

The Griffins' Nest

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THE TIMETABLE TANGO: Behind the scenes of Hamber's annual course change lineups

NEWS REPORT by Katja Radovic-Jonsson (12)

At the beginning of every school year, students line up for hours on end, waiting to speak with their grade counsellor. By patiently staying in line, they hope to make changes to their timetables, which have been automatically assigned by the school's scheduling algorithm.

"It was very chaotic," said **Camille Basso** (12) regarding this year's course changing period. "There was a big line for every counsellor, and it was hard to keep it organized because everyone wanted to go up [to the counsellors' suite]." Basso is one of Hamber's Peer Counsellors, a team of grade 12 students responsible for helping younger students in situations like these.

As for what causes the chaos, students speculate that there are a multitude of factors at play. Peer Counsellor **Shaan Sandhu** (12) reflected on the different reasons why students seek course changes. "To be honest, there are a lot of students who just change their schedules because they don't like the teacher, or they don't like their class."

Ms. N. Sandhu (Counselling) confirmed this observation, adding that these requests "are not something we are able to accommodate" due to the great number of students with more pertinent issues in their timetables.

Data collected through the counsellors' online course selection form revealed that this year, a total of 327 students requested course changes. These students were asked to categorize their request into one of four choices: "incomplete timetable", "missing course for graduation", "change elective course", or "other".

Out of the 327 responses, 68 students chose "incomplete timetable", 31 chose "missing course for graduation", and 83 chose "change elective course". 48 students — representing about 45.3 per cent of responses — selected "other".

In comparison, there were a total of 185 course change requests last



Above: Hamber students lining up in the cafeteria, waiting for their counsellors

year. 66 of those respondents selected the "other" category, representing about 35.7 per cent of responses.

The nature of the requests in the "other" category are up for speculation, but it likely includes those wishing to switch classes to be with their friends or a different teacher. It also likely accounts for course changes related to balancing course difficulty in each semester, which was not an issue during the linear system. "Now, students want more balance, which is understandable," said Ms. Sandhu.

"There's also kids wanting to accelerate more. So, you want, for example, grade 10 math in one semester, and grade 11 math in the second," **Mr. C. Smith** (Counselling) added. "There's a lot more of those requests, which we didn't have before."

With so many students lined up for different reasons, it was difficult to ensure that everyone was in the correct queue. Basso shared that the Peer Counsellors weren't entirely sure how to manage all the chaos, and it was difficult to get the crowds to listen. "We would yell, 'if you're not in grade 12, you shouldn't be in this line', but they

wouldn't move."

While these lineups are a yearly occurrence, Ms. Sandhu said that students may have perceived this year's lineups differently from those of previous years. "People in grade 12 right now went through the pandemic years, when things were a little bit different. Especially when we had the quarter system, there was much more flexibility because there was space in classes. That's not always the case."

Ms. Sandhu also reflected on how our expectations of quick service have changed. "I really sense the lack of patience in students this year," she shared. "It could be a cultural thing, because now we can easily go online and order something and have it delivered to us instantaneously."

Furthermore, Hamber recently lost a counsellor. With five grades and only four counsellors, each counsellor is now responsible for more than one grade of students at a time, thus increasing their workload. "If you [are in charge of] one grade, you have maybe 260 to 300 kids," said Mr. Smith. "Now we're closer to 400 kids [each], so that's going to take time too." The

greater workload is exacerbated by a recent increase in students new to the catchment, as newer students often require extra help during the scheduling process.

Ms. Sandhu added that a shortage in teachers over the past two years, especially in technical studies, has meant that "we haven't been able to fill teaching positions, which has resulted in the collapse of blocks." Whenever classes are cancelled, students previously enrolled in those classes must be rescheduled, taking up even more of the counsellors' time.

Mr. Smith explained that the timetable creation process is long and is mainly out of the hands of counsellors. "Finding the right number of people, getting [teachers'] blocks, it's a long process. Long story short, [students] choose courses in February. [...] Come April, we actually get our funding from the school board, [...] and they say, 'Okay, you get X number of blocks for your school, and you can use X number of teachers.' Then we have to go through our plan and see if it aligns, and that's what the administration do, not us. [...] Once that's all

done, then they start looking at us."

The administrative process of creating timetables is typically complete by the beginning of summer break, Ms. Sandhu shared. Since counsellors are not in office at that time, students are only able to receive their timetables in early September.

Course selection and scheduling remains a complex issue, but there are a number of ways in which the situation could be more efficient. "I think one way that you could see things change a lot would be if, quite frankly, governments funded schools better," said Mr. Smith. "That comes from a level far above our school, [...] [but] I think that could be a huge help, not just to our school, but to schools in general."

Ms. Sandhu added that while counsellors still play a major role in helping students make decisions regarding their course load, there could be value in "a more automated process where students look themselves and they wait to see if someone drops out of a course, and then they can put themselves in." She noted that the online course selection form, which was first implemented last year, is one example of how the counselling department has already begun to use technology to improve its course selection process.

As for why students did not receive a master timetable to help them plan their courses this year, Mr. Smith and Ms. Sandhu explained that it was because students constantly drop in and out of classes. Thus, even if a master timetable were provided, there would be no guarantee that every class would have spots open. They advised students to check with their counsellor regularly, as spaces might open up over time. "It changes daily — by the minute, sometimes!" said Mr. Smith.

On top of this, Ms. Sandhu suggested that students change their perception around course scheduling. "Nobody wants to stand in line, but this is the way systems are. I think that it is useful to, instead of having a frustrated mindset, have an open mindset, because even if you don't get what you want, you can still make it a great experience."

India's Journey to the Moon

NEWS REPORT by Aubrey Brandt (9)

On Aug. 23, 2023, India became the fourth country in the world to land a spacecraft on the moon. Chandrayaan-3 — meaning "moon craft" in Sanskrit — took off from a launchpad on July 14, 2023 in Sriharikota, an island in southern India.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) spacecraft also became the first spacecraft to land near the south pole of the moon, which is believed to be home to deposits of water and ice. The successful mission is expected to both boost the country's growing private space sector and provide more research opportunities. The ISRO stated the three objectives of the Chandrayaan-3's mission were "to demonstrate a safe and soft moon landing, to demonstrate rover roving on the moon, and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments".

This year's moon landing followed a previous failed mission, Chandrayaan-2. The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft launched on July 22, 2019 from Sriharikota on a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III. It was planned to land on the moon on Sept. 7 of the same year. The craft consisted of an orbiter, lander, and rover. The mission was planned to have a lifetime of seven and a half years, but the ISRO

lost contact with it at an altitude of 2 km — just before the lander was about to make contact with the moon's surface.

"From the day we started rebuilding our spacecraft after the Chandrayaan-2 experience, it has been breathe in, breathe out Chandrayaan-3 for our team," said the mission's associate project director, Kalpana Kalahasti.

The historic landing came after the launch of Russia's robotic Luna-25 spacecraft, which left for the moon on Aug. 11, also with the goal to be the first spacecraft to land near the south pole of the moon. The mission was unsuccessful, however. On Aug. 19, the craft crashed into the moon, and was destroyed.

The Chandrayaan-3 consists of an indigenous lander module named Vikram and a propulsion module. It also comprises a rover named Pragyan with the objective to develop and demonstrate new technologies in preparation for interplanetary travel. The propulsion module carried the lander module from launch vehicle injection until its final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit, before separating. The lander module then safely landed on the south pole of the moon. It deployed the rover, which was filled with almost a dozen scientific instruments. One of these instruments included a

laser that could analyze the chemical composition of the moon's regolith. Its purpose was to aid in the search for water and ice.

In India, the Chandrayaan-3 mission was considered a point of national pride. Over 70 million people watched online coverage of the historic landing. Countless others watched in auditoriums and viewing parties throughout the country.

The ISRO shared mission updates on social media, posting information and data that the rover and lander collected. The rover managed to travel over 100 meters across the moon's surface and take photos of the lander.

One of the experiments conducted during the mission was ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment). The purpose of the experiment was to understand the thermal behavior of the moon's surface by measuring the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the south pole. The rover has a temperature probe equipped with ten individual temperature sensors, as well as a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching 10 cm beneath the moon's surface.

After the experiment was conducted, ISRO scientist BHM Darukeshu told a local news outlet, *Press Trust of India*, that the surface was hotter than they had expected. "We all believed



INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION/AP VIA CNN

that the temperature could be somewhere around 20 degrees centigrade to 30 degrees centigrade on the surface but it is 70 degrees centigrade," said Darukeshu.

Additionally, using a spectroscope, the rover confirmed the presence of sulfur near the south pole of the moon. This discovery now compels scientists to investigate how the element got there, and whether it naturally exists on the surface or was sent there by volcanic activity or a meteor. The rover also found other elements near the south pole of the moon, including iron and oxygen.

On Sept. 2, the Chandrayaan-3 was

set to sleep for 14 days before mission controllers attempted to wake up the spacecraft. The lander and rover was put into "sleep mode" in order to protect the electrical parts during the two week lunar night that sees temperatures on the moon drop to -250 degrees Celsius. ISRO scientists have not been able to make contact with the lander or rover since putting it to sleep.

Despite not being able to wake up the lander and rover, the mission was still considered a success, since all of the Chandrayaan-3's primary objectives were completed. The prime minister of India, Narendra Modi, hailed the mission as "a victory cry of a new India."

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

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FUNDING YOUR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION: A HOW-TO GUIDE

NEWS REPORT by Jeffrey Chan (11)

With application deadlines for many universities and colleges approaching, graduating Hamber students are thinking more and more about how to fund their post-secondary education. School fees — including tuition, textbooks, and other pertinent educational needs — will be the primary expense. But students may also face numerous other expenses, such as housing expenses and transportation. Here are four common ways to fund your post-secondary education.

The most common found source of funding is student loans or student lines of credit. Student loans are typically government-sanctioned, meaning that the federal government works with provincial and territorial governments to create student loan programs. These loans are interest-free in BC but are only available to those who qualify for them financially.

Most banks offer student lines of credit. They have varying rates of interest, but most rates currently hover around the national interest rate of 7.2 per cent.

Alongside student loans, the government offers student grants. Individuals receive a set amount of money from the government on a financial need basis. Unlike loans, however, grants do not need to be paid back. The Government of Canada calculates grant eligibility based on total family income in relation to family size. Details can be found on the official website of the Government of Canada.

Scholarships are a debt-free method of funding your post-secondary education. They are financial awards granted by a variety of organizations, ranging in value from a few hundred dollars all the way up to over \$100,000. Scholar-

ships have varying criteria for eligibility: some are based solely on grades, while others are application-based. Many scholarships are available to students of all backgrounds, though some cater specifically to marginalized communities.

One of the most highly sought-after scholarships offered in Canada is the Loran Award, valued at over \$100,000. The Loran Award is an application-based scholarship that searches for outstanding students with excellent character. It is available to all graduating students with Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status who are entering university in 2024. They must hold a cumulative 85 per cent average. Applicants are considered through a rigorous selection and interview process. Unfortunately, as of Oct. 11, 2023, the Loran Scholar application portal is closed.

Another high-value scholarship is the TD Community Leadership Scholarship. It is open to all students of Canada in their final year of high school. Students must hold a grade point average of 75 per cent in their most recently completed school year. The scholarship awards up to \$70,000 spread throughout the four years of a student's undergraduate education. The TD Community Leadership Scholarship is also an application-based scholarship; it aims to recognize students who are community leaders and have worked to solve community social crises. TD awards up to 20 students annually with this scholarship. Applications are open until Nov. 15, 2023, and can be found on the official TD website.

Other options include university-specific entrance scholarships. A notable example is the UBC Presidential Scholars Award, which provides renewable awards of up to \$80,000 for students demonstrating academic ex-



UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

cellence and achieving several criteria. Most major Canadian universities offer entrance scholarships with varying eligibility requirements — more details can be found on each university's official website.

There are also a myriad of smaller scholarships, some offered by the government, and some offered by organizations and banks. Many of them have strict eligibility requirements, are specifically meant for marginalized groups, or are for certain majors and fields of study.

However, there is still a vast selection of scholarships that are open to all. Generally, students need to apply for these scholarships, but some government-sanctioned ones automatically

register students. For example, the BC Achievement scholarship is automatically awarded to the top 8,000 academic achievers in the province. A list of minor scholarships with further details can be found by a quick online search.

A more traditional method of funding is working a part-time job or being part of co-operative education (co-op) during one's studies. While a part-time job is generally dependent on an individual's availability, co-operative education is essentially paid work experience that is integrated into post-secondary academic studies. It is available to a host of programs across various fields of study. Not all majors offer co-op — additional details can be found on each university's website.

Hamber's Annual Clubs Day is Back

NEWS REPORT by Brooke Nichol (9)

This year's annual Clubs Day happened on Oct. 4 in the cafeteria. Students of all grades gathered during lunch to see the different displays of almost every club at Hamber.

"Our mission, visions, and values have stayed the same over the years," said Arianna Tham (12), one of Compassion Club's Co-Presidents. She added that the club gained a lot of younger members through Clubs Day. "There were a lot of smiles and vibes going around, and we were really happy to see that," she said. "We were overall just really happy that the movement of initiating kind acts was supported within the Hamber community."

Many clubs bring objects that represent their club, or treats and small gifts for students who sign up. Tham explained that the club's social media coordinator, Amelia Chong (12), put a lot of work into pins that they gave out to interested students.

Other clubs, such as STEM Sorority and Cards Club, gave out sweet treats to new members. Hamber's Environment Club offered free seeds for any students who signed up. Students interested in joining the Chess Club could watch a riveting chess match between two dedicated club members.

Festive lighting and music were provided by Sound and Lighting Club.

Compassion Club implemented a new tactic: their entire executive team wore matching hoodies while running their table. "The hoodies definitely helped us stand out as we received so many compliments," Tham said.

"One of the problems we ran into while setting up for clubs day was being able to find an available spot to put down our poster," said Gavin Chan (11). Like most club executives, the Craft Club Co-President prepared a poster and sign up sheet prior to the fair. Chan reflected that while there was a lack of time for him to set up, "we were able to gain a lot of repeat and new members. The turnout was more than we expected."

Clubs can be great opportunities to connect with the community and develop leadership skills. Eric Hamber has a wide variety of clubs to join, with over 53 clubs to choose from this year.

"It was fun to see all the different activities you could join and see how all the clubs present themselves, like their posters or boards," said Kennedy Tam (9).

Students who missed Clubs Day but still wish to join a club can contact the club leaders through social media, email the teacher sponsor or a student in the club, or simply attend their next meeting.



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HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

CONSTABLE DAVOR TOLJA: ERIC HAMBER'S SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

NEWS REPORT by *Adelaide Guan* (11)

In November 2022, the Vancouver Board of Education voted to bring back the School Liaison Officer (SLO) program. Previously cancelled in April 2021, the new program is guided by a revised Memorandum of Understanding. This memorandum was a collaboration between the Vancouver School Board (VSB) and Vancouver Police Department (VPD), with feedback from the 2021 SLO engagement, the Indigenous Education Council, and the VPD's Indigenous Advisory Committee.

The program was implemented at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, bringing a fresh but familiar face to Hamber's halls.

Davor Tolja (School Liaison) has been a member of the VPD for 20 years. He has worked in a variety of areas, from identity theft to property theft, before working as an SLO at Hamber during COVID-19. When the program was disbanded, he went to head the VPD's fighter drone program.

"When this opportunity came back up, I was the first person to be like, 'I'd like to come back'," said Const. Tolja. He explained that he prefers working with youth, especially after almost 20 years of working with adults.

"I'm actually a product of the school," he said, as he once was a student at Hamber and Vancouver College in the 1980s. "To do the work here again is awesome. Walking through these halls 35 years later, you're like 'wow, nothing's changed.'"

Const. Tolja is a father of two kids, one of which is in high school. "I really don't have much free time, raising two kids," he said. "It's really taking them to soccer practices, volleyball practices, pretty much being a dad."

He added that he used to enjoy



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golf, though he hasn't had time to participate in the activity in three years. Recently, though, he has taken an interest in drones. "Because I had a bit of drone experience, now I'm trying to do more drone work, and maybe a little bit of practice flying time."

He's thinking about potentially filming real estate listings because of his knowledge of drones. "My buddies are in the industry," he said. "If I could try to do some side work, maybe I could set something up in the future."

"I'm no more than just another support hub for the Hamber community," said Const. Tolja when asked about his role as an SLO. He listed counsellors and administrators as other support resources for students. "I'm just another cog in the wheel."

Const. Tolja said that because of his familiar face and understanding, he is "an easier person to deal with than your regular [VPD] member." He shared that he was once a student as well and has been in trouble before, and that if a student wanted to speak with him, it would be "com-

pletely objective because [he's] here to listen."

"I always tell [students], no matter how bad it is, we can always fix it," he said. "We're not here to give students or anybody a hard time at all. It is actually the opposite of that."

Const. Tolja thinks that his first year back at Hamber is like a trial, and that it has been different. He's noted that students directly impacted by Covid might be having a bit of a challenge. "What I'd like to do is see how the students feel and be more open," he said. "I don't want to be too intrusive because they may not be ready for it."

Const. Tolja's regular working hours are Tuesday and Friday. In addition to Hamber, he works with Vancouver College, Talmud Torah, King David, Jules Verne, as well as all of Hamber's elementary school feeders.

He wants students to know that if he isn't at school, he can be contacted through email, Instagram, or Snapchat. "I try to be in my office as much as I can," he added. "This is my home base."

WATCH OUT! A NEW WAVE OF STUDENT DRIVERS TAKE ON THE ROADS

NEWS REPORT by *Sara Maya Budhiraja* (11)

After nerve-wracking practice tests, embarrassing license photos, and years of asking for rides, a new generation of Hamber's student drivers are ready for the roads. After getting their Learners (L) permits at 16, teenagers can take their Novice (N) road test after one year. Once passed, they are allowed to start driving without supervision. The student parking lot near the turf is now home to new rides, and seniors are excited to show off the cars they have worked so hard to acquire.

Many students have found cheap ways to score their own first car. A popular and affordable option for new

to drive," revealed **Kelly Ho** (12). "If you want a quiet space to study or be by yourself, then your own car is a great place to go."

Ho is also a proud driver of a vintage vehicle. "I have my Grandpa's old car. It's a BMW 330. She's a little old, but she's pretty luxurious." When it comes to being a student driver, Ho had some simple advice for younger Hamberites. "Learn how to park. There are lots of cars wanting to park in the student parking lot every morning, so it can get super hectic."

While some students are tackling Vancouver's roads head-on, other students are getting ready to take the Learner and Novice exams. Ho and Seid also both had some words of wisdom for those who are feeling nervous

"I don't really mind not having my N yet though. I am a passenger princess."

drivers is a secondhand vehicle.

"I have my uncle's old car, and he's a mechanic so he helped fix it up for me. It's pretty old, but I really like it," said **Marcus Seid** (12) about his beloved 1996 Toyota Corolla. "I started practicing my driving last summer, and I got my N about a month ago. I have been driving ever since!"

When it comes to actually hitting the road, Seid reveals he's been largely unscathed except for one incident: "I was driving near UBC, when suddenly someone started driving towards me, in the same lane! It was scary, but I survived."

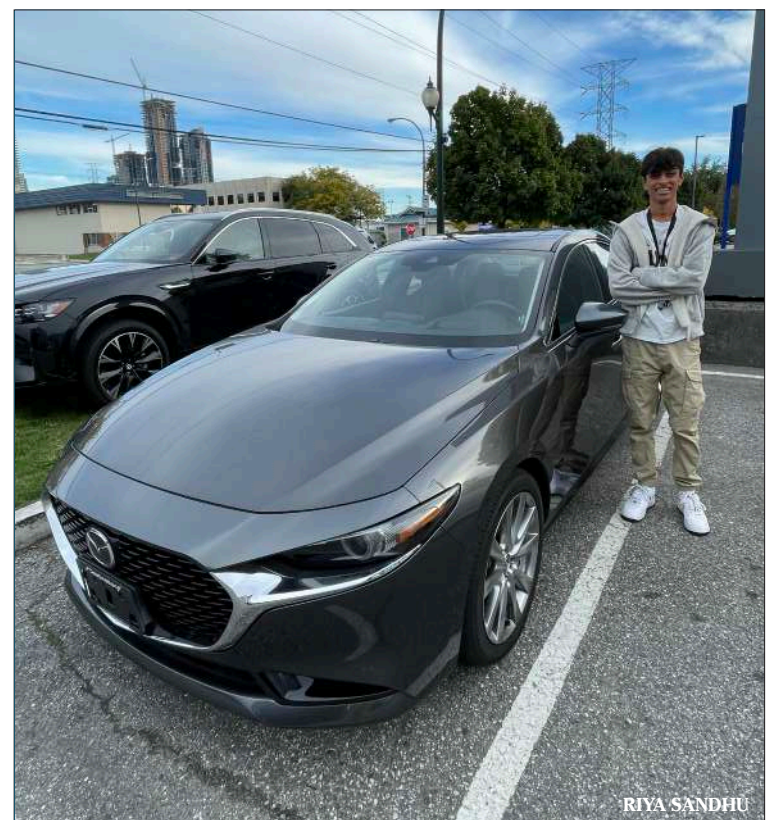
Grade 12 drivers are also enjoying the perks of having their own car, as well as all the freedom and responsibility that comes along with it. "You can go out for lunch and not really have to worry about the time. I'm also the driver of my group, so I drive my friends home. I don't trust any of them

about taking these important tests.

"I think it's important to be patient. If you don't get your N the first time, definitely wait until you feel like you have improved," Ho explained. "Don't just book the test two weeks later — wait until you feel really ready and then try again."

Seid's advice leaned more towards the practical side. "Winter is the best time to practice. If you can drive in that weather, then you can drive in anything."

After getting an L, there is a long wait before you are eligible to try for an N. Some seniors are still waiting for their chance to get behind the wheel. "My birthday is in November, and I got my L last December, so I cannot take the N test yet," said **Shaan Sandhu** (12), who has reserved his spot in Seid's passenger seat. "I don't really mind not having my N yet though. I am a passenger princess."



RIYA SANDHU



KATJA RADOVIC-JONSSON

MEET HAMBER'S NEW VICE PRINCIPALS

NEWS REPORT by *Reya Khanna* (12)

This year, Hamber welcomes two new vice principals, **Ms. N. Gates** (Administration) and **Mr. A. MacInnes** (Administration). Both have previously been teachers, while Ms. Gates has also been a counsellor.

Ms. Gates has worked at Eric Hamber as a teacher and counsellor, and at Gladstone Secondary as a counsellor.

Mr. MacInnes has been at a variety of districts, with schools in the Vancouver School Board (VSB) being Lord Byng, West Vancouver, Rockridge, Gladstone, Magee, and Britannia. After making the decision to retire a year and a half ago, he returned to work at John Oliver Secondary for five months in the past year.

"I had my degree in chemistry and the opportunity to work with kids was pretty neat," Mr. said Mr. MacInnes,

explaining why he decided to go into education. "Teaching is a great, rewarding job, and I gave it a try and really liked it. No looking back since then."

Ms. Gates was inspired to pursue teaching by her grade 3 teacher and grade 10 math teacher. "My grade 3 teacher was just the kindest person on the planet. I just thought she was amazing and one day I would like to be like her. The math teacher I had was so amazing at helping me." Additionally she shared that she liked "the way that people helped people learn."

Vice principals have a diverse set of responsibilities. Mr. MacInnes explained that "The vice principals each have a grade. I have grade 9 and 11. [I'm] responsible for working with and supporting those students."

"One of my big responsibilities here is doing the timetable which takes a lot of work," he added, and reflected that "putting all the pieces

together is really quite a puzzle." He also makes sure report cards are being prepared appropriately.

Mr. MacInnes emphasized the importance of making connections with the students and staff at Hamber. He prioritizes "meeting people, getting to know them, supporting them, and building relationships and trust."

"I do feel like my main role and responsibility is to create a culture here that is caring and inclusive," shared Ms. Gates. "I am just learning about the school community. Although I have worked here in the past, things have changed."

When asked if she has any advice for the students at Eric Hamber, Ms. Gates said, "I think there are three main things for success in anything you do: Be kind, be involved, and be organized."



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HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

BARBENHEIMER: HAMBER STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON THIS SUMMER'S HOTTEST DEBATE

NEWS REPORT by *Olivia Gowans Hoar (10) & Chloe Mayor Moure (10)*

As *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer* hit the big screens over the summer of 2023, on the same day, a passionate debate over the two movies sparked on the internet. Initially started as a joking comparison between two seemingly opposite movies, it became a serious point of discussion in the leadup to their release. The conversation surrounding the movies, nicknamed "Barbenheimer", included various questions, including which movie to see first, which would become more successful, and overall, which movie would be superior. "Barbenheimer" quickly became the talk of the internet, boosting the profits for both movies.

While both movies were expected to prosper individually, some of their achievements can be credited to counterprogramming. "These films would have been successful on their own terms had they opened on different weekends... [but] both movies also really enhanced each other because of that social media buzz over the last few months," wrote *CNN*. By releasing two polar opposite films at once, a larger audience was attracted without having to split viewers between similar, coinciding films. The juxtaposition of the two movies played a key role in their marketing, elevating the anticipation from a regular premiere to a cultural phenomenon.

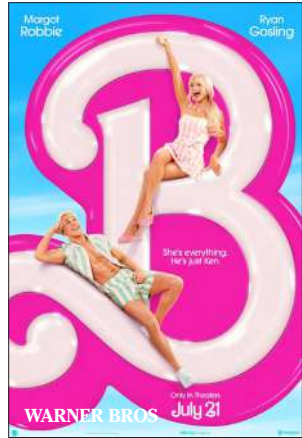
Barbie managed to unite viewers across the world by harnessing the nostalgia from their

childhoods. People dressed in pink to the cinemas, rewatched the animated *Barbie* films, and connected with others over the many relatable moments from the movie.

"Everybody knew what it was. A lot of people came together over it," **Kelly Lau** (12) shared. "I was working in an office over the summer, and the other people working there were all abuzz with it. By the end of the summer, everybody in the office had watched it and could talk about it together."

"The movie stood out; it generated a lot of attention and press," **Ms. Lemmon** (LLC) said about the *Barbie* movie. "I really enjoyed the variety of commentary it made on society and being a woman. It was absolutely well cast too. I think all the actors did a fantastic job."

Ms. Lemmon shared her thoughts on the movie's possible long-term success as well. "I definitely think it could become a classic. It's funny and creative, and resonated with a wide range of audiences in different

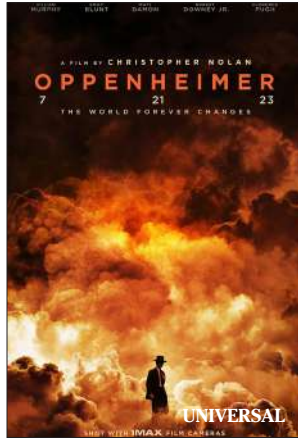


Above: Official movie posters used in the promotion of *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*

ways," she said. "It's layered. It's complex. When the movie ended, I was still thinking about the different messages made throughout the film."

Contrarily, **Mack Dickson** (10) believes much of *Barbie*'s popularity can be credited to its online competition with *Oppenheimer*, and that it won't be as successful in the future. "It's been very heavily marketed, and its current popularity doesn't necessarily mean it'll go down as a classic," he explained. "The movie itself has some very good elements to it, but I don't think it was that amazing. What held it back for me was that I don't think it was paced very well."

Oppenheimer director, Christopher Nolan, explained how the film left people "absolutely devastated," providing them with a dynamic and captivating film. **Greta Gibbon** (11) watched both movies and said that she "liked *Oppenheimer* better, as I had more anticipation towards it." She also shared that the movie included



everything that she hoped for and admired in a film. "It was intense and thrilling. The music was incredible, which added to that," she said.

Despite this, she believes that *Barbie* had more of a cultural impact. "I just don't think younger generations could relate to *Oppenheimer* and analyze it the same way they could for *Barbie*," she shared. She mentioned that she believes *Barbie* could possibly become a classic "as a household name," due to its upbeat and fun nature with underlying messages. However, she thinks that "*Oppenheimer* has more potential to be critically acclaimed in the future."

Additionally, Gibbon was highly impressed by *Oppenheimer*'s cast, as she thought the characters were more intricate and actors more specific to their roles. On the contrary, while she described Margot Robbie as amazing, she believed that the "[*Barbie* cast] wasn't as specific; a lot of people could have played Barbie or Ken."

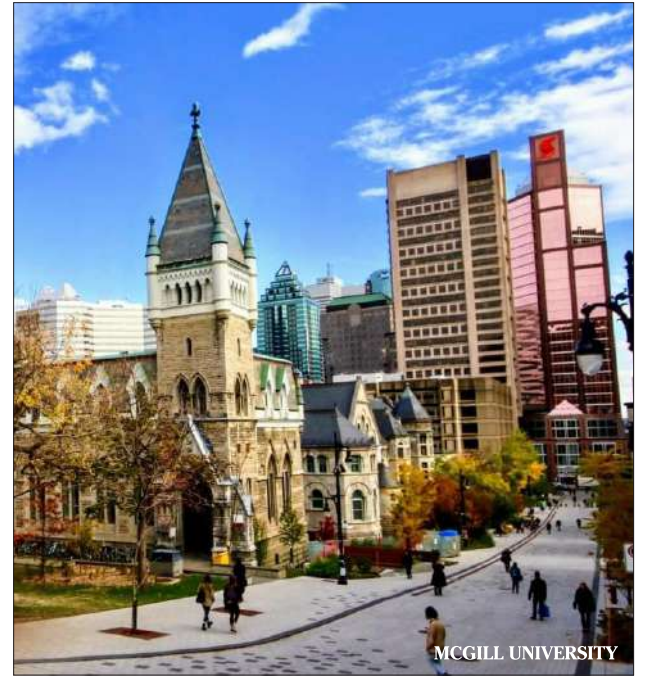
Zachary Bichin (10) preferred *Oppenheimer* as well. "I think it was put together much better in aspects of cinematography, casting, and performance," he explained. "I'm also Jewish, so I found myself relating to details of *Oppenheimer*." Bichin also thinks *Barbie* was overrated in comparison to *Oppenheimer*, as he had "very high expectations walking in." However, he later mentioned that he believes *Barbie* has more potential to become a classic due to its relevance and connection with a wider audience. "*Barbie* had more of a cultural impact."



UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Four Films You Should Watch this Fall

REVIEW by *Eloise Ramslie (11) & Teresa Deruchie (11)*

With Halloween and the middle of fall fast-approaching, school workloads are rising — and so are our cravings for seasonal films. When you want to take a break from that project you've been putting off, browse our selection of fall films that are perfect to curl up to and watch beside the fireplace — and excellent for scratching that autumn itch. There are laughs and scares for everyone.

The Blair Witch Project - Spooky

The Blair Witch Project has amassed a cult following due to its ingenious marketing tactics and use of first person perspective. This horror movie is recognized as a classic in the genre

and is the perfect film for the Halloween season. We follow a group of three film students deep into the Maryland woods to document the legend of the Blair Witch - an excursion that unexpectedly goes awry. Grab a friend, turn off the lights, and get ready for a hair-raising horror experience.

Fantastic Mr. Fox - Aesthetic

For orange sunbursts and turkey roasts, take a step into the world of Wes Anderson's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, the stunning stop-motion picture that looks and feels as though it's been put through a frame of amber. Set in the countryside of a fall dreamscape, a family of foxes finds themselves struggling to burrow out of the hole they've built their lives in. If you're

looking for a film that captures the essence of the harvest season, this one does so perfectly. Anderson gives us a golden family drama. Charming and eclectic, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* teaches the importance of gratitude. It warns against the dangers of going in over your head to prove yourself as worthy instead of having faith in yourself. If you watch this movie, the Thanksgiving season won't be the only thing making you emotional.

E.T. - Classic

If you're looking for a comfy classic, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* might be the most heart-warming watch to drop your textbooks for. It's got all the surefire elements: laughter, wonder, and tears. Set aside the creatures summoned when you hear 'Halloween,' and prepare to fall in love with E.T., the movie's endearingly charming alien. When the homesick intruder

finds himself in the Californian suburbs, he discovers an unlikely companion. With E.T., Steven Spielberg suggests that there isn't anything supernatural about friendship: humans and spacelings can care for one another the same as they do for their own kind. A pumpkin spice latte and E.T. might be your most delicious treat.

Little Women - Moving

Little Women, directed by one of Hollywood's biggest directors, is a feel good period film that has the perfect cozy fall mood. Greta Gerwig's genius in this film is present, spinning the original *Little Women* tale written by Louisa May Alcott into a relatable modern movie. It is on the longer side, with a run time of two hours and 15 minutes, but gives you plenty of time to cuddle up with a warm blanket and procrastinate on those assignments.



WILLSON WEBB/COLUMBIA PICTURES VIA THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



LIONSGATE VIA VANITY FAIR

STUDENTS' GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

NEWS REPORT by *Ally Freedman (11)*

Whether it's getting accepted to their dream university, taking a gap year, or just going with the flow, graduating Hamber students are eager for the future. When researching universities, many grade 12s are feeling scared and excited — applications can at times be overwhelming to handle.

Mary De Leon (12) agrees that the process is difficult and requires a clear

jevic (12) mentioned that the Career Life Connections (CLC) course is a well-organized, helpful guide to life after high school, especially when feeling overwhelmed and unsure.

Cassie Moore (12) and **Janelle Chan** (12) cope by spending time with friends and family and participating in self-care rituals.

The first step when applying is to research a program of interest. It is necessary to consider entrance requirements and budget. The Globe

Many grade 12s are feeling scared and excited — applications can at times be overwhelming to handle.

mindset. De Leon's advice is to remember that you are "going through the same, exact process alongside many students."

Students such as **Alison Olson** (12) and **Emily Vuong** (12) continue to enjoy life while still maintaining grades and handling their stress. Olson shared that "going to the school-wide post-secondary presentations throughout the school year is a great way to gain further insight."

When reflecting on how he alleviates the stress of university applications, **Petar Blago-**

and Mail suggests to start as soon as possible, be accurate and honest, as well as present a full academic history and accomplishments.

The next and final step in the application process is for you to indicate what kind of person you are and who you strive to be. According to UBC, "[t]his is your chance to tell us about the things that are important to you, your significant achievements, what you've learned from your experiences, and the challenges you've overcome." Good luck, grads!

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

HOW HAMBERITES ARE DEALING WITH INFLATION

NEWS REPORT by Darlene Soh (11)

As British Columbia grapples with inflation, many of Hamber's students have been affected, and their daily expenses have increased. Those who receive an allowance, or a part-time job, have found that their money goes less distance each month.

Mia Sutherland (11) feels the biggest impact of inflation when shopping for clothes and buying food. "I would rather go to Tim Hortons than McDonald's because the prices have gone up in fast food places," she explained. "I also look for discounted items when shopping and tend to buy it only if it's on sale."

In British Columbia, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 152.7 in September 2023, up 3.3 per cent from last year. At the top of the list is the percentage of food inflation.

"Food and going out with friends is so expensive, especially McDonald's inflation. In-

stead of eating at restaurants, I prefer to eat in or go to a friend's house when hanging out," said **Eunseol Kim** (11).

Shiloh Lum (11) opts to find her clothes at thrift shops, because of the high prices at her usual favourite stores. "Clothes cost an arm and a leg. I also buy less food outside. The prices are atrocious," she said.

Additionally, other essential items have gone up in price, which has prompted many students to reflect on everyday expenses. **Kaelyn Mak** (11) explained that gas prices have risen significantly, and she has begun noticing the cost more and more recently. "I do a lot of sports, so I get driven to many places. The gas prices that come with that aren't great," Mak said.

Countless businesses and individuals continue to encounter challenges due to the cost of living crisis. *CTV News* reported that the most significant struggles in the face of inflation are housing and rental

prices. Many BC residents are worried about whether or not they can pay their rent, and still have enough money left over for other recreational or unavoidable monthly expenses. As our province adjusts to new prices for everyday items, Hamber students must also account for these changes, whether it be at vending machines, clothing stores, or their favourite restaurants.

As inflation affects student life, Hamberites have one goal in common: spend less and save more.



THE GLOBE AND MAIL



YEARBOOK ARCHIVES



TEAGAN NICHOL



KATJA RADOVIC JONSSON

HAMBER'S NEW SCHOOL OPENING DELAYED TO NEXT YEAR

NEWS REPORT by Anthony Lu (12)

Though the new school is on track to be completed February 2024, students and teachers will no longer move into the new building at the beginning of second semester. The big move will be delayed until the 2024-2025 school year, according to a recent parent newsletter and message to staff.

The new school was originally supposed to be finished by September 2023, and the move into the new school was expected to be that same month. But earlier this year, the completion and move-in times were delayed to February 2024.

"I understand there's a variety of process pieces that need to happen at that standpoint [after construction is complete] just before we start moving into the new school," said **Ms. M. Jensen** (Administration). She remarked that, after its completion, the school still needed to pass inspections and receive permits.

Ms. Jensen is eagerly looking forward to the completion of the new school. "With the timeline, it's been a number of circumstances, but to have the new school substantially com-

pleted in or around February is significant. We're very excited about it," she said.

Right now, the west side of the school is mostly finished. Ms. Jensen was pleased to say that the interior of the gym is now visible from Oak Street and suggested that students check for themselves.

But the east side of the school, which has many art classrooms, is still being built. "[Construction workers are] putting the finishing touches on the visual arts classrooms and all of the music classrooms. I saw the auditorium taking shape."

Ms. Jensen hopes that the Hamber community can move into the new school right at the beginning of the next school year. "While we're finishing off the school year in this physical form, we'll be talking about what that transition is going to look like ahead of whatever the first day of school is for next September," she explained. "We'll need to, or else that's too much information for students and staff to process."

The company currently working on the construction of the new school is KMBR Architects and Planners. According to their website, the Hamber community will be moving to a "new, modern, four-storey

school building".

The new school will include "37 general instruction classrooms, ten science classrooms, various learning spaces, a library, administrative offices, a multi-purpose room, a large common space, technology education shops, a 350-seat auditorium, three music rooms, and two connected gymnasiums (one double gym plus single practice gym) with changing and storage rooms, dance studio, weight room and health & fitness lab." The building will have a maximum capacity of 1,700 students and 120 staff members.

The new school will additionally be used as a childcare facility "serving four age groups located on the roof of the school, with separate access from the rest of the school, and an outdoor rooftop play area." This facility will have a maximum capacity of 69 children.

Students and teachers have long been anticipating the move. Since the provincial government announced the construction in 2018, the Hamber community has been keenly aware of the progress of the new building. Come September 2024, Hamberites may no longer be looking at the new school from the outside in.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN: HAMBER'S FALL SPORTS UPDATE

NEWS REPORT by Mila Geisel (11)

Fall sports seasons have been in full swing since the school year started. Hamber's volleyball, cross country, aquatic teams, boys soccer, and girls field hockey teams have been fighting for dominance across the city.

As teams head into later stages of their seasons, they have been vying for the opportunity to come out on top. **Sierra Olak** (11), a senior girls field hockey player, is "excited for playoffs, which are happening towards the end of October." With five wins in five games and ten points total, the undefeated team is at the top of their group's standings.

According to Vancouver Secondary School Athletics

Association (VSSAA) statistics, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary and Kitsilano Secondary will be close competitors to Hamber's team, giving them a challenge in playoffs this year. "We are capable of beating them, but they are definitely going to make it tough for us — especially Churchill," Olak said.

"We get to play the teams on the west side, who have players that play on Metro and BCSP," said senior boys soccer striker **Kaito Nomura** (12). "That will be our biggest challenge, so I'm excited about that."

The Senior Boys are currently third in the East Vancouver bracket — just behind Templeton Secondary and Vancouver Technical Secondary.

"I was most excited to play with my grade 12 friends," said senior girls volleyball player **Kaelyn Mak** (11). "This is really the only chance we have to play together, and it's been really fun." The team's recent accomplishments include an exciting third place finish at the annual Prince of Wales cake tournament.

"[The season] is going pretty well. I'm getting a lot of playing time, and everyone on the team is very supportive," said **Kaylen Yip** (10), who is on the senior boys volleyball team. Like other Hamber athletes, Yip is excited about going to other cities and getting the opportunity to play in the finals. He added that the team has adjusted well to playing with one another, and has so far been undefeated.



SERENA WANG



TEAGAN NICHOL

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

SIX NEW VANCOUVER RESTAURANTS ADDED TO MICHELIN GUIDE

NEWS REPORT by Elle Glen (10)

The French tire company Michelin published their first red restaurant guide in 1900. It has become a widely recognized and revered marker of restaurant quality, whose scope of influence only continues to grow as it expands around the world. The five universal criteria are using quality products, mastery of flavour and cooking techniques, personality of chef in the cuisine, the value for money, and the consistency of the food.

While being featured in the Michelin Guide is already an honour, there are three additional awards restaurants can receive: the Michelin star, which is awarded to unique restaurants that push boundaries and innovate new dishes, presentation and culinary techniques; the Bib Gourmand, which is given to restaurants that provide good service and excellent food for a more affordable price; and the Green Star, which is given to restaurants that apply sustainable practices to their cooking. Currently, there are nine restaurants in Vancouver with a Michelin star. Additionally, there are 17 restaurants with a Bib Gourmand award.

The first Canadian Michelin Guide was published in 2022, starting with award ceremonies in Toronto, with Vancouver following soon after. In September, six new Vancouver restaurants were added to the guide, rounding up the number of featured restaurants from our city to 78. These six recent additions are summarized and reviewed below. Bon Appétit!

Wildlight Kitchen + Bar
Cuisine: West Coast
Price: \$\$ - \$\$\$
5380 University Blvd #107

The Story:

Having just opened its doors in early 2023, Wildlight Kitchen and Bar is already turning heads with its innovative use of local ingredients like Pacific salmon and produce from a neighbouring UBC farm. At Wildlight, British Columbian chef Warren Chow celebrates the culinary elements of the West Coast, highlighting foods found in the Vancouver region as well as the food culture of the Musqueam peoples, upon whose land their restaurant is located. The Wildlight team believes that “the West Coast of Canada is a place like no other,” according to their website. Located at UBC, the restaurant blends clean modern lines with wooden details to create an open and uplifting atmosphere. It is a great place to check out for lunch, but can get quite expensive for larger meals.

Food to Try:

Crispy tofu bowl: a perfect (and cheap) way to start your meal at Wildlight. With heavy notes of umami and integration of fresh flavours like the chilli garlic salt and produce, this bowl incorporates west coast flavours while creating a balance of spicy, sweet and salty.

Sundried Tomato flatbread: this side, which is topped with pesto, bocconcini and confit garlic, uniquely integrates fresh flavours into an Italian classic.

Seasonal risotto: currently features sweet creamed corn, tangy brown butter gremolata, shishito peppers and is topped with grilled sweet corn and sharp roasted parmesan crisps. This dish incorporates in-season produce with warming risotto and parmesan to create a perfect dinner on a cold night.

Lemon tart: an airy dessert served with torched meringue and macerated berries.

Pink guava cheesecake: this cheesecake takes the musky underappreciated guava fruit and pairs it with a toasted almond crumble and berries for a perfect touch of sweetness.

Tetsu Sushi Bar
Cuisine: Japanese
Price: \$\$\$\$

775 Denman St

The Story:

This 12 seat restaurant puts the spotlight on Japanese flavours to modernise traditional classics. Due to the size and limited capacity, the restaurant offers an intimate experience made better by the quality of the interiors and the food, which are mainly imported from Japan. However, due to the high prices and reservation fee of \$198-220 per person, as well as the current number of reservations, this restaurant may not be as accessible for Hamber students.

Food to Try:

The Omakase menu: a unique five course meal which includes 5-6 seasonal appetisers, chawanmushi: a

steamed egg custard, 13 pieces of sushi, and Tamago: an omelette dish and a special dessert.

The à la carte menu: currently features an array of appetisers, fish, noodles, sushi and desserts, all for individual purchase. From the à la carte menu, crowd favourites include the chawanmushi, a steamed egg topped with a seasonal savoury, the udon noodles, the assortment of nigiri sushi and the creamy white coffee pudding.

Moltaqa
Cuisine: Moroccan
Price: \$\$\$
1002 Mainland St

The Story:

Dining here is an experience that whisks you away, and it all starts with the sweet mint tea, which is a must-have upon arrival. The concept of this restaurant is to create a place for people to connect over the unique and diverse Moroccan cuisine, giving diners a snapshot of the culture and heritage through the food. This restaurant's success is also important to their mission, as there are few Moroccan restaurants in Vancouver, and now that it has been added to the Michelin Guide, more people will have the chance to explore the cuisine. This intimate restaurant has an aromatic ambience with its use of rich colours; the decor, like the carpets, paintings, candles and upholstery, really adds to the atmosphere. Authentic use of spices and textures make the semi-expensive prices worth every bite!

Food to try:

The zalouk eggplant and pepper stew: very smoky and sharp with the powerful flavour of eggplant, and notes of robust roasted pepper.

Saffron rice: No matter what you order, it has to be accompanied by this rich delicacy with hints of sweetness from currants and peas.

The sampler platter: Also a great way to try different dishes, although the price goes up to around \$35 for two to four people.

Baklava or the snake cake: After dinner, you can't leave without trying this. Although there are many variations of baklava in different cuisines, the Moroccan treat takes inspiration from the Arabic variety, which features pistachio and walnut flavours.

Boulevard Kitchen & Oyster Bar
Cuisine: Seafood
Price: \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
845 Burrard St

The Story:

This restaurant, a hidden gem nestled beside the Sutton hotel, integrates local and international flavours to create an elevated dining experience. Its interior takes inspiration from European bistros while adding a contemporary flare with use of marble, dark panelling and gold accents. Despite this, it still manages to create a warm ambience that is inviting and intimate. The cuisine at Boulevard Kitchen & Oyster Bar focuses on seafood and is best known for their seafood tower which features tuna, mussels, crab and prawns and costs \$79 for two. If you can't imagine yourself splurging on a main, then take advantage of their unique desserts, like the pumpkin vacherin, showing pastry chef's Kenta Takahashi's brilliance.

Food to Try:

The fall harvest salad: a power-



Vancouver's Annual Aritzia Warehouse Sale

NEWS REPORT by Helena Flach (9) & Maggie Perreault (9)

Every summer, Aritzia's Warehouse Sale in Vancouver gathers a large crowd. According to Aritzia's spokesperson, Barbara Nguyen-Willeford, the 2022 sale brought in almost 100,000 shoppers. This year's Warehouse Sale was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4.

Though the doors opened at 7:00 AM, hundreds of people showed up to wait in line well before then. According to *The Globe and Mail*, by 6:00 AM, the lines had already wrapped around the building.

“Me and my friend woke up at 5:00 AM, bussed down to the sale, and got there at 6:30 AM,” shared **Mia Nikkinen** (9), who went to the sale. “We waited in line for around two hours.”

The inventory included a wide variety of clothing from TNA, Wilfred, Baba-

ton, and Aritzia. All items were discounted at 50 to 90 per cent off their original prices. For example, a long sleeve shirt regularly priced at \$40 was priced at \$19.99 at the Warehouse Sale.

This event took around 1,300 staff members. **Sahar Khalid** (12), worked at the public event from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. The sale could get a bit hectic, with people searching for items, since there was no guarantee that certain items would be restocked throughout the day. “The event was very well organized,” Khalid said. “This organization only lasted the first two days, though. By the third day, things were on the floor.”

Superpuff coats, one of Aritzia's most popular items, were highly sought after during the sale. “After the initial stock sold out, we had a few racks in the back, and when we would take them out there would be a whole crowd waiting for them and they would all be gone within seconds,” Khalid recalls.

158 Unmarked Graves found in Mission BC

NEWS REPORT by Helena Flach (9), Evin Jaaf (9), Brook Nichol (9) & Maggie Perreault (9)

On Sept. 21, 158 unmarked graves were found at St. Mary's Residential School in Mission B.C. The graves were found as part of the 3-year plan declared by the Stó:lō Nation at the beginning of December 2021 to search for possible grave sites in Fraser Valley.

The residential school program was a part of the Indian Act which removed children as young as four away from their families and cultures, leaving children isolated from their Indigenous traditions. The schools operated in Canada from 1831 to 1996, with approximately 150,000 children attending them, according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

To this day, the children of residential survivors grapple with distant parents and isolation from their cultures and communities.

However, many residential school students did not survive these institutions. A significant number of children were buried in mass grave sites located near the schools. “It is a great open secret that our children lie on the properties of the former schools,” said Sol Mamakwa, an Indigenous member of the Ontario legislature.

Historical records from the Stó:lō nation state that the St. Mary's site is the burial place of Indigenous children from four institutions: three residential schools and one hospital. There are 37 children who died at Coqualeetza Industrial Institute/Residential School in Chilliwack, five from All Hallow School in Yale, 96 children from Coqualeetza Indian Hospital, and 20 from St. Mary's Residential School. A large majority of the children are assumed to have died from illnesses such as tuberculosis and pneumonia.

“The heaviness of the work today cannot be summed into words,” Chief David Jimmie, president of the Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council, told *CBC News*.

St. Mary's Residential School was opened in 1867 in the Fraser Valley by

the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In its early days, the school was run by the Catholic Church, where punishment was more lenient; once it had joined the federal residential school system in 1961, the use of corporal punishment increased. The institution closed in 1984, and was the last residential school to close in BC. According to the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), there were 22 documented deaths at the institution, most of which occurred after 1961.

The graves were found using ground penetrating radar (GPR). GPR sends electromagnetic waves into the earth to survey what's under the surface, collecting data about the subsurface from reflected wavelengths. It can tell the difference between the reflected wavelengths of two individual materials, and is commonly used to detect air pockets, pipes, rocks and obstacles. This approach does not break the ground and is considered to be less intrusive than other methods.

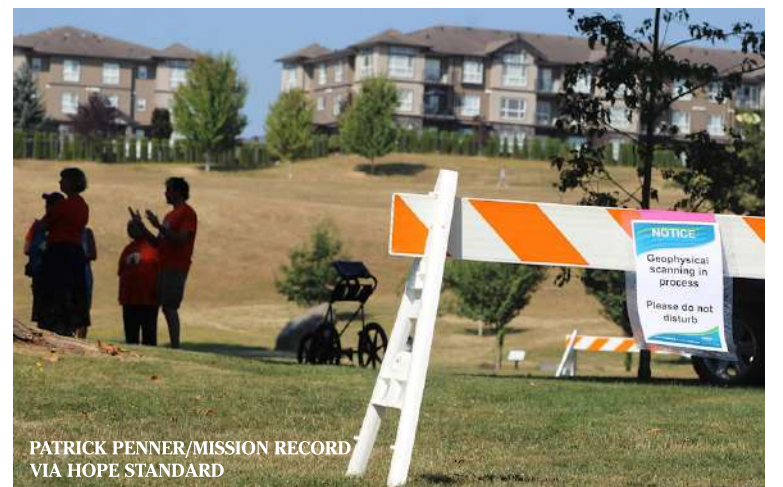
In an interview with *Global News*, researcher Dr. David Schaepe described St. Mary's Residential School as a place of punishment, starvation, abuse, intentional confinement and child labour. Survivors of St. Mary's continue to live with the trauma of their experiences at the school.

Cyril Pierre, 68, is a survivor of St. Mary's, is still upset about the residential schools, but also the injustice that followed the school's closure. When speaking to *CBC*, he said, “We got sentenced to life, the predators got away with a couple, or a few years. They call that justice? Nah, not by a long shot.”

“Now it hurts – when they found those bodies, it hurt even more,” said Victor Underwood in an interview for *Saanich News*. Underwood was taken from his family and endured many of the horrors of residential schools, including having all of his teeth removed without anesthetic as practice for a dental student while at the school.

Ralph Leon, another St. Mary's survivor, stated during his visit to the school for *APTN News* that “no amount of money, no counselor could ever take that away from my mind because it's always going to be there.”

The discovery is painful for the Stó:lō Nation. “We're on a journey to confirming the truth that we carry in our DNA. We're on a journey to discover facts about what we have already heard from our great grandparents, our grandparents, past chiefs and leaders, about what took place in residential schools,” said Stó:lō Grand Chief Doug Kelly. “We know, in [our hearts], that some of those children never made it home.”



VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

ful side dish filled with complementing fall flavours like smoky bartlett pear, nutty celery root and rich kale, accompanied with other flavours like truffle manchego. This is a perfect way to embrace fall, and to eat at Boulevard on a budget.

House sourdough: served with balsamic, olive oil and truffle cream, which elevates this simple classic.

The pumpkin vacherin: an elegant pumpkin meringue made of panna cotta and topped with kabocha squash, pumpkin crema and tea ice cream. This dessert is so perfect for autumn, and its use of innovative flavours bring out the sweetness in the squash.

Seaport City Seafood

Cuisine: Chinese
Price: \$\$\$
2425 Cambie St

The Story:

Nestled just off the corner of Cambie and Broadway, Seaport City Seafood could be from any big city, as its service, decor and cuisine radiate sophistication. Having taken over an old Milestones location, the space has been completely transformed by the vision of the staff. While the old restaurant was dark, Seaport City has contemporary interiors with eye-catching light fixtures and elevated open concept dining areas. The food itself varies in portion size, but the quality and artful presentation stays consistent throughout the menu. For Hamberites, I would recommend stopping by for a light meal or dessert, for an opportunity to try new foods, while still keeping the bill within double digits!

Food to Try:

Tofu with preserved egg: an innovative dish.
Shredded tofu: accompanied by

dried shrimp pot.

Sauteed lamb with scallions: a hearty meat dish.

Green bean jelly: served in chilli sauce.

Almond milk egg whites: made with fresh almond milk and served with mochi dumplings.

Elisa

Cuisine: Steakhouse
Price: \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
1109 Hamilton St

The Story:

Elisa, fine dining group Toptable's newest addition, "resets the table of what a modern steakhouse experience feels and tastes like," according to Michael Doyle, Toptable group's president. Its interiors balance both rich colours with light intricate decor to create an elevated experience that radiates that aura of fine dining. Sadly, the prices (\$15-\$30 for a side, \$55-\$225 for a steak, and \$30-\$100 for a main) also reflect the class and elegance of this Yaletown restaurant, so it may not be as accessible to Hamber students.

Food to Try:

The giant white bean and vegetable soup: For a filling and warming starter, which has simmered root vegetables, brassicas, rosemary and sourdough croutons, this soup is a perfect option for fall.

The brussel sprouts: fried and topped with brown butter and parmesan, are such a crowd pleaser!

The roasted potatoes: topped with herbs, are perfect sides and are a good size for a lunch serving.

The baked Alaska: incorporates rich flavours like caramelised banana rum ice cream and the peanut butter crèmeux, with the sweetness in the browned butter cake and the banana purée.



TWO INDIGENOUS GROUPS CLOSE JOFFRE LAKES PARK

NEWS REPORT by Salena Sharma (10)

In late August 2023, the Lil'wat and N'Quatqua First Nations group closed Joffre Lakes Park to conduct Indigenous ceremonies and traditions. Immediately after the park closed, the provincial government sought an agreement with the two groups regarding land sharing. The two First Nations groups announced that they were utilizing their rights to the shared unceded territory. They were taking time to harvest, hunt, gather resources in the park, and engage in cultural activities — which they had not been able to do so for a while due to a lack of communication from the provincial government.

Joffre Lakes Park, whose Indigenous name is Pipi7iekw, is located near Pemberton, British Columbia. It is a well-known tourist attraction with camping sites, as well as hiking and

mountaineering locations. According to the BC Parks website, it was established as a recreation area in 1988 and became a Class A park in 1996. BC Parks defines Class A parks as lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for public use and enjoyment.

According to *CBC*, Joffre Lake has become more well-known over the past decade. In 2019, more than 196,000 people visited the park — three times the number of people who visited in 2010. Due to the extreme increase in visitors, the park has repeatedly been left in poor condition, preventing members of the Lil'wat and N'Quatqua Nations from spending time on the site.

As tourist and visitor rates skyrocketed, the two First Nations groups sought meetings with the Parks Board, but the board never fully made efforts to work with them, the chief of the Lil'wat First Nation, Dean Nelson, com-

mented to *CTV News*. The groups were still making requests in August. After they received no response from the Board, the two groups announced the park's closure, giving less than a day's notice. "We need to be heard. Now we have their attention," Nelson said.

An agreement to reopen the park came about on Sept. 19. The park was later closed on Sept. 30 for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Environment Minister George Heyman told *CBC* that the government wants to work with the First Nations groups to make sure they have a place to conduct their cultural activities, while also giving the public access in a responsible and sustainable manner.

In late August and early September, the Parks Board notified people with camping bookings and day passes to cancel their plans. Following the closure, the ministry issued a statement apologizing for the inconvenience.

CTV also reports that the province claimed to be "formally engaging" with the First Nations groups since December 2018 regarding park and visitor-use management.

BC Green Party MLA Adam Olsen spoke to the *Indigenous Watchdog* on the negative consequences for First



Nations groups regarding the closure. "The result of government not responding to meeting requests is [unexpected park closures]. Then the public gets frustrated with First Nations. Really, I think that the frustration is with a governing body that's not responsive." He further added that the actions by the Indigenous groups also demonstrate the lack of communication between the government and the First Nations.

Hugh Braker, a lawyer and member of the First Nations Summit, told *Indigenous Watchdog* that treaties are crucial to accommodating Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia. However, it is unclear wheth-

er treaties regarding park access will be made with the two First Nations groups.

Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Murray Rankin explained in a provincial statement that "the [p]rovince is working hard to negotiate new forms of decision making and partnership with First Nations, whether through the treaty process, through reconciliation agreements or by means of other constructive arrangements." The statement also shared that the nations and the province are to continue working on plans for the park in terms of access, management, and cultural protection before the camping season starts next year.

Three People Stabbed at Festival in Chinatown

NEWS REPORT by Kaya Mew (8) & Leah Levine (8)

Around 6:00 PM on Sept. 10, 2023, a stabbing incident occurred at Vancouver's Light Up Chinatown Festival. The incident left three festival-goers injured.

The victims included a man and a woman in their 60s from Burnaby, as well as a woman in her early 20s from Vancouver. All three received serious, but non-life-threatening, injuries. The suspect, 64-year-old Blair Evan Donnelly, was arrested just minutes after the attack. The Vancouver Police has stated that the assaults were carried out by a stranger who had no association with the victims.

According to *Global News*, in November 2006, Donnelly stabbed his

16-year-old daughter. During the court proceedings against him, he claimed to have received instructions from God to commit this act against his daughter. He was eventually declared medically unfit and was confined at Colony Farm, a renowned forensic psychiatric hospital in Port Coquitlam, for a period of time.

Donnelly displayed psychotic symptoms, having received a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. He has previously struggled with substance abuse, which is currently in remission. Documents from April obtained by *Global News* from the British Columbia Review Board described Donnelly as "a significant threat" with a "high risk of relapsing". The review board found that the only suitable placement for Donnelly would be in a hospital, to en-

sure sufficient monitoring. On the day of the stabbing, Donnelly was granted an unsupervised day pass. The reasoning behind this day pass remains unclear.

In 2009, another undisclosed case sent Donnelly back to court. A 2011 report by the *Vancouver Sun* highlighted that Donnelly had been granted unsupervised community visits of up to 28 days, during which he stabbed a friend. Other cases involved Donnelly stabbing a man and assaulting another patient with a butter knife.

An active investigation is underway. But the motive behind the Sept. 10 incident remains a mystery. Given that all the victims were Asian, Chief Constable Adam Palmer of the Vancouver Police Department has not ruled out the possibility of a hate



crime, since there has been a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Light Up Chinatown Festival was meant to be a celebration of the vibrant community, drawing tens of

thousands of attendees. Festival organizers expressed their shock and devastation over the attack. They emphasized that it was an event designed to bring the community together and showcase Chinatown's progress.

CONDO PLANS FOR 105 KEEFER STREET, CHINATOWN, CAUSES UPROAR AMONG LOCALS

NEWS REPORT by Kaeli Siu Narlin (9)

In Chinatown, construction company Beedie Living is pushing for a condominium project that has been met with protest from local residents.

This is the sixth time the plan is on the table to be considered by the Vancouver Development Permit Board; the last time it was rejected was in 2017. This past December, Beedie claimed that the Permit Board denied their plan unfairly, acting in bad faith. A judge dismissed these ideas but wrote that he did believe the Permit Board's reasoning for denial was poor. He ordered the board to reconsider.

One of the earlier plans included 25 units of social housing, with more floors than the new plan. The new proposal is a nine-storey condo, complete with a seniors' cultural space, a street-level retail space, and three levels of underground parking. The 105 Keefer Street plan is to be built on a long-vacant parking lot that has been owned by Beedie Living for ten years. The property is the "most important site in Chinatown," community advocate Fred Mah told the *Vancouver Sun*.

Those who are opposed to the 105 Keefer Street project believe that the condominium would be out of place in Chinatown and clash with its character. Additionally, the 111 units of housing would be set at market price — which they say is much too expensive for the locals, especially seniors. This plan would also speed up the community's gentrification. It is unlikely to help Chinatown's recent surge of trouble, which is caused by different problems, including COVID-19, racism, and crime.

On the other hand, the president of Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Area, (BIA), Jordan Eng, told *Global News*: "There's no displacement of current residents, it's been a vacant parking lot for 50 years. It's part of keeping the neighbourhood alive and vibrant and active."

CBC News reported that the Vancouver Development Permit Board would allow the project if the project fulfilled some conditions — including concealed machinery, outdoor seating, the involvement of Chinatown artists, and implements showcasing the cultural significance of nearby locations. Andrea Law, a member of the Permit Board, thinks that the plan should be accepted, but not until it's changed to address "the many concerns through conditions" and "the cultural fit in the neighbourhood," she said to *CBC News*.

The Vancouver Tenants Union (VTU) is also opposed to the project.

Jade Ho, an organizer with the VTU, remarked that this change will "exacerbate gentrification in a neighbourhood that is already increasingly unavailable for low-income seniors and residents."

Though she doesn't live in Chinatown, Ho said that she keeps in close contact with its residents. "We do exist, we live here, and we want to thrive with the rest of the neighbourhood," she declared to *Global News*. The VTU also claims that Beedie bribed the Supreme Court to have the Vancouver Development Permit Board reconsider.

In June, the VTU wrote a strongly worded article stating that Beedie "demonstrated his ill-gained power and contempt for the poor by purchasing a reversal of the 2017 ruling from the highest court". They wrote that, by turning a blind eye toward financially-low Chinese immigrants, Beedie was contributing to racism and prejudice.

Lily Tang, an 80-year-old Chinatown resident, opposes the project. She spoke to CBC in Cantonese, saying, "We are not against constructing this building, but it's looking at our needs." Her husband, Kim Tang added, "I want them to respect Chinatown,

our ancestors, and their blood and sweat so they can rest in peace."

On the other hand, Beedie managing partner Rob Fiorento said that the 105 Keefer condo would help to restore Chinatown's success. According to him, the company will "remain committed to working with [their] neighbours and community partners on a safe and vibrant Chinatown."

BIA President Jordan Eng claims that the majority of Chinatown's residents and stakeholders are for the condo plan. To support Eng's assertions, Beedie commissioned a poll on the opinions of Chinese speakers in Vancouver and the riding containing 105 Keefer Street. Only eight per cent of respondents had heard of the controversy at all; of those, 43 per cent supported the proposal, 17 per cent of people were opposed, 22 per cent had mixed feelings on the subject, and 18 per cent said that they did not know.

However, when Vancouver City Hall hosted another public meeting, the vast majority of attendees were opposed to the idea of the new condo. Similarly, when the Vancouver Development Permit Board met on May 22, most people in attendance were opposed as well.



BEN NELMS/CBC



SDC VIA VANCOUVER SUN

ALARMING TRENDS IN EXCLUSION DISCOVERED BY BCEDACCESS EXCLUSION TRACKER

NEWS ANALYSIS by Malena Brewer (12)

In 2022 – 2023, the Exclusion Tracker was released by the BCedAccess Society, a charity that serves families of students with disabilities. The Exclusion Tracker was created to monitor the rate of exclusion and discrimination towards disabled children within classrooms, and has shown a staggering rise in these issues throughout the district by both teachers and students. BCedAccess explains that the report "aims to shed light on the ongoing barriers to equitable access to education experienced by [disabled] students, emphasizing the urgency for systemic change."

The number of general respondents to the survey, which totals to 406 people, has remained practically unchanged from previous years. Howev-

er, the amount of student responses has increased significantly since last year, for a total of 70 student respondents. In this survey, it was revealed that there have been almost 6,000 incidents of exclusion across the district.

Of these reports, 84 have revealed instances of students being restrained or secluded from other classmates, making up 18 per cent of the total reports. Restraint and seclusion is defined in the report as "practices where students, particularly those with disabilities, are physically restrained and/or isolated in a separate space." The report found "no measurable improvement" in the frequency of these situations.

Such cases can result in long-term mental health struggles, such as anxiety, PTSD, and depression. These experiences can seriously affect both parents' and children's trust in teach-

ers and the school board. Some reports have shown that when families attempt to stand against this treatment of their children, it can result in hostility from staff, preventing their child from attending school, and, in some cases, calling the police.

There are also many reports of nurses or health staff being unqualified to aid children with disabilities, leading to some kids not being allowed to attend school. At one point, Nursing Support Services (NSS) announced that children prone to seizures would not be allowed to bring their medication to school if a year had passed without them needing it. This was revoked in October 2022 due to major outcry from parents.

Another reason for exclusion within classrooms is staff shortages and a suspected gap with the training of Education Assistants (EAs). 58.5 per cent



JOSHUA BERSON/THE TYEE

2023 Sets Wildfire Records

NEWS REPORT by Alexandra Chow (12)

In 2023, British Columbia experienced its worst wildfire season in history. This season saw 2,229 wildfires, burning almost 25,000 square kilometers, according to the BC Wildfire Service. This surpasses 2018, the most severe year of wildfires prior to 2023, by more than 9,000 square kilometers. As of Oct. 12, there were 318 wildfires still active.

According to Marc-André Parisien, a research scientist in Edmonton, BC's wildfire crisis has arrived 20 to 30 years earlier than model projections suggested.

There are multiple reasons for this increase in wildfires. Lori Daniels, a professor at the University of British Columbia in the Department of Forestry and Conservation Sciences, explained that climate change and current forest management practices have created a favourable landscape for growing fires. BC's hot, dry, and windy conditions also promote intense, fast-spreading fires.

This surge in wildfires has cost the BC government \$770 million as of Sept. 27. The total projected cost for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$966 million, compared to \$649 million spent in 2017. The BC government also stated that the costs to fight wildfires led to an added \$2.5 billion to their projected deficit for the fiscal year.

"Society is already paying a huge cost for these climate change-fuelled fires," said Daniels. "[But] the thing we can control in the short term is the vulnerability of the landscape."

Reducing wildfire vulnerability involves changing how the landscape is managed, moving away from prioritizing conifers, and increasing prescribed burning. Since the mid-2000s, broadleaf forests have been logged for use as herbicides. However, removing them has prioritized conifers. This has increased the intensity of wildfires because coniferous forests burn more intensely. Prescribed burning is a planned, intentional fire on a specific area to enhance habitats, prepare for tree planting, or eradicate disease. These fires help prevent larger wildfires by replacing them with planned, smaller, and more frequent fires.

The Fort Nelson community in

northeastern BC was hit the hardest by wildfire smoke. The nearby Donnie Creek wildfire, BC's largest recorded wildfire, was the main reason for this. It burned nearly 6,000 square kilometres of forest — an area land that is larger than the province of Prince Edward Island. The Fort Nelson community experienced 1,054 hours of smoke from May to October, compared to the 26 hours it experienced in 2022, according to meteorologist Alyssa Charbonneau from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

"The amount of smoke this summer varied quite a bit across the province. The northeast was the hardest hit area," Charbonneau also said. The Peace River and Prince George areas had over 70 days of air quality alerts, and the South Thompson and Okanagan area had 50 to 59 days. Due to their proximity to water, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland were the least affected, with five to 19 days of air quality alerts.

Dr. Emily Brigham, an assistant professor of medicine at UBC, explained that wildfire smoke happens concurrently with extreme heat, which augments concerns for asthma patients. With wildfires becoming more common, she recommended communities consider how they will protect their most vulnerable citizens. People most at risk are those with health conditions, children, infants, pregnant people, and seniors.

Potential steps of action include identifying and creating safe spaces with HEPA air filters, as well as creating community check-in services. At the household level, Brigham recommended refraining from frying or charring food and using candles during times of increased smoke, since these activities put more particulate matter into the air.

Brigham also emphasized that anyone can be affected by the smoke. Symptoms include burning eyes, a runny nose, sneezing, coughing, shortness of breath, headaches, and more. People who experience these symptoms should find somewhere to get clean air or wear an N95 respirator outdoors. As well, while the long-term effects of high levels of air pollution are yet to be determined, health problems such as strokes, heart diseases, and respiratory diseases have shown to worsen as a result of air pollution.



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA CITY NEWS

of parents who completed a survey conducted by BCIT have reported that their child's EA was absent during moments of exclusion/discrimination in class. Another 29.8 per cent of parents have said that their child was never given access to support personnel in the first place. The standard of hiring for EAs has also been questioned, given that the training time of EAs can range from two years to only three weeks. This is difficult to change due to an existing shortage of staff.

Exclusion starts young — children

in kindergarten are the most likely to participate in it. Instances like those will cause parents to pull away their child from in-class schooling, and for the staff to encourage it. The report states that this could negatively impact a child's social development, which could lead to issues communicating with their peers in the future.

The VSB claims that they are doing their best to prevent further incidents of exclusion, seclusion, and restraint. However, at the moment, there has been very little improvement.

EDITORIAL

BILL C-18 IS STRANGLING CANADIAN JOURNALISM

EDITORIAL

As a reader of *The Nest*, you may have noticed that our Instagram account no longer shows any content. Nor, for that matter, does the account of any major Canadian news organization. This is because of legislation recently passed by Parliament.

On June 22, the *Online News Act*, or Bill C-18, was given royal assent in Canada. The legislation aims to financially rejuvenate what the Liberals have characterized as a faltering journalism industry. Brought forward by Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez, architect of the recently enacted *Online Streaming Act*, or Bill C-11, the law requires social media companies to negotiate monetary agreements with news organizations that display media on their sites. It continues a pattern of attempting to regulate the web with what are at best heavy-handed measures, and at worst fundamental misunderstandings of how the Internet works.

Under the new law, companies such as Google and Meta are expected to compensate Canadian newspapers for displaying links to their content on social media platforms. The result would have been Google and Meta paying over \$330 million to news publishers, according to estimates by the Parliamentary Budget Officer. The government has characterized the proposed payments from Meta and Google to news organizations as fair compensation for the news-related traffic that their social media sites receive due to posts from Canadian newspapers.

However, in response to Bill C-18, Meta has blocked all news content from Facebook and Instagram, accusing the Act of being based on the false pretense that they financially benefit from online news content. In actuality, the reverse is true — newspapers financially benefit from their links being posted on social media sites.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promptly denounced Meta's decision to remove Canadian news from its platforms. "It is so inconceivable that a company like Facebook is choosing to put corporate profits ahead of ensuring that local news organizations can get up to date information to Canadians," said Trudeau. "Facebook, if you're going to

be sharing [...] work done by Canadian journalists, [...] you have to make sure they're compensated," he said on Aug. 21.

This is a fundamental mischaracterization of the situation. The bill passed by Trudeau is ultimately what caused Meta's response. Regardless of whether Canadian journalists deserve to be compensated for links to their work on social media, the Trudeau government's attempt at legislation was a political miscalculation that has resulted in negative impacts for Canadians.

The Editorial Board recognizes the logic behind Meta's decision to block Canadian news outlets from their platforms. From a business perspective, there is no reason for Meta to acquiesce to Canadian demands for news funding. They will have greater financial success in other markets that do not impose such penalties, as few other modern, free democracies have laws similar to Bill C-18.

Moreover, it makes little sense for news organizations to be owed money for their presence on social media, when it is for the most part an aid to their business interests.

"News outlets themselves post their content on their platforms, and benefit greatly from increased traffic to their websites as a result," commented Senator Fabian Manning in a hearing of the Bill in June.

News organizations and social media have a symbiotic relationship: newspapers receive free advertising from links posted on social media, and social media companies have become one of the main sources for news consumption, generating more clicks and reaching wider audiences.

Manning then raised another question: if supporters of the Bill believe that the presence of news links on Canadian social media is harming news outlets, then why is it a problem if Meta removes them? "How do you say on [the] one hand," he inquired, "that they're doing something wrong by allowing the news links to be carried, and on the other hand say they're doing something wrong by not allowing them to be carried?"

Bill C-18 has spectacularly backfired. Meta and Google have essentially called the government's bluff by ban-

ning news content from their websites. While it is difficult to see how the Liberals did not see this coming, evidently it was not the expected outcome. Canadian access to news has been reduced. The readership of many newspapers in Canada will likely decrease due to a lack of engagement on social media. The very organizations the government had promised to help will be harmed.

When Meta blocked *The Nest's* Instagram account, we lost one of our most crucial platforms for communication to both our own reporters and the public. This has occurred despite the fact that *The Nest* is not eligible to be designated as a "news business" per the *Online News Act*. Although we do produce news content in Canada, we do not employ anyone, nor do we make any profit, as we are a high school club. Because of this, we would never be able to enter into a bargaining agreement with Meta or Google as Bill C-18 would require.

Although *The Nest* has been subjected to the *Online News Act* under false pretenses, the Editorial Board nonetheless opposes the legislation. Many Canadians, especially young people, receive their news solely from social media, and do not visit news sites themselves. As a student publication serving a primarily high school student-based audience, we have used our Instagram account as a means of communicating with our staff and the community. The shutdown of our Instagram account is a direct result of the Act, and as such, our editorial independence has been impeded upon and our ability to draw new viewers to our work has been reduced. We cannot overstate the importance of our online autonomy and the role it plays in our mission to amplify student voices.

Additionally, the upcoming removal of news links from Google's search features will thus decrease easy access to information for Canadians. The removal of news content from social media sites directly results in a less informed Canadian populace.

The Editorial Board calls upon Meta to improve their diagnostic process for accounts to be designated as "news businesses". Additionally, we call upon Parliament to repeal Bill C-18 and attempt to reverse the adverse effects it has had on Canadian journalism.

CANADA



DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS RISE FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION OF CANADIAN SIKH SEPARATIST LEADER

NEWS REPORT by Justin Chuk (11) & Ruby Ellermann (11)

On June 18, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh separatist leader, was shot in a car parked outside a Sikh temple in Surrey. Nijjar died on the scene after receiving several gunshot wounds.

The separatist leader, who became a Canadian citizen in 2007, rose to political prominence as an advocate for the creation of Khalistan, a proposed independent Sikh state in India. Indian authorities labelled Nijjar a terrorist in 2020. They accused him of leading the banned militant group, Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF). Nijjar additionally faced claims of operating training camps in British Columbia to prepare Khalistan supporters for potential attacks in India.

In a letter written to Trudeau regarding the allegations, Nijjar identified himself as a "Sikh nationalist who believes in and supports Sikhs' right to self-determination and independence of Indian occupied Punjab through a future referendum," but stated that he had "never believed in, supported or been involved in any violent activity."

The temple, Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara captured the mid-June shooting in its security footage. Gurkeerat Singh, a member of the congregation, was "told by the temple that the video is not for the media, the public, because it's an on-going investigation."

However, Singh had access to a clip of the footage. In the footage, Nijjar appeared to be blockaded by a white car in front of the temple before two men exit-

ed the vehicle and opened fire.

Shortly after Nijjar's death, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) linked Nijjar's assassination to Indian authorities who opposed the Khalistan separatist movement. But Trudeau went public with the denunciation only after India hosted the G20 summit in mid-September, claiming that "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations." Trudeau proceeded to emphasize "that all steps be taken to hold perpetrators of this murder to account."

Post-accusation, the Indian government denied playing any role in the assassination, and they cancelled visas for Canadians who wished to travel to India. In response, the Canadian government fired Ottawa's Indian Embassy Intelli-

gence chief, Pavan Kumar Rai. Talks for free trade deals stalled, and India requested the withdrawal of 41 Canadian diplomats. However, despite the ultimatum from New Delhi, the diplomats remained in India even as the early-October deadline passed.

Two weeks after potentially starting a diplomatic feud, Trudeau said that Canada "is not looking to escalate" the dispute, a claim made in contrast to the expulsion of Ottawa's Indian Embassy Intelligence Chief in September. As diplomatic relations with India remain uncertain, Canadian Senate Speaker Raymonde Gagné opted out of the P20 Summit hosted by India.

The Sikh community's concerns were already heightened after the death of a pro-Khalistan activist in the United

Kingdom. On June 15, just three days before Nijjar was shot, Avtar Singh Khanda, aged 35, died suddenly in a Birmingham hospital.

In response to the allegations against India, 100 protesters in Toronto set an Indian flag ablaze and struck a cardboard cutout of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a shoe. Meanwhile, British Sikhs have been urging Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to explain what steps the authorities will take to ensure the safety of "Sikh activists who may be under threat."

Australian foreign Minister Penny Wong's spokesperson affirmed that Australia is "deeply concerned by [the] allegations" and has "conveyed [their] concerns at senior levels to India." Other countries across the globe have remained silent on the matter.

So far, Canada has refused to publicly release any evidence on the assassination, but may eventually do so during a legal process.



CANADA'S THIRD NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

NEWS REPORT by Gina Hallensleben (12)

On Sept. 30, 2023, Canada observed its third National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The holiday, also known as Orange Shirt Day, honours both survivors of residential schools and those who were unable to come home.

The Indigenous Tourism BC website describes the holiday as "a day to call upon all of those who can effect change to take action to advance reconciliation in Canada."

Various events took place on Sept. 30 all over the country, including in the Greater Vancouver area. The Semiahmoo First Nation hosted their third annual Walk for Truth and Reconciliation in White Rock. Meanwhile, a traditional pipe ceremony was hosted in New Westminster.

In Vancouver, a march was held from Strathcona Community to Grandview Park, followed by a drum circle, craft circles, and dance performances. Jerilynn Snuxyaltwa Webster, a Nuxalk and Onondaga spoken word artist also known as "JB the First Lady", emceed the events. She proclaimed to the crowds that "we're here, coming to-

gether to heal, to uplift each other and share that medicine through songs, dances and ceremony." She also emphasized the importance of "reclaiming who we are and what colonization and residential schools took from our elders." The Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society also held a ceremony at Trout Lake featuring stories, drumming, and songs.

In Ottawa, a national ceremony took place on Parliament Hill. Algonquin Anishinaabe Elder Claudette Commanda said "without love, there's no healing," asking those across the country to "show that love to the survivors." Most of these events allowed anyone to participate.

The symbol of the orange shirt was initially adopted in May 2013 in Williams Lake, British Columbia, at an event organized by the St. Joseph Mission Commemoration Project and Reunion. The event, brought forward by residential school survivor and Esk'etemic Chief Fred Robbins, collectively honoured survivors, as well as aimed to help healing and meaningfully contribute to reconciliation.

At the Williams Lake event, former student Phyllis Webstad shared the story of her first day at residential school. She spoke about her excite-

ment for her first day of school and how her grandma had bought her a new orange shirt. "It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting — just how I felt to be going to school!"

When six-year-old Webstad arrived at school, the shirt was forcefully taken from her and she was not allowed to wear it again. "When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt!" recounted Webstad. "The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

Webstad's story became a global symbol for truth and reconciliation. Now, Sept. 30 is "a day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter", according to the Orange Shirt Society website. The national recognition of the Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important step in accomplishing the 94 Calls to Truth and Reconciliation.

"It's a tough day, because if you know an Indigenous person, their parent or their grandparent went to residential school," Webster told the CBC. "So it's important that we create a safe space."

New Brunswick Schools to Require Parental Consent for Student Name Changes

NEWS REPORT by Vlada Chanskikh (10)

Hundreds of students in New Brunswick are protesting the recently changed Policy 713, a policy which significantly affects queer students in schools across the province. The new changes ban teachers and staff from referring to students under 16 by their chosen name and pronouns without parental consent.

The law, originally intended to allow a student to use a different name at school, was constituted on Aug. 17, 2020 by the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The policy was revised in May 2023 upon request of Bill Hogan, the province's Minister of Education. This revision was approved by the New Brunswick Premier, Blaine Higgs, and Policy 713 was officially modified.

Many people in New Brunswick reacted negatively to the change, arguing that the policy is discriminatory against LGBTQ+ youth who are yet not comfortable coming out to their parents.

"These policies have a discriminatory impact on trans and gender-diverse students," Harini Sivalingam, director of equality programs at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, told CTV News. "For example, a cisgender student who wants to use a nickname doesn't need to seek parental consent, but a trans student would be required to. So this clearly has a discriminatory effect that will cause harm to trans students."

Along with concerned parents and

children, federal cabinet ministers have also sounded the alarm about New Brunswick's decision. According to CTV News, Marci Ien, minister for women, gender equality, and youth stated that the new policy puts transgender and non-binary kids in a "life-or-death situation."

Saskatchewan recently adopted a similar law to New Brunswick, which incited protests and rallies in support of LGBTQ+ students that have spread across the country. However, counter-protests sprung up as a result, which led to violent clashes between opposing groups. Significant gatherings came together in Halifax, Ottawa, Victoria and Vancouver, and multiple arrests were made.

According to CBC News, the Victoria police department advised people to avoid the legislature, stating that things had become "intense", and two counter-protesters were arrested in Ottawa for "inciting hatred" by "displaying hateful material".

Despite the public outrage opposing the new regulations, CTV News reported that Ontario education minister Stephen Lecce stated that parents should know if their child decides to change their preferred name at school.

Kelly Lamrock, a lawyer and political consultant, spoke out against the new change. Lamrock called the policy "overly discriminatory" and told CTV News that it "creates new human rights issues", as "the restrictions on the use of a child's preferred first name or pronoun targets LGBTQ students".

The Progressive Conservative government in New Brunswick has recently clarified specific aspects of the new policy, after a critical report from the province's child and youth advocate warned the changes could potentially violate children's rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Now, certain social workers, psychologists, and in-school professionals will be allowed to use non-binary or transgender student's preferred names without parental consent.



CANADA

PROTESTS OCCURRING FOR SOGI ACROSS CANADA

NEWS ANALYSIS by Mackenzie Chung (11)

In late September of this year, the Vancouver Art Gallery was used as a midway point between two crowds with drastically contrasting views surrounding the topic of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Protesters surrounded the north and south side of the building, one group advocating against queer — and more specifically, transgender — education within both elementary and secondary schools across the country. On the other side, counter-protestors argued for the safety and inclusion of LGBTQ+ presence in classrooms.

Extra police officers were assigned to the protest, Vancouver Police Department representative Sergeant Steve Addison explained in an email to the *Vancouver Sun*. Sergeant Addison said there were “no significant public safety issues” at the time of the event, except for one brief but violent altercation that broke out. No major injuries were cited, and one protester was arrested for breach of peace before being escorted off the premises.

Vancouver was not alone in this event, as over 63 counter protests were enacted as a result of a nationwide call to action against SOGI education in schools. Spearheaded by an organization named Hands Off Our Kids, protests in almost every major city across the country were carried out throughout the month of September.

SOGI is described by its leader of operations, Heather Vause, as “a set of tools and resources to help create safer and more inclusive schools for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.”

The initiatives that fall under this description vary on a school by school basis. The SOGI national website states that “each school district and independent school has the autonomy to set their own policies and procedures around SOGI education.”

While some districts may choose to directly invite SOGI workers to explicitly discuss information on LG-BTQ+ education, incorporating queer



DAISY XIONG/RICHMOND NEWS



LAUREN COLLINS/ROSSLAND NEWS

relationships in a story during English class might be the extent of how SOGI values might appear in a classroom.

The crux of the issue is the debate on whether topics of gender and sexuality have an appropriate place in classrooms.

Some in favour of abolishing SOGI education in schools argue that introduction of topics like the gender spectrum only works to confuse children who do not yet have the understanding

to grasp these concepts; however, for many students, being a queer person is already a reality. At a time where legislation is being introduced in provinces like Saskatchewan and New Brunswick requiring parental consent for transgender students to express their gender identity at school, the topic of education on queer topics is more prevalent than ever in Canada.

According to the Hands Off Our Kids website, the main goal of the

counter protests revolves around safeguarding youth from “gender ideology, teaching sexual indoctrination, exposure to explicit sexual content, and ensuring that parental consent remains paramount”. Protecting both religious and personal freedoms are the top priorities of the organization, and they believe that governments should not have a place introducing subjects that are “not aimed at preparing children for their future”.

Alternatively, Vancouver-based actor Jordon Navratil expressed how having SOGI representation in his school would have shaped his life in a much more positive light. Speaking from his experience being part of a generation that grew up without queer education, he said in a statement to *Global News* that “if we had felt safe when we were kids, everything would’ve been different. When you are a queer or trans youth and you see the existence of people like you, it makes you feel like you exist.”

Following the spike of protests, The BC Teachers Federation audibly expressed their support for SOGI and its resources, with representative Clint Johnston writing to Premier David Eby in early September that the Hands Off Our Kids protests “are part of a movement across North America that uses parental consent as the dog whistle for rising homophobia and transphobia”, and vocalized that acts like these are “a coordinated attack” on the queer community.

Vancouver’s mayor Ken Sim also stood in support, not explicitly for SOGI education, but for equality and safety of transgender people. He posted on social media the morning of the Vancouver event, discouraging the 1 Million March 4 Kids, citing that the “City of Vancouver reiterated our stance against hate and discrimination” and that “while protesting is a right, no one should feel unsafe, harassed, or that they don’t belong in Vancouver.” Sim also commented later that “we are being confronted by ignorance and bigotry, and we must always call it out and stand with those who are impacted.”

While protests in Vancouver both started and ended on Sept. 20, plans for combating SOGI education don’t seem to be stopping with 1 Million March 4 Kids. On the front page of both the Hands Off Our Kids and 1 Million March 4 Kids websites, a countdown and advertisement for similar protests under the name of the ‘Worldwide Stop The War On Children Rally’, is scheduled for Oct. 21, with seven locations in BC, including Surrey, already being registered.

Greenbelt Controversy

NEWS REPORT by Andre Chen (11)

In 2005, The Ontario government passed the Greenbelt Act, a piece of legislation that protects 2 million acres of land, with its primary objectives being to preserve farmland and reduce urban sprawl. However, on Nov. 4, 2022, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark revealed in a *CBC News* release that 15 areas of the Greenbelt — or almost 3,000 hectares — would be opened for the development of at least 50,000 residences. This was a follow-up to the Ontario government’s plan to build 1.5 million homes within the next decade.

Although Clark stated that 3,800

hectares of land would be added elsewhere to the Greenbelt, the opening of the protected area for urban expansion contradicted his promise in 2021 to “not open the Greenbelt up for any kind of development.”

On Aug. 9, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk released a report on the government’s decision to open specific land sites in the Greenbelt for housing development. “We found that how the land sites were selected was not transparent, fair, objective, or fully informed,” commented Bonnie Lysyk in the report. “It also can be shown that there was sufficient land for the target of 1.5 million homes to be built without the need to build on the Greenbelt.”

Lysyk went on to describe the government’s process in coming to

such a decision as “seriously flawed” and “dismissive of effective land-use planning.” She revealed that 14 out of 15 sites opened for development in

Ford expressed apologies and pledged to not make any changes to the Greenbelt in the future.

the Greenbelt were chosen by Clark’s chief of staff Ryan Amato rather than by public servants. Furthermore, she stated that “prominent developers”

had handed Amato two packages, recommending the removal of two sites from the Greenbelt, one of whom had provided him with three more site-removal propositions shortly after. The first two proposed sites were purchased later in the month for \$80 million.

All five proposed sites were included in the fourteen sites chosen by Amato. They accounted for 92 per cent of the acreage removed from the Greenbelt.

On Aug. 22, Amato stepped down from his position in a resignation letter addressed to the Premier’s Office.

“These public statements have made it impossible, as a practical matter, for me to continue in my present role,” claimed Amato. “I am confident that I have acted appropriately, and that a fair and complete investigation would reach the same conclusion.”

Shortly after, on Aug. 30, Integrity Commissioner J. David Wake released a report detailing how he

found that “Mr. Amato was the driving force behind a flawed process which provided an advantage to those who approached him.”

In the report, Wake elucidates that though Clark was not aware of the actions of his subordinate, he “failed to oversee an important initiative in his ministry” and should be held accountable. Less than a week later, Clark officially resigned from his position as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Following calls from First Nations chiefs from across Ontario, Premier Doug Ford announced a reversal on the decision to develop land protected by the Greenbelt Act.

“Our caucus, they shared with me what they have heard in their communities,” said Ford, “I made a promise to you that I wouldn’t touch the Greenbelt. I broke that promise.”

Ford expressed apologies and pledged to not make any changes to the Greenbelt in the future.



TARA WATSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA CBC



GREENBELT GUARDIANS VIA OAKVILLE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

HAMAS MOUNTS SURPRISE TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL, BEGINNING WAR

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh* (10)

On Oct. 7, the Palestinian militant group Hamas crossed from Gaza to Israel in a brutal surprise attack that killed more than 1,400 Israelis and injured around 4,500 others, according to *ABC News*. Following the attack, Israel declared war on Hamas and began to retaliate against the Gaza Strip, a narrow piece of land between Israel and Egypt.

The New York Times reports that thousands of rockets were fired from Gaza into central and southern Israel. A few reached far enough to land near the major city of Tel Aviv. Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system prevented rockets from striking Jerusalem. Meanwhile, over 1,000 Hamas fighters attacked multiple southern Israeli communities, including Be'eri, Sderot, Re'im, Kfar Aza, and Ashkelon. Dozens of foreign visitors were murdered, including Canadians and Americans.

Over 200 hostages were captured by Hamas militants. The majority of people kidnapped were Israeli soldiers, but dozens of civilians were also taken, including children and seniors.

Reuters detailed that during the Hamas surprise attack on Israel, militants went door to door breaking into homes while people were cooped up in safe rooms. To avoid the gunfire, Israelis tried to escape, hiding in fields, under cars, and among corpses.

In an interview conducted by *ITV News*, a father admitted that learning about his daughter's death was the best news he could have received. "She was either dead," he said, "or in Gaza, and if you know anything about what they do to people in Gaza, that is worse than death."

The massacre, which took place on Shemini Atzeret, a major Jewish holiday, caused the most Jewish deaths in a day since the Holocaust.

Hamas, an Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a Palestinian group classified as a terrorist organization by Canada, the United States, and the European Union. They have vowed to annihilate Israel and es-

tablish a Palestinian state in its place. The group was created in 1978 during the First Intifada, a period of violent protests by Palestinians in territories occupied by Israel, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In 2006, Hamas won a majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, beating the Fatah, their secular political rivals. The two political factions were unable to agree on sharing power. The conflict escalated and in June of 2007, Hamas violently seized power in a military coup, leaving 161 Palestinians dead, including 41 civilians. Hamas has had full governmental control over the Gaza Strip ever since. They are a separate organization from the Palestinian Authority, which controls the West Bank.

Iran, a rival of Israel, has long backed Hamas, along with Hezbollah, a Lebanese militant group. Following the Hamas attack on Israel, Hezbollah has carried out raids on Israeli military targets along the border between Israel and Lebanon.

Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, is widely recognized as one of the world's best, with highly advanced abilities to predict threats from within and outside of the country. Yet, Mossad failed to anticipate the Hamas attack. According to a *Reuters* news report, the chief of Israeli Military intelligence, Major-General Aharon Haliva, wrote a letter to his subordinates acknowledging that Mossad had no prior knowledge of the Hamas attack. He acknowledged that the intelligence failure was his responsibility. The letter was confirmed to *Reuters* by a military spokesperson.

As of Oct. 19, health officials in Gaza stated that Israeli airstrikes had killed around 3,800 people in Gaza and injured 12,500 others, as stated by *CBS News*. The majority of the victims were women and children. Another 1,300 victims are assumed to be buried under the rubble, while more than 350,000 Palestinians have been displaced.

In preparation for an imminent ground attack, thousands of soldiers have been placed along the Gaza border. Israel has warned Palestinians to move

to southern Gaza, further from the Israeli assault.

On Oct. 9, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant imposed a blockade on Gaza and its two million residents. The Israeli military cut off Gazan access to electricity, food, water, fuel, and most medical aid. Most experts considered this act to be a war crime that is a violation of international humanitarian law.

"Israel's bombardment and unlawful total blockade of Gaza means that countless wounded and sick children, among many other civilians, will die for want of medical care," said Bill Van Esveld, the associate children's rights director at Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization dedicated to defending the human rights of people in 100 countries worldwide.

On Oct. 18, Israel announced that they would start allowing food, water, and medicine to be supplied to Gaza. Nevertheless, they kept heavy restrictions on electricity and fuel in place, leaving Gaza severely under-resourced.

"As Gaza loses power, hospitals lose power, putting newborns in incubators and elderly patients on oxygen at risk. Kidney dialysis stops, and X-rays can't be taken," said Fabrizio Carboni, the International Red Cross Committee's director for the region. "Without electricity, hospitals risk turning into morgues."

The Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza was bombed on Oct. 17, killing at least 500 civilians in the deadliest strike since the war first broke out. Both Palestinian and Israeli officials blame the other side for this airstrike. Palestinians and the Gaza Health Ministry have accused Israel. Meanwhile, Israel attributes the blast to a rocket misfire from another group operating in Gaza known as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Countries around the world were quick to condemn the bombing. The UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk said that "[t]onight, hundreds of people were killed – horrifically – in a massive strike at Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, including patients, healthcare workers and families that had been seeking refuge in and around the hospital. [...] This is total-

ly unacceptable."

An analysis from *AP News* in which they reviewed multiple videos of the rocket explosion from news broadcasts, security cameras and social media posts concluded that "the rocket that broke up in the air was fired from within Palestinian territory, and that the hospital explosion was most likely caused when part of that rocket crashed to the ground."

As of Oct. 21, Canada has yet to declare whether or not Israel was at fault for the blast. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has faced pressure to take a stance from the Conservative Party and other groups in Canada.

During an Ontario press conference, when asked by a reporter about what evidence he was waiting for about the Gaza Hospital blast before assigning responsibility, Trudeau said, "We are working with our allies internationally to make sure that we can determine exactly what happened."

The USA has stated that it does not believe Israel is responsible for the hospital bombing.

Originally, US President Joe Biden was supposed to travel to Saudi Arabia to continue negotiations towards a peace deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel, but the trip was canceled due to the war. The deal worked towards US-Saudi-Israeli collaboration against their common enemy, Iran. Israel would improve the rights of Palestinians, while Saudi Arabia would receive US support for a nuclear energy program. Saudi Arabia would officially recognize the state of Israel, which it has yet to do due to injustices against Palestinians. However, the current conflict has for the moment taken the original deal off the table.

The deal was nearing completion in the weeks leading up to the Hamas attacks, with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stating that the two countries were close to a "dramatic breakthrough". However, according to *PBS NewsHour*, when Hamas attacked Israel, Saudi Arabia failed to condemn them. Instead, Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry stated that it had repeatedly warned that Israel's "occupation, the

deprivation of the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights, and the repetition of systemic provocations" would lead to such a moment.

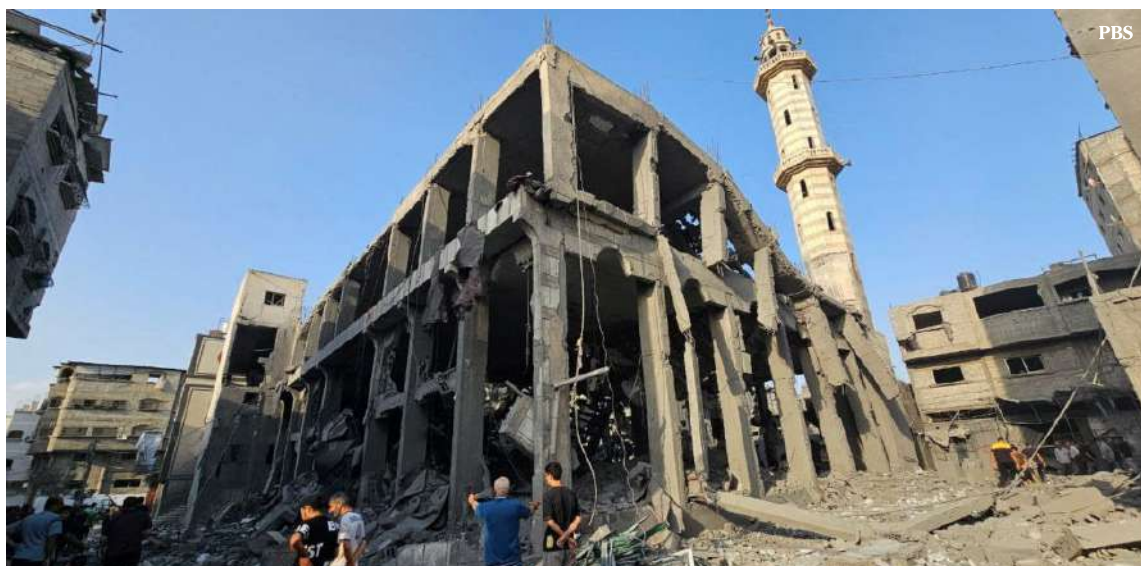
On Oct. 18, President Biden visited Israel and attended a full day of meetings with multiple Israeli officials, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as explained in a *CNN* news report. During the trip, Biden confirmed support from the US and attempted to convince Israel to ease restrictions on aid in Gaza.

After his meetings, Biden announced that an agreement was finalized to allow humanitarian assistance to be provided to Gaza by entering through the Egyptian border. As well, he announced that \$100 million of US funding would go towards humanitarian assistance for people living in both Gaza and West Bank. A promise was also made by Biden to request congressional funding for Israel's defense.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant revealed Israel's long-time plans for the war to lawmakers on Oct. 19, which he organized into three different phases. First, Israel plans to attack Hamas with airstrikes and ground operations. Then they will defeat any small resistance groups. And finally, after completely abolishing Hamas, Israel will relinquish their responsibility and control over the citizens of Gaza.

Since the start of the conflict, both Islamophobia and anti-Semitism has been on the rise. Many Jewish and Palestinian Canadians have lost loved ones in the war. As of Oct. 22, six Canadians have been killed in Israel by Hamas.

Officials have also reported that over 300 Canadians and their families are stuck in Gaza, as Israel continues to bomb the area and enforce border restrictions. In an interview conducted by *Global News* on Oct. 19, a Canadian citizen currently living with his family in Gaza said that his younger kids "keep hearing the bombing sounds of the drones in the sky and they can't sleep because whenever an F-16 bomb hits in the vicinity, the building shakes [...] Canadians or not, if people don't feel safe in whatever country they're in, they should have the right to leave."



INTERNATIONAL

APPLE UNVEILS NEW IPHONE 15

NEWS REPORT by Cynthia Zhu (10)

On Sept. 12, Apple announced the iPhone 15, iPhone 15 Plus, iPhone 15 Pro, and iPhone 15 Pro Max at an event. These new phone models were officially launched to the public on Sept. 22.

The iPhone 15 comes with several changes, the biggest one being its new charging port. Less than a year ago, the European Union voted to require all devices to switch to the USB-C charging cable by 2024. The aim of this law was to minimize the number of cables consumers would need. Practically all Android phones, as well as the Apple iPad, have already changed their charging ports to the USB-C cable. This year, the iPhone 15 models came with USB-C ports, replacing Apple's Lightning charging ports. Now, customers can use the same charging cord to power most — if not all — of their devices. Apple is also selling a Lightning to USB-C adapter for CAD

\$25. The adapter allows users to connect their current Lightning-powered accessories to a newer USB-C-powered device in order to charge or share data.

Other than the change in charging port, the Pro models of the iPhone 15 come with several small but substantial design changes. Another important change is the brand new customisable Action button. This button replaces the switch on the left side of the phone that could toggle between silent and ring. It can be customized to perform various different actions, such as quickly accessing the camera, recording a voice memo, or writing a note. In addition, the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max models are now encased in titanium, making them lighter and slimmer. Their designs also feature contoured edges. These two models are available in 6.1 and 6.7-inch display sizes and come in four new finishes: black titanium, white titanium, blue titanium, and natural titanium.

Meanwhile, the basic iPhone 15 models (iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus) come with the Dynamic Island feature in place of the notch. Unlike the notch — a blacked-out, unusable space at the top of the screen, the Dynamic Island can be interacted with and can morph into different shapes. This tool was previously only available on the iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone

14 Pro Max. The iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus are available in 6.1 and 6.7-inch display sizes and come in five new colours: pink, yellow, green, blue, and black.

The iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max start at CAD \$1449 and CAD \$1749, respectively. The iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus start at CAD \$1129 and CAD \$1279, respectively.



Hollywood Strikes 2023

NEWS REPORT by Evin Jaaf (9)

Since May 2023, strikes in Hollywood have halted the production of upcoming movies and TV shows. There are two main strikes occurring: the Writer's Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA).

The WGA began striking on May 2, and reached a tentative agreement with the Alliance of Motion Pictures and Television Producers (AMPTP) on Sept. 27. The nearly five month strike began with debates over a new contract involving pay and streaming residuals for writers, among other issues. The strike lasted 148 days, and was the longest writer's strike since 1988.

SAG-AFTRA has been on strike since July 14, and they have yet to realize a new contract. On Oct. 2, dialogue between SAG-AFTRA and the AMPTP reopened, but a conclusion was not agreed upon. Dialogue came to a stop on Oct. 11 and has yet to resume.

The AMPTP announced that they suspended contract negotiations due to both sides being unwilling to compromise. "SAG-AFTRA's current offer included what it characterised as a viewership bonus that, by itself, would cost more than \$800 million per year — which would create an untenable economic burden," the AMPTP said in a statement released Oct. 11. SAG-AFTRA responded to this on X, stating that the AMPTP used bullying tactics to misrepresent the cost, marking them up by 60 per cent.

Additionally, SAG-AFTRA and the AMPTP could not agree on the matter of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) during film and television production. While SAG-AFTRA stated in a letter to actors that companies would not protect performers from being replaced by AI, the AMPTP claimed that they would offer many protections, including requiring written consent from actors. SAG-AFTRA refused to agree to these terms. Ultimately, industry CEOs walked away from the bargaining table when it was clear there would be no resolution in the near future.

Although writers have permission to continue writing as soon as the new WGA-AMPTP contract is signed, without actors, American shows have been halted at various stages of production. Without an idea of the duration of the SAG-AFTRA strikes, the production of most TV and film content coming out of the United States is on pause for the foreseeable future. According to CNBC, the end of this strike is not in sight. Viewers can expect to be waiting months longer than they anticipated for the next season of their favourite TV shows or highly-anticipated new movies.

TRAGIC EARTHQUAKES STRIKE MOROCCO

NEWS REPORT by Joanna Pidocke (9)

On Sept. 8, a powerful earthquake of a 6.8 magnitude struck western Morocco, approximately 70 kilometers southwest of the city of Marrakesh. This tragic event has left a trail of destruction, and has resulted in thousands of deaths and widespread damage to communities in the region.

The quake's epicenter was located in the High Atlas mountain range, at a depth of 26 kilometers below the surface. This relatively shallow depth amplified the destructive force of the quake, resulting in severe damage to both rural and urban areas. The natural disaster's impact was felt as far north as Casablanca, but the most severe destruction

occurred in small communities nestled in the Atlas Mountains. Villages like Adassil, that are located less than 10 kilometers from the epicenter, experienced the most widespread damage. Reports state that in Tafeghaghte, another community near the epicenter, nearly half of its residents are dead or missing.

The *Washington Post* reported that scientists have pointed out the quake was not caused by climate change. According to Lucy Jones, a seismologist based in California, the one thing humans do that causes earthquakes is increasing liquid pressure in the earth's crust. This occurs during fracturing, mining or the construction of large dams.

The disaster prompted a swift response from both local and international

organizations. Countries like Spain, Qatar, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have sent rescue teams to Morocco to help assist the local forces. Other countries are donating money instead of sending personnel, due to the difficulty of coordinating rescue groups. Emergency workers were deployed to affected regions, and attempted to overcome the challenges posed by damaged or blocked roads. However, the remoteness of the villages in the Atlas Mountains, as well as their rugged terrain, meant that the villages were not easily accessible. As a result, continued and co-ordinated efforts were necessary to reach those in need. Rescue operations are ongoing, with survivors hoping for miracles amid the rubble.

While earthquakes of this size are

uncommon in the region, they are not unexpected. Historical data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that large tectonic disturbances have occurred in Morocco in the past. The last earthquake of such magnitude in the area dates back to 1960. That earthquake claimed over 12,000 lives.

According to Ahmed Hussen, Morocco's international minister of development, the government of Canada has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross and donated \$5 million. On Sept. 9, the Canadian Red Cross launched an appeal to help provide immediate assistance. As rescue operations continue, the international community is standing in solidarity with the affected regions, offering support and assistance to help rebuild and heal from this tragedy.



STEVE SLEIGHT/BBC



FADEL SENNA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES VIA CNN

MTV VMAS 2023

NEWS REPORT by Juliana Takenaka (9) and Myra Talreja (9)

The MTV Video Music Awards are an annual fan-voted awards show in the United States that occurs every September. The Video Music Awards celebrate achievements in the music industry, such as "Best Music Video" or "Artist of the Year", and are also known for their live performances by nominees or winners.

This year's VMAs took place on Sept. 12 at Prudential Centre in New Jersey. Popular musical artists including Doja Cat, Shakira, Nicki Minaj, Stray Kids, Måneskin, and Lil Wayne were some of this show's live performers. Major winners this year were Taylor Swift, taking home 9 awards out of her 11 nominations; Olivia Rodrigo (Best Editing); Ice Spice (Best new Artist); Nicki Minaj (Best Hip Hop); SZA (Best R&B); Måneskin (Best Rock); and Lana Del Rey (Best Alternative).

Boy band NSYNC shocked the audience by reuniting for the first time after their breakup in 2004 to present "Best Pop Award" to Taylor Swift. Olivia Rodrigo also performed at the show, performing her new songs "vampire" and "get him back". During the "vampire" perfor-

mance, there was a stage "malfunction" that shocked many audience members, and Selena Gomez's reaction to the incident from the crowd went viral. The "malfunction" ended up being a planned idea that replicated the "vampire" music video; Rodrigo continued on to her next song as if nothing happened.

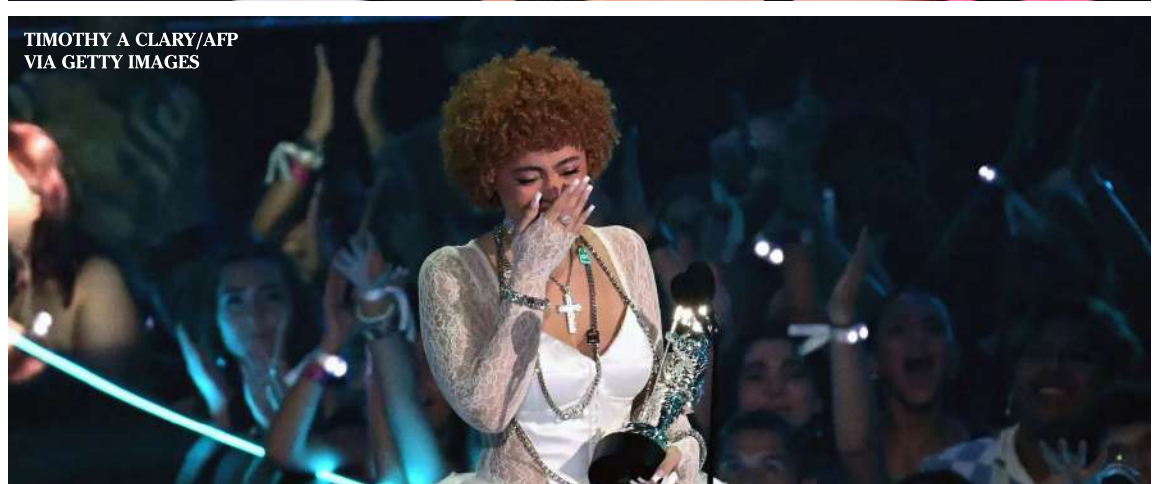
The VMAs dealt with some controversy about SZA's lack of nomination for "Artist of the Year". She was slated to perform, but ended up pulling out of the show entirely.

"Obviously, she had one of the best years, if not the best year, of any artist up to this point," SZA's manager Terence "Punch" Henderson said in an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*. "It just doesn't really make any sense to me. It is disrespectful." SZA's album *SOS* has been in the top ten of the Billboard almost every week this year and was number one for ten weeks.

MTV did not give a clear answer to Henderson as to why she wasn't at least nominated for "Artist of the Year." Some of the nominees of the award had not released albums since the previous VMAs Awards ceremony, and she was encouraged to not attend the ceremony by her team. However, SZA still won "Best R&B Video", but was not there to give a speech.



ANGELA WEISS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES VIA CNN



TIMOTHY A CLARY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

INTERNATIONAL

Wildfires in Maui

NEWS REPORT by Vania Qiu (9)

On Aug. 7-8, a wildfire burned down parts of Maui and the historical town of Lahaina. It was considered to be the largest fire in the United States in the past century, and led to 97 confirmed deaths and 31 missing people, *The Washington Post* reports.

The fire destroyed all of Lahaina, stripped residents of shelter, and resulted in both tourist and local casualties. The debris and aftermath of the fire left lasting damages and toxins in the Maui ecosystem, leading to drastically altered water quality in surrounding areas, according to environmental experts.

Over 2,500 acres of land were scorched. The damage spanned over two major areas of Maui: Kula, which stretches across the Maui "up-country," and the town of Lahaina. The roughly 20,000 residents of the respective districts were displaced from their towns and removed from their homes — many of which had burned down.

Survivors recalled that the warning sirens, which were supposed

to sound during natural disasters, failed to do so. The Maui Emergency Management Agency argued that the sirens normally sounded only for tsunamis and hurricanes.

Fortune reported that, though Hawaiian Electric has admitted to playing a part in starting the fire, the electric services company noted that the Maui firefighters had been too quick to declare the fire contained.

This statement comes after Hurricane Dora's high winds caused the company's power lines to fall and break down, starting the fire, before it was fanned into larger flames. *ENR/California* reported that, as of Aug. 23, seven lawsuits have been filed against Hawaiian Electric for at least partial responsibility for the fire.

According to *CBS News*, Lahaina residents were expected to return back to their homes on Sept. 25 to assess the damage created by the fire.

In light of recent events, the White House has begun planning for the rebuilding of Maui. On Aug. 30, US president Joe Biden pledged to send USD \$95 million to Maui to strengthen its power grids. Moody's

RMS, a catastrophe management firm, estimated that the rebuilding of Maui would cost upwards of USD \$6 billion.

Maui communities have come together in hopes of healing and recovering from the tragedies. Their efforts include gathering together to perform rituals and vigils for spiritual and emotional healing, as well as to organize events related to Hawaiian culture and hobbies in order to promote unity and peace.

The Washington Post reported the story of former pro surfer Jud Lau organizing a "surf day" for children affected by the fires. Lau understood that surfing is a large part of the Hawaiian identity and strived to use it as an entity for healing. He wanted to "replenish the souls of fellow Hawaiians."

"Your surfboard is like part of your soul," Lau affirmed.

On Oct. 8, the state reopened West Maui to tourism, despite petitions across the area opposing this decision. Just days prior, Lahaina resident Paele Kiakona expressed in a news conference that West Maui residents should receive more time to grieve and heal. "Our grief is still too fresh and our loss is too profound."



PHILIP CHEUNG/NEW YORK TIMES



MAX WHITTAKER/NEW YORK TIMES

FLOODING IN LIBYA

NEWS REPORT by Jhilian Yan-Klassen (9)

Tropical Storm Daniel first passed through Libya on Sept. 10. Heavy rainfall and strong winds plagued the country, leading to major flooding and significant destruction throughout the northeast of the country.

The eastern Libyan coast city of Derna was significantly affected by extreme flooding when two local dams burst due to excess pressure from Storm Daniel. This occurred either late on Sept. 10 or early on Sept. 11. Twenty-four million tons of water from the broken dams engulfed their city. As the water flowed downwards, it picked up an immense amount of power, and witnesses say the mass of water became over three metres tall.

The total death toll of Storm Daniel remains unknown, since many bodies have been washed out to sea. However, in Derna, which has a population of around 90,000 people, over 4,000 people have been confirmed dead, according to the *BBC*. Another 10,000 have been reported missing, and at least 43,000 people have been displaced after their homes were damaged or destroyed.

In preparation for Storm Daniel, authorities in eastern Libya held emergency meetings and issued directives to the local population. These instructions primarily revolved around evacuating coastal and low-lying areas in Derna, as well as imposing stay-at-home orders for other parts of the region and surrounding areas.

While authorities made announcements telling people to move to "safe places", they did not give specific directions for where shelter could be found. Additionally, many people did not hear any of the warnings. Numerous residents of Derna also complained that Libyan authorities only announced the threat posed by Storm Daniel through a Facebook post. They did not want to rely on merely television and social media for emergency announcements and alerts.

Libyan authorities also gave conflicting instructions, and reportedly advised people on evacuating people to the wrong parts of the city. "Many of those that evacuated from the beaches went into central Derna, where they were killed by the later flooding," explained a resident of the city.

However, one critical announcement from eastern authorities simply never made it to Derna's residents. It was supposed to warn them about the potential danger posed by the dams in Derna of failing or overflowing.

Dr Abdulwanis Ashour, a hydrologist from a university in Libya had conducted years of research on the conditions of the dams. He told the *BBC* that he had previously discovered that the

dams could face a significant amount of rainfall and were in great danger of collapsing. He also highlighted that many other studies and reports had consistently proven the risks presented by the dams to Derna and nearby areas. According to the hydrologist, the reports were well known within the Eastern Libyan government and other authorities.

The Office of Libya's Public Prosecutor, who is a part of the opposing western government, made orders for the arrest of 16 officials responsible for overseeing Libya's dams on Sept. 25. This was part of an investigation into the potential negligence of flood-related responsibilities and dam maintenance. It remains uncertain if any of the officials have been arrested.

Many have criticised the emergency response of Eastern government officials in Derna. In an uncommon display of solidarity from a severely divided country, as calls for help from Derna were answered with quick responses from numerous aid workers from the opposition government in the west. These aid workers began delivering crucial supplies to survivors but were denied access into Derna.

"Nothing and no-one gets in without their permission," said one Libyan

aid worker, referencing the government's control of aid entering the region. The Libyan Red Crescent was the only humanitarian organisation allowed to operate in Derna at the beginning of the crisis.

"Haftar and his forces only placed their trust in the Red Crescent, but we couldn't do much because the crisis was so massive. We desperately needed all the help we could get," the aid worker, who had lost friends and relatives to the flood, shared with the *BBC*, requesting anonymity due to concerns about being targeted by General Haftar's troops. They voiced their frustration, explaining that General Haftar prioritised security and politics over rescuing and helping Derna's distressed residents.

General Haftar has been part of the Revolutionary Command Council that has been governing Libya after taking control of the country during a coup in 1969. He is currently the Supreme Commander of the Libyan National Army.

The Libyan aid worker mentioned that security personnel spent a large amount of time closely inspecting essential aid supplies due to concerns about potential weapon smuggling into the city. Derna's people went without food, clean water, or medical help for days, while important aid supplies were held up and checked.



KARIM SAHIB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES VIA NBC



KARIM SAHIB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES VIA ABC NEWS



YULIA MOROZOVA/REUTERS

YEVGENY PRIGOZHIN: NOW YOU SEE HIM, NOW YOU DON'T

NEWS ANALYSIS by Oliver Izen (12) & Max von Dehn (12)

Yevgeny Prigozhin was one of ten killed when his private plane crashed on Aug. 23, north of its destination in Moscow. This was exactly two months after leading a single-day insurrection against Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin.

Often called 'Putin's chef', Yevgeny Prigozhin grew to be one of the most powerful people in Russia. Prigozhin rose to power as a caterer for Putin, and acquired lucrative contracts for Russian schools and the military. However, Prigozhin's power in recent years did not come from his food production, but rather his control of the Wagner Group. The Wagner Group is a private military co-founded by Prigozhin in 2013, with the primary objective of supporting Russian troops in Ukraine during the annexation of Crimea.

The group is known for often brutal methods. The lack of complete training for their soldiers resulted in large amounts of casualties on the Russian side, according to *CNN*. The United States government has estimated that Wagner has approximately 50,000 personnel in Ukraine currently, including 40,000 conscripted convicts.

During the early stages of Russia's most recent invasion of Ukraine, Prigozhin's military quickly became a vital part of the Russian offensive. However, as large numbers of his troops died, Prigozhin became an increasingly vocal critic of Russia's military leadership. He often spoke of the Russian military starving his troops of ammunition, and on one occasion, accused high level military officials of treason.

With tensions escalating, the conflict between the Wagner Group and the Kremlin culminated on June 23, when Prigozhin took control of the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, a crucial military location near the Ukrainian border. He then led thousands of Wagner troops on a march towards

Moscow.

During their offensive, the *Associated Press* reported that Prigozhin's troops killed 15 Russian soldiers, and shot down Russian military aircraft. However, Prigozhin's "March of Justice" was short-lived, lasting only one day. The march ended with a deal brokered by Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus. The agreement stated that Prigozhin would be sent to Belarus, while the Wagner fighters who participated in the insurrection would not be prosecuted, due to their "heroic deeds at the front" that would "always be respected", according to Russian Defense Minister Dmitri S. Peskov.

In the weeks that followed Prigozhin's mutiny, he seemed to have escaped virtually unscathed. With many of Putin's past critics ending up imprisoned, poisoned or worse, many speculated as to why Prigozhin, whom Putin accused of treason, was left alive.

Though Russian authorities claimed Prigozhin's death in the plane crash was merely an accident, governments around the world have not shied away from suspecting the Kremlin's involvement. US President Joe Biden said he was "not surprised" and that there is "not much that happens in Russia that Putin's not behind." Meanwhile on state news channel *TPV Info*, Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau said that Putin's enemies "do not die naturally."

On Oct. 5, Putin announced that grenade fragments were found in several bodies recovered from the crash. According to *Reuters*, Putin claimed he believed the grenades had been mishandled onboard the plane after the passengers became intoxicated with alcohol and cocaine. This claim has not been proven or tested, though 5 kg of cocaine was found after Russian authorities conducted a search of a Wagner building. Russia claims that this discovery should dismiss global speculation, however, as reported by *Reuters*, several western diplomats are still not convinced.

INTERNATIONAL

US Republican primary election: here's where the candidates stand

NEWS REPORT by Kaitlyn Lee (9) & Dora Yuan (9)

The Republican primary election—scheduled to take place in January of next year—is an important upcoming event in the United States, as it determines which Republican candidate will be on the ballot for President in the 2024 general election. While the Democratic Party has very few candidates apart from Biden (as with the case for most primary elections where a party has an incumbent president), the Republican Party has a handful of candidates.

As of the date this article was written, the Republican Party's front-runners are former president Donald Trump at 57.8 per cent support according to YouGov polls, Florida's governor Ron DeSantis at 14.8 per cent, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy at 7.3 per cent, and former UN ambassador Nikki Haley at 6.7 per cent. The other candidates include former Vice President Mike Pence, Chris Christie, Tim Scott, Doug Burgum, Asa Hutchinson, and Will Hurd, all polling at 4 per cent or below. As the primary election draws near, candidates are attempting to capture the attention of Republican voters across the nation and using the debates as a platform to showcase their policies.

Two Republican debates have happened so far, with the third one scheduled to take place on Nov. 8. While most frontrunners have attended both debates, Trump chose not to attend either of them, scheduling interviews with former *Fox News* host Tucker Carlson on the same day. During the debates, several key issues that voters care about were brought up, including abortion rights, the economy, foreign affairs (especially concerning China and Russia), climate change, immigration, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Abortion

Since the overturning of *Roe v Wade*, a law that ensures the legalization of abortion in all 50 states, Republicans have leaned more to the right than before on policies related to abortion control. While most Republicans identify as “pro-life” and agree that some restrictions on abortions should be implemented, they disagree on how severe the restrictions should be. Trump has stated that he was the one who pushed the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v Wade* and could take abortion restrictions even further, while DeSantis implemented a six-week ban as governor of Florida and plans to do something similar on the national level. Ramaswamy echoes DeSantis's ideas on the six-week ban, while Haley has called for a 15-week ban and increased access to birth control.

Climate Change

As for climate change, many Republican candidates have acknowledged that it exists to some extent, but



KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS



PAUL SANCYA/AP VIA THE NEW YORKER

have rejected most policies to combat it. Trump has historically questioned the existence of climate change (calling it a “hoax” on multiple occasions over the years), and continues to put protection of the fossil fuel industry at the forefront. Meanwhile, DeSantis has announced some plans to adapt to climate change instead of mitigating it, including building infrastructure to strengthen the country against hurricanes. Ramaswamy opposes any government funding to combat climate change, and has proposed cutting costs related to mitigating global warming. Meanwhile, Haley supports climate change reduction to some extent, but opposes using government funding to solve the issue.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Another key issue in the debates is LGBTQ+ rights, especially the rights of transgender individuals. Most frontrunners have supported policies that restrict certain LGBTQ+ rights, and plan to go further. During his years as president, Trump removed protections for LGBTQ+ rights, including transgender rights. However, in 2020, he said that he supports same sex marriage to an extent. Meanwhile,

anti-transgender policies have been a centerpiece of DeSantis's campaign, with many new laws already in place in Florida, including the criminalization of transgender people's use of bathrooms matching their gender identity and the ban of the instruction of gender identity and sexual orientation in schools. DeSantis was also the one to approve of the “Don't Say Gay” bill in Florida, which has been widely criticized on the left. Ramaswamy proposes a national ban on transition care for minors and a ban on the use of public funds for transition care for anyone. He also supports banning transgender people from some military roles, referring to the transgender identity as a “secular religion”, a “mental illness”, and a “cult”. Haley also supports such legislation, stating that transgender people “increase suicide ideation in women”, a claim unsupported by any scientific evidence. She believes that transgender women and girls competing in female sports is “the women's issue of our time.”

Immigration

Immigration has been a cornerstone in the Republican candidates' campaigns, especially with the growth

of undocumented immigration from Mexico at the Southern border. Back in 2015, during his first presidential campaign, Trump proposed building a wall to keep undocumented immigrants out of the country and plans to further strengthen the southern border. He also planned to impose restrictions on Muslim immigrants. DeSantis wants to enforce policies that include mass deportations, detention of children, and the license to kill some border crossers. He also wants to end birthright citizenship for children of undocumented immigrants, as well as deploy troops to the border. Several of these policies, which have been analyzed by *The New York Times*, violate the 1997 consent decree for protection of children and the 14th Amendment's guarantee of citizenship to all people born in the US. However, DeSantis has characterized this as debatable. He stated that “we're going to fully deputize all state and local governments to be able to enforce it.” Ramaswamy similarly plans on using military force and deporting American-born children of undocumented immigrants. However, he said he'd allow the legal immigration of people deported as children. Haley

supports most of Trump's policies including building a wall, but contrary to Trump, she does not believe there should be regulations on Muslim immigrants.

Ukraine

The candidates have varying stances regarding the ongoing war in Ukraine. Trump has repeatedly pushed for the ending of the war and says that the fight is more important for Europe than the US. However, he did not say whether he would continue to provide military aid. DeSantis opposes sending more military aid and does not want the US to get further involved. Instead, he thinks European members of NATO should be handling the issue. Ramaswamy also opposes sending further aid, and he has called for Ukraine to surrender and cede some land to Russia in exchange for Russia ending its military alliance with China. Haley said she would continue sending equipment and ammunition to aid and support Ukraine. She claims that President Biden has been too slow in helping Ukraine, and said that she would push for Ukraine to join NATO as soon as possible.

Trump Investigations

The other candidates have been asked several questions about the multiple criminal investigations that former President Trump is involved in, which include the mishandling of classified documents, inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, and financial fraud. DeSantis criticized Trump for some of his actions, but also regularly bashes the justice system for being corrupt and biased. Ramaswamy defended Trump and criticized the justice system. He was the first to raise his hand during the first debate when the candidates were asked if they would commit to supporting Trump in a general election if he was convicted of a crime. Haley has been going both ways, saying that if the allegations were true, then Trump had been reckless with national security, but during the first debate, she still said she would support him in a general election even if he was convicted of his crimes.

Economy

Most candidates agree that solutions to combat inflation and help the economy include cuts in spending, as well as tax regulations. Ramaswamy additionally suggested transferring government funding towards climate change to the economy instead. In general, in terms of the economy, while Republicans have differing ideas on how to combat inflation, their general views are similar.

As the date of the party primary approaches, Republicans in the United States are divided. The world is watching closely, as a pivotal election looms closer.

Mexican Senate on the Possibility of Alien Life

NEWS REPORT by Justin Chuk (11)

The Mexican Senate convened in September to hear testimony on the possible existence of extraterrestrial life. The hearing marked the country's first congressional event on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP), a term now used instead of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

This testimony was presented by Mexican journalist and long time UFO enthusiast Jaime Maussan. Maussan

brought forth mummified specimens and stated under oath that the corpses were those of “non-human extraterrestrials”. This testimony has generated significant interest and controversy around the globe. Many questions surround the evidence presented and its credibility.

These specimens have elongated heads and three fingers on each hand. They were said to have been found in 2017, near the ancient Nazca Lines in Peru. Maussan claimed that carbon-14 analysis, allegedly conducted by researchers at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), determined the specimens to be approximately 1,000 years old.

Jose de Jesus Zalce Benitez, Director of the Scientific Institute for Health of the Mexican Navy, claimed that x-rays, 3-D reconstruction, and DNA analysis were carried out on the bodies. He affirmed that the bodies had “no relation to human

beings” and added that there was “no evidence of any assembly or manipulation of the skulls”.

The credibility of the presented evidence has sparked debate. While Maussan insisted that the specimens were non-human, there are doubts about the authenticity of his assertions. After Maussan cited their carbon dating tests, UNAM released a statement emphasizing that their analysis only aimed to determine the samples' age — not to draw conclusions about their origin.

Many experts in the field have objected to Maussan's claims. The Peruvian Attorney General's Office and the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences found that the figures appeared to be “recently manufactured”. They concluded that the corpses had been made using animal and human bones, with plant fibres and synthetic glue used to simulate skin.

While Maussan and others believe that these specimens provide compelling evidence of extraterrestrial life, skeptics suggest that the remains are more likely the result of mummified human or animal remains, perhaps from a different culture or period.



HENRY ROMERO/REUTERS

INTERNATIONAL

Venice Stays Off World Heritage Danger List

NEWS REPORT by Zoe von Dehn (9)

Venice stayed off the United Nations Environmental, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s World Heritage in Danger list during Sept. 14's UN agency meeting.

Due to efforts from the Venetian government to combat flooding and a new plan to charge day-trippers, UNESCO opted not to move Venice from the World Heritage list to the World Heritage in Danger list. Because it is staying on the World Heritage list, Venice will continue to receive funding and protection from UNESCO.

Venice has been a World Heritage Site since 1987. But last July, UNESCO considered putting it on the in Danger list. According to UNESCO, the aim of its in Danger list is "to inform the international community of conditions which threaten the very characteristics for which a property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and to encourage corrective action."

If the UNESCO World Heritage Committee concludes that a site on its in Danger list is not being properly protected, then it may lose its designation on the World Heritage list. This would result in loss of funding to maintain the site, legal protection, and UNESCO's immediate protection.

Despite not making the in Danger list, Venice still faces many tangible threats. In a statement, UNESCO

mentioned that "the effects of the continuing deterioration due to human intervention, including continuing development, the impacts of climate change and mass tourism threaten to cause irreversible changes to the outstanding universal value of the property."

Climate change also puts Venice at great risk of flooding. According to *BBC*, since water levels first started to be recorded in 1923, on only ten occasions have they reached five feet or higher. However, five of those instances occurred in the last three years. In November 2019, the city saw its second worst flood in 100 years; more than 80 per cent of the city was flooded. This cost the city over €1 billion in building damages and lost income.

Overtourism threatens the city as well. In 2022, around 4.5 million tourists visited Venice. In comparison, the city only has 50,000 residents, according to *The New York Times*. Because of the millions of tourists each year, locals have been relocating out of the city. In 1951, the population was at 175,000 — over three times what it is today. The cost of living has increased, transportation systems are overcrowded, and there is a lack of well-paying jobs.

Before the vote on whether to put Venice on the in Danger list, Berta de Sancristobal from the UNESCO World Heritage Center voiced that "the negative impacts of mass tourism reflected in the continued decline in local residents, leading to the alteration of the spirit of place and the loss of historic authenticity."

"Coupled with a non-existent housing policy, living in Venice has become too difficult for many. Venice continues to lose two to three residents per day and the current population of 49,298 is

now below the number of beds available for holiday makers (49,693)," wrote Jane Da Mosto, executive director of the We are here Venice ETS, in an open letter to UNESCO. We are here Venice ETS is a local organization based out of Venice, with the objective of keeping Venice a liveable city.

To control tourism, the city of Venice recently created an entrance fee of €5 for day trippers. The fee will be starting with a 30-day trial next spring. Additionally, large cruise ships have been banned from Venetian waters. This should further limit tourism, because in 2019, 667 cruise ships brought nearly 700,000 tourists to Venice. The city has also been tracking tourists using phone data and monitoring them through CCTV cameras to observe visitors' movements in the city.

To combat flooding, the city is using Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico (MOSE), which translates to Experimental Electromechanical Module. The MOSE project is a system of sea-based barriers, each one 20 meters wide, intended to temporarily block Venice from the Adriatic sea during high tides. The barriers rise to block incoming tides over 3.6 feet high. Work on MOSE started in 2003, but cost overruns and delays pushed its completion date from 2011 to 2025.

But the Union of Concerned Scientists is still arguing that Venice is not doing enough. They claim that the city's crises "signal an alarming trend of nations not being held accountable for protecting some of the most iconic and irreplaceable natural and historic sites around the globe." They state that Venice is still "increasingly vulnerable to severe flooding and water damage."

During the UNESCO meeting,

members of states complimented the actions that Venice took in conserving the city and opted to leave it off the in Danger list. Now, Italy must create a detailed plan to conserve Venice, which will be discussed at next year's World Heritage Committee meeting. Luigi Brugnaro, the Mayor of Venice, said in a post on X: "Great victory at UNESCO!! Venice is not at risk. The commission's misleading report was contradicted. The world has under-

stood all the work we have done to defend our city, some of the opposition in Venice still hasn't!"

However, many Venetians are frustrated with the outcome of the vote. Almost 5,000 people signed a petition asking for Venice to be put on the in Danger list. According to the petition, "[t]he out-of-control tourism machine makes big financial gains for few, against the common good and those who want to live in the city."



MANUEL SILVESTRI/REUTERS



MANUEL SILVESTRI/REUTERS

Unity: A Divisive Decision

NEWS REPORT by Oliver Izen (12) & Max von Dehn (12)

"I am sorry" is how Unity Create President Marc Whitten began an apology letter, just over a week after the company introduced their controversial payment structure update. Unity, the largest game development engine in the world, walked back much of their decision following immense outrage from the game development community.

Unity has long been one of the most popular game development platforms. It has over 115 thousand projects on itch.io, a popular indie game distribution website. Additionally, Unity claims that over 60 per cent of game developers they surveyed used Unity. Its low entry cost and wide array of beginner tools are major contributors to its popularity.

However, its low cost has been a struggle for Unity. According to a letter to the company's shareholders, Q4 2022 was the first quarter they ever

posted an actual net profit.

This lack of profitability has driven Unity to search for new revenue streams to supplement their central business. This pressure was exacerbated when Unity became a publicly traded company in September 2020.

Unity's current revenue model centers around their paid "Pro" and "Enterprise" plans designed for game development teams. These plans give users the ability to collaborate in teams, and it allows their games to be published on "closed" platforms like Xbox and PlayStation. Unity also offers a free "Personal" plan for solo game-developers and those just starting out in the industry. However, with Personal plans, users cannot collaborate on projects, nor can they publish their games on closed platforms.

On Sept. 12, Unity announced to the gaming community in a blog post that it would be implementing a new "runtime fee" that would be attached to every game installation made with the engine. Once a developer reached

a certain threshold for downloads and revenue earned, they would have been charged a flat fee for each subsequent installation.

For Unity Personal users, once a game passed \$200,000 USD in revenue and 200,000 lifetime installs, a

These fees could have tightened the already slim profit margins of small game-developers.

\$0.20 USD fee would be attached to every download. For Unity Pro and Enterprise users, after surpassing \$1 million USD in revenue and one million lifetime installs, a fluctuating fee would be applied to every download, ranging from \$0.15 to \$0.01, decreas-

ing with the number of installs.

The pricing model changes, which were announced unexpectedly, spawned immediate uproar. Some of the major issues raised centered on how the pricing disproportionately affected smaller developers, and the fact that the fees were still attached to games sold in game bundles at fractions of their original price. These fees could have tightened the already slim profit margins of small game-developers, and in some cases, forced them to take a profit loss on every sale.

Additionally, there was backlash over the fact that Unity itself would count the number of installs, rather than the developers reporting the installs to Unity. According to *The Guardian*, developers worried that they could be charged multiple times if people maliciously installed and re-installed their game.

Possibly the most controversial element of Unity's new pricing model was their plan to retroactively charge developers for past installs. This meant that developers whose games were published over a decade ago, with older versions of Unity, would still be affected by the runtime fee for new installations of their games. Addi-

tionally, all past installs and revenue would count towards the fee threshold.

With much of the Unity game development community against the new changes, the company decided to overhaul the runtime fees just ten days after their initial announcement. In a blogpost on their website, Unity announced that the runtime fee would only apply to installs after the changes come into effect in 2024, Unity Personal users would no longer have the fee at all, and that the installs would be self-reported.

The blogpost featured the formal apology from Unity Create president Marc Whitten. It was also later announced that Unity's President and CEO John Riccitiello would be stepping down in light of the controversy.

While the new changes to the policies have begun to align with the demands of the developer community, the controversy has still greatly diminished many users' trust in Unity. Game development is a volatile industry, with success often relying on outside factors. To many developers, the possibility of their game engine possessing the power to change the terms of their agreement at will is a concern.



UNITY

REVIEW

OLIVIA RODRIGO GUTS ALBUM REVIEW

REVIEW by Cynthia Zhu (10)

On Sept. 8, Olivia Rodrigo released her brand new album, *GUTS*. In some of her songs this album, Rodrigo adopted a more upbeat, rock-inspired style — a stark contrast to many of the tracks in her previous album, *SOUR*. It's amazing to see her experiment with different styles, and her new types of songs are beginning to grow on me. However, I think this album is definitely not as iconic or as memorable as her first.

vampire

This song is probably my all-time favourite from this album! Rodrigo sings with undeniable emotion as she describes a previous relationship. The song starts off with soft piano chords. The vocals begin quiet and melancholy, then build in intensity, balancing anger and disappointment. By the time she reaches the chorus, she's loud and furious. Rodrigo doesn't publicize who her songs are about, but there were rumours spreading earlier this year that this song is about Taylor Swift. Regardless, the first time I heard this song, I fell in love with it

and played it on repeat for at least a few days. "vampire" on top!

bad idea right?

After the release of "vampire", I had very high expectations for her next single. Unfortunately, I was met with disappointment at first, since I wasn't quite sure if I liked it or not. However, as with many of her other rock-style songs, this one grew on me. I have to say, "vampire" still tops it, but this song is probably a close second for me.

get him back!

This was the only non-single song in her new album that was given a music video. It is about how she wants to "get" a boy back. Initially, it appears as if she just wants to get revenge, but with the dual meaning of "get him back", it's implied that she misses the boy as well. She talks about how she wants to make him jealous, as well as the petty and childish things she wants to do to get revenge. I like the music video, which was #ShotoniPhone15Pro — the best advertisement ever. In this music video, she has many clones of herself wreaking

havoc, especially on car windows. I honestly wonder if they used real cars and car windows. If so, I'm curious as to what on earth the cost of this music video was. This song is probably one of my favourite non-singles on the album.

the grudge

This song stuck out to me when I was first listening to the album. When I first heard it, I thought, *man, these lyrics are on a different level*. She incorporated strong words and phrases that hit hard. Again, it's unfortunate that she doesn't say who her songs are about, because I'd really like to know who hurt her this bad. It's amazing how she poured all of her pain in the high notes of this slower-paced song, especially in the bridge. If you like deep and painful songs, this song is for you.

pretty isn't pretty

Like many of us, Rodrigo is subject to her own unfortunate beauty standards, as well as those of the society we live in. This song talks about how, no matter what makeup she uses and no matter what she eats, she isn't

pretty enough and does not feel any different. I'm sure many people can relate to the lyrics of this song. I myself certainly can. Although this track isn't as catchy as some of her more upbeat ones, I still like it and its message, which is meaningful to me.

lacy

The first time I listened to the album, this song caught my attention. Originally, it was because I liked the tune and thought it was different from those of the other songs in the album. That alone already made it an favourite of mine. However, I researched Rodrigo's intentions for the meaning of this song's lyrics, and I realized that it in fact has a profound message. Rodrigo sings about her feelings of jealousy towards another woman — speculated by some fans to be Gracie Abrams, Sabrina Carpenter or Taylor Swift. "lacy" continues to be one of my favourite non-single songs in her album.

all-american b*tch

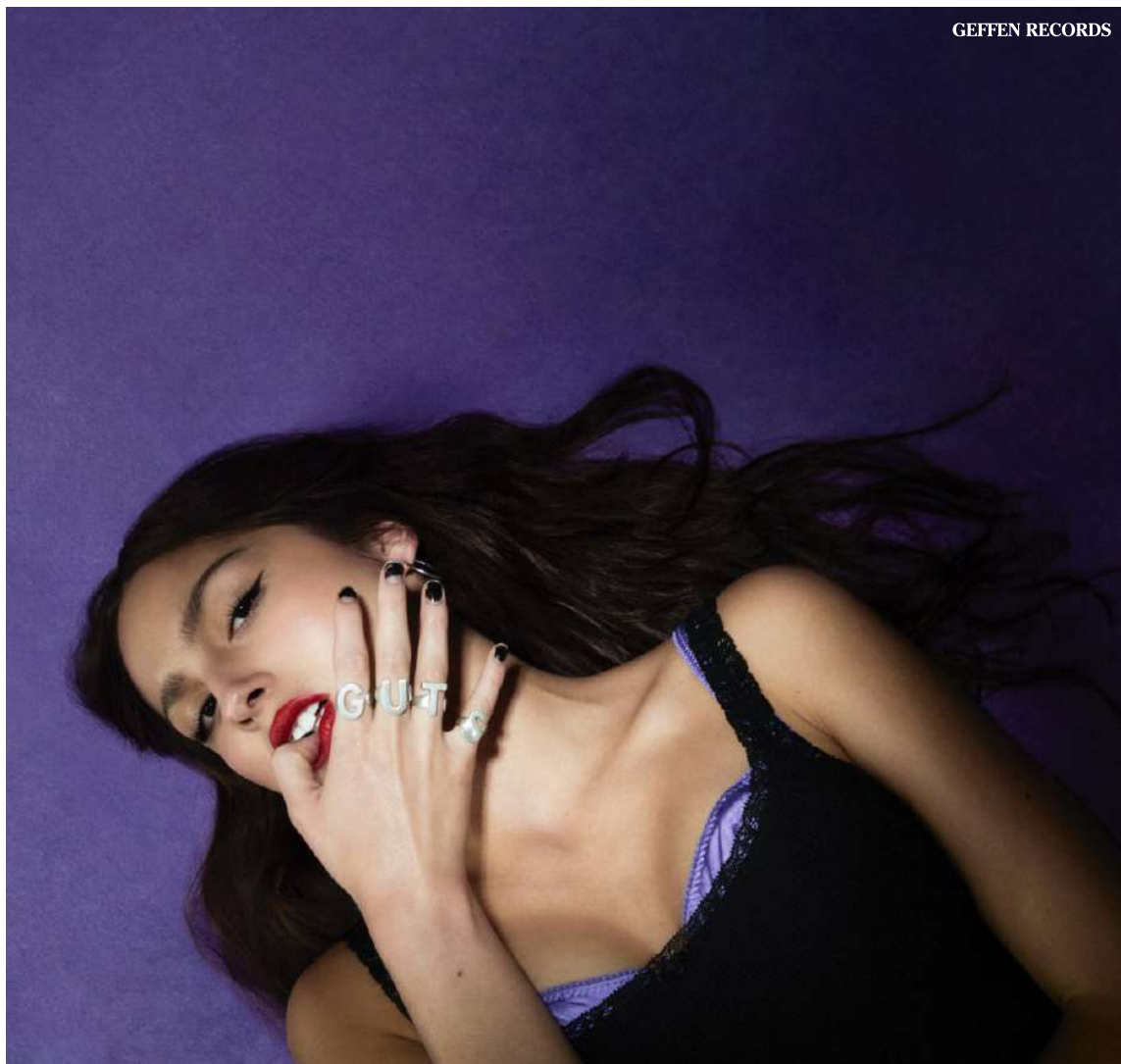
I didn't like this song at first, but I started enjoying it as I listened to it more. The lyrics of this song talk

about the frustrations Rodrigo faces as a girl, especially as a teenaged one. The repressed anger and confusion that she's kept to herself can truly be felt through her singing. In this song, she alternates between two singing styles. In the verses, she sings a sweet serenade to gentle guitar strumming. In the choruses, she uses a loud, tantrum-like voice with heavy guitar. Also, Rodrigo actually dedicates a solid ten seconds just to screaming. Like literally screaming at the top of her lungs. That, honestly, deserves some respect!

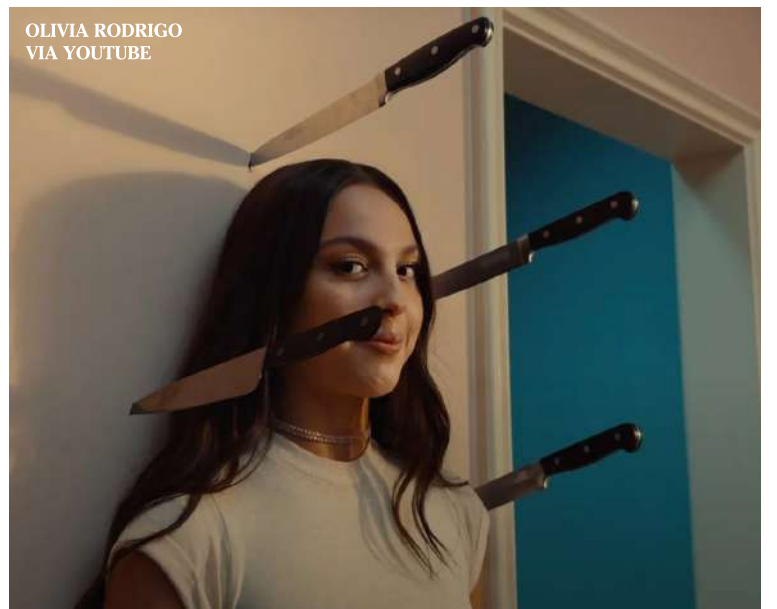
ballad of a homeschooled girl

Did you know that Olivia Rodrigo was homeschooled from grade 7 onwards? This made her, as she explains on this track, socially awkward around other people her age. This song speaks to her social uneasiness. It talks about how she messes up when she attends parties or tries to ask boys out. For me, this song is pretty relatable; I don't like to be part of large parties without anybody I know. Therefore, I think this song is memorable for many people in her fanbase.

Geffen Records



OLIVIA RODRIGO VIA YOUTUBE



LARISSA HOFFMAN VIA BILLBOARD

Five Piano Pieces to Play When Relatives Come Over

REVIEW by Cyrus Fu (12) & Nigel Goto (12)

Every pianist is different. Some enjoy playing more Classical pieces, while some of us just hammer the notes and hope for the best (which, if you enjoy Bartók, is something you're familiar with). Some of us have been forced to play since birth, while a few picked it up because that one song from that one movie was really *really* good. Whatever your reasons for playing piano, we can all agree that all of us hate it when we are asked to play *Für Elise*. So, we've suggested a few pieces that are less likely to make you slam your head into the keys.

'Moment Musicaux No. 3' by Franz Schubert

With only two pages and at a moderate tempo, this piece is the one to learn if you need something that sounds good, but doesn't make your hand cramp halfway through playing it. Hailing from the Romantic era, the simple melody doesn't require much work, consisting mostly of chords, and the left hand is even easier, with a stream of steady, measured eighth notes. This song is a must-have for every beginner looking for a fun, whimsical piece.

'Merry-Go-Round of Life' by Joe Hisaishi

From the Ghibli Studio production *Howl's Moving Castle*, "Merry-Go-Round of Life" is the perfect piece to impress. The tempo transitions smoothly, beginning with a slow introduction that sets the tone for the rest of the piece. This transitions into a haunting yet beautiful waltz theme, and the piece finishes with a dramatic and Gothic ending. These melodies create a moving composition that captures the playful nature of its respective film. "Merry-Go-Round of Life"

remains a skillful and sophisticated piece for Ghibli fans to learn and enjoy. (This piece also has the option of violin accompaniment, if you decide to make a truce with the strings.)

'Arabesque No. 1' by Claude Debussy

A graceful and artistic piece with a soothing melody, this is classic post-impressionism. The gentle opening is reminiscent of soft waves lapping at the beach during a sunset. Like some other works by Debussy, certain sections involve two-against-three polyrhythms, with triplets in one hand and regular eighth notes in the other. Deep and thought-provoking, this piece is sure to impress even the most inexpressive of relatives.

'Mia & Sebastian's Theme (From La La Land)' by Justin Hurwitz

From the hit film 'La La Land' starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, "Mia & Sebastian's Theme" is definitely one of the more well-known pieces from pop culture. The piece begins with a moving forlorn melody and gradually builds in complexity and intensity, reaching a climactic conclu-

sion. While this song is just under two minutes, it can certainly captivate an audience. Just ask Ryan Gosling. This piece is a great choice for anyone looking for a fun and quick challenge.

'Rush E' by Sheet Music Boss

Truly the pinnacle of beginner pieces, "Rush E" is easily one of the most impactful piano pieces ever composed. Taking on difficult themes of

mental health and hearing loss, Sheet Music Boss successfully tackles these topics while providing a simple yet powerful melody. Surprisingly, this piece requires minimal effort to create a cathartic experience for listeners. The fast-paced introductory melodies are easily achievable, as is the key-mashing found in the chorus. This piece remains a staple for any beginner to pick up and play.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



OPINION

IS THE “NO PAIN, NO GAIN” MENTALITY STILL NECESSARY IN TODAY’S SCHOOLS?

OPINION by Elle Glen (10)

Terms like “no pain, no gain” or “feel the burn” gained popularity during the ‘80s, with the rise of televised aerobic workouts. While on their own, they simply encourage you to work hard to see positive results, they also contain an underlying mindset — in order to get fit or achieve your exercise goals, you must undergo suffering. Students are almost certain to hear this phrase during their mandatory three years of Physical and Health Education (PHE). Although the weight of these words may be missed, they are still felt. This mentality is a part of the way PHE is taught, despite the semi-integration of wellness education into the curriculum.

Is there a line between giving it your all, and pushing yourself to 110 per cent without any thought to your health or wellness? High school PE does not always think so. So, what harmful messaging does “no pain, no gain” contain, what are the negative impacts of enforcing this mentality, and why does it still have a place in the physical education system, even after scientists and health officials have refuted it time and time again?

When exercising, one should be aware of their body and its limits to maximize health benefits and enjoyment, as well as prevent injury. When focus is moved from doing exercises correctly and at your own pace to completing the highest amount of repetitions as quickly as possible, injury is likely. The gym may be uncomfortable, but it should never be painful. While muscle pain after vigorous exercise can be expected, muscles shouldn't be overworked or pushed past their maximum capacity, according to the American Physical Therapy Association. It's no secret that this mindset has been proven to be harmful by both scientists and health officials alike, since it is understood that pain is the body's warning sign. But how can students listen to their body when they receive contradictory messaging at school? Being told by a teacher that you must push past pain in order to improve, even though injury is likely, is irresponsible and shows misguided priorities and direction from the PHE department.

Students should be taught to listen to their body and to take breaks when needed. Because taking a break or modifying an exercise for your skill

level doesn't mean you can't still retain health benefits. In fact, according to the Ohio State University Medical Center, taking breaks can actually improve your overall performance, whether it's a five minute break during a sports game or a day-long break between vigorous cardio workouts.

The modern PHE curriculum marks students on effort rather than performance, but does the “no pain, no gain” mentality warp the definition of effort? Simply defined, effort is a conscious determined attempt or an expenditure of energy towards a goal. When put into the context of high school PHE class, this mentality implies that effort is synonymous with pain and that, without experiencing pain, the accomplishment of goals is impossible. This ignores the potential value of strategies that focus on intrinsic motivation, such as positive reinforcement, to build resilience and encourage learners to persist with difficult tasks. While the “no pain, no gain” mentality may serve as a source of motivation for some, it fails to consider the differences in skill levels and effort ca-

pacities among students. Not everyone starts from the same point of fitness or possesses the same natural ability. Acknowledging these disparities is crucial in understanding that effort cannot be defined by the amount of pain endured. If effort really was the focus of the gym, then wouldn't it be “no effort, no gain”?

Many Hamber students enjoy PHE, either for the sports or for the fitness exposure. But various others don't. These students often do not participate. How much of that is due to the “no pain, no gain” mindset? Does this mentality scare unmotivated students into trying less? The “no pain, no gain” mentality often creates an environment that alienates individuals who may not fit into traditional perceptions of fitness. This can discourage students who do not excel at high-intensity workouts or sports, leading to feelings of inadequacy and decreased participation.

With a newfound awareness of mental health and wellness sweeping the fitness world, people are coming to prioritize their body and mind through exercise. According to Genevieve Duntton, the Professor of Preventive Med-

icine & Psychology at the University of South Carolina, current reasons for exercising “are certainly more about stress reduction, anxiety release, and improved sleep.” People are realizing that fitness is not solely about physical strength or endurance but encompasses mental, emotional, and social well-being too. High school students face numerous pressures. Integrating wellness practices into gym programs can provide them with tools to manage stress, build resilience, and maintain a healthy balance in all aspects of their lives.

Some changes have already been made in Hamber's PHE department. For example, the department has started to move away from using health assessments for marks — a student-driven change that Hamber was one of the first schools to implement, according to **Mr. I. Sehmbi** (Physical Education). This change was implemented to give fitness a more goal-centered focus and was a necessary step in the right direction towards a more holistic approach to PHE.

This shift in landscape makes one

question the true purpose of PHE in schools. The parts of gym that will create real difference in the lives of many have less to do with workouts or sports. The practice of being physically active helps increase students' focus and academic participation. Additionally, PHE can help students develop routines, as well as can give them the tools to create their own healthy lifestyles and be conscious of their fitness. These skills will keep students healthy when exercise is no longer mandatory in school and can strengthen the relationships between their minds and bodies.

So where does the “no pain, no gain” mentality fit in? How does pushing yourself past your capabilities teach you about personal fitness and wellbeing? These inquiries not only bring this mentality's relevance into question but also pinpoint part of the harm in this mindset. By listening to student feedback and replacing harmful mentalities with positive mindsets, Hamber's PHE department can create an environment that is both encouraging and beneficial to all students, regardless of their skills or limitations.



Granville Island has too many cars

OPINION by Austin Witter (12)

I started working on Granville Island at the Tea Company this past summer. One time, as I was leaving the Public Market, I saw a large vehicle bump into a pedestrian, sending her sprawling onto the brick road. A crowd gathered, but she managed to get up, brush herself off, pick up her things, and leave the scene seemingly unscathed, save for a few bruises. At the time, I didn't think much of it. But as I returned week after week, I couldn't help wondering about the traffic running right through the centre of Granville Island's most popular shopping area. Why was a space that supposedly serves pedestrians giving so much priority to cars?

Since its transformation in the 70s, the false island in False Creek has offered shopping, dining, parks, water-sports, theatre, and more at a stellar location on the water. Inevitably, these activities draw huge crowds, especially on holidays and in the summer months. The 300 metre by 700 metre peninsula is constantly congested with pedestrian

and vehicle traffic. In 2016, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), commissioned the *Granville Island 2040* planning initiative. They developed the *Transportation Strategy*, which suggested ways to alter the current motor vehicle dominance of the space in order to improve the experience of all customers and visitors.

Their report rightly notes that “once on Granville Island, everyone is a pedestrian.” You may arrive in a car or a bike, but to enjoy most of the facilities offered by Granville Island, you're going to have to leave your vehicle behind. Thus, it's baffling that the island quite obviously prioritizes drivers. Each of the major shopping areas — the Public Market, the Net Loft, and Railspur Alley — are separated from each other by roads that are constantly thronged with cars. Each time I take out the trash for the Tea Company, I have to cross two roads for a walk of less than 100 metres.

The most obvious issue with this is safety. The accident I witnessed was luckily a minor one but could easily have been worse had the car been moving a few kilometres per hour quicker. Cars drive fairly slowly on Granville Island (the speed limit is 30 km/h), but not slow enough that a collision with a pedestrian couldn't result in injury, especially if the vehicle was a truck or SUV, or the pedestrian was elderly or a child.

Not only does it present a safety risk, the prevalence of cars is a huge inconvenience for pedestrians (as men-

tioned, essentially all of the Island's customers) who have to dodge them while in the middle of their shopping. Imagine if Metrotown or Pacific Centre was bisected by a constant stream of cars searching for parking. It would be absurd. To mention the pollution and noise (cars are so loud!) that could be avoided if non-essential vehicles were prohibited.

There are, of course, reasons to keep streets open for a few cars on the Island. Commercial vehicles need to supply shops, and emergency vehicles need an access route as well. Providing room for cars is also important from an accessibility standpoint. Some streets could be left open for access to parking designated solely for people with accessibility concerns. Moreover, reducing access for cars doesn't necessarily make the Island less accessible. With fewer cars on the Island, it would be a lot easier and safer for customers of all abilities to explore the Island upon arrival.

Of course, a large portion of Granville Island shoppers arrive there by car. One issue is that the most desirable parking lot is right next to the Public Market, in the centre of shopping activity. Due to its ideal location, it's usually full, forcing drivers to loop around the Island several times in search of a spot. I don't drive, yet I can't imagine that driving anywhere on the Island is an enjoyable experience behind the wheel. Most non-accessible parking should be concentrated near the entrance to the Island, or outside of the Island proper.

People can walk in.

As the *Transportation Strategy* notes, these improvements need to be made in concert with better transit connections to the island. Despite its central location, Granville Island is served by just one bus route, the 50, which runs every 15 minutes. The closest train stop is Olympic Village on the Canada Line, which is 2 km away. Once the Broadway Subway is operational, the South Granville stop will be closer but still not especially nearby. During the 2010 Olympics, there was a trolley running from the Olympic Village station

to Granville Island. The tracks are still completely intact. Bringing this back would instantly improve transit prospects. If transit is improved, fewer cars will visit the Island, and fewer parking spots will be necessary. Also, transit will be much easier for the significant sector of the population that doesn't own a car.

The CMHC needs to listen to its own advice and implement policies that reduce car traffic on the Island. These crucial steps will propel the peninsula into the future and ensure that Granville Island is serving Vancouverites the best that it possibly can.



HAMBERGER

FIVE TOTALLY ROMANTIC SPOTS IN VANCOUVER

SATIRE by Tiffany Adams (10)

Have no fear, Hamberites. There's no need to spend over \$1,000 on a ticket to Paris — just check out these five intimate spots right in the city!

1. THE HALLWAY OF AFFECTION
(AKA THE THIRD FLOOR AT HAMBER)

The Hallway of Affection (AKA the third floor at Hamber), is one of Vancouver's most romantic spots. Whether you are sitting against the lockers engaging in banter or walking past your crush after leaving class, the third floor is known for its abundance of love, making it the superior floor. The harmonic sound of lockers slamming shut and the wonderful atmosphere of students giggling is the birthplace of many intimate moments.

2. 49° 16 '21.3"N 123° 06' 56.2"W
(AKA. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS IS)

49° 16 '21.3"N 123° 06' 56.2"W, on the seawall in Yaletown, is the perfect spot to talk about the historical significance of World War I while listening to Fearless (Taylor's Version) with your lover. The fresh smell of swimmable False Creek water blowing in your face while the overpriced ferries sail by makes this spot all the more romantic. Throughout every season, the aesthetics at 49° 16 '21.3"N 123° 06' 56.2"W never fail to disappoint in any situation or situationship.

3. THE CENTRAL LIBRARY
(AKA. 350 W GEORGIA ST, VANCOUVER, BC)

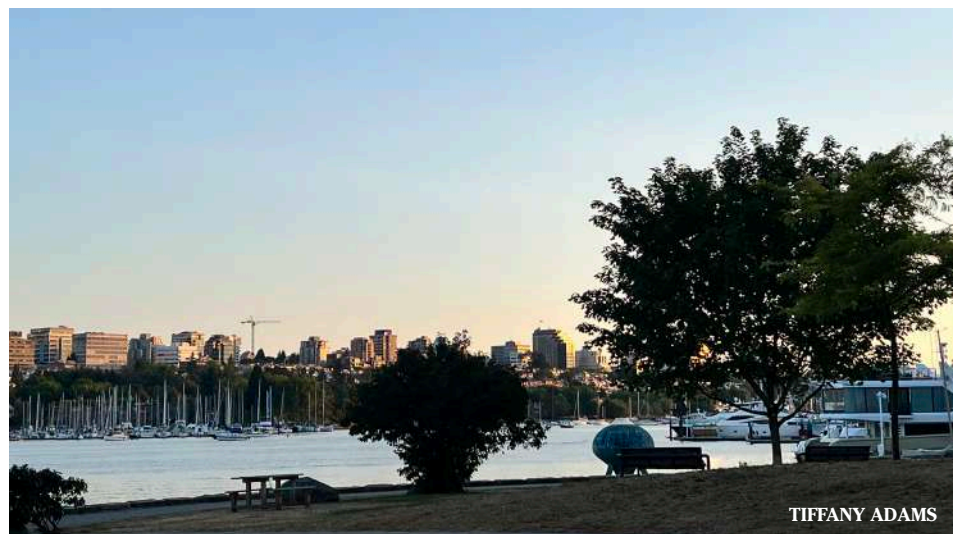
The Central Library is one of the best places to go for a productive but cute study date. The walk to the entrance of the Colosseum-like building is one of the safest walks ever. In fact, I have never ever seen anyone get arrested for solicitation while visiting the library. You are bound to find an empty table in a secluded area at the Central Library, since it's so big! Stressing over exams with your partner while studying at the library is why it is the finest establishment to take the individual you are romantically linked with on a date.

4. ANYWHERE ON GRANVILLE STREET
(AKA. BRANDY MELVILLE LINEUPS!)

Anywhere on Granville Street can be turned into a fairy-tale date with the right steps. Being such a versatile street, there is never a lack of things to do. Happy couples fill the sidewalk every weekend to eat at the many restaurants and shop at the many stores lining the street. A first date at Romano's Pizza to indulge in their delicious viscous chicken wings could be the start of a fifty-year relationship. Many people are quick to warn of the dangers of the shady sidewalks, roads, and alleyways of Granville Street. But they often overlook the romantic habitat cultivated within it. Besides all the bike thefts, use of e-cigarettes, and men with saggy pants, Granville Street is a place every couple should visit at least once.

5. THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
(AKA. YOUR 6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP #THROWBACK)

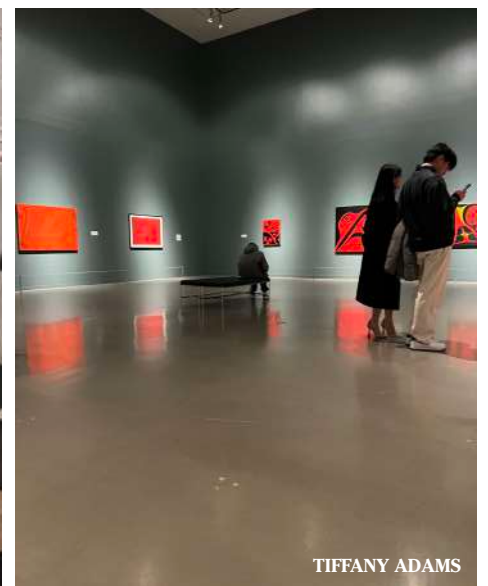
The Vancouver Art Gallery is a must-go date destination for any Vancouverite. There are two ways to enjoy the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG): walking around in silence, or yapping about the deep connections and historical perspective of the artwork. Youths ages 13-18 are able to enter for the low price of free, which is such a steal. Visiting the VAG brings essentially the same experience as the Louvre, except it isn't in Paris, and it isn't the Louvre. An amazing building, the VAG is a place for all types of romance. Whether for self-love or to impress your long-term, long-distance, low-commitment, casual girlfriend, head to the Vancouver Art Gallery as soon as possible.



TIFFANY ADAMS



TIFFANY ADAMS



TIFFANY ADAMS

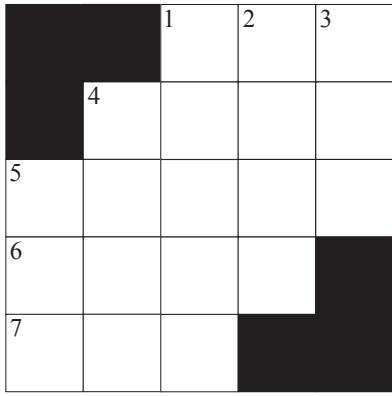


COMIC by Aubrey Brandt (9)



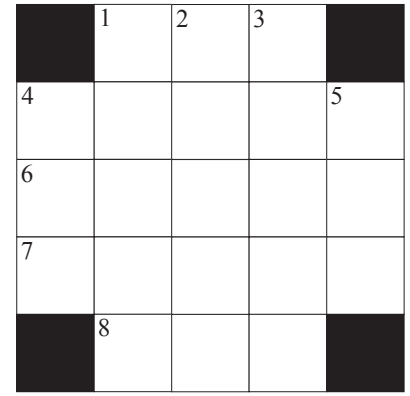
COMIC by Darlene Soh (11)

HAMBERGER



WARM UP CROSSWORDS

PUZZLES by Austin Witter (12)

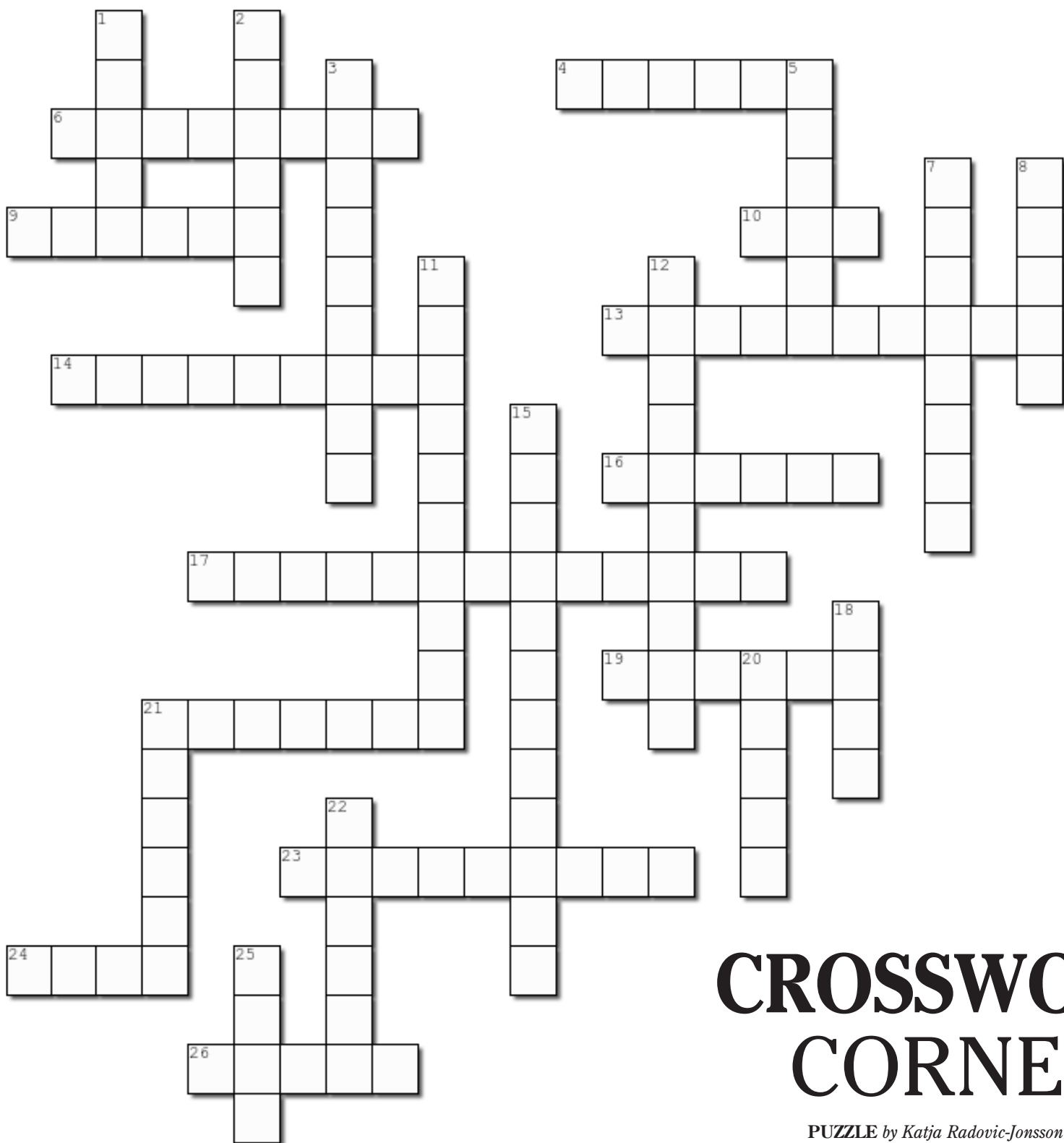


- Across**
1. Chronically online men might call people this, with "boy"
 4. Green veggie used in Southern cooking
 5. ___ of the crop
 6. Bridal blur
 7. What Charles is to Elizabeth

- Down**
1. Flock of geese or loosely coiled piece of yarn
 2. Unwritten form of history
 3. Essentially an orange potato
 4. This varies in Stuf
 5. Where one could buy some drugs

- Across**
1. Led by Xi Jinping (abbr.)
 4. Middle child of the string section
 6. Young pigeon, in a recipe
 7. Startling, in art and culture
 8. Possible exclamation upon seeing a mouse

- Down**
1. ___ one's interest
 2. 66 is a famous American example
 3. Superman alias Kent
 4. Performs at the Orpheum
 5. Recently assassinated Japanese prime minister



CROSSWORD CORNER

PUZZLE by Katja Radovic-Jonsson (12)

- Across**
4. East Vancouver home of the 105 street address
 6. Common in BC, and most recently, Maui
 9. Speedy singer or Twilight actor
 10. Home of the Thunderbirds
 13. Set, bump, spike
 14. Overpriced burgers, all of a sudden
 16. Counsellor, both peer and guidance
 17. Constable Tolja, according to Instagram
 19. License earned after the Class 7 road test
 21. A brand known for its warehouse (not Costco!)
 23. Northwest cuisine garnering a Michelin Star
 24. This album was a bad idea, right?
 26. Vice-principal or billionaire Bill

- Down**
1. Game development platform or state of harmony
 2. Three-laked provincial park
 3. Home of Indigo, Urban Outfitters, and an island
 5. Surname of a real-life Barbie
 7. 'In need of a personality transplant', as per Donald Trump
 8. 'Doesn't fall far from the tree', so to speak
 11. Moroccan setting of an eponymous 1942 movie
 12. Club with matching hoodies!
 15. Bilingual maritime province
 18. Child of Zucc
 20. Fourth country to land on the moon
 21. Real, according to the Mexican Senate
 22. Women, according to Greta Gerwig
 25. Free money...for now