

CRITICAL CANAL FAULT

NEWS REPORT by Stephen Kosar (10)

The Suez Canal was blocked for six days from March 23-29, 2021 after the grounding of the container ship Ever Given, leading to a massive backlog on one of the world's most important shipping routes.

The Ever Given, one of the largest container ships in the world, weighing in at 224,000 tonnes, is operated by the Taiwanese shipping company, Evergreen Marine. At the time of the grounding, it was travelling from Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia, to the Port of Rotterdam, Netherlands.

On the morning of March 23, the ship was travelling north in the Suez Canal when high winds reaching 74 km/hr blew through the area, resulting in the ship "being hit by a sudden strong wind, causing the hull to deviate... and accidentally hitting the bottom and running aground," according to representatives from Evergreen Marine. The Ever Given then beached itself, blocking off the entirety of the canal and halting traffic.

Immediately after the blockage, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA), Egypt's state-owned canal operator, commissioned Dutch-based maritime infrastructure company Royal Boskalis Westminster to manage the refloating operations. Multiple plans were considered to unblock the canal, including removing all the ship-



SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY/HANDOUT

ping containers via helicopter to loosen the total weight. Officials' final plan of action involved dredging around the hull followed by tugboats maneuvering the vessel out.

By March 27, 9000 tonnes of ballast was removed from the ship to lighten it up, with 14 tugboats at the scene along with dredging ships, trying to take advantage of the high tides. At the time, over 300 ships were waiting

on either side of the canal for the Ever Given to be removed, with many ships going around Africa, past the Cape of Good Hope.

Since its opening in 1869, the Suez Canal has been one of the most important waterways in the world. Previously, ships travelling from Europe to Asia had to go around Africa, elongating passage by approximately 10 days, or 8,900km. When the French constructed the canal, travel by

water was the most prominent method of travel, and as such, the Suez Canal drastically impacted world trade.

In 2019, 18,880 ships traversed the canal, with a going rate of 51.5 per day, constituting \$400 million worth of goods in an hour. Approximately 12 per cent of global trade passes through the Suez Canal.

By the 28th, the ship was partially dislodged, allowing for a small amount of movement, with the SCA chairman stating "at any time the ship could slide and move from the spot it is in."

One day later, at 4:30 AM, the stern was refloated, and by 3:05 PM, the ship was then freed, with the Ever Given towed into the Great Bitter Lake, the midpoint of the canal.

The Suez Canal was reopened at 7:00 PM, with more than 400 ships waiting. The backlog was finally cleared five days later on 3rd of April.

Since the incident, the Suez Canal Authority has launched an inquiry into the cause of the blockage. As of April 13, the Ever Given had been seized by the SCA until a \$916 million compensation payment is made. The fine is based off of salvage costs and other economics losses. The ships insurers, British firm UK P&I Club, filed an appeal, calling the fine "largely unsupported." As of May 5, the Ever Given remains impounded in Egypt.

STUCO ELECTIONS

NEWS REPORT by Ryan Cheng (10) and Wilson Liang (10)

It's that time of the school year again: Student Council elections. A yearly tradition, the Student Council elections allow students of all grades to apply and campaign for a chance to serve their community. While this year's Student Council was composed of only an executive team due to the pandemic, the upcoming election is expected to open positions to junior grades.

Much like previous years, the Student Council will be composed of six executive positions and two representatives for each grade from 9-12. These members help organize the events that will occur at Hamber, such as the Canley Cup. As a whole, the Student Council, in the words of Vice Principal and Student Council Sponsor, **Mr. D. Ambrose**, "overarches everything that goes on in the school".

This year's pandemic has reportedly limited the extent of the Student Council's operations; executives only meet each Monday, and only executive roles were filled. Many proposed initiatives were also not put into action

due to the pandemic. Next year however, Student Council looks to create a bigger impact in Eric Hamber's community. Concrete plans for this "bigger impact" have yet to be laid, though, and current situations are certainly prone to change. The general idea is for the student government to return to the previous years' operation as soon as possible.

Mr. Ambrose remarked, "We're trying to make [the election process] a bit more even this year and more equitable as some students were able to do more than others." Actions were put in place to supposedly equalize the playing field for nominees. Speeches were recorded in the auditorium and be limited to one minute.

Campaigning occurred from the 3rd of May to the 7th of May. Candidates are permitted only one virtual poster and ten physical posters for campaigning. Voting took place in classrooms on May 11 through Microsoft Forms.

See the Hamber Hub on Microsoft Teams for more recent information and results.

RUNDOWN ON RAMADAN

NEWS REPORT by Dean Rohman (11)

Ramadan is a mandatory month-long period of fasting. Fasting for Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, which is lunar.

Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day, breaking their fast at sunset with the Iftar meal. While fasting, Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink anything (yes, not even water), and must not engage in activities that can break their fast. Just before sunrise, a meal called *suhoor* or *sehri* is eaten to provide Muslims with the energy needed to get through a portion of the day. Between *iftar* and *suhoor*, eating is allowed. Pregnant or breastfeeding women, individuals who are menstruating, children, the sick, the elderly, travellers, and people who are physically or mentally unable to fast are all exempt from fasting.

Muslims fast for many different reasons. Ramadan is an incredibly sacred month as it is when the Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH*). Muslims use this month to reflect on their connection with God, their faith, and their values. It is also a time of empathy, as the fasting forces Muslims to feel and understand the power of hunger. Muslims are encouraged to donate money and food, be charitable, and increase their good deeds. Helping the less fortunate is a very big priority as well. Muslims also share food with their family, friends, and neighbours. This period of deep reflection is said to be very beneficial spiritually, and helps to create good habits that will hopefully last past Ramadan. It is also a period of detoxification for the body.

Ramadan ends with Eid-al-Fitr, one of the two major holidays in Islam. Gifts are given, feasts are held, and family and friends gather, an event that will inevitably look different given COVID-19.

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All articles are curated by the Editors-in-Chief (with the exception of opinion pieces). Questions, comments, and concerns may be sent to the Editors-in-Chief directly at ehnewspaper@gmail.com

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

VDSC'S GOT TALENT: A SHOWCASE OF SKILL

NEWS REPORT by Teresa Chen (10)

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC) decided to host a district talent show to showcase the creative sides of students.

The VDSC is formed by a team of 52 secondary school students, representing 18 schools and 22 alternative programs at the Vancouver School Board, with the mission of bringing students together and working collaboratively. Each year, the VDSC plans multiple initiatives for students across the city to gather and bond with one another. Some of these events include the Sister School Switch, Arts Gala, and VanCity Idol, as well as the classic annual Canley Cup donation drive.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances, many of these events could not be held this year. To overcome this, the VDSC organized an online talent show to allow students to express themselves, and to bring the district closer together through performing arts in a safe way. As an incentive to this competition, the VDSC also offered scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$300 for the top three students, which were chosen by a panel of local performing artists.

As for Hamber, a total of seven people participated; covering a variety of skills from piano and guitar, to Instagram edits. Although piano appeared to be the most popular, Hamber's winner was an innovative student, who created their own one-person band. **Allison Lee** (9) crafted a video featuring her vocals, accompanied by her playing the cello, piano, and drums. Lee revealed that her inspiration for this act "came from a Jimmy Fallon video where different people [came] up on the screen with different coloured backgrounds and they all [played] different instruments." "I wondered if I could do that and have myself play all of them," she stated. With a little bit of experimentation and time, Lee ended up producing a cover of "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You" by Frankie Vallie.

Despite the pandemic, students across Vancouver were still able to put their creative skills to use, as a result of the VDSC Got Talent 2021 event.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2021

NEWS REPORT by Greta Gibbon (8)



Due to COVID-19, there have been limited learning enrichment opportunities for students outside of school. Summer programs this year are no different, however, there are still a few programs operating. These summer programs include diverse learning opportunities and are open to students of various ages.

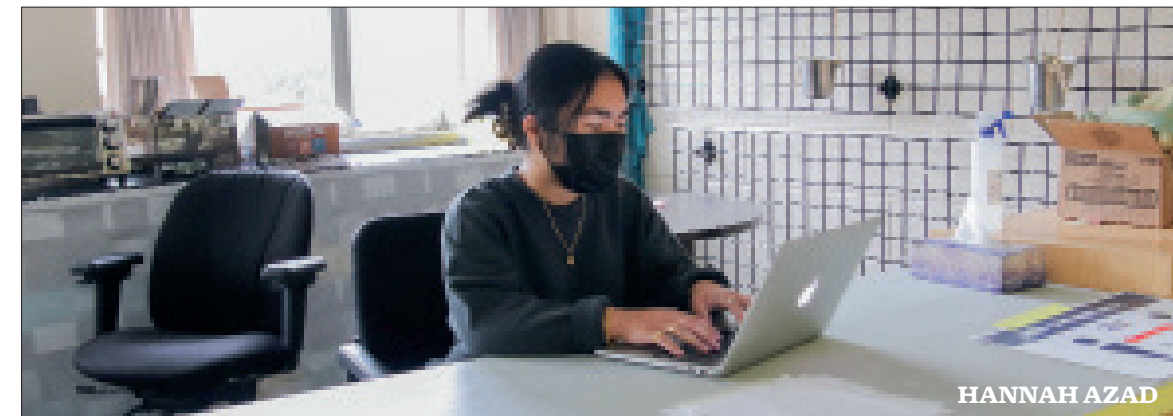
For many years, BCIT has offered a broadcast and media summer camp. Luckily, this year is no different. The digital filmmaking camp is offered to students aged 13-17 and incorporates hands-on videography. For instance, participants may create their own TV commercial. In this summer camp, students are introduced to filmmaking and explore every aspect of it. This camp runs from July 26-30, 2021 and is in person, so students receive the full experience! BCIT also offers an advanced digital filmmaking camp for those who have taken the preliminary camp, or who have experience in filmmaking.

For students in the older grades, UBC is running their Future Global Leaders program online this year. In this program, students aged 15-18 are able to challenge themselves in first-year-level courses based on their academic interests and passions. The program offers a total of seven courses, each of which being 3-weeks long. The courses include Introduction to Business Foundations, Business and Social Impact, Digital Media Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Engineering, Introduction to Psychology, Biology, History and the Future of Cancer, and Crime and Society: Contemporary Topics. The courses run from July 5-July 25 and July 26-August 15, 2021. Students will attend live classes virtually during the week, Monday through Friday.

Although most summer programs cannot operate with the same rigour as they did in pre-pandemic times, they are still fantastic learning opportunities to ignite new interests.

GRAD COMMITTEE THROUGH COVID

NEWS REPORT by Hannah Azad (11)



Senior year is one of the most eagerly anticipated points of high school. As graduates reach the end of their secondary education, they are rewarded with a series of activities, events, and celebrations. It is truly a momentous year for all students. **Ainsley Vinson** (12), **Julie Vu** (12), and **Kat Uy** (12) from Hamber's Grad Committee have worked exceptionally hard to fulfill this for the 2021 graduates, even amid the pandemic.

This year's three-person Grad Committee has planned creatively around the limitations that COVID has inflicted on schools. Alongside events that are traditionally held, such as spirit weeks and grad hoodie sales, they hosted virtual movie nights on Discord and released an interactive Instagram Bingo. However, this list has yet to be completed. Members of the committee tease that several more activities are in the works. "We're planning on doing a scavenger hunt," Vinson revealed, "That hasn't been released yet, so consider it a sneak peek!"

The event that currently holds the most of the Committee's focus, however, is the Class of 2021's graduation ceremony. Due to the unpredictable state of COVID, the details of this year's graduation have been a mystery to all. Students have been eager to find out what form the ceremony will take, who will attend, as well as when and where it will occur.

The Grad Committee had recently received information from the School Board, giving them more clarity on what they are able to do for the ceremony. These new updates elicited positive reactions from the hopeful team. "The district is really pushing for an in-person grad," Uy stated enthusiastically, "It looks pretty likely that we're all going to be together-knock on wood." The Committee assures that if the ceremony is hosted in person, it will be held safely outdoors in small groups. However, the momentous event still sits in its early planning stages. These details remain undetermined as the team awaits more direction from the School Board.

Closely following graduation in the list of highly anticipated senior events is Hamber's annual Prom. Unfortunately, the cancellation of this year's prom is definite. Pandemic restrictions have become increasingly strict in response to BC's COVID-19 situation. As a result, the Committee confirmed they are unable to execute the grade-wide dance.

Being senior students themselves, Uy, Vinson, and Vu understand how difficult it is to graduate during these unique circumstances. "I'm sure we all hoped the last five years would lead to something big, but with the pandemic we couldn't really have that," Vinson shared empathetically, "To ensure that the year is still as favourable for the class of 2021 as possible, they released a suggestion box in their Instagram bio. 'if you have any thoughts, ideas or feedback, tell us!'" Vinson encouraged, "We can see what we can do to make sure the year is as great as we all hoped it could be."

The Grad Committee is appreciative of the Class of 2021's cooperation, especially as their senior year comes to a busy end. "Thank you for being so patient and supporting us always!" Uy expressed, addressing Hamber's graduates. They promise they will continue to work hard with the best interest of their fellow grads in mind. Vinson exclaimed on behalf of their team, "You guys are our motivation!"

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TEACHERS GET TAUGHT: HOW HAMBER’S STUDENT TEACHERS FARED DURING THE PANDEMIC SCHOOL-YEAR

NEWS REPORT by *Hannah Azad (11), Spencer Izen (11), and Jessica Kim (11)*

This year, Eric Hamber welcomed eleven student teachers to their school community. In classrooms teaching Physics, Law, Foods Studies, and more, these educators-in-training worked through a school year dictated by a pandemic and honed their instructional skills, ranging from lesson planning to discussion-leading.

For teachers new and old, being at the helm of a high school classroom always presents a series of challenges, and for the 2021 student teachers, their time at Hamber was no exception.

As a result of the pandemic, teachers were given less opportunity to interact with the students in their classes. “It’s made it very difficult to develop a bond or social understanding of your students,” **Mr. L. Neufeld** expressed. However, he went on to say that students “have been incredibly supportive,” and that “the classes have been very rewarding to make up for the fact that you can’t interact with them that much, because there is this general sense that learning is important — that classroom safety is important.”

Meanwhile, others shared the difficulties encountered as a result of the quarter system’s timetable organization. “[I]n a normal year we would come for a short two-week practicum in the fall. We don’t get the idea of being in a classroom of 30 students, instead, a class of 15 for 1 hour and 45 minutes” said **Ms. D. Kroegger**, completing her practicum with **Mr. P. Scaglione** (Social Studies).

Further pandemic-spurred challenges included the extensive digital nature of instruction this year, heavily reliant upon Microsoft Teams. “I’ve had to do a lot more online stuff, for example, making videos, which I normally wouldn’t be doing if it weren’t for the pandemic. This has caused a lot of technical difficulties. There have been a lot of difficulties working with Microsoft Teams, for example, videos I would record and then find out after that they didn’t work and I’d have to do them again,” shared

Business Education/Math/Food Studies student-teacher **Mr. B. Gregson** on the topic of IT troubles.

Minimal experience, coupled with this year’s COVID restrictions, gave 2021’s teacher candidates a challenge in adaptability. The complexities of the year universally taught this group a set of essential skills and valuable lessons. “It’s really important to build a community with the students that you work with,” **Ms. J. Farry**, who taught alongside **Mr. A. Stevens** (Science) and **Ms. K. Chong** (Science), advised, “As you can see with the pandemic, we’re going through this all together. It’s a hard time for everybody, so learning how to have forgiveness for each other as well as just acknowledging that we’re all learning something is very magical. That’s something I was taught here at Hamber.”

Given the student teachers had recently become woven into the school community, they offered unique insight into the intricacies of Hamber life. Speaking to the rigour of instruction in classes, Neufeld noted that “There’s a high, precise standard of quality which is upheld by teachers”, an observation has been “really inspiring.”

Alongside the invaluable lessons they provided their student teachers, Hamber staff developed a rapport with their instructional company in class. “I’ve had many memorable experiences with a teacher, **Mr. M. Todd** (Mathematics), who is really funny. We’ve had a lot of laughs that are very memorable,” Gregson shared enthusiastically, “Some jokes I’ve taken home and stolen to pass off as my own!”

Having persevered through 2021’s unique circumstances, this year’s group of student teachers have proven their resilience, flexibility and professionalism. Hamber’s students and staff greatly appreciate hard work that they put into each classroom they taught. Although their time at Eric Hamber has come to an end, this only marks the beginning of their success in the field of education.



HAMBER’S SEISMIC UPGRADE START

NEWS REPORT by *Reya Khanna (9)*

Construction of new seismically upgraded Hamber is now underway. The new Hamber is being built because the current one is not earthquake-proof. It is expected to open September 2023.

The location is on the track field, meaning that the track, bleachers, and the field we all know and love, are gone for now, and at least the next ten years. The current school will eventually be demolished and the track will be re-built on its grounds. In the meantime, the school we are currently in will become a swing site, acting as a temporary residence for schools going through a seismic upgrade. The school moving in will likely be Sir Winston Churchill Secondary or John Oliver Secondary. Future Hamber students can expect to get their track back in 10 years but easily could be waiting until 2035 or longer depending on how fast other schools are made safe.

Many students are excited to be entering the new building due to its new, more modern redesign. The rooms at the new school can easily be located, unlike the maze we have at our current school. Having an organized school benefits new students, as it’ll be easier to find classes.

Ms. M. Jensen (Administration) mentioned, “Through the planning process, we have included two student representatives who have been on the school’s seismic advisory group, which is comprised of a number of teachers, support staff, and district staff.”

The new school will cost \$105M and is the biggest seismic project in Vancouver’s history. However, the school will be the smallest school per student in all of Vancouver. The PDR (Project Definition Report) states the student population will be capped at 110 per cent in the future and

consist of 1700 domestic students as well as 175 international students. Unfortunately, there is doubt the new Hamber will not meet the needs of the area’s growing demographic. There will be a daycare on the top floor of the school with a separate entrance for children between the ages of 0-4 years. The daycare took away physical space for education in the building, but not funding as it is paid for, and operated by the City of Vancouver.

In comparison to our current school, the new school will be 30 per cent smaller, with an auditorium that will be about half the size of the current one, as well as smaller gym space, outdoor places, and smaller rooms for the drama, art, music, and fashion design programs. “Our school already lacks space for all the clubs, teams, performances, and shows, so by making the auditorium smaller, which is currently the biggest space in the school that everyone shares, it is going to be detrimental to everyone and how the school functions.” **Sofia Gobin** (11) stated. Due to the school being on the track, it takes up space that would have otherwise been used by the athletics department. The library will be over 50 per cent smaller and with little to no storage space. The library is a communal space at Hamber with students commonly meeting with each other to work. Most students enjoy having a full-sized locker to fit more of their belongings and class materials, and unfortunately, the new school will have half-sized lockers. General circulation and common spaces will shrink by 30 per cent as well, causing less space and more foot traffic to get to classes.

Overall the new Hamber will have the majority of the features the current one does, but in a modern, miniaturized way.

SCHOLARSHIPS: WHERE TO BEGIN?

NEWS REPORT by *Élise Roy (11)*

For senior students at Hamber, applying for scholarships can be unknown territory. Some may think the process is better out of sight and out of mind. However, don’t be quick to dismiss scholarships! Though they may have traditionally been associated with academic achievement, scholarships today have become increasingly focused on well-roundedness and character. Funding for post-secondary can be merited by means of school involvement, community outreach, sports, or leadership. The following scholarships are examples attainable by Hamber students. Those interested in applying should contact their counsellor.

Eric Hamber offers six District Scholarships. In 2019, these were valued at \$1,250 each. Interested students are to apply for one of the following scholarships. The first is for Indigenous Languages and Culture. The second is for fine arts such as dance, drama, music, or visual art. Next, is the award for excellence in Applied Design, Skills, and Technology. Students involved in business, web design, foods, textiles, and media arts may consider this scholarship. Fourthly, students who excel in sports, either in school or as an extracurricular, should consider the Physical Activity scholarship. Next is the International Languages scholarship. This applies to students who are in AP or IB courses. Lastly, the Technical and Trades Training scholarship may be considered by students involved in woodwork, foods, robotics, or computer science.

Hamber students may apply for one of the seven above-mentioned scholarships. Eligible applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents during that school year, reside in British Columbia and attain the graduation requirements in their grade 12 year. In 2019, the application process included a 500-word response pertaining to personal achievements, plans for post-secondary, and reasoning for being the best candidate for a given scholarship.

Outside of Eric Hamber Secondary lies a vast world of scholarships, bursaries, and awards. One of the most notable is the Loran scholarship. It is merited to students who are exemplary leaders, showing dedication and drive in academic and community work. Applicants must have a minimum average of 85 per cent. Worth \$100,000

over four years, it is awarded to 36 students across Canada. An additional 95 awards are distributed to Loran finalists and semi-finalists. Loran finalists (those who are notable but did not qualify as Loran Scholars) are awarded a one-time sum of \$5,000. Semi-finalists are awarded \$2,000.

The TD Scholarship for Community Leadership does not intend to scope out students with the highest grades, rather, it is awarded to students who show outstanding community leadership. Fitting candidates would include students who have taken on unique projects or done meaningful volunteer work. 20 awards are distributed across Canada, worth up to \$70,000 each.

For students who plan to study STEM in post-secondary, the Schulich Leader Scholarship should be considered. It is awarded to charismatic, entrepreneurial, and academically excellent students who intend to pursue a career in scientific research, technology, business or engineering. 50 awards are distributed nationwide: 25 awards worth \$100,000 each for engineering students, and 25 awards worth \$80,000 each for science, technology, and math students.

Students who are applying to UBC may be eligible for scholarships without being aware of it. Prospective UBC students who complete their application and personal profile are automatically considered for the UBC Presidential Scholars Award and the Tuum Est Experiential Award. The Presidential Scholars Award is for students exceptional in arts, academics, sports, or community work. The award includes a one-time sum of \$5000, plus a sum paid over a maximum of four years: \$80 000 at the Vancouver campus, or \$40 000 at the Okanagan campus. Winners are contacted by UBC. The Tuum Est Experiential Award is for students applying to the UBC Okanagan campus. Tuum Est is UBC’s motto: “It’s yours, and it’s up to you”. The \$3,500 award is intended to enrich experience in a degree of study.

No matter the personal achievements, interests, or academic standing, there is a scholarship apt for any individual. Take the time to discuss potential scholarship options with a counsellor at Eric Hamber. The awards are intended for the taking: do not hesitate to apply.



ALBERTA’S NEW CURRICULUM IGNITES CONTROVERSY AND INCITES CRITICISM

NEWS REPORT by Alexandra Chow (9)

Nearly 10 years ago, parents in Alberta asked for a new curriculum to replace the current one that had been sporadically patched up over the past 30 years. However, many parents and teachers have expressed that the draft of the new curriculum for elementary students is neither what they expected nor wanted.

A new curriculum was desired because parts of the curriculum are out-of-date and have not been updated for over 30 years. Other parts of the curriculum had been added at different times.

Alberta’s new curriculum for elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 6) began its creation in 2019 with a year of advisory. It has already been drafted and is now open to public input. The drafted curriculum will be piloted in classrooms starting September and will be fully implemented in the 2022-2023 school year. The junior high and senior high curriculums will follow this process in the coming years.

As described by the Government of Alberta, the new curriculum “places an emphasis on essential core knowledge, evidence and fact-based materials, and focuses on literacy and numeracy as foundational elements”. In other words, this curriculum is stopping the inquiry-based learning and critical thinking that was previously emphasized and is replacing it with memorization.

Kindergarten students will make connections between texts and personal experiences, sort shapes, and make timelines detailing events in their life. Grade 3 students will learn about unit conversions, design a simple machine, and learn about the triangle trade. Grade 6 students will be reciting speeches, simplifying algebraic expressions, and analyzing the Canadian Censuses.

So far, this drafted curriculum has sparked angry and frustrated responses regarding the content, as well as the way it was developed.

Parent Taylor Schroeter believes that while the concepts

are valuable to learn, they are being taught too early. She is also concerned if the content is age-appropriate.

Many parents share the same opinion. The Facebook group “Parents Against Alberta’s New Curriculum Draft” got over 7,000 members within the first day of its creation.

There are also worries about the Social Studies content and methods of learning.

Audrey Poitras, the Métis Nation of Alberta President, has concerns about the perspective that is used when learning about Indigenous people. “The tone of the curriculum carries a Eurocentric-American point of view that effectively eliminates the voice and history of the Métis Peoples in Alberta,” he explains.

“It, I would say, is a very antiquated understanding of social studies that places emphasis on memorizing a lot of content,” said David Scott, the associate professor of education at the University of Calgary’s Werklund School of Education.

“You want to turn people off of history? Tell them to memorize eight chapters from a textbook and then give them an exam,” added Carla Peck, a Social Studies professor at the University of Alberta. “Students will hate it, and they’re not going to remember anything after the fact.”

Jason Schilling, the president of the Alberta Teachers’ Association, echoed Peck’s sentiments, “Teachers are the ones who are going to take that [curriculum] and make it come to life,” he stated. “To exclude their voice in this process, I think, is setting this curriculum up for failure”.

Around 45 per cent of the Alberta school districts, including Edmonton Public and Calgary, have decided not to pilot-test the curriculum because they are concerned about the content perspectives and topics.

Will the pushback and decision to not pilot-test lead to a major revision and later implementation, or will it be a lost opportunity to help improve the draft?

THIS YEAR IN ANTI-ASIAN RACISIM

NEWS REPORT by Erika Chung (11)

An oppressive onslaught of anti-Asian hate crimes greeted the one-year “anniversary” of the COVID-19 pandemic. Video footage of elderly East Asians being brutally beaten, injured and assaulted spread like wildfire online. It seemed as if every day, there was a new news story covering the latest Asian hate crime. Soon, reports of anti-Asian incidents spread to local communities, with Metro Vancouver area attacks increasing in both prominence and publicity. Younger Asians are beginning to fear for their safety, wondering “Am I or my grandparents next?”

A Recent Timeline of Anti-Asian Hate - A Non-Comprehensive Overview

March 27, 2021 - Korean UBC Student Attacked on Campus
The victim was punched in the head in the stomach after the attacker used a racial term before assaulting her.

March 28, 2021 - Anti-Asian Racism Rally
Rallies in solidarity against anti-Asian racism are held across Canada (Penticton, the Tri-Cities, Toronto, Montreal and Calgary), with Vancouver’s rally occurring outside the Vancouver Art Gallery. Hundreds show up, masked and carrying posters, at the Vancouver rally.

March 29, 2021 - Coffee Shop Incident
At a Richmond coffee shop, an employee who asked a customer to maintain social distance was verbally assaulted by the customer who said “F*** you Chinese.” Coffee was also thrown at her.

April 1, 2021 - Arden Cho Verbally Assaulted While Walking Her Dog
A stranger threatens to kill Cho and her dog in an incident that prompted her to share her traumatic experience and pleas to #StopAsianHate on social media.

A Year of Racist Attacks: Anti-Asian Racism Across Canada One Year Into the COVID-19 Pandemic - Report

The Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter released “A Year of Racist Attacks,” a government-funded report documenting Anti-Asian racism one year into the pandemic. This follows the First National Anti-Asian Racism Report released on September 9, 2020. As with the previous report, incidents were reported through covidracism.ca and elimin8hate.org. These websites are anonymous community reporting services created by local nonprofits.

Quick Statistics

- Between March 10th, 2020 and February 28, 2021, 1150 incidents of anti-Asian racism were reported
- 50 per cent of all incidents occurred in public spaces (roads, parks), followed by 20 per cent occurring in food sector areas (restaurants, grocery stores)
- 73 per cent of victims reported that mental distress/emotional harm was a consequence of the racists attack, by far the most common type of response

Reported Accounts

- “Asian man was going into the Quality Inn during a business trip. In the parking lot as he was going in, two men asked him for money. He said that he didn’t have any, at which point they said ‘Why don’t you give us some money for that s*** [COVID-19] you brought over to Canada?’ then lunged at him.”
- “Two males in their late 20s/early 30s attacked me from behind during my morning walk. They kicked me repeatedly for a couple of minutes, while shouting at me to go back to China with the COVID-19 virus that I brought.”
- “Will it get to the point that I will one day need to escape from my beloved Canada to save my life?...Very painful to feel hated by everyone in one’s home country.”

To read the full report, please visit the Griffins’ Nest Linktree (<https://linktr.ee/ehnewspaper>).

In an interview with CBC, VPD Const. Byron remarked on the increases in anti-Asian hatred, “I’ve had more people approach me talking about fears of the neighbourhood, fears of walking through here, fears of having their elderly family members walk through here. There’s a lot more fear now.”

This fear is one that resonates with many Asians, not only in Vancouver. The hashtag #StopAsianHate and #StopAAPIHate trended on social media, with posts in support of the movement surging as racist incidents garnered more international attention.

The prevalence of anti-Asian racism has only increased within the last year. From hate crimes to more subtle racist remarks, reports flow in daily of incidents from Asians of all ages and gender identities. News stories and the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter’s report serve as a chilling reminder that anti-Asian racism is a widespread and festering issue.

BC’S SITE C DAM

NEWS REPORT by Alanna Rudolph (10)

The Site C Dam, located on the Peace River in Northeast BC, will join the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon Dams as a third hydroelectric generator system. Once completed, it will produce 5,100 gigawatts of energy per year, powering up to 450,000 homes. A recent update from Premier John Horgan revealed that due to unforeseen issues, including the pandemic, and geotechnical issues, the project budget has increased to \$16 billion, and the completion date will be extended by a year, to 2025.

In 2010, when the project was first announced, the cost was predicted to be between \$5 - \$6.6 billion. By 2014, it had increased to \$8.7 billion. When Horgan was elected premier in 2017, its original cost had nearly doubled to \$10.7 billion. Horgan had the option to cancel the project, but decided to go forward. Enough money had been spent that it would be more economical to continue the project, rather than cancel it.

In 2018, geotechnical risks were identified during

construction. By 2020, the government acknowledged that the project may be unsafe and commissioned two experts to review safety. The reports showed that strengthening the foundation on the right bank would be necessary. This, along with the pandemic, is responsible for the increase in cost of the Site C Dam.

The Site C Dam is the third of four dams initially proposed in the 1950s. The first two are the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon Dams. The fourth dam, Site E, would have been built near the BC-Alberta border, but was scrapped in 1982. Site C, W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon Dams are all located on the Peace River and are 83 km and 23 km apart, respectively. As the third dam on the same river, Site C will be more efficient than the other two, since it can use water already stored in the reservoir for the W.A.C. Bennett Dam. BC Hydro predicts it will produce 35 per cent of W.A.C. Bennett Dam’s energy with only 5 per cent of the reservoir area.

CENTERING IN ON THE NEW OAKRIDGE CENTRE

ANALYSIS by Dean Rohman (11)

The redevelopment of Oakridge Centre is set to be the largest development in Vancouver’s history, and one of the largest community-planning projects in Canada. As the heart of the Cambie Corridor project, the massive Oakridge Centre redevelopment is estimated to finish construction by 2026.

Initially, the developers were going to keep parts of the mall open during construction, and build in different areas in phases. However, the effect of COVID-19 on the mall’s shopping capacity has led the developers to demolish the whole mall (except for the office building) to speed up construction. Currently, the excavation of the site along with plumbing system installation are taking place in and around the area.

The plan for the redevelopment maximizes the usage of the whole site. There are set to be 2,600 residential units sprawling across 10 towers and four mid-rise buildings, which will house an estimated 6,000 people. Furthermore, 290 units of rental housing and 290 units of social housing will be available within the mid-rise buildings.

The towers themselves are designed by different architects, and consist of mostly luxury apartments.

In addition to housing, the new mall will have roughly double the current retail space it has now, with approximately 1 million square feet of retail space spread across multiple floors. There will be a mix of local, international and luxury retail stores to give shoppers a plethora of options. Around 3,000 jobs will be created, and everything except for the residential towers will be accessible by the general public.

One of the main goals of the developers is to create a strong community feeling that brings the whole neighbourhood together. To do this, a 100,000 square foot community centre, a 50,000 square foot food court, and many public seating areas will be constructed. A 9-acre elevated park on the roof of the mall is planned as well, along with a “high street” lined with multiple luxury brands. A



HENRIQUEZ PARTNERS ARCHITECTS

daycare facility and senior centre will also be available for public use.

A new 21,600 square foot Vancouver Public Library branch will replace the old library. Public gathering spaces and open-air stages will be created to accommodate small-scale performances by the mall’s own dance academy, as well as local musicians and artists.

Nicknamed a “transit and community hub,” the project will feature an updated Canada Line station with a large canopy structure over the entrance. Three levels of underground parking will consist of 6,000 parking spaces, most of them outfitted with electrical chargers. The mall will also have secure bike storage for shoppers.

The project has a very modern, yet natural design, embracing the latest trends in architecture — green architecture. Garden pavilions and various plants will allow for lush greenery to contrast the sleek, white concrete and glass design. The project incorporates many green spaces throughout the buildings, giving the term “concrete jungle” a whole new meaning.



GUN CONTROL IN CANADA

NEWS REPORT by Adrian Yue (8)

Currently, in Canada’s Parliament, two ideological factions are at the centre of the gun control debate. Those factions are composed of the pro-gun-rights Conservative Party and the pro-gun-control Liberal, NDP, and Green Parties.

The Liberal Party, along with the NDP and Green Party, advocate for stricter control and bans on firearms. In their policy document, the NDP proposes allowing provinces to be able to enact their own handgun bans. The Liberal Party proposes a firearm buyback program, giving provinces and municipalities the ability to restrict handguns and enforce additional bans on select firearms. Meanwhile, The Conservative Party of Canada is advocating for past legislation to be reviewed and believes that the firearm classification system should be simplified.

The Gun Control Debate in Canada takes a reactive approach. Similar to New Zealand and Australia, most laws regarding gun control are implemented as a result of major shootings. The goals of these new laws are to reduce crime rates, ensure the safety of the general public, and lower homicides. This approach was exemplified by the prohibition of over 1,500 types of firearms in May 2020. The Government of Canada announced this ban in

response to the April Massacre that occurred in Nova Scotia earlier that year.

This updated list of prohibited firearms was not the first, nor last piece of legislation regarding gun control implemented in the country. In 1995, the Firearms Act was passed. This act regulates the manufacturing, sale, distribution, and use of firearms in Canada. Additionally, Bill C-21 is currently being debated. Bill C-21 would allow municipalities to enact a handgun ban, provide a federal buy-back program for people who own prohibited firearms, and allow firearms to be removed by court order.

The public’s stance on the topic was revealed in a poll conducted by Leger and The Canadian Press. This report showed that 52 per cent of Canadians favour buyback programs for prohibited firearms, 66 per cent of Canadians think that there should be stricter gun control in Canada, 19 per cent believe the situation should remain the same, while 12 per cent believe that gun control in the country should be eased.

With varying opinions from both the public and the government, the gun control debate in Canada evidently affects numerous people from different walks of life. Each decision made by Parliament will have a gargantuan impact on the country.

A LOOK AT RECENT VAPING TRENDS AMONG VANCOUVER YOUTH

NEWS REPORT by Mathew Fu (10)

In recent years, with the popularization of e-cigarettes and vapes, vaping activity amongst youth experienced a significant increase. This increase became a topic of serious concern within high schools and families as the School Board sought to study and eventually resolve the issue. However, within the unprecedented circumstances of the global pandemic and strict quarantine measures, this upward trend for vaping activity seems to have slowed significantly. One high school student anonymously stated via a study, “I only vaped once to try it. Once the pandemic happened, I didn’t bother to try again. Since COVID is respiratory, it seems like a foolish idea to vape right now.” In June, September and December of 2020, surveys were conducted and showed that during this time period, teens were more likely to stop rather than start vaping. Similarly, the surveys showed that youth were more likely to vape less rather than more frequently during the pandemic. There was an upward trend in December of 2020, when more youth reported having picked up or continued vaping consistently. Though 75 per cent of the surveyed students reported having never vaped be, mainly due to the unknown health and addiction risks, the students who reported having vaped seemed to be doing so quite frequently. A third of these students reported vaping daily in the past month.

So what is vaping and why is it such a serious issue within the school community? Vaping is the act of using

a vape or e-cigarette to produce vapour or aerosol that is inhaled. The vape includes mechanisms that heat a, usually flavoured, liquid to produce this vapour. Within the school community, there has been an increase in vaping amongst youth largely due to external influences like peer pressure, curiosity, or boredom, and alleviation of anxiety or stress. This increase in vaping activity has become an issue mainly because of the many unknown health risks associated with the activity and with the high likelihood for youth who vape to become dependent and addicted to psychoactive drugs, like nicotine.

A driving factor to this increase in vaping activity may have been the increased stress levels due to the pandemic. It was reported that many youths felt compelled to vape due to heightened emotions of sadness, stress and boredom associated with pandemic restrictions and school stress in September. Furthermore, many youths, around 48 per cent, reported seeing advertisements that promoted vaping through social media. It seems that many alternatives to vaping in in-person friend groups have also arisen through video chatting and vaping with family members or alone.

For the time being, youth vaping activity seems to have greatly fluctuated during the pandemic, a trend that will likely continue as an issue within youth communities. It remains important for school staff to convey the potential dangers of vaping to students and to limit vaping activity within schools.

STABBING ATTACK IN NORTH VANCOUVER

NEWS REPORT by Adelaide Guan (8)

One woman died and six people were hospitalized due to a mass stabbing at a North Vancouver District Public Library. Police and onlookers called the attack “disturbing” and “heinous.”

On March 27, 2021 at approximately 1:45 PM, a man was spotted outside the Lynn Valley Library with what appeared as a large knife. The library is located in Lynn Valley Village, which was busy with customers on the Saturday afternoon. First responders were immediately notified of the threat by onlookers, and rushed to the scene. When they arrived, they found six individuals with stab wounds and one female in her late twenties who succumbed to her injuries. Witnesses say that the man began stabbing civilians inside the library before moving outside. His victims included a mother, a young woman, an older woman and a man; all who were in the wrong place at the wrong time. The North Vancouver District Public Library said that none of their staff or volunteers were injured in the attack.

“The officers that responded did a great job given the circumstances and the chaos that ensued here,” stated Integrated Homicide Investigation Team member Sergeant Frank Jang. He assured that there was no longer a risk to public safety after the lone suspect was detained.

Video footage from the scene showed the suspect injuring himself with a knife before he was taken into custody.

The suspect was identified as Yannick Bandoago, who has had previous encounters with police. It was discovered that the 28-year-old man had a criminal record with offences committed outside of British Columbia. Records show that Bandoago pleaded guilty to assault in a domestic violence case in September 2019. In addition to this case in Longueuil, Quebec, Bandoago had been tied to other incidents of violence and criminality. Investigators are still exploring Bandoago’s background in British Columbia and are determining if he had relationships with his stabbing victims.

On Sunday, March 28, Bandoago was charged with second-degree murder in connection to the stabbing spree. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team claimed that Bandoago was taken into police custody after undergoing surgery for his self-inflicted wounds. However, the motive behind the attack remains uncertain.

“Obviously the question is why did this happen, I understand. We believe we know the how, the what, the where and the when. It is our job now to determine why,” Jang told a news conference, “That is going to be the number one question for us.”

Many gathered to lay flowers and cards next to the library on that same Sunday morning. Expressing their continuous support for the victims their families, a sign placed by the community above the memorial reads “Lynn Valley Strong.”

COVID-19 ACROSS CANADA

NEWS REPORT by Yianna Luka (11) and Tarini Talreja (11)

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of Canadians nationwide. With the second wave coming our way, Canadians have numerous challenges ahead. Understanding the circumstances as well as how the last year has played out is crucial, and the spike in cases puts a huge responsibility on ourselves and the government. How are we going to do it? With new restrictions being imposed, how will Canadians react?

Luckily, Canadians are currently getting vaccinated slowly but surely. Officials are stating that whoever wants to get vaccinated will be able to by the end of August 2021.

In the past few weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases in Canada have soared. Positive COVID-19 tests have grown over 235 per cent from the past few months, and it is estimated that human behaviour has played the largest role in the cases. Most people follow COVID-19 precautions and restrictions, while some take more liberty in their actions. Many people don’t follow province-specific restrictions altogether. In addition, the spread of the virus is worsening as the virus continues to mutate. The new variants entering Canada are not only more contagious, but the symptoms are more dangerous and infectious than the original variant. By May, cases are expected to reach double the amount they are currently at if no changes are made.

With the third wave taking hold across Canada, provinces are trying to keep the infection rate under control by putting more restrictions in place. In British Columbia, restaurants are closed for indoor dining. Such restrictions have taken an economic toll on British Columbia’s small businesses and the minimum wage workers who have been laid off and unsure of their job since the beginning of the pandemic. British Columbia is also allowing outdoor gatherings of up to ten people socially distanced, but have suspended religious gatherings of up to fifty people.

The eastern provinces have also added more restrictions. Like British Columbia, Ontario has set restrictions on gatherings where only outdoor

gatherings of families are permitted. They have closed recreational amenities, including playgrounds, tennis courts, golf courses, basketball courts, and soccer and baseball fields. Ontario is also going to be shutting down all non-essential construction on projects involving malls, hotels, and offices. Furthermore, Ontario has closed its schools indefinitely, something British Columbia is not expected to do. Ontario will also give police the authority to require people to provide their addresses if they are not in their residence. Authorities say that although these new restrictions may seem harsh and affect Ontario’s citizens’ normal lives, they are important for tackling the case count while vaccines are slowly rolling out.

Over the last few months, countries around the world have started their vaccine distribution, and Canada is no exception. The regulator-approved COVID vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson) are free for all those living in Canada. Currently, in BC, vaccines have already been distributed to the high-risk population. We are currently in stage three, where the general population can start registering. It is estimated that by June, ages eighteen to seventy-nine will be completely vaccinated. In Ontario, their high-risk population phase has also been completed. For phase two, people ages sixty to seventy-nine will start getting vaccinated in the months from April to June. In phase three, people aged fifty-nine and younger will be vaccinated from July onwards. In Ontario’s hotspot, Toronto, they have been having a larger vaccine rollout available for all aged seventy-nine and younger.

Throughout all that is happening right now with COVID-19, it’s important to take care of ourselves and the people around us. Following restrictions and taking proper precautions to ensure our safety is what will get the curve flattened. With more vaccine rollouts coming our way, more Canadians will be vaccinated. However, remaining cautious is a top priority. At the rate we are at now, we still have time to make a change for our community.

DEBATING REPATRIATING

ANALYSIS by Dean Rohman (11)

Should museums give back artifacts taken from different ethnic groups? This dilemma is faced by museums and countries worldwide. From the Rosetta Stone of Egypt to Tipu Sultan’s tiger of India, nations previously colonized by European powers have recently requested their regalia be given back to them by the Western museums where the artifacts are kept.

Now, what exactly is repatriation? Merriam-Webster defines repatriation as “the act or process of restoring or returning someone or something to the country of origin, allegiance, or citizenship.” In other words, it means the artifacts are given back to where they came from.

Throughout human history, every culture has produced art and objects of cultural or religious significance. Trade of these objects was not uncommon, and many cultures would share and exchange their art with each other. However, during the age of colonization, many of these objects were taken by force by Colonial powers. For example, the Benin Bronzes, a collection of thousands of cultural artifacts, were taken during a British Invasion in 1919. Numerous organizations in Nigeria are now advocating for their return.

One of the main arguments for repatriation is that only the most privileged people from an ethnic group are able to see archives of their cultural heritage, being the only ones that can travel to Western museums. The majority of people from the ethnic group will never be able to see those things, despite being a big part of their history.

Many artifacts taken to Western museums had questionable purposes. Items like the shrunken heads from the Indigenous peoples of Peru were often taken to paint Indigenous peoples as “uncivilized.” This enforced the previous premonitions and biases of Westerners towards Indigenous peoples. Artifacts were also taken as treasures to be privately owned and enjoyed by

wealthy people and institutions.

Ethics also comes into play. Should museums be allowed to display human remains from different cultures? Many argue that it is disrespectful and within the rights of descendants to do what they please with their ancestors’ remains.

Opponents of repatriation claim that the museums keeping these artifacts have the means and resources to best preserve said artifacts. Some state that the objects’ host countries would be hesitant to put money and resources into properly exhibiting the items. Commenting on the state of Museums in India (Medium News), journalist Ishaan Jajodia said, “Conservation is almost non-existent. Manuscripts seem to fall apart at their edges and museum staff are ignorant about any conservation practices. What purpose could repatriation serve except to quicken the deterioration and demise of these artifacts?”

When it comes to Canada’s history of taking Indigenous artifacts, the idea of repatriation becomes a bit murky. There is currently no Canadian legislation that implements repatriation, however, museums have been willing to give back certain artifacts on a case-by-case basis. Repatriation of artifacts is seen by many as a necessary step to reconciliation.

The Royal BC Museum purchased artifacts from Indigenous artists and people to put on display, rather than taking them from Indigenous communities by force. The museum is willing to give back specific items in their possession.

The artifacts’ original owners see that the objects serve as important documentations of cultural history. For those against repatriation, the artifacts are seen as best cared for in possession of Western museums, which have the means and resources for proposer conservation. One thing is evident; these artifacts are incredibly valuable and rich resources, no matter where they reside.

CANADA AND THE CARBON TAX

NEWS REPORT by Max Von Dehn (9)

Climate change is an ever-present concern in both our minds as well as the government’s. A cornerstone of governmental responses to the threat is the carbon tax. Carbon taxes are used to incentivize the use of alternative fuels, by charging extra when purchasing fossil fuels. Canada’s newly-instituted carbon tax was brought to the Supreme Court after certain provinces felt that it was unconstitutional. Due to the concern of the provinces, it is important to examine what carbon taxes are, what they mean for us, alternatives for them, and what their future will be in Canada.

The most recent carbon tax made by the federal government was the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA), which was passed in 2018. The Trudeau government’s goal was to help increase the cost per tonne of CO₂ from \$20 to \$170 by the year 2030. This tax also includes other greenhouse gases that are weighed comparatively with CO₂. For example, one tonne of CO₂ emissions has the same effect as 40 kilograms of methane and thus is taxed equally.

Also included in this bill was the ability for the Canadian government to enforce minimum price per tonne. This was important to the law because to achieve the desired effect, all provinces had to be complacent. However, some provinces were not in agreement.

Recently, the provinces of Ontario, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have brought their issues with the law to the Supreme Court. They argued that the federal government should not have the right to enforce the carbon tax. However, the Supreme Court agreed with the idea that no single province, nor country, can deal with climate change alone.

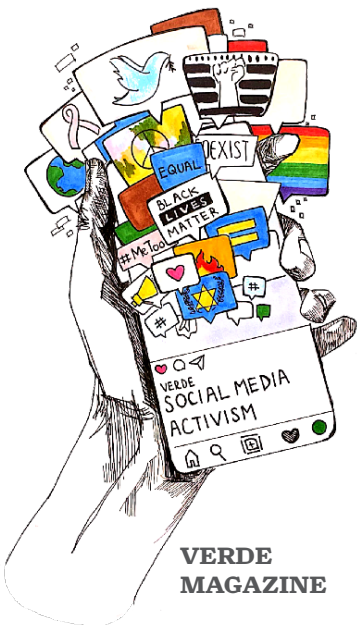
However, some provinces still have lenience through cap and trade. Cap and trade is a different approach to carbon emissions. To proceed, the government sets a cap on emissions as is normally done. In addition, the government hands out specific allowances, where companies are permitted a certain amount of emissions. This encourages companies to keep emissions as low as possible for the lowest cost. The “trade” component of the system allows companies to sell their allowances to other companies. It is a more targeted approach, but can fail to companies manipulating regulations, or to errors in the allowance distribution component.

Since the GGPPA has been ruled constitutional, it seems only natural to look toward the future of carbon taxes. The newest tax will continue to increase until 2030, at \$170 per tonne. In terms of gasoline prices, about \$0.396 per gallon will be added compared to the pre-tax cost.

Canada’s carbon taxes seem to be heading in the right direction, and the government is also looking to alternatives, such as cap and trade. Through the increased disincentivizing of carbon, the Canadian government is demonstrating action for climate change.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISIM

ANALYSIS by Erika Chung (11)



A quick scroll through social media will uncover Instagram social justice “Powerpoint” posts, informative, multi part Twitter threads, and the obligatory Instagram stories resharing said posts. These infographics have quickly become a main source of news for many as users turn to “infographic influencers” to learn about current events. Since the onset of COVID-19, social justice activists have transitioned to virtual social media platforms in the absence of in person protests. These events still occur, but to a much smaller scale. In June of 2020, Black Lives Matter Vancouver organized an “Anti-Racism Rally” at Canada Place and in March of 2021, hundreds gathered in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery in solidarity with the Asian community. However, recall the Youth Climate Action March initiated by Greta Thunberg — in pandemic times no protest of such proportion would run.

What makes these posts viral? The success of these infographics results from their effective design and accessibility. Think graphic design inspired by millennial and Gen Z targeted brands such as Casper (mattresses), Glossier (beauty), and Tend (dentistry). Bold, punchy fonts and clean graphics attract attention and quick, to the point content hooks users. Social media activists are not only sharing posts, but creating posts. Free software such as Canva has enabled non-designers to present information in a visually-appealing way with Canva’s large array of templates. Activists are repurposing traditional marketing materials and techniques to appeal to a more socially aware, engaged generation of users. The idea of social justice has become marketable, with graphics created to attract, shock, and entice users for maximum reach. This accessibility is perhaps the strongest selling point of

the social media social justice movement. People typically uninvolved with politics and social justice issues are now compelled to consume media about those topics. Much like traditional advertisements are used to sell a product, social justice infographics can be used to sell a vision and an ideology. A new age of brands have sprouted from the roots of the social media social justice movement. CHNGE, an ethical streetwear brand created by Jacob Castaldi promotes inclusivity, sustainability and progressive politics. The brand sells slogan and printed T-shirts, hoodies, and tracksuits made with responsibly sourced fabrics. CHNGE is a for profit clothing company that donates 50 per cent of net profits to charity. Social media has allowed activists to reach a larger audience through visually appealing graphics. This accessibility to information has opened up learning opportunities for users of all backgrounds.

IN THE KNOW ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY AROUND THE WORLD

ANALYSIS by Max Von Dehn (9)

In 2018, the coal and oil industries alone produced over 26 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions worldwide, and as each year passes, they increase. Since climate change is dependent on fossil fuel emissions, it seems inevitable that the problem will only continue to grow. However, there is an alternative that is overlooked by many: nuclear energy. It is a proven power source, and an alternative to coal and other fossil fuels. However, while energy-progressive countries such as Germany, are phasing it out, stigma continues to develop around it. What could a nuclear future mean, and what are the reasons for it? Nuclear energy is reliable and renewable. It is derived from the same fundamental process as atomic bombs, which allows for a great output of energy. However, unlike atomic bombs, nuclear power plants use fission, rather than fusion. Fusion can release a lot more power, however, the technology does not yet exist to utilize it. Conversely, fission releases less power, but at a more manageable level. In a fission reactor, an atom releases energy when it decays into lighter elements. The atoms used in nuclear power plants are very unstable to increase the rate of decay. From there, the radioactive atoms are arranged into rods, which are oriented to promote chain reactions. The energy that is produced is then used to heat water to spin turbines. If done carefully, this can create a great amount of power. One of the advantages of this system is reliability. Nuclear power plants are reliable compared to both renewable and fossil fuel power plants. In 2017, nuclear power plants ran at full capacity 92 per cent of the time. Comparatively, coal plants ran at full capacity 54 per cent of the time. This is

due to coal’s susceptibility to trade chain issues, hindering its transportation process. When renewable energy is the ultimate goal, comparing nuclear energy to fossil fuels is not entirely fair. However, nuclear energy has advantages regardless. First, nuclear technology already exists and is highly reliable, especially when compared to renewable power. For instance, wind farms operate at full capacity 34 per cent of the time. This remains an issue until energy storage improves and technology exists to deal with fluctuations in renewable power. Hence, nuclear is currently a promising option. The goal of nuclear power is to allow renewable energies to become more efficient and widespread, while slowly transitioning away from fossil fuels. Nuclear energy can be viewed as a stepping stone towards renewable sources of energy. Another possible concern is nuclear waste. Nuclear waste is radioactive leftover material and may be deadly to humans. 90 per cent of waste is in the low-risk category. Seven per cent is medium-risk, leaving three percent in the high-risk group. The nuclear industry attempts to minimize collateral damage. The sector has developed technology to reuse almost 90 per cent of spent fuel rods. Though nuclear energy has pros and cons, it could help achieve an emission-free future. Many recognize the technology’s potential. Alberta, a fossil-fuel-dependent province, has branched into nuclear energy. Nuclear power is becoming increasingly safe and more efficient. Though nuclear energy is by no means a perfect form of power, it is a notable alternative to fossil fuels and a stepping stone for the future of the energy industry.

“ALL THREE COUNTS’: DEREK CHAUVIN FOUND GUILTY FOR MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

NEWS REPORT by Liliana Chow (11)



“I can’t breathe” were the last words of 46-year-old George Floyd after police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for 9 minutes on May 25, 2020. A video of the murder went viral, mass protests were staged in Floyd’s honour, and the Black Lives Matter movement made headlines after the tragic death. Floyd had been detained outside a convenience store in Minneapolis, Minnesota, over accusations of using counterfeit money. On Tuesday, April 20, Chauvin’s trial made global headlines when he was found guilty. After hearing three weeks of testimony from over 45 witnesses and deliberating for over 10 hours, the 12-person jury found Chauvin guilty on three counts: second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter. The trial began on March 21, 2021, in Hennepin County Courthouse in Minnesota. The jury consisted of two white men, four white women, three black men, one black woman, and two women who identify as multi-racial. There was some argument over what had caused Floyd’s death during the trial. Several witnesses and medical experts testified that it was asphyxiation caused by Chauvin’s actions that killed Floyd. Nelson argued that it was the trace amounts of street drugs found in Floyd’s

body that ultimately caused his death, saying “Do not let yourself be misled by a single still frame image. The failure by the state’s experts to acknowledge that any of these other factors contributed to Mr. Floyd’s death defies medical science and common sense.” During the closing arguments, prosecutor Steve Schleicher noted “This case is exactly what you thought when you first saw it. First, when you saw that video it’s what you felt in your gut; it’s what you felt in your gut. This wasn’t policing; this was murder. The defendant is guilty of all three counts. (...) And there’s no excuse.” Chauvin’s lawyer, Eric Nelson countered, “You can’t limit it to 9 minutes and 29 seconds, it started 17 minutes before that 9 minutes and 29 seconds. In this case, the totality of the circumstances that were known to a reasonable police officer at the exact moment the force was used demonstrates that this was an authorized use of force.” He also used police bodycam footage to support his case. He went on to state, “There is no evidence that Officer Chauvin intentionally, purposefully, used excessive force.” When Chauvin’s verdict was read, the court remained silent. At a park next to the courtroom, crowds amassed. Derek Chauvin quickly rose when the judge ruled that his bail was to be revoked, and was es-

corted from the courtroom in handcuffs. Chauvin could be sentenced to up to 40 years in jail, but that will be determined at a later date. At George Floyd Square in Minneapolis, the intersection where he passed away, crowds rejoiced in the justice being served, chanting “All Three Counts” and “George Floyd”. Many people turned to social media to speak on the situation. California Governor Gavin Newsom tweeted “he would still be alive if he looked like me. That must change.” Influential figures such as Oprah Winfrey and former President Barack Obama endorsed the verdict as well. George’s brother Philonise Floyd spoke at a news conference after Chauvin’s verdict was read, saying “We are able to breathe again” before adding that the fight for justice was not over. The American government has made some changes as a result of George Floyd’s death. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act has been passed to increase accountability in law enforcement teams. President Joe Biden also issued a statement, saying “It was a murder in the full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off for the whole world to see the systemic racism. This can be a giant step forward in the march toward justice in America”.

“From the perspective of a student... not from far away VSB executives” “It’s really disappointing to see the VSB say they are making certain choices because they will benefit students in a certain way, but then students don’t have any input” “I think that teachers, counsellors or admin might get a biased view of what students really think of school” “Students are a major part of the education system and not truly hearing their opinions and thoughts when it comes to deciding on what and how to make the education system better is like ignoring a majority of the population” “[I could contribute by] bringing up issues that student are worried about that the VSB has missed or chose to ignore.” “[Student voice is] standing up to adults who think that their opinion is the only thing that matters.” “It would be nice if the VSB payed attention to students needs” “Students are the ones learning so the voice of them is most impactful” “I think more of the student body should be involved” “I wish the VSB knew that when making decisions, those decisions not only impact our education but mental wellbeing” “[I wish] the VSB was transparent about their decision making process and ran their final decisions by the people who are most affected by their decisions, the students.” “In light of hearing about the switch to a semester system, I hope the VSB will know that students are worried and uncomfortable with the transition” “I would like for myself and other students to be able voice our opinions on changes the VSB is making and have someone listening to us” “The Quarter System and it’s heavy workload is hindering students’ learning and mental health” “Having our voices heard in order to make our own education system more effective is a must” “There’s a lot of speculation and uncertainty until they release their new book of changes which are already set to start” “I would want to contribute to the VSB by encouraging them to have more wide-scale surveys that are accessible to a larger number of students with a larger range of experiences and who experience the pandemic in more diverse ways” “Student voice is very important, but currently non existent” “It would be really nice to feel like our opinion matters to the VSB” “The quarter system is really hard to cover every part of the class’ syllabus and it difficult to learn things well” “As a student our voices should be the most important” “I think that giving students/teachers a short break, within their class time, to recollect themselves from their repetitive routines should be considered” “I think it would be a great idea to give students more input on important decisions, such as what the new school schedule should look like” “School-work often gets in the way of maintaining a balanced and healthy lifestyle” “Some students may be able to handle it, some cannot” “[Student voice is] letting other students be involved and not the same ones every time” “Shut down the school, COVID is going crazy” “I think that the only opportunities that I was given to share my opinions was probably only during a student lead survey by a club” “Maybe having the VSB actually listen to the student’s questions and concerns about what can help us have a better learning experience??” “I’d like the VSB to be more open” “To me, [student voice] means being able to express an opinion or introduce info and actually be heard by everyone instead of being ignored or forgotten about” “During this school year the VSB has done a poor job at communicating with students while changing the schedule for us multiple times during the year” “I feel like the VSB doesn’t do a great job at asking for feedback from students” “I haven’t had the greatest platforms to voice my opinions regarding the VSB decisions” “I often feel overwhelmed and cannot get an escape from the workload” “I’d wish the VSB would consider that having this quarterly system is very hard to manage and reverting back to a more spread out schedule would be best” “Take students more seriously” “Having a student voice is important so that all student can feel invested in their learning” “Perhaps if they took further consideration into some of the student surveys that they conduct instead of not using the information to make change” “Students want the opportunity to be involved within their school” “Ask kids why they are struggling instead of assuming” “Listening to students voices is crucial when it comes to the future of the school and education system” “A students voice is very important because they’re complaints and ideas come strictly from experience” “As a student I would be contributing a unique perspective that teachers and superintendents don’t necessarily have” “Having a voice results in students being more involved in their community” “Not every student is the same” “Make it easier to give feedback, rather than having parents bully the VSB into giving students more in-person learning *despite* case numbers rising, particularly over spring break” “I wouldn’t want a

EDITORIAL

VSB DECISION MAKING

The Griffins’ Nest is editorially independent from Eric Hamber Secondary School’s Administration and does not speak for nor represent their views.

ANONYMITY DISCLOSURE: All interviewees will remain anonymous in accordance with CAJ & SPJ guidelines due to retribution/social discomfort concerns.

Survey Methodology: The Nest’s Survey, entitled “VSB Decision Making: Student Response”, collected 103 responses between April 17 and May 5. Respondents were asked 5 written-response questions regarding their involvement and opinions in the running of their school district. Respondents were also asked to submit their school, grade, and student number (used only to confirm their registration as a student of SD39). The quotes that surround this article are taken directly from the responses, as well as responses from teacher interviewees.

Introduction

Students and teachers lack legitimate forums to make themselves heard in the Vancouver School Board’s decision-making process. For the most part, teachers and students believe they are excluded from the decision-making process, and that their opinions are not valued, even when the VSB states their involvement is “extremely important” to them.

This feature reviews the status quo regarding student and teacher involvement, citing information collected from VSB videos, documents, and statements, the testimony of over 100 students and teachers across the District, and the collective discussions of the Editorial Board. The report is informed by real opinions, real stakeholders, and real people.

Part 1: Students

Although students play a central role in the operations of the VSB, there is a disparity in how much impact students’ voices have in the decision-making process. In a survey of 103 anonymous District secondary students, 29 stated that they had the opportunity to voice their opinion regarding VSB decisions. Of those 29 respondents, the majority stated that they had done so through VSB surveys. Many others had never been contacted for VSB consulting, with a student stating that they “have not had the greatest platforms to voice [their] opinions regarding the VSB decisions.” Overall, the VSB’s decision-making process has left students feeling disconnected and silenced, despite having many meaningful ideas to contribute.

The survey revealed that even when students were given the opportunity to voice their opinion, they did not feel that this influenced adjustments to their schooling. A student stated that they were surveyed regarding the Quarter System, but were “not sure if anything was changed or adjusted because of it,” commenting that the VSB should “[seek] out student opinion rather than making students have to struggle to be heard.”

Students overwhelmingly called for more surveys to be conducted, and criticized the poor efficacy of the current VSB survey system. One student stated that “the VSB [surveys] did not allow [them] to share [their] thoughts completely,” adding that the questions were “multiple choice”, agree/disagree responses. “I would like to fill out surveys that aren’t multiple choice, but written response instead, like [The Nest’s survey]”, wrote another student. The VSB’s current surveys provide an insufficient forum for expression, yielding results unrepresentative of students’ true opinion.

Laura Wronski, a research scientist at SurveyMonkey, wrote

in a blog post “agree/disagree questions can cause respondents to answer in a way that doesn’t always reflect their true opinions.” Wronski’s post was cited by a study by Dr. Jan Karem Höhne from Stanford University and Dr. Timo Lenzner from GESIS–Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences.

When asked what student opinions they wished the VSB knew about, survey respondents provided ideas on topics from COVID-19 safety, scheduling, student engagement, and diversity to students’ struggles with mental health.

Part 2: Teachers

When large-scale district or school-wide changes are being made, Hamber’s teachers reveal that their input is occasionally asked for through surveys. However, many admit to having concerns about the consultation method. A Hamber teacher commented on the insufficiency of the surveys, revealing that “there are very few questions and [they are] very broad.”

Additionally, doubts regarding the consideration of their responses have risen. While Hamber’s teachers are encouraged to share their thoughts, one member expressed that “what is done after those surveys [are completed] is unclear.” Another teacher claimed that their input “falls onto deaf ears,” as when they suggest one thing, often, “the opposite occurs.”

The futile process has elicited a common thought amongst teachers: their consultation is “tokenism.” “Sometimes I feel the survey is there to simply check off the box that they asked [teachers],” one teacher revealed. On the topic of decision-making, another explained that “they make it appear to be an inclusive process,” while teachers are veritably excluded from it.

In order to advocate for their suggestions, teachers have even contacted the District using alternative methods. One Hamber teacher revealed that they sent “numerous emails to VSB reps” with the hope to get more involved. Despite their persistent efforts, they did not receive a response. “We contact, but they don’t listen,” a teacher stated, “I think all of our ideas are received, but I’m not sure. They’re lower on the priority list than other stakeholders.”

Many staff felt they have been adaptable while approaching potential changes, yet still felt as though they were blindsided by the District. Speaking on behalf of themselves and their fellow colleagues, on the subject of scheduling, Hamber teacher shared “[teachers] were open to change, but we didn’t know that *this* would be the change.” Another staff member revealed the limited say teachers had in the matter, stating “We [as teachers] have tried to be as flexible as possible with the changes this year. Because we had to.”

hances of exposure, risks mixing cohorts even more, and throws a wrench into teachers’ plans at the last minute” “I wish the VSB could really understand the stresses from school that people are dealing with” “Seek out student opinion rather than making students have to struggle to be heard” “I’d like students to be polled on the best decisions instead of a small group of parents not representing students interests lobbying for what they want” “Have my advice for COVID-19 scheduling taken seriously” “[Student voice] means not just listening but actually taking action on the advice or student perspective” “Scheduling decisions are made for parents to not complain, not for the students” “I wish that the VSB would show some more consideration towards student’s opinions regarding the changes of the school year” “I would like to understand why decisions are made and have the ability to voice my opinion” “[The VSB] spend a great deal of effort ‘trying’ to get feedback, yet their efforts seem largely to be biased in an effort to make the VSB appear to be making progress when the opposite is clearly taking place” “I was interviewed about my opinions on the Quarter System by the Griffins’ Nest newspaper a few months ago, but other than that, I haven’t had many opportunities to voice my opinion” “[Student voice is] being heard by the people in power” “Why is full time online inaccessible to students who need it/would feel safer doing so?” “Even if they do listen, it’s rare that they do something about it” “I would like to contribute my ideas and opinions” “I feel that they are out of touch” “It would be

nice for the VSB to get the opinions of students as the point of view of students differs from the point of view of adults” “I just wish that the VSB realized that we are actual human beings with thoughts and opinions” “I would like to contribute my ideas to advance my learning” “Many students had felt ignored by the VSB” “It is important for the VSB to listen, care and act on their students feelings and experiences” “I wish that VSB took the initiative to ask students about there input on decisions more often” “I wish the VSB would be more mindful of student mental health issues, and actually took action on them” “Taking into account the opinions of the student body, and actually listening to it” “I would like to fill out surveys that aren’t multiple choice, but written response instead, like this form” “I’ve noticed that some surveys that come from the VSB are for parents/guardians to fill out, but a student’s caretaker won’t know what it’s like to be in a VSB school, so why should they get a say?” “I wish the vsb would consider student ideas instead of overrule them” “I would love to voice my opinion! I think it’s important that students are given the opportunity to have their say in the changes that will affect their lives!” “[Student voice means] removing the stigma of students speaking up against people of power for their beliefs. It’s not always the best idea to blindly follow the orders of those in authority.” **TEACHERS HAVE VOICED...** “If safety is number one, this is not the way” “I am not prepared to openly criticize, as I know and realize they do their best to meet teacher needs, but recognize the constraints” “Do I feel comfortable? No. I do recognize they are my employers and there could be implications to being brutally honest” “Me and my colleagues have expressed concerns with burnout” “[Students’] parents spoke out. And they have the ears of government officials” “It was very clear on the teachers’ part what we wanted in the classroom, but that is not what happened” “Make room for much more communication opportunities, not just distant, but present” “I don’t think teachers have much say in what the district is going to do” “District stuff there is no say” “I sense sometimes your opinion is not heard” “Sometimes I feel the survey is there to simply check off the box” “We don’t get a whole bunch of say. I think it is often tokenism” “We could write to the board, but they won’t listen to us” “The surveys, there are very few questions and it is very broad” “The process of what is done after those surveys, that is unclear” “It’s about the appearance of consultation, not true consultation” “Other districts have been very quick to do everything they can to

have associates visit the schools specifically and interact with individuals and even see teachers and classrooms” “Yes, I feel comfortable voicing concerns. Are they going to be heard? I don’t know” “The VSB is more beholden to the parents than to their teachers and staff” “I think all of our ideas are received but i’m not sure, they’re lower on the priority list than other stakeholders” “Many voices aren’t recognized” “They make it appear to be an inclusive process” “I’m not always convinced that they always hear us” “We’re saying one thing, and the opposite occurs” “No procedural help, no training” “Right now, the challenge is there is no direct input from teachers in the decision making process at all” “They switched from semesters to linear 20 years ago because it wasn’t conducive to student learning and retention. Why are we going back?” “I’m giving them my input and I’m not being heard”

Teachers felt that overall, decisions made at the hands of the District were often without their best interests in mind. In many cases, the disregard of their input led to situations in which teachers felt concerned for their wellbeing. A Hamber teacher spoke to the consensus among many colleagues, stating “we’re exhausted”, with many others expressing concerns of burnout. The current status quo regarding the VSB, has not always been the case. With different leadership, the approach to receiving feedback had been a more inclusive process. “They aren’t as good as two district teams ago, who had made it a priority to get into classrooms and learn as much as they could,” a Hamber teacher revealed, referring to the team that operated under VSB’s now retired superintendent, Chris Kelly. They continued, stating “I can remember that they came into the school and took the time to sit in my class and just talk. I know that when I see a board member come into our school, it makes me feel valued and it makes it known that we’re a priority.” It was then expressed that such interactions and opportunities would better the dynamic and process, as it would be meaningful to know that the VSB is “not just a distant person.”

Part 3: The Board Responds

The Nest sought comment from the VSB on student and staff involvement in their decision making process, and on the role school wide surveys play in District decisions. Their response, sent by the VSB Communications Department, was received on April 28, 2021. In their response, the VSB stated that “the District is committed to developing plan[s] that [are] reflective of its diverse school communities. Involvement of students and staff in these, along with many other initiatives, is crucial to arriving at decisions that are in the interests of school communities.” The VSB also sent The Nest a copy of the April 26 Superintendent’s Update, focused on Student Voice. Between December and April of this school year, Superintendent Suzanne Hoffman conducted virtual conferences with students from seven district secondary schools, discussing students’ thoughts on the education system. The Superintendent’s update was an amalgamation of those focus group’s discussions and represented student’s expressed opinions. Said conferences took place over Microsoft Teams, Superintendent Hoffman joined by approximately nine students from each school, as well as their respective principals. At Eric Hamber, students were selectively invited to participate by the school’s Administrative Team. The update was presented at the Board of Education regular meeting, the recording of which was uploaded to YouTube. The Nest encourages all stakeholders — students, staff, and parents alike, to spend a few minutes viewing 7:15 to 29:38 of the April 26 meeting. The Nest’s Editorial Board viewed the recording and was concerned by the lack of illustrative and in-depth discussion regarding students’ real concerns, even of the few that made their way past the inevitably biased filtration process. When it came time for the Student Trustee to give a report to the Board, a majority of the time was spent communicating the feedback received following the inaugural district-wide talent show, titled “VDSC’s Got Talent.” Though the 36-minute long event was viewed by approximately 1,500 individuals, it was allotted a disproportionate amount of time in the report in contrast to opinions regarding the state of the education system, opinions representing the 50,000 students across the District. When the Trustee got to students’ issues, they presented very briefly without context of the source or gravity, raising concerns regarding retention rates during the Quarter System. Not a single question was asked of the Student Trustee following the presentation’s conclusion. The response from the VSB Communications Department also listed several examples of student and staff involvement in recent decisions, including the removal of School Liaison Officers across

VSB schools. “The voices and perspectives of students with lived experience with the program and of students who identify as part of Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPoC) communities were sought out as part of this engagement,” wrote the representative. They also mentioned hiring a contractor to gather feedback from marginalized communities for the VSB’s 2022-26 Strategic Plan. Statements from Justice for Girls and Cops out of Schools, grassroots organizations involved in this decision, indicate that this was a decision fought for by IBPoC, rather than an instance where their opinion was actively sought by the VSB. Yet it was VSB’s response to the Nest’s inquiry about the effect of school-wide surveys on policy-making that raised the most concern. Collected feedback is “compiled and presented to trustees to inform their discussions, questions, or decisions about a particular issue,” stated the VSB. However, it remains uncertain as to the meaning of “compiled and communicated”, as in what specific forum and style results are communicated. Ultimately, students are the ones who are learning, the structure of that learning dictated by District changes to the education system. Statistically, VSB surveys have had parent responses greatly outnumber the number of student responses. What is strange is the fact that parents ultimately have the most say in the lives of the students, as opposed to the students themselves. Parents also seem to have disproportionate say in relation to teachers, who are the ones burdened with the outcomes of the decision-making process.

Part 4: A Call for Action, Assurance, and Accountability

What the Nest asks from the VSB is simple: that they uphold their commitment to listen to both staff and students. But what does this look like? While many of the VSB’s responses state what the District has reportedly done to ensure students and staff are involved in the decision making process, The Nest found the majority of these statements to be a poor reflection of students’ and teachers’ perspectives on events. It is often unclear when, if, and how the VSB uses student and teacher input to create policy. There needs to be greater transparency on the direct correlation between student and teacher voice and Board action. Before more major decisions are made, the Nest urges the VSB to publicly answer a few questions: how is student and teacher voice being heard, how has this impacted the decision, and is this decision ultimately reflective of what students and teachers want and need? The Nest’s Editorial Board’s stance regarding the issue of student and teacher involvement in district affairs is rooted in the idea of a free and democratic society, inspired by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Applying to governments, the Charter sets a tone of enshrining democracy as a kind of legalistic national identity. By referencing the Charter, The Nest does not contend that the current lack of meaningful student and teacher engagement equates to a suspension or limitation of Rights. By referencing the Charter, The Nest wishes the VSB recognize their government-akin role, and extrapolate the idea of a “free and democratic society” by turning to their core figurative constituency — students and teachers. That constituency’s participation should be marked by the purposeful and consequential expression of feedback to the VSB. Students and teachers have a multitude of legitimate concerns, which deserve to be addressed properly, starting with a forum for expression to do so. The Nest itself is indeed a forum for student expression, but it is the VSB that must create more valuable opportunities, and do better as a whole, across the entire district. It is in the best interest of everyone, superintendent to student, to hear the on the ground, day to day, opinions and perspectives of the 50,000 students and 9,000 staff of District 39.

2021 MYANMAR COUP D'ÉTAT

NEWS REPORT by Parker Haga (11)

On February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military ended the country’s quasi-democracy in a coup and returned the country to its former military rule. The military, otherwise known as the Tatmadaw, seized control of the country in response to what they claimed was a rigged state election. The military’s takeover caused thousands of students, journalists, government workers, trade unions, lawyers, and civilians to congregate in the streets in protest.

On November 8, 2020, Myanmar had its statewide general election, which the National League for Democracy (NLD) party won. The head of the NLD party is Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. In the 2020 election, has the NLD party won by gaining well over the 322 seats required. As the election closed, the military, who supports the opposing party, demanded a rerun as they claimed there was fraudulent activity. However, the elections committee stated that there was no evidence to back the opposition’s claim.

Despite being denied, the military commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing decided to take control of the country in a preemptive strike coup. The military arrested Aung San Suu Kyi along with various other government officials in an undisclosed location. They declared on national television that the country was in a year-long state of emergency. According to Hlaing, the military would

make the country a “true and disciplined democracy” and hold a “free and fair” election after the state of emergency ended.

Since being detained, Aung San Suu Kyi, along with U Win Myint, the deposed president of Myanmar, have been on trial for various reasons. The trial has been recognized as a secret trial as Aung San Suu

Kyi was not granted legal representation and the case began without public knowledge. According to the police, Aung San Suu Kyi illegally imported walkie-talkies, as well as violated COVID restrictions by interacting with crowds.

In response to the coup and Aung San Suu Kyi being detained, the general public

began to fill the street in protest. They are demanding that the country returns to democracy and that the Tatmadaw releases Aung San Suu Kyi. Initially, the protests were peaceful, however, on February 20 they became increasingly violent. Two protesters, one of whom was a 16-year-old boy, were killed by the Tatmadaw. On February 22, as a result of the killings, millions more joined the protest. Each week since then, the military has become more forceful in their ways to suppress the demonstrations. On March 27, over 600 protesters were killed by the military, while thousands of others were beaten, detained, and injured.

Much of the international community has responded to the coup. The Biden Administration, along with the European Union and the UK have expressed that they will take appropriate action against the Tatmadaw for their violence towards democracy advocates. Moreover, the United Nations Human Rights Council released the following statement, “We strongly condemn the escalating violence against protests in Myanmar and call on the military to immediately halt the use of force against peaceful protesters.” China, Myanmar’s close neighbour and large investor, has chosen not to explicitly condemn the coup but shared that Aung San Suu Kyi should be released and that the country should return to its democratic rule.



EASTERN AUSTRALIA FLOODS: A “ONE-IN-100-YEAR” RAIN EVENT

NEWS REPORT by Gina Hallensleben (9)



Heavy rainfall and severe flooding have inundated Australia’s most populous state, New South Wales (NSW), causing 38 places within it to be declared natural disaster areas. The flooding is the worst Eastern Australia has encountered in many years, being described as a “one-in-100-year” rain event. Some regions face the worst conditions they’ve seen since 1929. Rains began affecting communities on Thursday, March 18. Since then, the State Emergency Services (SES) received over 23,000 calls for help, and volunteers have attended more than 13,000 jobs. Thousands were forced to evacuate their homes as properties were submerged and destroyed, and three people were killed.

Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology described the rainfall as “phenomenal,” stating that nearly three times the average March rainfall occurred in only four days. This flood differs from any other before it as it struck only a year after one of Australia’s worst fire seasons. New South Wales Premier, Gladys Berejiklian remarked “I don’t know of any time in state history where we have had these extreme weather conditions in such quick succession in the middle of a pandemic.” The burn scars from last summer’s forest fires made the environment especially susceptible to excessive rainfall and runoff, increasing the risk of landslides. But the catastrophe came unsurprisingly, as experts had warned of flooding like this for years. Extreme floods had been recorded in Eastern Australia since over two centuries ago. With the rising severity of climate change, the likelihood of more frequent and dangerous floods has increased.

The flooding conditions primarily affected the mid-north coast of New South Wales in regions between Sydney and Coffs Harbour. However, there had also been substantial flooding in southern Queensland on the Gwydir, Mehi, Macintyre, Condamine, and Hawkesbury rivers. The Warragamba Dam overflowed on Saturday, March 20th, adding to the swollen rivers and causing flash flooding. The disaster had caused approximately \$300M worth of damage across both New South Wales and Queensland, with over 20,000 insurance claims filed. For financial assistance, the Australian Government announced that victims are to receive home repairs, subsidies for livestock or agriculture, and low or zero-interest loans.

When water levels began to recede, evacuation orders were not lifted, as the SES warned that the flood water may contain debris, sewage, hazardous materials, and dead animals. Cleanup operations will take many weeks after the waters subside, and will likely extend into the coming months.

THE GAMESTOP SHORT SQUEEZE, EXPLAINED

NEWS REPORT by Teagan Nichol (8)
and Katja Radovic-Jonsson (9)

This past January, the GameStop Short Squeeze took the internet by storm. It was arguably the most interesting economic event since COVID-19 first struck. But what makes this event so interesting? What even happened?

To start off, what is a short squeeze? Typically when trading shares in the stock market, stocks are bought at a low price, believing that the value will increase enough to sell at a higher price in the future and earn a profit. However, if it is believed that a stock value will decrease, one can ‘short’ the stock. When shorting a stock, shares are borrowed from a lender and sell the stocks at the current price. If the price declines later, the stock is bought back at that lower price to return to the lender. The difference between the initial sell price and the lower sell price is the profit. Shorting a stock is essentially betting that the stock’s value will go down.

With GameStop (GME), the company’s stocks had been slowly declining for a while. As a brick-and-mortar video game store, they were on an obvious decline due to the competition from online retailers. Large corporations and hedge funds (such as Melvin Capital) noticed this decline and decided to take advantage of it. This happened so much that by January, 140 per cent of GME shares were shorted. It was a consensus among most investors that GME stocks were going down, but a group of non-professional investors on Reddit sought to change this.

The group responsible for the short squeeze is a “subreddit” (a Reddit community) called r/WallStreetBets. WallStreetBets is made up of non-professional stock traders who often make unconventional and risky bets. They noticed how the short-sellers were taking advantage of the GME decline and concluded that if they could stop the decline, the rewards could be huge. By collectively choosing to invest in GameStop and driving the price up, short-sellers were forced to repurchase their stocks at a higher price than they sold them for. This caused huge losses for the short-sellers and hedge funds. Since the stock was so heavily shorted, GME prices then surged. The investors on Reddit then

sold their shares at the surge price, allowing them to gain massive profit.

In late January, GME prices increased from \$77 to \$350 within days, peaking at almost \$500 on January 28th. However, on that same day, Robinhood (an American stock trading platform – similar to WealthSimple in Canada), along with other trading platforms, banned customers from buying GME, slowing the price increase. This move was subject to widespread criticism, as Robinhood’s mission statement is to provide everyone with access to the financial markets, not just the wealthy. Stopping their customers from buying GME blocks off many casual and small investors from trading, while still allowing large corporations and hedge funds to trade GME freely (which is, once again, against their mission statement). Thus, many political figures accused Robinhood of market manipulation, calling for an investigation by the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services.

With Robinhood’s controversial decision, many upset customers left one-star reviews on the Google Play Store, 100,000 of which Google later removed because they were “inorganic”. This only caused further outrage.

Robinhood’s CEO, Vlad Tenev, recently stated in an interview that the company had “no choice” but to stop customers from buying GME during the short squeeze because it was a matter of following “regulatory capital requirements.”

The retail investors behind the short squeeze have since received widespread praise and support. Many saw the short squeeze as a sort of uprising against Wall Street. Political figures ranging from Ted Cruz to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have expressed their support for the investors, as well as business figures such as Elon Musk. To many of the investors involved, the short squeeze was a form of revenge for Wall Street’s targeting of GameStop and similar struggling companies through short selling.

Despite the increase on January 28th, the momentum of the squeeze was eventually lost as retail traders sold their shares. By early February, GME plunged back down to \$40, and it continues on a similar path to this day.

FRENCH LAW AIMS TO BAN HIJAB IN PUBLIC

ANALYSIS by Teagan Nichol (8)

Earlier this year, the French Senate passed a bill with amendments that would ban the hijab for minors in public. This bill has yet to be passed by the French National Assembly. However, with public support and several powerful politicians, including France’s president, being in favour of this bill, the passing of this amendment is likely.

This ban, if passed, would be another addition to the various laws restricting the practice of Islamic religions that the French government has imposed in the past few years.

The hijab is a veil worn by some women of the Muslim faith and is a very important part of many Muslim women’s expression. Reasons for wearing the hijab range from culture to religion. Although different styles of coverings in the Muslim faith exist, such as burkas and niqabs, the hijab is the most common. It traditionally covers a woman’s hair, neck and chest. For years the hijab has been a focus of controversy in France and this law represents French conservatives’ latest push against Muslims’ freedom of religious expression.

Discussion over banning Muslim veils has been around for decades, with the significant law passed in December 2003. Then-president Jaques Chirac, introduced a law, sometimes referred to as the “veil law”, banning any “ostentatious” religious artifacts in public-funded primary and high schools. This ban affected Jewish kippahs, large Christian crosses, but primarily the hijab. After this law was introduced, there were conflicts over mothers not being allowed onto school grounds or trips while wearing a hijab. In 2011, they banned full-face veils in public.

Since the enactment of these laws, people wearing Muslim veils and other religious coverings have faced more and more violent attacks. Islamophobia hate crimes statistics are increasing in France and this proposed law comes after 253 recent attacks on the Muslim community - a 53 per cent increase since 2019.

This new law, which prevents minors from wearing a hijab or any other Islamic covering in public comes as part of the secularization movement pushed by the Paris officials. Dubbed the “anti-separatism” movement, the goal of both the French Senate and the Council of Paris is a secular state, a state with a neutral stance on religion or irreligiosity.

The new amendments limiting hijab-wearing in public fall under the “anti-separatism” bill. Senators approved an amendment under which there



would be a “prohibition in the public space of any conspicuous religious sign by minors and of any dress or clothing which would signify inferiority of women over men”. Under the other new amendment to this bill, mothers would be held to the same standard while accompanying their children to public swimming pools and on public school trips. Though these proposals have not yet been enforced, they will be enacted if passed by the French National Assembly.

Although this law does not specifically mention the hijab or Islam, critics have denounced it for singling out the Muslim minority. French president, Emmanuel Macron, while discussing this amendment said that the hijab is not in line with France’s morals and argues this ban was empowering women. This statement has been criticized as a continuation of France’s history of Islamophobia.

The enactment of these new laws have been protested by activists for months and has caused international outrage, with #HandsOffMyHijab trending on Twitter. Activists have argued that this bill imposed upon Muslim women’s bodily autonomy. Many see it as an Islamophobic and sexist policy that could prove dangerous with the growing number of violent Islamophobic attacks.

Much of the Muslim community have voiced the opinion that the French government’s priority should be stopping the fatal attacks on Muslims rather than restricting their religious freedom. Muslim women have stepped up to protest that these new policies will not fix sexism within the Muslim community and instead reflect the oppression of Muslim women.

NFT’S – WORTH THE HYPE?

NEWS REPORT by Nisha Tiangratanakul (11)

A non-fungible token or NFT is a digital piece of artwork certified to be unique and therefore not interchangeable. It cannot be copied or replaced. Paper currency is a prime example of a fungible currency since the exchange of two five-dollar bills for a ten-dollar bill stays as ten dollars. However, each NFT is unique and therefore cannot be mass-produced. So while they appreciate or depreciate in value similarly to paper currency, NFTs are not a currency.

Now, this begs the question: how do NFTs work? Replicating digital art is a prevalent practise that is extremely hard to police. If you were to upload a short animation onto your Instagram for fun, the only thing someone would have to do to replicate it is to download your animation and repost it. In mass reposts and replicas, the original animation is lost.

However, NFTs use something called blockchain technology, which includes cryptography. Cryptography is used to protect the privacy of a

message by transforming it into a form that can be understood only by the intended recipient. With cryptography, an email to a friend will appear as a sequence of random characters to a hacker. Public and private keys enable message manipulation. Public keys are shared with your friend, who uses them to transform their message to you into a sequence of random characters. Then, the private key is used to put it back into its original form.

Two crypto keys play the role of digital signatures and are commonly used in blockchains to enable both authentication and anonymity for transactions.

When you pay for an NFT, the token goes to your digital wallet. Much like owning an original painting, the token serves as proof that your copy of the digital file is original. Even though anyone can have a digital copy of your NFT, your private crypto key is the original proof of ownership. The content creator’s public crypto key serves as a certificate of authenticity for your specific NFT.

NFTs have gained a lot of media traction as an example of the integration of cryptography and blockchain technology into our society outside of cryptocurrencies. While the idea is novel and interesting, there are some things to be wary about.

The actual digital artwork cannot be stored in a blockchain because of technical limits. So, instead of embedding the whole artwork into the blockchain, the developers of blockchain, Kevin McCoy and Anil Dash, decided to just include the web address of the image and use it to reference the artwork elsewhere. Since blockchain was created at a one-night hackathon event, this was a quick fix. However, this practice is still being used for many NFTs today.

Buying an NFT is not like buying the actual digital artwork; it is buying a link to it. Worse, they are buying a link that if not renewed will void the art piece as being the original. How can anyone verify if the linked artwork is the original decades later?

UYGHUR GENOCIDE IN CHINA

AN ANALYSIS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE TEN STAGES OF GENOCIDE

ANALYSIS by Liliana Chow (11)

Stage 1: Classification

In a genocide, people are most often classified through a sense of hatred against a specific group. As acknowledged by Paul Mozur, a prestigious Pulitzer Prize finalist, “collecting genetic material...linked with each person’s national identification number, is a key part of China’s effort to oppress and detain the Uyghur peoples”. The Uyghur genocide has seen officials use genetic material and data obtained without consent, to classify Uyghurs. `

Stage 2: Symbolization

During symbolization, members of the victim group are targeted on account of a symbol that visibly marks them and separates them from others. In the case of the Uyghur genocide, social justice reporters Erin Handley and Sean Mantesso asserted that symbolization manifests in the cultural practices of growing “abnormal beards,” the wearing of head veils and other religious clothing, and speaking Uyghur. These attributes make Uyghur Muslims immediately identifiable.

Stage 3: Discrimination

In this stage, the government implements laws that exclusively impact the victim group. The Human Rights Watch documented Chinese “surveillance cameras [and] facial recognition software inside of their Uyghur Muslims’ homes.” New York Times reporter Edward Wong explained that “within three months after taking up office in Xinjiang, Chen Quanguo had the passports of Uyghur citizens confiscated to prevent them from travelling abroad.”

Stage 4: Dehumanization

In dehumanization, perpetrators spread the belief that victims are less than human by, for example, comparing them to household vermin. As described by Uyghur journalist Mamtimin Ala, on media coverage of violent attacks against the Uyghur Muslims and on various discussion forums, the “Uyghurs have repeatedly been vilified as terrorists and savages, indoctrinated through propaganda into the Han Chinese towards the Uyghurs.” The repeated exposure to propaganda makes bystanders more likely to turn a blind eye to unequal treatment.

Stage 5: Organization

Stage five is when the perpetrators begin to plan the genocide. Unlike previous stages, organization is done behind closed doors and is therefore difficult to prove. One piece of evidence for this stage is a leaked copy of the Karakax List from the Chinese Communist Party detailing where and why detained Uyghur peoples were being held. There would be no other reason to document specific personal details about only the Uyghur Muslims. The Karakax List proves that the Chinese Communist Party was preparing for genocide.

Stage 6: Polarization

During this stage, extremists drive the groups apart and all interaction between them is stopped. Society is very volatile and victims lose their rights and freedoms. The Chinese Communist Party is using hate speech to further divide Xinjiang’s society, deepening the “us versus them” mentality, portraying the Uyghur people as a threat. In addition, the Uyghur Muslims and Han Chinese intermarriages were made illegal, eliminating the minimal connection between Han Chinese and Uyghur Muslims.

Stage 7: Preparation

During preparation, the perpetrator group leaders plan for the systematic killing of the targeted group. As stated by the Human Rights Watch, during the preparation stage, perpetrators often use euphemisms such as “ethnic cleansing” to detract from the severity of their actions. Fear is indoctrinated into the bystanders through propaganda as well. Preparation, in this instance, is shown through the developed narrative of Uyghur people as ‘the enemy’. “The Chinese people are...psychologically prepared to eliminate the Uyghurs who... are threatening their peace,” explained Uyghur journalist, Mamtimin Ala.

Stage 8: Persecution

Persecution occurs when the victim’s most basic human rights are systematically violated through killings, torture, and forced displacement. As Mihrigul Tursun, an Uyghur activist and former Uyghur detainee, stated, “over a million Uyghur Muslims have been detained and forcibly brought to internment camps [which] are more like prisons than camps.” The detainees have been subjected to torture, intensive interrogation and forced sterilization. Many Uyghur Muslims die in the camps.

Stage 9: Extermination

Extermination is a rapidly accelerated stage, with preparation already in place for mass killing. In Xinjiang, a government official recently leaked that “in his country, where there was once a population of 92,000 Uyghur people in 2016, there remain only 20,000 today”. The Chinese government is taking painstaking efforts to kill tens of thousands of Uyghur Muslims without the international community noticing.

Stage 10: Denial

Denial, the last stage of genocide, occurs when perpetrators try to mask or minimize the atrocities. Internationally renowned journalist CJ Werleman stated, “Chinese government officials are taking deliberate and extreme measures... using chemicals to decompose bodies [and] destroying all physical and digital evidence of victims’ identities”. Denying that genocide took place is minimizing the experiences of survivors. Every genocide is persistently denied and this genocide is no different.

Following the widespread approval of many COVID-19 vaccines, experts suggest that “Vaccine Nationalism” will significantly delay the vaccination process. Referring to the act of governments signing exclusive deals with pharmaceutical developers for vaccines, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director of the World Health Organization (WHO), characterizes vaccine nationalism as a “me-first approach.” This new term has arisen as nations seek to prioritize the health of their own citizens over citizens from other countries. And at the heart of vaccine nationalism is protectionism - the act of shielding a country’s resources from other competitors.

A recent article published by the Global Citizen explained that nations’ scramble to secure vaccines for themselves has limited the supply of vaccines available to other nations. The rise of vaccine nationalism has seen wealthy nations that have trade agreements with private pharma companies receiving the vaccine first, while lower-income countries face significant delays.

“The parties with the deepest pockets will secure these vaccines and medicines, and essentially, much of the developing world will be entirely out of the picture,” stated Simon J. Everet, an international



THE “CATASTROPHIC MORAL FAILURE” OF VACCINE NATIONALISM

ANALYSIS by Emily Shi (12)

trade expert. WHO Chief Ghebreyesus supported this sentiment, stating that national hoarding placed equitable global distribution at a “serious risk.”

As of April 2020, 69 countries have placed significant restrictions on the export of vaccines and medical equipment. These policies limit companies

from sending vaccines abroad, and have remained in place well into 2021. As countries worldwide rush to vaccinate their citizens, Ghebreyesus has spoken out against vaccine nationalism and the threat it poses to a globalized world. At the 148th Executive Board meeting of the WHO, he noted that while more than

39 million doses of vaccine were administered in 49 higher-income countries, only 25 doses have been given in one lowest-income country. Ghebreyesus emphasized that although there are enough “vaccines for everyone,” lower-income countries are paying the price for the greed of wealthier, more developed countries.

“The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure – and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world’s poorest countries,” he stated. “Ultimately, these actions will only prolong the pandemic.”

Many Canadians worry about what vaccine nationalism will mean for distribution in Canada, which notably lacks domestic vaccine production. The five approved vaccines – Moderna, Pfizer/BioNtech, Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca, all come from international suppliers. The National Post cautions that if Canada’s suppliers decide to cut off production, Canada will also be in danger of vaccine shortages.

Nevertheless, Canadian International Trade Minister Mary Ng has stated that Canada is not expecting any delays from export restrictions on vaccines. Ng revealed she had received “assurances” from international providers that Canada’s vaccine supply “should not be affected.”

Earlier this year, a dispute between American social media giant Facebook and the Government of Australia caught the world’s attention, raising questions over Big Tech’s role in modern society and setting the stage for future clashes between tech companies and legislators.

The dispute centred around news content on Facebook’s platform. In recent years, news media have globally criticized what they perceive as degradation of journalism and loss of revenue at the hands of tech companies. In response, the Government of Australia proposed the News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code. The law is designed to make tech companies pay publishers for news content, with the Code forcing deals between the two. If no agreement can be reached, a government-appointed arbitrator will step in and help make push pen to paper.

Peter Costello, former Australian federal treasurer and current chairman of the country’s biggest media company, Nine, called for legislation similar to the Code in July 2020 and gave insight into monetary implications. He told the Australian Financial Review (owned by Nine) that revenue generated from Google and Facebook would amount to \$600 million AUD headed to publishers.

Google, a tech company subject to the Code, cut deals with publishers in Australia. Facebook opted for a different approach. They blocked content subject to the law – news content.

“In response to Australia’s proposed new Media Bargaining law, Facebook will restrict publishers and people in Australia from sharing or viewing Australian and international news content.”, Facebook announced in a February 17 press release.

In a sudden strategic move, Facebook acted on a threat made about a month prior and blocked the posting and sharing of Australian publisher’s news content across its Australian-based

platform. Australian government officials were given no prior notice of Facebook’s intentions.

Campbell Brown, Facebook Vice President of Global News Partnerships, wrote in a release that the law “fails to recognize the fundamental nature of the relationship between our platform and publishers. Contrary to what some have suggested, Facebook does not steal news content.”

“Facebook was wrong,” said Josh Frydenberg, Treasurer of Australia, at a February 18 press conference. Frydenberg is the chief communicator between the government and tech companies, and met with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg prior to the escalation to discuss the Code.

The Treasurer continued, “Facebook’s actions were unnecessary, they were heavy-handed, and they will damage its reputation here in Australia.”

Australian Facebook users responded with concern, with many noting that Facebook was ingrained in the lives of so many Australians who use it daily, often to the news. Additionally, the restrictions had

an unanticipated impact upon services using the platform — services such as government health agencies, charities, and emergency services.

The ban also left many across Australia without convenient access to news, noted by critics who labelled Facebook’s actions “authoritarian.”

Brianna Casey, Chief Executive of Foodbank Australia, pointed out the ban’s potential for doing harm, saying in a Twitter post “Demand for food relief has never been higher than during this pandemic.” Foodbank Australia was one of many organizations whose Facebook page hindered inaccessible.

Days later on February 23, Frydenberg told reporters Zuckerberg had confirmed to him the ban would cease “in the coming days” after an agreement. Facebook, along with other tech companies, would still have to pay publishers, but under an amended set of terms and conditions.

“We’re pleased that we’ve been able to reach an agreement with the Australian government and appreciate the constructive discussions we’ve had

with Treasurer Frydenberg and Minister Fletcher over the past week,” wrote Campbell Brown in a statement.

“As a result of [changes to the proposed law], we can now work to further our investment in public interest journalism and restore news on Facebook for Australians in the coming days.”

The squabble between Facebook and Australia showed corporate execs, legislators, and citizens alike what can happen when regulation meets tech companies — and how quickly and dramatically tensions can escalate.

In recent years, lawmakers around the world have been grappling with the prospect of internet and tech regulation. Experts say an increasingly digitized world calls for increased transparency and accountability on the part of Big Tech, which includes giants like Apple, Amazon, and Microsoft. The US, UK, EU, Canada, and others have all begun to seek out ways to regulate the influential sector.

On February 24, Prime Minister Trudeau’s office released a statement following a discussion with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. “The prime ministers noted the growing cooperation between Canada and Australia on the regulation of online platforms.

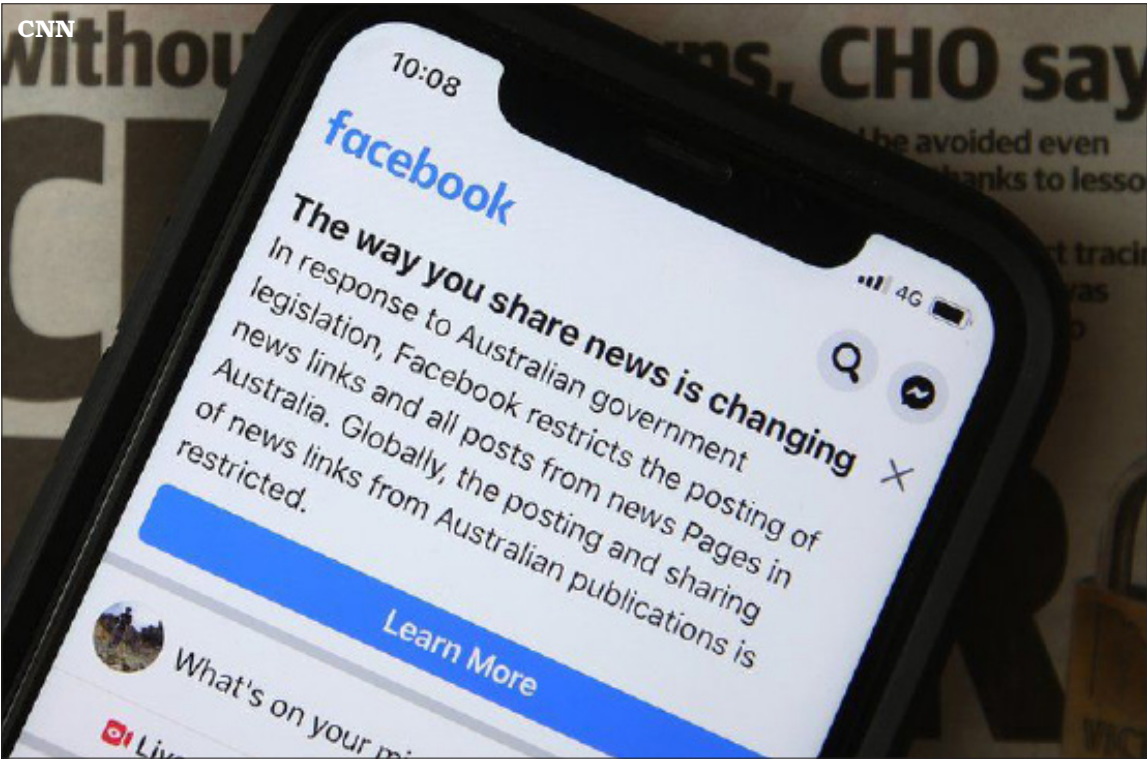
“They agreed to continue coordinating efforts to address online harm and ensure the revenues of web giants are shared more fairly with creators and media.”

With Australia’s News Media Code being the first of its kind, the world took cues from the country as it takes on tech giants. Canadian Heritage Minister Steven Guilbeault has been eyeing introducing new regulatory laws, expected to be similar to Australia’s.

“Canada is at the forefront of this battle ... we are really among the first group of countries around the world that are doing this,” Guilbeault stated to reporters.

FACEBOOK, PUBLISHERS, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA WALK INTO A BAR...

NEWS REPORT by Spencer Izen (11)



I AM NOT YOUR “TEMPTATION”

A DISCUSSION ON THE FETISHIZATION OF ASIAN WOMEN

OPINION by Marissa Lear (11)

The views expressed in this article are the author’s alone. Responses may be sent to the Editors-in-Chief at ehnewspaper@gmail.com

Roughly one month ago, six women of Asian descent were shot dead. A 21-year-old white man went to three spas in Atlanta Georgia and shot eight victims. The shooter was charged with eight counts of murder and one count of aggravated assault. Headlines have speculated whether this was a hate crime or an action borne from the shooter’s self-professed “sexual addiction” as the NY Times put it.

Whether race was an unconscious bias or an active motivator, it is not a coincidence that six out of eight victims were Asian women. The shooter was familiar with the workers at these spas as he visited them often. He was fully aware of their ethnicity and blamed his actions on his sexual addiction.

This particular event struck a chord. The fact that the shooter targeted Asian women, unintentionally or not, left me with a sense of fear for myself and others in my community. While there has been a dramatic increase in anti-Asian racism recently, hatred towards Asian women is not exclusive to the pandemic.

For years, Asian women have been hypersexualized and fetishized. Nancy Wang Yuen, a professor of Sociology at Biola University, connects sexism and racism, which have become extremely relevant in recent events. The shooter, Professor Yuen explained, viewed these women as hypersexualized ‘temptations’.

The Georgia shooter is far from alone in his views. It is clear from historical documentation and recent analysis that these views stem from the historical objectification and fetishization of Asian women.

The Page Act and the Chinese Exclusion Act, spanning from 1875 to 1943, were huge factors in promoting this discrimination. The Page Act banned the entrance of labourers from Asian countries and specifically forbade Asian women from entering the US “for the purposes of prostitution”. Professor K. Ian Shin’s article on Anti-Asian sentiment cites that for every 1000 Asian men that immigrated to the US, there were only 48 women.

When comparing the immigration ratio of Asian men and women, it is clear these statistics falsely implied that a large ratio of Asian women were prostitutes. Shin’s article describes how numerous women refused to immigrate after they found out about the discriminatory physical checks that took place at the Angel Island Immigration Station. Several poems were found scratched on the walls of the station depicting the exams as “barbarous” and “humiliating.” Laws generalizing Asian women as prostitutes played an active role in the decline of immigration and the spread of the stereotypes.

Professor Nancy Wang Yuen states that this stereotype was supported by the US soldiers who were stationed in Asia and interacted with sex workers. Many women had no choice but to turn to prostitution because of their poor living conditions. Despite non-consensual interactions and their limited encounters with Asian women, white soldiers perpetuated the myth that all Asian women had an insatiable thirst for male attention. Their skewed views that those women needed to be conquered added to the pre-existing beliefs that all Asian women were sex workers. Once those soldiers returned to the west, they shared their stories and enforced the wrong view of Asian women as inherently sexual objects. Looking back, both the Page Act and the stories of US soldiers greatly influenced how we view Asian women today.

Although we no longer have laws such as the Page Act, the sexism and racism it enforced towards Asian women, has continued in the media we consume. Many beloved films and theatre pieces hold stereotypes of Asian women either being one of two extremes: overly sexual prostitutes or submissive virgins that need to be “conquered” by a white man.

A very popular film which depicts this is Mean Girls. The problem with this piece is the story of Trang Pak. Viewed as a “cool Asian”, Trang Pak has an affair with Coach Car. While it may seem like an innocent joke, whenever I watch the film, I feel quite nauseated. Seeing the depiction of Asian women as “exotic” and “sexual” promoted in such a mainstream movie is extremely disheartening. Mindless jokes like this encourage and allow false views of Asian women to develop, and validate peoples’ stereotypes. An example of the latter is Miss Saigon. The piece tells the story of a beautiful, young Vietnamese girl who falls in love with a British sailor. The lead character is depicted as a submissive, sexual object that needs a white man to save her. Both of the examples reinforce the previous stereotypes of Asian women.

All this is to say that the Georgia shooting was rooted in the racist, sexist stereotypes of Asian women. These stereotypes stem from historically discriminatory beliefs and ideas portrayed in the media we consume. The shooting has drawn a clear connection between the racism and sexism Asian women experience and brought these overlooked issues to light. I am tired of the persistent fetishization of Asian women. I am not your temptation.



GENSHIN IMPACT: GAMING’S GREAT CLONE?

OPINION by Oliver Izen (9)

The views expressed in this article are the author’s alone. Responses may be sent to the Editors-in-Chief at ehnewspaper@gmail.com

On September 28, 2020, Chinese developer miHoYo released their new open-world adventure RPG, *Genshin Impact*. Available for free on PlayStation, PC, Android, and IOS, it shocked the world, receiving over 17 million downloads only four days after its launch. The game allows players to explore the vast, magical world of Teyvat while searching for their lost twin. Along the journey, they can obtain characters and weapons through the game’s gacha system, with new ones being released almost monthly.

While many see *Genshin Impact* as ingenious and revolutionary, some think otherwise. In 2017, Nintendo released what is widely considered to be one of the greatest games of all time, *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. The *Legend of Zelda* franchise’s latest installment is also an open-world adventure RPG, which takes players on a quest through the land of Hyrule to save the kingdom from Calamity Ganon. Many people call *Genshin Impact* a “clone” of *Breath of the Wild*, and if I’m being honest, as a loyal *Zelda* fan, I can see where they’re coming from.

I’ve played both games religiously, and over time have noticed some striking similarities. The most apparent between the two is the graphics. The art styles are extremely similar, and the landscape in *Genshin Impact* looks like it was heavily influenced by *The Legend of Zelda*. Another jarring similarity between the two is the enemies. In *Breath of the Wild*, the most common world

enemies are bokoblins. These colourful humanoid creatures wield and wear primitive weapons and clothing, and they live on small campsites. There are also larger versions of bokoblins that are stronger and tougher called moblins. Interestingly, in *Genshin Impact*, the most common world enemies are hilichurls. They too are colourful humanoid creatures that wield and wear primitive weapons and clothing and live on campsites. The game also features larger, stronger, and tougher versions of hilichurls called mitachurls.

While these have caused some to call the games identical, I beg to differ. Yes, some aspects are similar, but *Genshin Impact* does hold a lot of originality. For starters, while *Breath of the Wild* is a single-player experience, *Genshin Impact* is online. This means that the game offers a co-op mode, where people can join worlds and play alongside each other. Unlike the *Zelda* game, *Genshin Impact* also allows the player to choose from a variety of characters, all with unique abilities.

In my opinion, I would classify *Genshin Impact* as heavily inspired by *Breath of the Wild*, rather than calling it a complete clone. While there are a multitude of similarities, there isn’t enough evidence to attach that title to it. If you step back and disregard this debate, *Genshin Impact* is an amazing game. The graphics are beautiful, and the gameplay is highly immersive. If you’re looking for a fun game that you can pick up at any time, you can’t go wrong with *Genshin Impact*.

HOUSEPLANTS: WHAT’S BEHIND URBAN JUNGLE POSTS ON INSTAGRAM

OPINION by Adrian Yue (8)

The views expressed in this article are the author’s alone. Responses may be sent to the Editors-in-Chief at ehnewspaper@gmail.com

Picture your Instagram feed; you may find a range of images, from food to fashion, maybe even sports, but you are sure to encounter a picture of a person and their plants at least once. Behind each photograph of a person and their houseplants is a personal journey—a therapeutic passion and connection with others.

With the growth of urbanization comes dense apartments packed along busy concrete roads. It is almost like a concrete jungle; a sea of grey and glass. This environment can feel isolating to many people. A cycle of waking up to a view of nothing but tall high-rise towers covered in glass is the opposite of what nature intended. Since the beginning of time, humans have relied on nature for medicine, supplies, housing, connection, and food. However, we have eliminated sight of trees with urban housing projects, apartments with numerous stories, and home interiors. Houseplants, no matter how large or small, can help fill the void left by the elimination of green in our lives.

“Before I got into houseplants, sunlight wasn’t a priority. I would rent out windowless rooms, basement suites. This, coupled with the university workload, left me exhausted. After I started raising houseplants, light became a necessity and I started to look for homes with more natural light; in turn, I felt happier and started to bond with people over our shared love for houseplants,” stated Cailey Anne Umrysh, who goes by @sisterwiththetravellingplants on Instagram. “One of the first plants I got was a rattail cactus. The store [that I got it from] was by a bus stop on my route to school.”

Caring for something, whether it is a pet, or plants, is an important part of a human’s life. It gives our life a purpose, motivates us, and connects us back to nature. Connection to nature is integral to the maintenance of our mental health. The serenity of a forest has allowed us to take a break from the overstimulating and draining environment of the city workplace.

With houseplants, connection to nature is not the only impact it provides. Additionally, through a mutual hobby, many houseplant enthusiasts build a lasting friendship and healthy social connections.

“Taking care of them and watching them grow is very therapeutic to me. Also being able to connect with others about plants (especially during COVID) has had a huge impact on my wellbeing. It was so special to bond over plants with others during an isolated time.” Taylor Booth, of West Coast Jungle replied. She and her sister Lakelind Booth own West Coast Jungle, a small local business specializing in houseplants. In addition to owning and operating the business, they are also avid houseplant collectors themselves.

Houseplant collection and admiration is not just a hobby for aging millennials and random Instagram users, calming, a break from the monotony and overstimulation that cities bring, and a form of connection with others.

UNDERSTAFFED, UNDERPAID, AND UNSAFE: HOW THE QUARTER SYSTEM IS AFFECTING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

OPINION by Emily Shi (11)

The views expressed in this article are the author’s alone. Responses may be sent to the Editors-in-Chief at ehnewspaper@gmail.com



The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged school systems in ways never before imagined. As the school year has progressed, many have become increasingly aware of the burden placed on teachers. In keeping with the VSB’s Quarter Rotation Plan, educators have had to adapt their curriculum to be taught within ten weeks and find ways to compensate for gaps in student knowledge caused by quarantine, all while maintaining student safety.

Although teachers face an undeniably difficult task, there has been little consideration or discussion about the specific challenges faced by substitute teachers. In an interview with me, **Ms. J. Derrah** (Science), a former substitute teacher intimately familiar with the “teacher-on-call” system, shared how substitute teachers are routinely underpaid, exposed, and blindsided in the current system.

Ms. Derrah shared that under the quarter system, many of her substitute teacher acquaintances are paid less than full-time teachers, even though they teach the same amount of material in the same amount of time.

“Usually in the regular year, substitutes get a higher pay grade after teaching a course for twelve weeks,” she explained, “However this year, they didn’t change the system. There have been substitutes who have taught an entire course and are still not considered at higher seniority than before.”

Ms. Derrah further elaborated that this disparity in pay affects not only substitutes’ current finances, but also impacts their future job prospects. In the Vancouver system, substitute teachers at a higher pay are given seniority.

“They depend on [seniority] for finding jobs next year, so it has been really hard on a lot of substitutes,” she added. Employment concerns were a recurring theme in the interview. My interviewee further shared that the sporadic changes to the quarter system have resulted in some teachers being unemployed for an entire quarter.

I also discovered that substitute teachers are at greater risk of exposure. Ms. Derrah stated that it was not uncommon for teachers on call to move between schools often; sometimes even between elementary and secondary schools. And despite the well-documented dangers of mingling with different groups of people during this pandemic, substitute teachers are given “no extra protections.”

“I know someone who was just moved from a permanent position in one school to another school,” said Ms. Derrah.

At the end of our interview, Ms. Derrah and I came to a shared understanding: The current system is forcing many substitute teachers to put financial security over safety.

The VSB’s 2021 Strategic Plan states that it values transparency and accountability. The BC Ministry of Education’s Five Stages Framework for K-12 Education lists “Maintain[ing] a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and staff” as one of its foundational principles. However, their treatment of teachers-on-call during this pandemic has reflected a failure to uphold these principles. When it comes to protecting the safety of substitute teachers, It is clear that both the BC Ministry of Education and the VSB must do better.

ALBUM REVIEW: RECENT RELEASES

REVIEW by Sara Maya
Budhiraja (8)

Lana Del Ray, *Chemtrails over the Country Club*

Lana Del Ray’s newest album is a quiet and melodic 11-track collection, drawing from her previous releases to evoke nostalgia in her listeners. The album is not loud and surprising. Instead, it’s the kind of soft sound that has been popularized by big-name artists like Taylor Swift in the last year. However, Del Ray has not copied them. Songs like “White Dress” and “For Free” are unique and sleepy, but in a good way. With all the songs on the album blending seamlessly into one another, I would definitely rate it a 7/10.

Taylor Swift, *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)*

If you weren’t already aware, Taylor Swift lost the rights to all of her earlier albums very publicly, roughly two years ago. However, instead of letting the past hold her back, Swift has had one of her most successful years to date, releasing two critically acclaimed albums and re-releasing the songs that cemented her place in music history. The Fearless re-release is still 18-year-old Taylor Swift, but new songs, such as “You All Over Me” and “Mr. Perfectly Fine”, add a fresh spin to the era. Memorable, and very familiar, the re-recorded songs on the album are definite 8/10s, while the two new ones are 7s.

Justin Bieber, *Justice*

Justin Bieber is probably one of the most famous artists of all time, and once again, he has crafted another album of classic pop songs. The album is good, with notable collaborators like Khalid and Chance The Rapper making *Justice* much more exciting. However, there isn’t really a link between most of the tracks, as some of them are R&B and others are built for radio pop songs. It’s an album that is a little confusing, but still manages to be the type of quintessential chart-topper we have come to expect from Justin Bieber. This album is a 5.5/10.

Drake, *Scary Hours 2*

Drake released the follow-up to his album, *Scary Hours*, in early March. It’s a three-song EP that is buoyed by collaborations from Rick Ross and Lil Baby and a fast-paced collection. Clocking in at just 12 minutes and 33 seconds, it feels like a long rap song and is easy to listen to. “Lemon Pepper Freestyle” is probably the most interesting song on the album, as its traditional R&B sound is coupled with Rick Ross and Drake. This EP is pretty good, so I’d give it a 7.5/10.

BIANCA’S MUSIC REVIEW

REVIEW by Bianca Takenaka (9)



These past few months have gifted us with many new music releases, ranging from extremely successful and reaching the Billboard Top 50, to being shadowed by other prominent music releases and not gaining large success.

***Fearless (Taylor’s Version)* by Taylor Swift**
10/10

After the infamous Scooter Braun scandal, Taylor is on her way to re-record her first five albums in order to regain their ownership. The “first” album she recently re-recorded is “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)”. This album topped a world record formerly held by The Beatles, which was scoring three number one albums in 364 days. With the help of albums *folklore* and *evermore*, “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)” has outdone that record with 259 days. This album, though a re- recording, includes some “From the Vault” never before released songs, such as “Mr. Perfectly Fine” and “You All Over Me ft. Marren Morris”. Taylor Swift has been one of my favourite artists since I was younger, so hearing these songs re- done with her matured voice has been nostalgic.

“Flames” by MOD SUN, ft. Avril Lavigne
5/10

Attempting to travel back in time to her early 2000s teenage punk rock roots where she originally found success, Avril Lavigne has made an appearance in Derek Ryan Smith’s (MOD SUN) third track: “Flames” from his 2021 alternative rock album “Internet Killed the Rockstar”. The beginning of the rumored couple’s song delivers a calm feel with acoustic piano and Lavigne’s vocals (that sounds like it could have easily come straight from her 2019 album “Head Above Water”) singing the chorus, the song then takes an energetic turn with MOD SUN taking on the first verse. This song is catchy, but nothing special, and MOD SUN’s vocals drown out the sound of the techno beat and drums.

“Rocky” by Still Woozy
8/10

Sven Eric Gamsky’s (Still Woozy) starts off 2021 with an indie pop single “Rocky”. Though this song sounds uplifting and care-free at first listen, the lyrics hide a deeper meaning. The chorus: “So I just, I just dream, dream, dream, dream, dream, dream...” describes how Gamsky deals with his anxiety and mundane problems, explaining how he dreams of better days ahead. “Rocky” by Still Woozy gives a likeable tune along with a personal and heavy story found underneath.

“Afterglow” by Ed Sheeran
8.5/10

His first release since the No.6 Collaborations Project album and after his newborn daughter, Lyra, was born, Ed Sheeran’s surprise release is a simple yet captivating track to end off 2020.

Claiming this song is not a single leading up to a potential upcoming album, Sheeran’s standalone song brings the sound of his signature acoustic guitar and his recognizable voice to support the poetic lyrics about his wife, Cherry: “Stop the clocks, it’s amazing/You should see the way the light dances off your head/A million colours of hazel, golden and red...” “Afterglow” is effortless and is the kind of music I would enjoy on repeat by a campfire this summer.

***Chemtrails Over the Country Club* by Lana Del Ray**
6/10

Many artists try to reinvent themselves into new “eras” of their musical careers, but this soft pop artist has released her seventh studio album this year and has done the opposite. With her trademark timeless voice, gloomy messages, and imaginative music videos, Del Ray has presented more with those themes. *Chemtrails Over the Country Club* expresses many delicate topics affiliating herself, such as disillusionment with fame in the first track of the album “White Dress”. *Chemtrails Over the Country Club*, though an angelic album, has no “wow” factor and with the lack of genre variety, is standing in the shadow of her previous album released in 2019. I would enjoy listening to this album on shuffle while studying.

PEER COUNSELLORS’ POINT OF VIEW

GUEST ESSAY by Lincoln Macdonald
(12) and Nicole Tam (12)

*The views expressed in this article are the authors’ alone.
Responses may be sent to the Editors-in-Chief
at ehnewspaper@gmail.com*



You may have seen us in the halls wearing matching blue and white shirts, or hanging out around the counselling suite. But who are the Peer Counsellors (PCs)? What do we do for the school? And what have we been doing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic?

Eric Hamber has one of only two Peer Counselling programs across District 39. The program was created in 1989, with the goal of forming a group of student mentors in our school community. Since the program began more than 32 years ago there have been more than 550 PCs, who have supported thousands of their high school peers. The Peer Counselling program has reached several generations of Hamber students, and its impact continues to grow with every new student that becomes involved.


Each year in the spring, students currently in Grade 11 have the opportunity to apply to become a Peer Counselor. Through an application and interview process, roughly 22 students are selected to be a part of the Peer Counselling class for the following year. The Peer Counselling class, run by **Mr. C. Smith** (Counselling), has 2 components– a classroom portion and a placement portion. Each week, the peer counselling class meets off-timetable to learn strategies to equip us to better support other students. In a regular year, we would have also gotten placed into Grade 8 Applied Design skills and Technology (ADST) classes to assist them in their transition from elementary school to highschool.

While PCs are often more involved with Grade 8 students, it is a common misconception that this is our only job. We are always available to help a student of any grade level in need of support. Whether you are worried about class, confused about your schedule, or just want someone to talk to, we are here to help you. Don't be afraid to stop one of us in the hallway or come visit us in the counselling suite. We are eager to meet you, at a safe distance of course!

As is the case with most school activities, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed how PCs are able to interact with other students. Grade 8 camp, which we usually attend and help facilitate at the beginning of the school year, was unfortunately cancelled. In addition to this, due to COVID-19 protocols we are no longer able to have ADST placement blocks. In an effort to welcome Grade 8 students and adapt to current regulations, the PCs have come together and started a video channel on Microsoft Teams called “PC Corner”. Different groups of PCs have created fun TV-show styled videos which were posted several times a month. There have been many different shows, including a soap opera, a morning talk show, holiday specials, and even a Pink Day video. Perhaps you have seen some of them?

As we all know, this year has been stressful and challenging at times, something that Peer Counsellors are certainly not immune to. However, if you are ever feeling anxious, worried, or just want someone to talk to, don't be afraid to reach out to a PC. All of us share the similar experience of being a high school student during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will all make it through this with the help and support of those around us.

Last thing in case you were wondering– we really don't bite!



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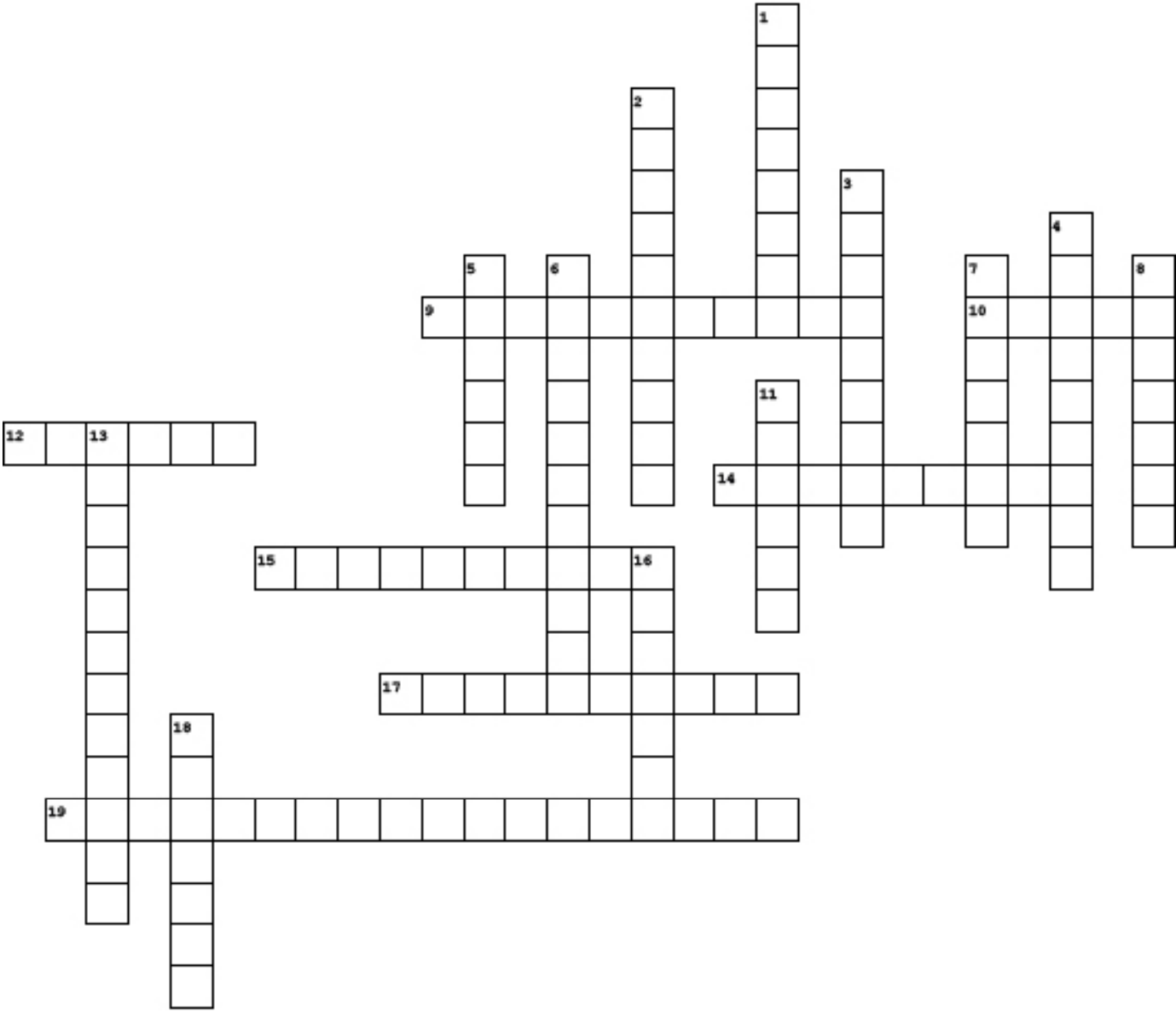
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The Griffins’ Nest is Eric Hamber’s student-led, independent newspaper. Publishing all year round, The Nest covers topics relevant to students and staff in an informative, impartial, and professional manner.

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CROSSWORD CORNER

By Élise Roy (11)



Across

- 9. Home of the convention centre at Vancouver’s waterfront.
- 10. An oily, salty stone fruits originating from the Mediterranean.
- 12. This rough fabric is used to make sacks and rope.
- 14. This vibrantly-coloured lawn weed has a dairy product in its name.
- 15. In 1982, Michael Fagan broke into the royal residence, _____ Palace, making it past security and into Queen Elizabeth’s room!
- 17. Physical Education classes often run in a figure 8 formation around this grassy, wooded park.
- 19. Location where Lucy Maud Montgomery’s Anne of Green Gables is set.

Down

- 1. A fermented, bubbly tea.
- 2. This band’s name is a homophone (a word that sounds the same, but has a different meaning) with an insect.
- 3. NASA’s robotic helicopter on Mars that accomplished the first powered, controlled aircraft flight on a planet other than Earth on April 19th, 2021.
- 4. Home of the Legendary Burger.
- 5. This naturalist is recognized for his discoveries in evolution and the Origin of the Species.
- 6. Vancouver-based ice cream parlour.
- 7. Greg’s older brother in the series Diary of a Wimpy Kid.
- 8. City talked about by Jay Z and Alicia Keys in a song.
- 11. Star Wars Day is May the ____.
- 13. Tim Hortons made this annual contest virtual due to COVID-19 concerns.
- 16. Ms. Mullen’s meditative announcements are called _____ Mondays.
- 18. 1. A species of butterfly, 2. A head of state such as a king or queen

ASK THE NEST

ANONYMOUS ADVICE: ALL HAMBER’S MOST BURNING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Hello Nest,
I am wondering about how to speak up in classes and clubs. I have an extremely hard time with raising my hand, asking questions, and speaking my thoughts. It’s holding me back from better grades and getting accepted into/ staying in many things.

Thanks for the advice,
Quiet and Questioning

Dear Quiet and Questioning,

Here are two methods I suggest. First, try taking on projects or ideas you are passionate about in your classes and clubs. When you’re interested in a topic, it often makes speaking about it easier. Everyone would benefit from hearing your ideas. You can also try practicing the 3-2-1 technique. When you are faced with a daunting situation, and you feel like you are about to choke, count down in your head: “3, 2, 1”— then do the task. Practicing this may help you become a more confident speaker.

Best of luck,
The Nest

Dear Nest,
Hamber is both too hot and too cold. For a temperature-sensitive person like myself, this is frustrating! I find that I am constantly having to move around to different parts of the school, only to become fed up with the temperature, and the cycle continues! I don’t get work done! Ideas?

Sincerely,
Uncomfortable and Unappeased

Dear Uncomfortable and Unappeased,

In a school where moving classrooms feels like flying to another hemisphere, it is important to be prepared for the elements. Layering is key. For instance, wear jeans and a t-shirt, and pack a sweater that is light enough to fit in your backpack. Athletic wear is a springtime staple: it is comfortable and thermal, yet breathable if the classroom temperature makes you sweat.

Best of luck,
The Nest

Dear Nest,
All my friends have group chats and they don’t include me. I feel left out. What advice do you have?

Sincerely,
Lonely

Dear Lonely,

There is nothing you can do to make your friends include you in their group chat (unless you explicitly ask, which may be awkward). Don’t push it. If you have a good friendship outside of the social media world, it should not matter! Work on the in-person connections and try not to let social media drama bother you deeply. If you’ve tried your very best and your friendship still begins to drift, go with the flow.

Sincerely,
The Nest



COMIC by Adam Mah (12)