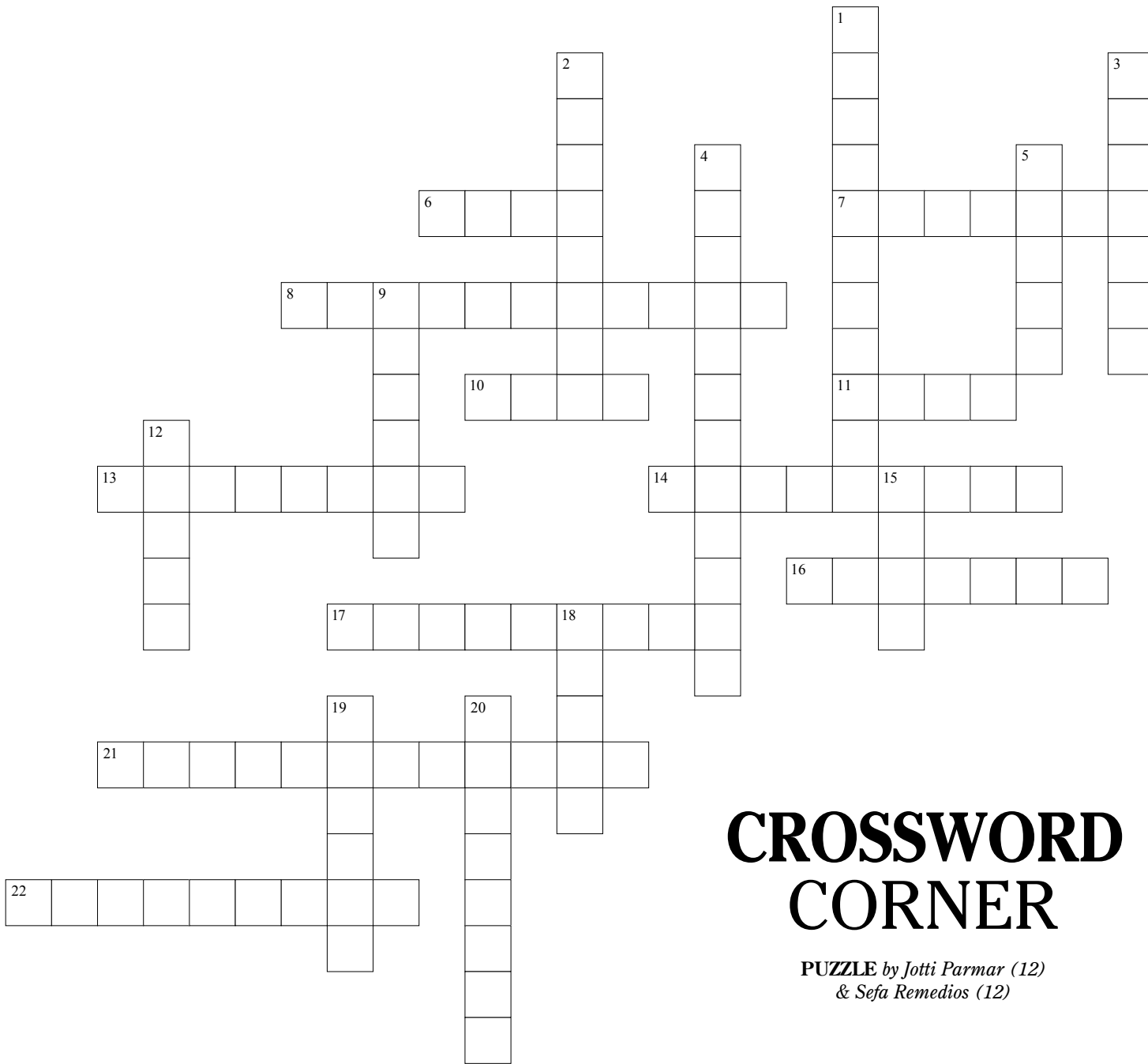
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Each row and column must have an equal number of X's and O's. No more than two of the same symbol can touch. No two rows or columns are the same. (retrieved from puzzle-binairo.com)

6	5		4	3					
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	4	3						5	8
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	6							9	
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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 Jotti Parmar (12) & Sefa Remedios (12)

Across

- 6. Popular song by the Canadian band "MAGIC!"
- 7. Flower associated with BC's highschool diploma
- 8. Magic word
- 10. "Pick a ____, any ____!"
- 11. Coloured part of the eye
- 13. Flower that represents the Canadian Cancer Society
- 14. "Suck it up, _____!"
- 16. Animated princess with a pet tiger
- 17. Yellow flower that turns white and fluffy
- 21. Harry Potter's disarming spell
- 22. What Peter Pan uses to fly (2 wds.)

Down

- 1. American street magician known for his feats of endurance (2 wds.)
- 2. Purple flower with a soothing scent
- 3. Magic type Pokemon resembling a platypus
- 4. Famous escape artist (2 wds.)
- 5. Worn over the heart on November 11th
- 9. One might pull this out of a hat
- 12. Flower commonly used to make chains
- 15. Flower symbolizing love
- 18. Flower similar in appearance to a water lily
- 19. Magic word, politely
- 20. Small flowers that push up through the snow

ASK 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 Student

A: Dear Stressed Student, Always balance your time accordingly. Maybe for every 15 math questions you do, take a 5 or 10 minute break to go outside for a little bit, or talk to a friend. Set yourself a hard time limit for your study sessions. If you get stuck on a super hard question, walk away from it - bake cookies, play Hay Day, go for a bike ride - just do something different so your subconscious can work on the problem. Staying and stressing about the problem will only make it worse. Finally, try re-working your mindset. Expecting perfection at all times will only burn you out - learn to accept having something good enough is all that you need. Remember that in the end, grades will never matter as much as your happiness and well-being.

-The Nest

Q: It's so hard to get students to stay involved in clubs. What can clubs do to maintain membership and involvement?

-Concerned Club Head

A: It's really important to consider who your club members are and their schedules! A lot of the time, students want to come to your club but they can't make the normal scheduled meeting time. If you're noticing low turnout at regularly scheduled meetings, try varying the time or date. It's also important to maintain communication, not only with your club members, but also with the general Hamber student body! Advertise the fun events you do on Instagram or around the halls! Ask your sponsor teacher if you can write a quick blurb about your club on their whiteboard.

-The Nest

Q: I really want a dog, but my parents are strongly against the idea. What should I do?

-Dogless Dude

A: Dear Dogless Dude, Dogs are great. However, you will have to discuss with your parents about getting a dog. Whatever the choice will be, it will have to be a decision made together, as your whole family will have to live with it. Why do your parents not want a dog? Are they allergic? Scared of dogs? These are the things that would be good to find out in order for everyone to reach an agreeable position. Have you tried advocating for another pet? Maybe your parents would be okay with getting a cat, or a rabbit. As long as you keep an open mind, it will all work out well.

-The Nest



COMIC by Aubrey Brandt (8)

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

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