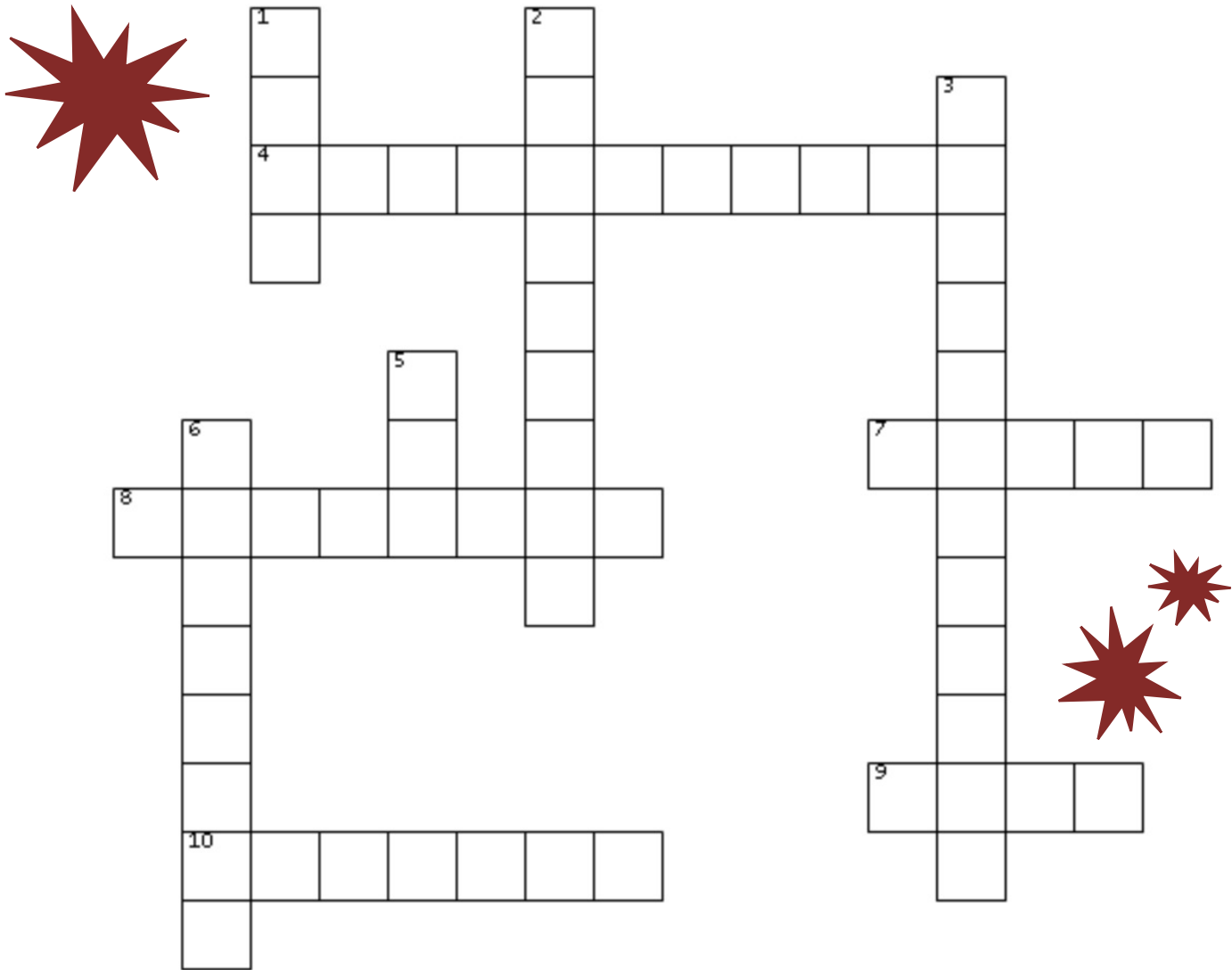


Winter Crossword

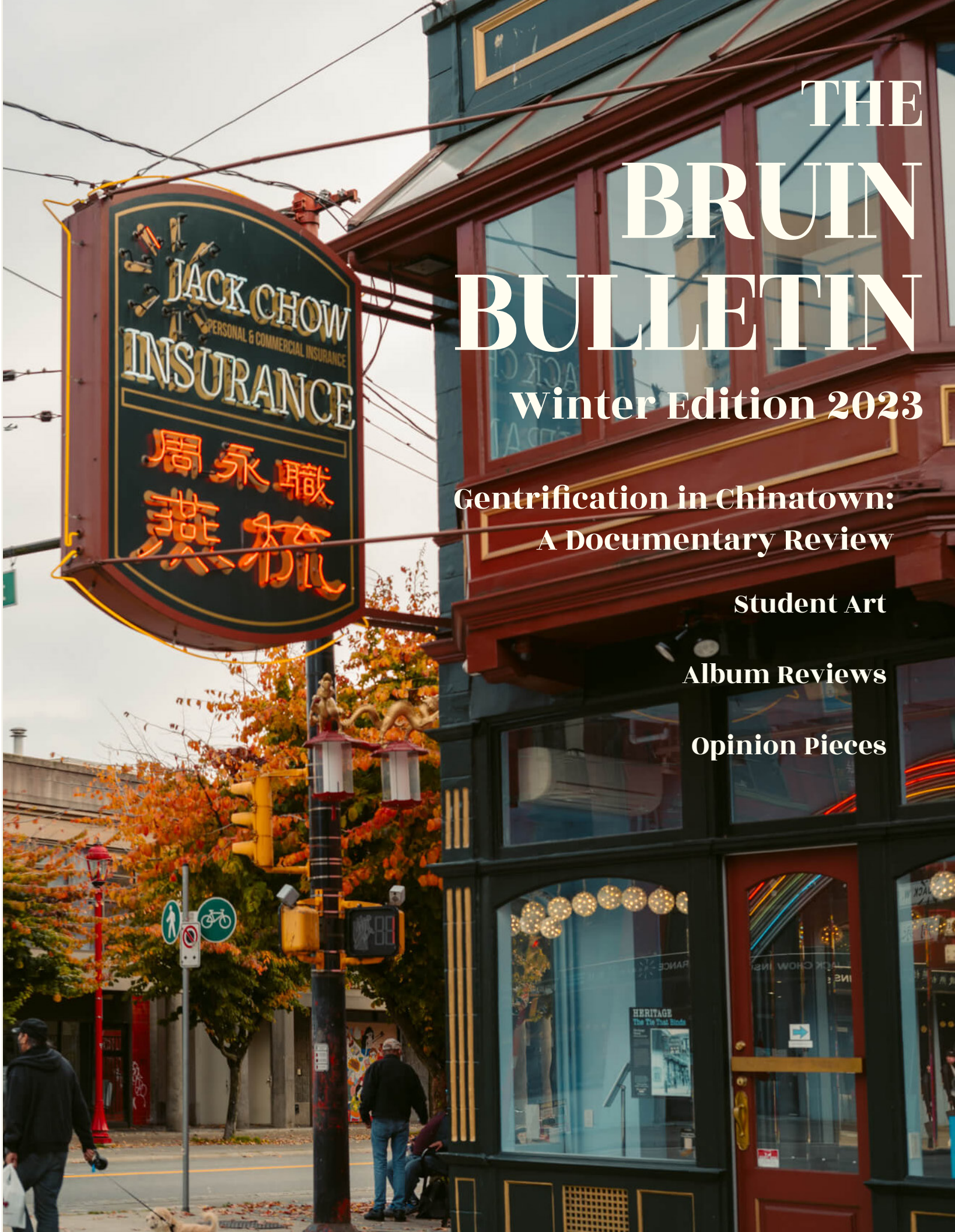
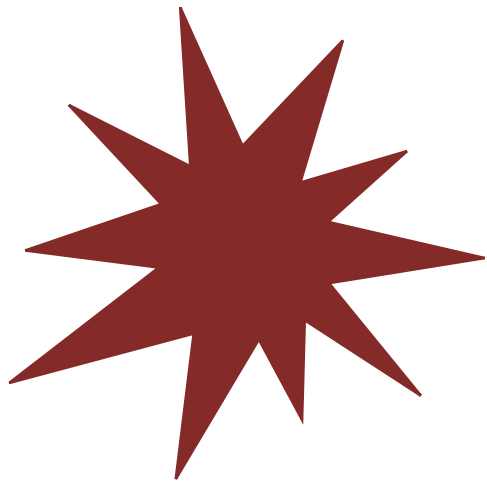


Across

- 4. Bears do it in winter & Brit students do it first block
- 7. Weird Canadian word for hat
- 8. Shortest day of the year
- 9. angel, Lie down in the snow to make
- 10. Has a carrot for a nose

Down

- 1. Lennon, Dead member of the Beatles
- 2. Gives off heat and sparks
- 3. Winter sport similar to skateboarding
- 5. chocolate, Hot sweet drink
- 6. Shoes that suck in the snow but everyone will wear anyways



THE BRUIN BULLETIN

Winter Edition 2023

Gentrification in Chinatown:
A Documentary Review

Student Art

Album Reviews

Opinion Pieces

Editor's Note

Sunny Zatzick - Editor-in-Chief

I am excited for my year as editor-in-chief and am immensely proud of our first issue. Our team this year is incredibly passionate and hardworking, and are committed to mine and Ama's goal of creating content that connects us to our community and school. We are devoted to incorporating many forms of expressive journalism and making space for students to share perspectives that are often overlooked. We are so glad we can share our hard work with you and look forward to our future publications.

We gratefully acknowledge that we share and pursue information from the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples, whose stories and arts have often been excluded from mainstream journalism. We are committed to decolonization through journalism and uplifting Indigenous perspectives and voices through our work.

Contributors

Editor-in-Chief

Sunny Zatzick

Managing Editor

Ama Birch

Writers

Bec Ly
Ella Tsang
Logan Keilty
James Lavery
Sunny Zatzick
Chiya Amin
Jenny Chi
Sophia Digol
Nevaeh Wilson

Editors

Sunny Zatzick
Ama Birch
Jenny Chi
Bec Ly
Nevaeh Wilson
Elsie Iwankow

Editing Consultants

Bryan Green
Rose Mackenzie

Layout

Ama Birch
Ella Tsang
Rheagan Thoms
Grace Fong
Rachel Oleksyn

Artists

Jenny Chi
Bec Ly
Logan Keilty
Avery Woronko
Rachel Oleksyn

Student Art



Photography
By: Rachel Oleksyn (12)



Portrait of Abbie
By: Bec Ly (12)



Gooble
By: Logan Keilty (11)



East Van
By: Jenny Chi (11)



Grant
By: Avery Woronko (12)

Empowering Documentary *Big Fight in Little Chinatown* Demonstrates the Strength of a Community

“Chinatown is not just a touristy place. It’s a living neighborhood with a vibrant cultural heritage.”
- Karen Cho, director of *Big Fight in Little Chinatown*

By: Ella Tsang (12)

Across North America, Chinatowns have faced significant challenges from developers who relentlessly seek to demolish historic structures and cultural institutions to build condominium projects. The emotional and compelling documentary *Big Fight in Little Chinatown* sheds light on the struggles faced by these communities in Montreal, New York, San Francisco, Toronto, and Vancouver. A fascinating look at the intricate dynamics at play in these vibrant Chinatowns is presented by Karen Cho, who examines the effects of these pressures on the streets.

The film explores time-honoured establishments that have been passed down from generation to generation for almost a century.

We are introduced to the remarkable individuals and families that live and breathe these iconic landmarks through Cho’s lens. Wing On Wo & Co., nestled on Mott Street in New York City, has captivated visitors with its exquisite Chinese porcelain since 1925.

Meanwhile in Vancouver, the Hon Hsing Athletic Club has served the Chinese-Canadian community since 1939. Despite the prevalent narrative of a fading Chinatown and its impending expiration echoed by the media, Cho reveals a contrasting reality of resilience and perseverance. As Cho reflects from the back seat of an Uber enroute to the recent world premiere of her film at DOC NYC, she shares that “Amidst the tales of Chinatown’s decline, there exist these pockets of

unwavering strength and survival.”

Among the many interview participants in *Big Fight in Little Chinatown* is Fred Mah, President of the Chinatown Society Heritage Building Association.

The roots of Mah’s family in the neighborhood date back to the early 1900s when his grandfather came to Canada to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway. As a result of Canada’s racist and punitive Chinese Exclusion Act and Chinese head tax, Vancouver’s Chinatown was deprived of women and children, as family members in China were not allowed to come to Canada until 1947. Despite Mah’s father being here, he and his mother only arrived in 1949, when Mah was 14 years old. Many developers have tried to persuade Mah and others to sell, offering hundreds of millions of dollars for prime Vancouver real estate, but Mah is simply not interested in selling. “My feeling is that if we sell, our forefathers will roll over in their grave,” he says with assurance in the film.

Throughout the film, Cho displays the discrimination experienced in Chinatown in the past, while also examining the effects of the recent increase in anti-Asian hatred brought on by Donald Trump in the early days of the pandemic.



Scene from *Big Fight in Little Chinatown* shows Fred Mah on the balcony of the Mah Association of Canada’s building on Pender Street in Vancouver’s Chinatown.

“I was at a Chinatown conference in New York City in March of 2020, literally three days before they shut down New York for COVID. COVID added this extra element where we were really going back to this era of anti-Asian feelings everywhere, and the Chinatowns became stigmatized.” The tense, chaotic environment of 2020 ignited the inspiration for *Big Fight in Little Chinatown*.

“So many of the businesses, the neighborhoods, had this double burden of being stigmatized because they were Chinese.” While the story revolves around Chinatowns, it is universal in nature. “My hope is to make people think critically about the gentrification and other pressures happening in their city and to recognize the intersection between racism and urban development.

Gentrification is not a natural phenomenon, it’s the result of a series of choices made by a city. What if the choices we made were centered around community and people rather than capital?”

Big Fight in Little Chinatown is currently streaming on YouTube.



Credit: *Big Fight in Little Chinatown*



Credit: Nasa

Conspiracies of the 20th Century

By: Logan Keilty (11), James Lavery (10)

Conspiracy theories have always been a part of human history. They are stories or beliefs that suggest secretive or malevolent groups. Some theories suggest individuals are working behind the scenes to manipulate events or control the world. These theories can be entertaining and thought-provoking, but they can also be dangerous. Conspiracy theories can fuel paranoia, mistrust, and violence, and they can undermine trust in institutions and democracy.

One of the defining features of conspiracy theories is their lack of evidence. Conspiracy theorists often rely on circumstantial evidence, anecdotes, or rumours to support their claims. They may

also selectively interpret or ignore contradictory evidence. This cherry-picking of evidence can create a narrative that seems plausible, but it also has the potential to be misleading and deceptive.

Another feature of conspiracy theories is their flexibility. Conspiracy theories can evolve and adapt to fit new information or events. For example, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, conspiracy theorists claimed that the US government was involved in a plot to stage the attacks or allow them to happen. When evidence to support these claims failed to materialize, conspiracy theorists adjusted their theories to suggest that the government was covering up its involvement, making them less reliable because they become unrooted from facts. Theorists suggest former U.S. president Bush used 9/11 to cover up the fact he lost America a large amount

of money, however no theory has been proven or been shown as reliable, but they are still being discussed to this day.

Conspiracy theories can have a profound impact on society. They can undermine trust in institutions such as the government, media, and science. Conspiracy theorists often portray themselves as independent thinkers who are skeptical of mainstream narratives. However, this skepticism can lead to a rejection of established facts and science, which can have dangerous consequences. For example, the anti-vaccine movement is fueled by conspiracy theories about the safety and efficacy of vaccines. This movement has led to outbreaks of preventable diseases and put vulnerable populations at risk. This theory can be harmful as believers of it tend to distrust health science.

A famous conspiracy is the faking of the moon landing, claiming the moon landing in 1969 was faked by the US government to beat the USSR to space. Supposedly Neil and Buzz wouldn't have been able to survive the radiation from the sun. Theories also point out that in the video of the moon landing there are no stars and the flag waves in the wind while there is no wind in space. While most of these theories have been debunked, still 10 percent of Americans believe the moon landing was faked, including Steph Curry, world renowned basketball player. Although conspiracy theories are a fascinating and often an entertaining aspect of human culture, they can also be dangerous and damaging to society.

The Geniuses of Boygenius and Their New EP *the rest*

By Sophia Digol (11)

9.5/10

Boygenius, the emerging supergroup composed of the exceptionally gifted Phoebe Bridgers, Julien Baker, and Lucy Dacus, has set the music world ablaze with their remarkable debut album, *the record*, released on March 31st, 2023. In just eight months, this dynamic trio has managed to gain a large and devoted fanbase. They delivered a blend of indie rock and folk that resonate in the hearts of their listeners, and their recent world tour has proved a spectacular surge in popularity, with tickets for their shows selling out at highly sought-after venues.

Their journey traces back to 2018 when the three decided to unite and create their first EP, titled *boygenius*. This collaborative effort has had a profound impact on their individual careers, with each member benefiting from the collective synergy. The harmonious union of their voices has captured the hearts of countless fans, leaving audiences mesmerized by their captivating stage presence. On October 13, 2023, Boygenius released their second EP, *the rest* featuring four new songs: *Black Hole*, *Afraid of Heights*, *Voyager*, and *Powers*.

Credit: Billboard



Credit: Pitchfork

Each of these compositions is a masterful work of art, adorned with raw, unfiltered vocals and lyrics that are nothing short of being poetic and skillfully narrative. Notably, Boygenius successfully adds soft acoustic elements into every song, skillfully incorporating the distinct voices of each member.

Listening to this EP leaves you with a comforting warmth, while at the same time, reflecting on the depths of human experience.

Phoebe Bridgers' breathy, ethereal vocals blend perfectly with Lucy Dacus' angelic voice and Julien Baker's gentle, mellow tones to create a performance mellow tones to create a performance guaranteed to give you goosebumps. Each song not only sends shivers down your spine but also stirs a whirlwind of emotions. A notable mention of these songs is their ability to project the composers' vulnerability and despair, each one containing the blueprint of pure hurt, sadness and what it means to feel these emotions.

In a short time, Boygenius has made a mark on the music scene. Their music is a testament to the beauty of collaboration and has struck a chord with their growing fanbase. Their melodies are captivating and deeply moving, proving that when artists come together, they can create something truly extraordinary.



Meet Scarlet Fever

By: Jenny Chi (11)

Learn about the inspiration behind the new local band Scarlet Fever and why they enjoy making music.

Scarlet Fever is composed of four teenage girls, Grace Caruso (guitar and bass), Elsie Iwankow (lead guitar and rhythm), Bec Ly (bass), and Neveah Willson (drums). The band was first formed with only Grace, Bec, and Elsie around last November after finding a spark of harmony while playing music together, specifically with Brazil by Declan McKenna.

“It was a rocky start, we thought we were just having some fun, playing with some friends, but then we were like we should really start a band, we all play instruments.” Grace recalls, “I remember we were using a drum pad at the time, so oh, we needed to find a drummer.” With coincidental timing, Neveah, Scarlet Fever’s soon-to-be drummer, has just recently transferred to their school, completing the band.

In only a year, Scarlet Fever has written and composed over 20 original songs and debuted live; where they performed at numerous local East Van venues and events, such as 648 Kingsway and Redgate. Recently, they’ve released their first single, Dream Scheme, on all streaming platforms.



Credit: @logandbecsdigital on Instagram

Neveah shares how “It’s been about a year since we all officially began a band, and I feel like starting to actually play gigs together and to perform for other people that aren’t our family is really cool.”

As Scarlet Fever

When creating music, Scarlet Fever finds inspiration in poetry, the music of other musicians, but especially from their own personal experiences. Grace describes songwriting as taking

“really heavy emotions and to [then] put it in a song.” Elsie elaborates on this, saying, “With music, you feel it, so you can find emotions in chords, you don’t have to use lyrics that describe it. I guess for me personally, inspiration comes from things from my life, things I want to write about, and things that happen, but [also in] other music.”

The artists and bands that Scarlet Fever look up to include Pretty Sick, Lizphair, Slow Pulp, Beabadoobee, and Boygenius. With Boygenius, they specifically relate to the band’s tight-knit friendship, and how it shows in the music they create.

Elsie looks back to a past conversation with her grandpa, and how he said that their band needed “one person at the front, a head person”, but Elsie says that

is not how Scarlet Fever works. “Like even thinking about our instruments,” Elsie continues, “Bec and Grace switch instruments, like that’s not usually common, it’s a really collaborative thing.”

Scarlet Fever also finds confidence in being a band made up of girls. Bec shares how growing up, she’s never seen a female lead guitarist, and how they mainly played bass. Neveah mentions how “most younger AFAB (assigned female at birth) people are scared to pick up the drumsticks because it’s just mainly guys who do it.” Including how being a girl-only band is also a source of safety and community, Elsie comments on how it is “really powerful when young women, and young women only” are playing music in such a male dominated industry.

Just Start A Band

Scarlet Fever shares their own advice for forming a band, their most adamant advice being: to just start. “Start a band, find people to start a band. If none of your friends play an instrument, force them to play an instrument,” Grace says. Bec shares how she originally only played guitar until Grace made her learn the bass. The problem of affording a jam space is also a big hurdle for most starting bands, and Elsie highlights looking into opportunities in your communities. Scarlet Fever themselves use the Ray Cam Co-operative Center’s jam space, which is completely free to use. Neveah and Elsie also add that if the band starts rocky, not to get upset or embarrassed.



Credit: @thebandscarletfever on Instagram

Stay updated on Scarlet Fever’s future releases and shows through their Instagram @thebandscarletfever



Credit: @thebandscarletfever on Instagram



Credit: @olivia rodrigo on Instagram



OLIVIA RODRIGO **GUTS** ALBUM REVIEW

The highlights and lowlights of popstar Olivia Rodrigo's newest musical release.

By: Logan Keilty (11)
7.5/10

GUTS is the sophomore album written by American pop artist Olivia Rodrigo. Two years after *SOUR*, *GUTS* was released by Geffen Records on September 8th. The album is written by Rodrigo along with Dan Nigro writing and producing. Rodrigo wrote the album reflecting on maturing in her later teenage years, and she explains the album as expressing "growing pains" and "finding her own identity". The album screams "teen angst" and the mix of piano ballads and fun, upbeat, dance songs give the album diversity.

Rodrigo uses genre bending on this album, which is very respectable for

As much as the vocals are uncommon on the song, the song is still very good and beautifully produced. The way Dan Nigro uses synth and bell on the song is extremely effective to the extent where you can listen to the song on repeat and not get bored. This is one of the peaks of the album production wise, and every part of the song was made with intent and came together amazingly.

However, right off the bat, Rodrigo's lyric writing needs work. The album lacks in relatability and has few from-the-heart lyrics that could've made the album much better. Some moments on the album were unbearable. For instance, when Rodrigo sings "two plus two equals five, and I'm the love of your life" during the chorus of *logical*, the song becomes ruined beyond repair. Rodrigo also tried experimenting with a new singing style on this album, which I felt did not work. Her new talking/rapping singing used in several tracks was cringey and hard to listen to. She pulls it off best on *get him back* but the way it was used on *ballad of a homeschooled girl* was very unprofessional. The production on most songs were impressive but in others it was quite rough. For example, in *vampire* the vocal mix was annoying and confusing to listen to.

She incorporates elements of indie rock, R&B, and pop punk, while still pleasing the mainstream music fans. The opening track, *all american bitch*, is in my opinion the best song off the album. It starts strong and charismatic, with an opening track structure that is very different and unconventional, but still works very well. The scream at the end of the song is very captivating and the immediate beat change following makes the song very memorable, in addition to the incredibly mixed guitar and drums. Mark "Spike" Stent and Dan Nigro did a great job on most of the songs with mixing the album in a very 2000s but modern way. Another highlight is *get him back*, with the gang vocals and drums making the chorus pleasant to listen to as it feels nostalgic. The bass on the track is used in an incredibly powerful way to keep the song interesting.

Although this was not Rodrigo's fault, with the way they blended the vocals in the mix, Rodrigo's voice sounded irritating and distracted from the rest of the song.

The album for the most part is impressive. It does a great job of incorporating a more pop punk style into this indie pop album and Dan Nigro really helped to shape the album to be the way it is.

Student Poetry

False Love

By: Anonymous

I will admit it, I sometimes miss you
The "you" you were at the beginning.

Before the manipulation and before the days of me constantly walking on eggshells
Before you made me feel guilty for putting myself first

When I really thought about it, I missed the excitement I felt with being wanted,
The fake safety you bestowed upon me

I didn't realize the danger ahead because of the Fake love distracting me
The many "I fell for you's and "I want what's best for you" blinded me from the many red flags hidden behind those devilish blue eyes

But now I'm the villain in the story,
At least that's what's being spread through the people I thought were my friends

I still have hope
That one day

Our paths will cross again
When both you and I have grown into the people we were meant to be

But for now, I close the chapter with you in it,

And patiently wait for the next

Goodbye for now

Sincerely

~The More

However, I feel that *GUTS* definitely has some songs that bring the album down such as *vampire* and *logical*, due to Rodrigo's insufficient songwriting skills. but the good things overshadow the bad. Overall, *GUTS* is very enjoyable and is worth the time, which is why I would give it 7.5/10 for the songs that carried and really shaped the album.



Britannia's Sex Education Curriculum

By: Bec Ly (12)

What do Vancouver students learn in Sex ed? How is it taught and what is being covered? These questions have ignited students of Britannia to speak out on the sex education they have received. Sex education is a requirement from grades 8 to 10, but not required after grade 10. It is currently taught through a series of workshops called Shift Education and Blush Workshops. Students discussed what they've been taught and overall candid opinions. I asked questions on their thoughts, opinions, and experience and if there should or shouldn't be any changes. Student critiques are not directed at Britannia staff or administration.

In the BC curriculum content for Physical Health Education from grades eight-10 is listed on the provincial government website. The content learning standards under 'healthy decision making' are shown in following bullet points:

- using consent (including sexual consent)
- knowing and respecting personal and family values, knowing boundaries and being able to communicate them
- being aware of what to do in risky situations

B.C. curriculum informs teachers what skills and content to teach. It's a series of documents that teachers should teach. These four bullet points are the only explicit statement on healthy sexual decision making.

It is very limited or non-existent regarding safe sex, consent, and contraceptives.

Students' Comments

I interviewed Britannia students and asked about their thoughts and experience on the sex education they have received from the highschool curriculum. As well as Britannia staff and asked for their thoughts and perspectives. There were critiques, contentment and mixtures of both. A grade 10 student shares that "All their stuff is basic stuff we already know, like condoms. I feel like we could go more on what sex really is, learn about the body more, male and female. I definitely think it's useful, but it's just stuff we already kinda know".

The curriculum doesn't specifically mention reproductive health and bodily anatomy. Although contraceptives are important to one's health and safety, students feel as though it is not adequate information. A grade 12 student voices that "I feel like there are definitely different ways to express safer ways of sex because often they say to use condoms without really saying anything else and there are a lot of dangerous diseases and what not. I don't think it's inaccurate. I think it's vague. It doesn't tell you the dangers of penis pills and what not, they do not teach that".

Another grade 12 student offered their opinion on the curriculum at the moment. They felt the curriculum was sufficient stating that "I think it gets the message across. I don't really mind how it is right now. I think it's efficient at what it does." I asked if it needed

any changes and they responded, "I don't really think so. You'd have to propose a few changes to me."

A grade 11 student shared their opinions on the content of sex education, saying that "I think that in recent years it's gotten better and I think it has been more transparent. But I think we're also entering a time when sex is very different. I think that we're now getting to a point where teenagers are learning sex from porn, often isn't ethical. I think that we now have to focus more on what healthy consensual sex looks like ... Also, not just men and women, like [talking about] queer sex or people with different genitalia. The majority of the curriculum is focused on the penis and vagina and it doesn't teach children how to have safe sex if they don't have that genitalia."

In the curriculum, sexuality and gender identity are not covered even though they are considered a big part in influencing one's identity. There is no explicit statement of LGBTQ2S+ people in the areas of sexual health or practices even though five percent of Indigenous youth in Vancouver identifies as Two-Spirit according to a 2018 Adolescent Health Survey. Additionally, areas of porn usage or rape culture are not explicitly mentioned either.

On the other hand, some students feel satisfied with their experience regarding age and consent. A grade nine student shares, "I think it is good they're discussing the topics. The last one I went to was really long because we were discussing a lot of topics like consent and age differences. I definitely learned a lot."

The curriculum explicitly mentions sexual consent, how ongoing consent is required, the importance of giving and receiving consent, and developing an awareness of abusive and harmful behaviours, including those comprised in sexual harassment, abuse, and dating violence.

Staff And Guidance Counselors

I interviewed guidance counselors and asked them about the sex ed at our school, and if the curriculum needed any changes or if it's satisfactory at the moment. "I can only base it on the form we had. (feedback from students on the sex education). One thing that was really interesting that we talked about is you people were very clear that you wanted it to be spoken about with adults that you trust and feel comfortable with. I think that knowledge is power and if you go into those situations with more knowledge, you don't feel powerless. I think it needs to be more approachable and I think you need to feel comfortable to ask really thoughtful questions, so that it's not just like here's the PowerPoint off the slides. I think the opportunity for interaction is there but I don't think you students are comfortable... That's the feedback I've heard. And I know that other schools have felt the same thing when I was at the conference, the diversity and equity inclusion conference."

When asked what they thought of the workshops currently, they responded: "Right now, it's really my first year looking at it, so I think that the workshops that we have are good. I know that last

year the counseling department did the Safeteen workshop. I think there are really cool workshops that we're doing more. So, it's like a class workshop. They do lessons, so one of them is on gender identity and spectrum, sexual intercourse, and one is about relationship pieces. Blush is another one that is about healthy sex ed, inclusive language. The school system is very frustrated that we went through this global trauma and we all are missing gaps. We see that a lot throughout all the kids through the curriculum. It's gonna take maybe four-five years for everyone to catch up in terms of their learning."

I asked what they thought about the Sex ed meeting with students and staff, held on February 8, 2023. "Very positive. I'm very optimistic about it because I think teachers at Britannia want to know how they can best teach their students and the fact that students are coming forward and saying this is what we want. I agree how important it is to make sure we're keeping it inclusive and updated. I think students are exposed to a wide range of information and it's important for them to know what's good/bad information and good/bad advice. So, I'm excited to see where this goes in the future."

Overall, students have varying opinions on Britannia's current sex education system, however staff are dedicated to improving it to the best of its ability.

Christine Sinclair Retires: The End of an Era for Canadian Soccer

As Sinclair's career comes to a close in 2023, her achievements are numerous and exceptional.

By: Sunny Zatzick (12)

Life

Christine Sinclair is one of the world's most iconic soccer players. Her influence as a forward on the Canadian women's soccer team is immeasurable. Born in Burnaby, BC in 1983, Sinclair began playing soccer at the age of four. She came from a soccer-playing family and played for Canada's under-18 team before making her national debut in 2000 at age 16. Before joining the Canadian national team, she played for Portland's university team, most notably along-side now USA winger Megan Rapinoe. Her impact on Canadian soccer is undeniable and unforgettable.

Career Highlights

Sinclair is the world's all-time leader for international goals scored for men or women awarded by FIFA, with 190 goals.

Credit: LOFTPlayers

She is the second player of either sex to score at five World Cup editions, now equaled by Cristiano Ronaldo. She is a two-time Olympic bronze medalist and a one-time Olympic gold medalist, awarded from the 2020 Olympics. Sinclair has been the National Canadian Women's team captain since 2006. Sinclair is a role model to all young girls and soccer players everywhere, and her skill and character is an inspiration that is often not spotlighted in women's sports.

Significance

Sinclair is a quality person as well as player, always prioritizing her love of the sport. She would always give credit to her teammates and never seek out media or unnecessary fame. A former teammate describes Sinclair as "... Quiet. She's unassuming. She's not trying to grab the spotlight. It's these intangible qualities of being humble that the world needs more of an example of." Credited as a world class player, Sinclair continued to pursue her career in spite of issues such as the fight for equal pay and women's rights in sports. In March of 2023 she testified in front of the Heritage Committee in the women's team to join the fight for equitable treatment from Canada Soccer.

Credit: Everything Zoomer

Retirement & Future Plans

Sinclair announced her retirement from international soccer at the end of 2023, and it is currently unclear if she will join the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). Sinclair and former Canadian soccer teammate Diana Matheson announced that the two of them will be collaborating to form Canadian teams that will join the NWSL, which has been a part of Canadian soccer that many fans and players have been waiting for. The domestic league will launch in 2025 and feature eight teams throughout Canada. Sinclair and Matheson have pledged to continue in the fight for equal pay through their league, as well as cater towards female donors and supporters.

Christine Sinclair is one of the most significant soccer players to have ever played for the Canadian team, and her retirement marks the end of an era. Her impact must not be understated, and her influence is iconic. Sinclair's career will be admired in both Canadian and international spaces for decades to come.

Talk to Me Movie Review

Why you should watch the new horror movie *Talk to Me*, and what makes it so unique.

By: Chiya Amin (10)

8/10

In my opinion, *Talk to Me* is the best horror film of 2023 so far with plenty of scares and fun. Directed by Danny and Micheal Philippou, *Talk to Me* is the latest A24 horror film with a story that follows protagonist Mia and her friends through their journey using an object that summons spirits inside a human. However, when things take a turn for the worse, Mia and her friends must find a way to get rid of the spirits. This movie was by far one of the most impressive films I have seen this year and from the genre of horror in general.

Not only is the story engaging and interesting, but it also includes characters that all have their own background about who they are and they're all there for different reasons. Personal storylines unfold as well as we see our main protagonist Mia trying to deal with the passing of her mother, and the different things she does to fill the hole that she feels.

For Micheal and Danny Philipou's first time directing a major motion picture, I can already see a bright future for those two if this is only their debut. The twin brothers' storytelling is dynamic and personal, while still always interesting.

Credit: A24

Aaron McLisky is the cinematographer of this movie and I haven't seen such good techniques for tension and suspense for a horror film in a while. Simple things such as moving the camera or zooming on a character's expression is able to create tension and make the viewer feel like they're slowly going deeper into the film as they watch these characters slowly working against dark forces beyond their control. However, a con of the movie that I wish the film did better is add an extra 5-10 minutes of the movie to fully flesh out the story of the object. Although the film is nicely done, there are obviously more opportunities to go deep into the spirit in the film and where it originated, but I am sure the directors will be doing that for the sequel. The confirmed sequel is expected to be released in 2025, leaving fans full of excitement. Overall, *Talk to Me* is one of the best horror films of 2023 due to its intense cinematography and engaging storyline.

Credit: Online Film Critics Society